

Hastings Coming out to Play!



Inspired by the local community and the river which flows through it, the **'Taniwha of a Thousand Hands'** sculpture is a collaboration between artist Debra Bustin, Waitakere City Council, Creative New Zealand and the local community. The sculpture provides a safe and exciting place for local children to play, and a valuable teaching aid for nearby schools. The Sculpture is some 9 metres long and 1.2 metres high.



Local Waitakere artist and blacksmith Stuart Slater was presented with the challenge of creating "something great out of a load of old rubbish". The result is a pair of 3 metre long, 1.8m high bullocks formed from the skeletons of old shopping trolleys recovered from a local stream. The aim of the project was to provide a piece of art which highlighted the benefits of recycling and reusing materials, while at the same time celebrating a slice of local history. The bullocks also encourage the public to enjoy and value green spaces in the city.



Fossil Hunt Sandpit – Alwyn Park, Christchurch

These examples of unique play equipment illustrate how sculpture and local history can be incorporated into our playscapes to provide interesting & educational play experiences. The collaboration of local residents, Council and the art community demonstrate the excellent outcomes that can be achieved. This innovation in play provision is what this document aims to help Hastings playscapes emulate.

Introduction and background

Hastings – Coming out to Play, is a strategy which aims to encourage the community to become more active. It outlines how we can utilise our existing recreational resources in the most effective manner; align play and leisure opportunities to community needs and how to make our recreation resources more accessible through linkages, marketing and promotion. This strategy is about encouraging and providing increased opportunities for our community to be active and healthy, to celebrate our cultural diversity and to learn through play.

The play strategy has wider implications in terms of Council's residential, commercial & industrial growth strategies, in that there is a need to provide for recreation space and leisure opportunities within these new development areas. The strategy promotes the idea that our urban settlements should develop around our reserves and public space, and our parks should be the focal point of our settlements. This will ensure accessibility and high utilisation given the prominent profile or visibility of open space in our new settlement areas.

Why is a strategy needed?

Currently our playgrounds are managed by an asset replacement strategy only, without any consideration to demand or need in particular areas. Furthermore, the provision of play opportunities for those outside the 0-10 year age group currently occurs by default rather than explicit planning. On this basis, it was identified that there was a need for Council to consider recreational facilities in a holistic manner rather than reacting to individual approaches from the community to upgrade or provide new facilities in a piecemeal way.

A strategy that would guide and direct the provision of play opportunities within the District over the next 10 years was considered essential to improve the provision of appropriate play opportunities and ensure the efficient and effective utilisation of Council's existing and any proposed new recreation facilities.

Council's role

The Council's role in achieving the outcomes of the Strategy is to:

- Provide clear direction and guidance for the provision of play in public spaces;
- Promote play as an essential component of community life by incorporating it into consideration of any new significant residential, commercial or industrial development;
- Be a responsible provider of play opportunities though innovative, quality and safe provision;
- Develop links with other providers of play opportunities maximising access to recreational pursuits for the benefit of the District-wide community.

Vision

An active healthy community that participates and takes pride in their District-wide network of exceptional and diverse recreational resources.

Mission

The Council will lead, enable and work in partnership with Maori, key stakeholders and the community to create fun, challenging and diverse leisure opportunities in safe and easily accessible environments.

Strategies & Action Plan

Strategic Goal 1: Connecting Parks & Communities

To develop and maintain a city-wide network of recreational routes linked to playgrounds, parks, reserves and recreational facilities throughout the District.

Commentary

Ease of access to a wide range of recreational activities and open space areas is key to changing our sedentary lifestyle and becoming a more active community. Creating linkages between our existing parks, reserves & recreational facilities will encourage the community to more fully utilise these resources.

The Landmarks Commission Development Plan (LCDP) outlines a master plan for the development of walkways and cycleways across the District to develop tangible links to our existing open space network. The Play Strategy needs to build on this framework, actioning the formation of any major linkages identified and creating new linkages as part of any street tree planting, road or footpath upgrades, renewal or redevelopment of any playground. In line with the LCDP, priority should be given to creating links from the CBD to the key urban parks of Civic Square, Cornwall Park, Windsor Park, Frimley Park, & Akina Park, along with the existing recreation & cultural facilities in the CBD such as the sports centre, the Hawkes Bay racing club, Atomic Youth Centre, the Hastings Library, Exhibition Centre (and proposed Ngati Kahungunu Cultural Centre) and the Hawkes Bay Opera House.

Outcomes we want to achieve by 2014

- Playgrounds, parks, reserves, swimming pools, sportsfields, and indoor sports facilities, libraries, cultural and art centres are easily accessible.
- There is a wide and varied choice of walkways and cycleways accessible to both rural and urban communities.
- Our playgrounds, parks, reserves, recreational facilities & public open space areas are vibrant and well utilised.

Indicators of success

- Connections have been developed through the creation of boulevards linking the primary public open spaces, parks, reserves, and recreational facilities in the Hastings urban area, Flaxmere & Havelock North.
- City-wide cycle ways and walkways are established that link existing parks and recreational facilities and provide opportunities for active leisure.
- Signage within parks, urban areas and around the CBD provides consistent branding of Hastings' recreational & cultural facilities and parks and directs people to these facilities and services.
- Surveys that indicate high utilisation of our playgrounds, parks, reserves, public open space areas and recreational facilities.

Key actions to undertake (in order of priority)

Action	Groups Responsible
1.1 Create boulevards along the main thoroughfares of the Hastings Urban Area that connect our parks and major recreational facilities – St Aubyn Street, Windsor Ave, Grove Road / Frederick Street, Railway Road / Southhampton Street, Karamu Road, Willowpark Road and Tomoana Road / Charles Street. There is a need to link to established tree species themes that already exist and which are based on road hierarchy.	Parks Asset Management (part of general street tree upgrade programme) in partnership with Landmarks and Strategic Development (given Open Space Network links are part of the Landmarks Development Plan and Strategic Developments involvement in the Large Format Retail Strategy (i.e. planting along Karamu Road / St Aubyn Street).
1.2 Creation of boulevards connecting Havelock North & Flaxmere Parks also needs to occur and this should be based on the thoroughfares identified in the Landmarks Development Plan	Community Services (Parks Asset Management)/ Landmarks
1.3 Walking trails and cycle paths should be established through our existing parks (where appropriate) that connect with other nearby recreational spaces / activities. For example a walking trail / cycle path linking the Karamu Stream walkway with Anderson and Guthrie Parks and the Havelock North Domain, a Hastings Urban Parks & recreation facilities walking/cycling trail, a Flaxmere Parks & recreation facilities walking/cycling trail, establish coastal walkways/cycleways (e.g. Clive / Haumoana to Clifton) and rural town walking trails / cycle paths (e.g. Whakatatu to Clive)	Community Services / Engineering (Roading) / Landmarks Hastings Tourism Facilities Trust
1.4 Facilitate the development and construction of any walking / cycling trails associated with the Hastings Rotary Pathways project, where they impact on Council owned reserve land.	Parks Asset Management
1.5 Develop and erect markers or information	Community Services / Resource

boards within the CBD, Hastings, Flaxmere & Havelock North urban areas to provide information on and direct people to the nearest recreational space.	Management (signage requirements) / Landmarks Hastings Tourism Facilities Trust
1.6 Signage identifying parks and recreation facilities needs to provide a consistent branding of these resources. Investigate the options for branding our parks, playgrounds & recreational facilities and recommend an appropriate course of action. The proposed "Hastings Coming Out to Play" logo designed for Hastings Playscapes could provide a basis for commonality between brands for all Hastings Parks & recreational facilities.	Community Services Hastings Tourism Facilities Trust

Strategic Goal 2: Provision of Parks and Playgrounds that are well-utilised, diverse, fun & safe.

To provide play opportunities that are challenging and interesting and that appeal to and encourage participation by a wide range of the community.

Commentary

In order to increase utilisation of our playgrounds, parks, reserves and recreational facilities there is a need to provide a range of play opportunities that reflect the age and cultural demographics of the surrounding community and that challenge and encourage all members of the community to participate and get active. There is a need to make playgrounds a unique reflection of the community in which they are located. This can be achieved through themes such as local history, culture, nature & coastal themes.

Coupled with this are the issues of under-utilisation of parks and public safety. The location of parks is a key component of resolving both of the above issues. Council needs to develop a policy for the taking of land for new reserves. A checklist needs to be developed that helps staff identify appropriate reserve land at the time subdivision consents are lodged. Any checklist would need to include factors such as the level of service or need for playgrounds in that area and what land requirement is necessary to meet that service level, the topography of land, location of other recreational spaces / facilities in the general area, the position of land in relation to existing and proposed new roads (preference should be for parks that front roads so that they are highly visible and easily lit through street lights), the likely layout of any adjoining subdivision and how and where additional land for reserves could be linked as development in the area grows.

Outcomes we want to achieve by 2014

- A consistent approach to the taking of reserves at subdivision stage.
- Clear policy and guidelines are established outlining the types of parks / reserves needed in certain areas, the amount of land required for these parks and their ideal location, particularly within new urban development areas.
- Playgrounds, parks & reserves are multi-dimensional, appealing to a wide range of the community;

- Playgrounds are disability accessible;
- Playgrounds provide challenging, interesting and varied play activities, and are a unique expression of the environment, history or cultural community in which they are located;
- Playgrounds, parks, reserves and recreational facilities are utilised by a wide cross-section of the community both in terms of age and ethnicity.

Indicators of success

- Subdividers & developers know Council's requirements for the taking of land for new reserves within urban development areas in the District.
- Council applies their reserves policy in a consistent manner across the District.
- Surveys indicate high utilisation by a wide cross-section of the community of our playgrounds, parks, reserves, public open space areas and recreational facilities.
- Our playgrounds are known for their exciting and fun activities and for catering to a wide range of the community.
- Our playgrounds are distinguished by their unique themes that relate directly to the community in which they are located.
- Our playgrounds use a range of different materials – water, textured material, plastic and wood, as well as the utilisation of different colours.
- Play opportunities in existing parks and reserves have been enhanced through provision of play equipment that encourages exploration such as stepping-stones, bridges, and ladders.

Key actions to undertake (in order of priority)

Action	Mechanism	Groups Responsible
2.1 Prepare a policy document and guidelines (including assessment criteria, to be included in the District Plan, for identifying land appropriate for recreation reserve purposes at subdivision stage), which outlines reserve acquisition requirements over the next 10 years. This policy document should be in line with Councils existing and proposed urban growth strategies (residential, commercial & industrial) and should be reviewed concurrently as these documents are reviewed.	Rolling review of the District Plan – Residential Section	Parks Asset Management in partnership with Strategic Development Resource Management
2.2 Develop a play equipment tool box which identifies a range of innovative play ideas, themes, and equipment using examples from		Parks Asset Management Community

<p>other Councils around New Zealand and overseas. This toolbox can be used to match themes, ideas & equipment with a particular community and the playscape type that exists or is needed in that location.</p>		Development
<p>2.3 Carry out an environmental safety audit for each playground to ascertain any safety issues (including identifying whether a park & its play equipment is disability accessible), that could be remedied in accordance with general landscape design, Crime Prevention through Environmental Design guidelines, or the United States accessibility guidelines for play areas.</p>	Annual Park / Playground upgrade program	Parks Asset Management Community Development
<p>2.4 Identify the demographics and specific needs / expectations of the community surrounding each of our playgrounds prior to any scheduled renewal of existing or development of new playgrounds being undertaken;</p>	<p>Parks Annual Upgrade Program in conjunction with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Community Plans; ▪ Reserve Management Plans; ▪ Structure Plans 	Community Development & Parks Asset Management Strategic Environmental Policy (RM)
<p>2.5 As part of the parks annual upgrade programme, identify and develop with the appropriate local community themes reflecting the local environment, history or culture that could be incorporated into the playground upgrade (or new playground), using ideas from the play equipment tool box as a starting point;</p>	<p>Parks Annual Upgrade Program in conjunction with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Community Plans; ▪ Reserve Management Plans; ▪ Structure Plans 	Community Development & Parks Asset Management Landmarks
<p>2.6 Provide opportunities for the community to contribute to creating unique features for the parks and reserves in their area for example, art works, carvings, local history markers or information boards, decorative paving stones etc</p>	<p>Parks Annual Upgrade Program in conjunction with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Community Plans; ▪ Reserve Management Plans; 	Community Development Parks Asset Management Landmarks

2.7 Identify existing playgrounds, where additional play opportunities can be provided that extend the range of ages / abilities that the park caters for e.g. fitness circuits, sensory gardens, exploration activities (such as bridges, stepping stones, ladders) nature trails, walking tracks, cycling tracks etc	Parks Annual Upgrade Program	Parks Asset Management Community Development
2.8 Ensure that all playscapes are identified in any reserve management plans for the parks in which they are located and that provision is made for their future development.	Reserve Management Plan process	Parks Asset Management
2.9 Amend Council's GIS system (development dataset, District Plan Reserve layer), District Plan & Planning Maps to include all Council land used for recreation purposes whether it has reserve status or not.	Rolling review of the District Plan – Community facilities, Reserve & Marae District Wide Activities	Parks Asset Management Resource Management Information Technology Group

Strategic Goal 3: Working in Partnership

The Council will work in partnership with Maori, key stakeholders and the community to provide exceptional play opportunities and to encourage ownership and pride in the District's recreational resources.

Commentary

The successful implementation of this strategy is dependent on the involvement of local Marae and Maori organisations, government departments, other local and regional authorities, the business sector and community based organisations. The support and contribution of these groups is vital to create a network of recreational resources that are unique, well utilised and encourage all sectors of the community to lead a healthy, active lifestyle.

Outcomes we want to achieve by 2014

- Public access to recreational facilities / playgrounds located on Marae, pre-schools, primary & secondary schools, where appropriate, is promoted;
- The Community are involved at the outset in all aspects of the design, provision and construction of playgrounds and recreational / leisure activities;
- Local businesses provide for and encourage active lifestyles through:
 - the direct provision of useable green space on private land that is available for use by the general public;
 - the sponsorship of recreational equipment, facilities or resources within the Council owned recreation network;
 - the sponsorship of leisure activities / events within the community e.g. fun runs / walks / cycle etc

- Land developers incorporate public open space as key focal points in the design of their residential subdivisions.

Indicators of success

- There is an established group comprising Council officers, elected members, local Maori, corporate and community organisations and regional and central government recreational organisations that meet on a regular basis to discuss recreational opportunities within the District.
- Community ownership and pride in the District's recreational resources is evident in the use and care the community takes of its local park.
- Links exists between Marae, pre-schools, primary & secondary schools, corporate & Council recreation facilities to create a network of recreational opportunities.

Key actions to undertake (in order of priority)

Action	Groups Responsible
3.1 Identify key participants and prepare terms of reference for a Hawkes Bay Recreation Providers Group, which could facilitate joint provision or a collaborative approach to recreation facilities & services in the Hawkes Bay Region.	Parks Asset Management / Community Development
3.2 Develop a memorandum of understanding / protocol / incentives for Maori, corporate and community organisations and land developers to provide for and promote opportunities for play through direct provision, reserves contribution and sponsorship, where appropriate.	Community Services
3.3 Form partnerships with other recreational providers such as Marae, Kohunga Reo, schools, early childhood education centres etc in order to achieve: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ access to non-Council owned playgrounds in areas where a need is identified; ▪ shared opportunities to enhance play; ▪ coordinated and complementary provision of play opportunities; ▪ by a collaborative agreement to the provision of public playgrounds on Marae on a case-by-case basis where a need has been identified and the Marae community see this as beneficial and appropriate. 	Community Services / Parks Asset Management

Strategic Goal 4: Establish a Premier Playscape for the Hastings District

To deliver high quality recreational experiences by establishing and maintaining a premier park within the Hastings urban area for the benefit of the whole District.

Commentary

Premier playscapes are parks that have district-wide significance. Their premier status ensures continued investment, development and management programmes that conserve and enhance the Parks recreational and community values. For Hastings, a premier or destination park could be developed to showcase the District's unique character, and our exceptional lifestyle and recreational opportunities. Such a park would become a destination in itself with people travelling from all over the region to visit.

There are a number of existing parks that could become a premier or destination playscape with investment and development. The options for the development of a premier playscape listed below are not exhaustive and further analysis will need to be carried out to ensure all possible alternatives are investigated.

Cornwall Park has been identified as an existing park that could become a Premier Playscape for the Hastings District. Cornwall Park has been selected because it currently accommodates a range of recreational activities in one space. It is a sports park with an excellent and well-utilised playground, gardens, walkways, a display house, and seating / picnic area. This park is well utilised for festivals and events throughout the year by local residents and visitors alike.

Frimley Park is also an existing open space area that could be developed as a premier playscape for the Hastings District. Frimley Park is also a sports park with a reasonably well-utilised playground. However, the playground has only a few pieces of play equipment that cater particularly to younger children. Garden and open space areas are also well used for picnics and informal sports activities.

Other options could include Council acquiring land in the Lyndhurst proposed urban development area for such a park and play space.

Land within the proposed Lyndhurst development block would have a high profile being potentially visible from the Hawkes Bay Expressway and Omahu Road. Given that this location is one of the major points of entry to Hastings, the establishment of a premier playscape here would provide a unique opportunity to showcase the excellent recreational experiences that Hastings can offer, much like Napier have done with their playground on the Marine Parade. However, consideration needs to be taken of the heritage values associated with the existing historic homestead located on the corner of the Lyndhurst urban development area and whether the two activities would be complementary.

Alternatively, Council could consider purchasing land within the central city area, close to our existing CBD retail strip and public space, to develop as a premier park and playground. A possible site for consideration is the existing Council carpark located behind the Westpac and BNZ buildings immediately adjacent to the performance

platform and water feature. The carparking that would be displaced would need to be relocated elsewhere within the central city. While land costs are likely to be high (significantly more so than for the above options), the benefits of providing additional greenspace within the city centre, drawing people into our CBD and spending significant amounts of time there, could be substantial. Locating a premier playscape within the CBD area, close to public toilets, carparking and café facilities is also considered desirable as these facilities would not need to be duplicated on the park site.

Outcomes we want to achieve by 2014

- National and Region-wide recognition of this park as offering excellent recreational experiences which draw both residents and visitors to the Hastings District.
- The Premier Park is well managed, has clearly set out functions and funding mechanisms and clear guidance for its future direction and development.
- A District and Region that takes ownership of and pride in their premier recreational resources.

Indicators of success

- High usage of the premier park by visitors and residents alike;
- Usage of park is by a wide range of people both in terms of age and ethnicity;

Key actions to undertake (in order of priority)

Action	Groups Responsible
4.1 Investigate the options for the establishment and location of a premier playscape within the Hastings urban area. This study needs to assess the merits of all the proposed options and recommend the most appropriate location for such a park & playground.	Community Services
4.2 Develop a premier or destination playscape to showcase Hastings District's recreational opportunities. The park should provide a range of themed play areas that reflect the character of the District and that cater for pre-school, primary school and secondary school aged children. In addition, gardens, walkways, seating, shade, picnic and toilet facilities should also be provided.	Parks Asset Management
4.3 Ensure that this park has a reserve management plan and development plan that map out its continued future improvement.	Parks Asset Management

Strategic Goal 5: Key Urban Playscapes

To maintain and develop key urban playscapes within Hastings, Flaxmere & Havelock North which provide unique, high quality, and safe recreational experiences for all age groups.

Commentary

Key Urban playgrounds will cater to a range of users and will have a minimum of 5 play components. These parks will serve a residential area of approximately 10,000 people and will provide large-scale areas for both active and passive recreation as well as acting as gathering points for social interaction. People will want to spend more time per visit in these open spaces and therefore appropriate shaded areas, seating, picnic & toilet facilities will be provided.

Six existing parks have been selected to be key urban playscapes. They are Cornwall Park, Frimley Park, Akina Park, Windsor Park, Havelock North Domain and Flaxmere Park. At this stage, the need for additional key urban playscapes has not been identified; however this will need to be reviewed, particularly at the time that the Council's Hastings Urban Development Study is reviewed.

Outcomes we want to achieve by 2014

- Our six key urban playgrounds have been upgraded to meet this level of play provision;
- Our key urban playgrounds are disability accessible;
- Our key urban playscapes provide stimulating, multi-dimensional play environments that attract local residents as well as district-wide and out of region visitors.

Indicators of success

- Our Key urban playscapes are utilised by a wide cross-section of the community including age, ethnicity and ability.
- Our Key urban parks are used for celebrations, festivals & events on a regular basis.
- Surveys and research show that our key urban playscapes are well utilised and that our community is using our parks & playgrounds to become more active.

Key actions to undertake (in order of priority)

Action	Groups Responsible
5.1 As part of the annual upgrade programme, upgrade the identified key urban playscapes to meet this level of playground provision (i.e a minimum of 5 play components with associated appropriate seating, shade, picnic & toilet facilities)	Parks Asset Management
5.2 Increase funding from the Annual Upgrade Fund in the ten-	Parks Asset

year Funding Programme to enable these existing playgrounds to be upgraded to the key urban playscape level.	Management
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Strategic Goal 6: High Quality Local Neighbourhood Playscapes

To maintain and develop high quality local neighbourhood playscapes that reflects community needs and identity.

Commentary

These are smaller playgrounds designed to serve local communities, as determined by geographical area and needs basis. Traditionally, these have been provided on the basis of 1 playground within 500m of any residence. However, as can be seen from the map attached Appendix 1, there are gaps within our existing urban areas where neighbourhood playscapes are needed. In terms of a population basis, current provision of neighbourhood playgrounds (within urban areas) is approximately 1 playground for every 2200 people.

These statistics indicate that if Council wishes to keep in line with current national trends of providing 1 playground per 1000 population, more playgrounds in our urban areas are needed. Specifically, 19 new play spaces are needed in the Hastings Urban Area and an additional 8 playgrounds are needed in Havelock North.

The number of playgrounds should not be confused with open space or green space areas provided within the District. Council's current reserve policy suggests a level of provision at 4ha per 1000 population. Overall, an average of 8.9ha of open space land is provided per 1000 population. However, when the District's open space areas are broken down by location, there is an indication that more green space needs to be provided in the Hastings Urban Area (refer to the table below).

Current playground and open space provision

Locality	No. of playgrounds	Area of open space (ha)	Total population	Ratio playgrounds : population	Ratio open space (ha): population
Hastings Urban Area	9	103.6	28,203	1:3133	3.7: 1000
Havelock North Urban Area	2	78.3	10,173	1:5086	7.7: 1000
Flaxmere Urban Area	10	69.5	9,600	1:960	7.2: 1000
Rural Area	9	349.9	19,449	1:2161	18: 1000
Total	30	601.3	67,425	1:2247	8.9: 1000

Currently the District has 14 local neighbourhood parks. These include Civic Square, Ebbett Park, Kirkpatrick Park, St Leonard's Park, Queen's Square, Grant Street Reserve,

Nany Kona Park, Len Harlen Park, Sunderland Dr Reserve, Hugh Little Park, Chatham Park, Kingsley Park, Ron Giorgi No 1, & Ron Giorgi No 3.

Outcomes we want to achieve by 2014

- Neighbourhood playscapes that link directly with the community they are located in terms of age appropriateness, ethnicity, character and history of the area.
- Fun, challenging playscapes that consist of innovative play equipment that extends and stimulates the skills of a range of age groups;
- Playscapes that the community are proud of and therefore are well cared for.
- Playscapes that are disability accessible;

Indicators of success

- Neighbourhood playscapes are unique to each neighbourhood area and offer exciting play opportunities that specifically relate to the demographics of each community (for example, neighbourhood playgrounds don't just consist of a set of swings and a slide or even a combination or modular play unit).
- Neighbourhood playscapes are well utilised by a wide range of the community and are cared for by the local community.
- Healthy competition exists between local communities to win an annual award for best neighbourhood park / playground;

Key actions to undertake (in order of priority)

Action	Groups Responsible
6.1 Provide seven new neighbourhood playscapes over the next 10 years at Anderson Park, within the Tanner Street road frontage area of Keirunga Gardens or Keith Sands Grove, within the reserve node in the Arataki urban development area, within the recreation reserve taken as part of the subdivision of the Williams Street urban development area, within the Lyndhurst urban development area, on Council-owned land on the corner of Norton Road & Usherwood Crescent, and potentially within the Willowpark Road frontage area of Bill Matheson Park.	Parks Asset Management
6.2 Investigate options of providing a local neighbourhood level playscape in the central city area (west of the railway line). However, if the proposed premier park is recommended to be located within the central city area, this action will not be warranted.	Parks Asset Management
6.3 Consolidate neighbourhood playscapes in the Flaxmere area by removing equipment from Kingsley Park and look to consolidate play activities in one of the Ron Giorgi Parks, in consultation with the Flaxmere Community.	Parks Asset Management Community Development
6.4 As part of the annual upgrade programme, upgrade the	Parks Asset

identified neighbourhood playscapes to meet this level of playground provision (i.e. a minimum of 3 play components reflecting the needs of the immediate community)	Management
6.5 Provide appropriate funding from the Annual Upgrade Fund in the ten-year Funding Programme to enable these existing playgrounds to be upgraded or sustained to the neighbourhood playscape level, on an on-going basis.	Parks Asset Management

Strategic Goal 7: Coastal & Rural Town Playscapes

To provide playscapes within our coastal and rural communities that reflect the special landscape character of these settlements, and complement the natural recreational activities provided in these areas.

Commentary

These playscapes will be specific to the communities in which they are located although consideration will be given to the accommodation of the needs of visitors, particularly in coastal areas where visitor numbers are high over the summer months.

The Puketapu community has been identified as needing a playground. In 2001, 27.8% of the population in the Puketapu – Sherenden area (based on the NZ statistics census area unit) were under 15 years of age. This is a higher percentage than that for the Hastings District as a whole. Puketapu has also been earmarked for future low-density urban development, which could potentially further increase its population of young people.

In 2001 the total population of the Puketapu-Sherenden area was 2226 (based on the census statistics and was an increase of 15.8% since 1996), it is estimated that the Puketapu settlement and its immediate surrounding area would have a current population of at least 1,000, and would thereby trigger the threshold for provision of playgrounds (i.e. 1 playground for every 1,000 people). On this basis, it is considered appropriate to provide playground facilities to be provided in this area. Given that access to Puketapu Park has recently been made available to the public and there is a proposal to provide a footpath from the village to the park, the provision of play equipment within Puketapu Park would be appropriate.

The rural town of Whakatu currently has two playgrounds both of which are in need of substantial upgrading to comply with the NZ safety standards and to provide appropriate and challenging play opportunities for local children. The 2001 census recorded the population of this area at 834, a reduction of 1.1% since 1996.

In terms of the threshold for playground provision, Whakatu exceeds the 1:1,000 ratios. Furthermore, given that at present the Hastings Urban Development Study does not identify any future urban development areas within or in the immediate vicinity of Whakatu, there seems to be no justification to provide two playgrounds in this community. The community would be better served by Council consolidating its playground provision in this area and significantly updating and renewing the existing playground at Ngaruroro Reserve, given this is a currently well used playspace and is located in the middle of the existing settlement area with good access and visibility.

Clive currently has two playgrounds, one at Gregory Park, which is centrally located to the existing residential area but in need of upgraded play equipment, and another at Farndon Park, which really caters to people using the parks facilities such as the sports grounds or swimming pool. The Farndon Park playground is currently administered by a Council management committee; however, in order to promote equity, efficiency and consistency across the District, the development and maintenance of this playground and its associated equipment needs to be centrally managed by Council's Parks Asset Management Group.

Clive has a population at 2001 of 1,350. However, since this census, additional land has been rezoned for residential development, which is estimated to yield approximately 66 sites. On this basis, there is a need to provide between 1 & 2 playgrounds for the Clive community.

In addition to those mentioned above, an upgraded playscape is considered necessary at Waimarama Domain and there is potential for a new playscape in the foreshore reserve area between Haumoana & Te Awanga (outside the Erosion Risk Zone 2100).

During recent community consultation (through the structure plan process), the residents of Haumoana, Te Awanga & Clifton expressed a wish for more facilities within the beachfront reserves for example, planting and landscaping, seating, bbq facilities, toilets, boardwalks and a play area. Currently, work is underway to improve the planting and landscaping in both the Te Awanga & Haumoana domains.

Haumoana & Te Awanga both have existing playgrounds which are located within the settlement areas of these coastal villages. The Haumoana playground has good facilities, but could benefit by the provision of climbing facilities. The playground at Te Awanga is located within an extremely small confined area next to the community hall and requires substantial upgrading to meet safety standards. In this case it may be beneficial for Council to look at alternative locations for a playground in Te Awanga.

In the future, consideration should be given to the provision of a new maritime or beach themed playscape in the foreshore reserve area between the two villages, to cater particularly to the increasing number of visitors to this area in the summer months. Consideration should include safety surfaces and national safety standards, particularly the increased maintenance of sand as opposed to bark.

The provision of playscapes in the District's other coastal settlements (Ocean Beach, Waipatiki, Tongoio, & Aropauanui) is not warranted or appropriate. These coastal settlements provide semi-permanent or holiday accommodation and are characterised by their wilderness and remoteness values and unique natural character in secluded and picturesque locations. The provision of playgrounds in such locations would not be complimentary to the surrounding landscape. Play opportunities and active recreation are still provided for in these coastal areas through the natural features of the beach landscape.

In comparison, Waimarama, Haumoana & Te Awanga are permanent residential settlements and include associated commercial developments (restaurants, wineries, art galleries etc) within which playgrounds and associated facilities on beachfront reserves are appropriate.

Outcomes we want to achieve by 2014

- Coastal Playscapes that are well utilised by the community and visitors and that reflect the character of their location.
- Rural Town playscapes that are diverse and challenging are appropriate to the needs of the local community and reflect the surrounding environment.
- Coastal & Rural Town playgrounds that are disability accessible;

Indicators of success

- Coastal playscapes are complimentary to the special landscape character of their location and incorporate play activities that specifically relate to the beach environment and / or reflect local history of the area;
- Rural Town playscapes are appropriate to the community which they serve and provide a focal point for the whole community to recreate.
- Playscapes are well utilised by a wide cross-section of the community and provide sufficient activities to cope with seasonal fluctuations in use.

Key actions to undertake (in order of priority)

Action	Groups Responsible
7.1 Provide a new playscape at Puketapu Park in consultation with the Puketapu community.	Parks Asset Management
7.2 Consolidate neighbourhood playscapes in Whakatu by significantly upgrading the Ngaruroro Reserve in consultation with the Whakatu Community through the Whakatu Community Plan process. Develop Essex Crescent as a passive park	Parks Asset Management Community Development
7.3 Upgrade the existing playscape in Waimarama in consultation with the local community. This redevelopment should incorporate beach / marine themes or local history themes (e.g. stories of the area such as those surrounding bare island).	Parks Asset Management / Community Development
7.4 Consult with the community on the following options for Clive playscapes:- <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Upgrade the play equipment at Gregory Park as required ▪ Any further residential development in Clive should identify additional neighbourhood parks as part of the Hastings Urban Development Strategy (HUDS) and Reserves Development Strategy. 	Parks Asset Management Community Development
7.5 Investigate the feasibility, including possible locations, of a new playground and picnic area in the beachfront foreshore reserve between Haumoana & Te Awanga.	Parks Asset Management Strategic Development

Strategic Goal 8: Natural Playscapes

To provide for and value the District's natural playscapes for their contribution to community well-being and their part in promoting the Hastings recreation experience.

Commentary

These playscapes will promote free play opportunities and incorporate the use of natural features and materials. These playscapes will be mainly associated with the larger informal parks and open space areas in the District and are predominantly located in rural or semi-rural locations. They are likely to (although not restricted to) have a strong focus on adventure and challenge, e.g. mountain bike features, or an adventure playground as well as more traditional components such as climbing frames and swings & slides. Examples of natural parks are Te Mata Peak Park, Pakowhai Country Park, Eskdale Park, Riverlands, and Tainui Reserves.

Key actions to undertake (in order of priority)

Action	Groups Responsible
8.1 Review facilities ensuring that they meet NZ National Safety Standards, and upgrade over time to meet natural playscape criteria.	Parks Asset Management
8.2 Investigate ways of providing free play opportunities or adventure leisure activities (such as mountain bike tracks) within Council's network of natural parks and reserves in consultation with the Trust Boards, which manage these parks and the local community.	Parks Asset Management

Strategic Goal 9: Specialist Playscapes

Commentary

These include specialist pieces of equipment/features in strategic locations e.g. bike parks, skate/skateboard parks, water parks, music parks or sometimes a combination of the above.

Currently Council has 3 skate parks – two are located in Flaxmere (one in the Ron Giorgi Park no. 2 and the other in the Village green area) and one in Havelock North. No specific skate or bike facilities are provided for in the Hastings urban area.

As part of the proposed upgrade of Kirkpatrick Park in Camberley, street skating features along a pathway linking the play area and entrance to the park are proposed to be provided. Rail slides and steps will be incorporated into the path so that street skate tricks can be performed. The provision of smaller specific skate or bike facilities within certain parks in urban areas, where this need is identified, is perhaps a more appropriate way to provide for such specialist play activities, particularly within the Hastings urban area, where there are no existing specialist skate / bike parks.

Council needs to consolidate provision of the existing skate parks in Flaxmere. The village green area is a central location in proximity to the existing town centre and would best serve the whole Flaxmere community. Such consolidation does not necessarily

preclude skate or bike features being provided in other parks in the area. As is proposed for Kirkpatrick Park, discrete skate features could be provided to cater for this need on a local neighbourhood basis with the Village Green skate park providing more traditional and larger skate ramp / bowl facilities that could be used by more people at any one time.

The existing skate / bike facilities in Havelock North are well-used. Any proposed upgrading of these facilities should be carried out in consultation with the local community and users in particular, to ensure that any new equipment is appropriate.

Key actions to undertake (in order of priority)

Action	Groups Responsible
9.1 Council should continue to maintain the facilities in Flaxmere until Ron Giorgi 2 requires major upgrading, at this time retain Flaxmere Village Green as the primary skate park for Flaxmere.	Parks Asset Management
9.2 The Council should continue to provide, maintain and improve skate /bike facilities at the Havelock North Domain on an on-going basis in consultation with skate park users and the local community in general.	Parks Asset Management
9.3 Specific skate / bike facilities should be provided in the Hastings urban area on a needs basis when individual parks at Key Urban and Local neighbourhood level are upgraded.	Parks Asset Management

Strategic Goal 10: Regional Cultural Parks

Commentary

There are opportunities in the Hastings District to create parks, which protect sites or areas of cultural or historic significance while providing a unique public & tourist recreation resource for the Hawkes Bay Region. Cultural or historic sites which are clustered together, well preserved and which hold historic significance in terms of the settlement and development of this region are prime examples of areas that could become Regional Cultural Parks. The grouping of archaeological sites located within the hills south of Parkhill Road in Te Awanga provide an example of where a cultural park could be developed in order to protect the significant archaeological & waahi tapu sites that currently exist and to share the myriad of historic stories that are associated with this area. Council should investigate with landowners, iwi, the Historic Places Trust, & the Department of Conservation opportunities for the development of such cultural parks in Hastings District.

Key actions to undertake (in order of priority)

Action	Groups Responsible
10.1 Investigate, in consultation with iwi, landowners, the Historic Places Trust, & the Department of Conservation, the opportunities available within the District of creating Regional Cultural Parks that protect clusters of significant waahi tapu & archaeological sites as well as areas of historic importance.	Community Services Strategic Development Landmarks Resource Management

10.2 Investigate funding options for creating Regional Cultural Parks including the Lottery Grants Board (Environmental & Heritage Committee Fund), and the Sustainable Development Fund.	Community Services
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Strategic Goal 11: Marketing, Promotion & Participation

To recognise and value the District's play opportunities for their contribution to community well being and their part in promoting the Hastings tourism experience

Commentary

The Hastings District tourism experience is based on the exceptional recreational experiences that our natural landscape offers as well as our world-class wineries, restaurants, art, craft and other boutique agricultural/horticultural based industries.

By reflecting this natural landscape character and our unique culture and history, our playscapes can also provide visitors with an added recreational experience.

Key actions to undertake (in order of priority)

Action	Groups Responsible
10.1 Promote Hastings Playscapes on the Council's website – provide maps showing playground locations, photographs and descriptions of what play and recreation features these parks offer. In addition, provide information on existing and new playgrounds, and include information on proposed sculptures and art works being commissioned for these playscapes.	Community Services in conjunction with Corporate Services (Web Liaison Officer)
10.2 Promote and provide for more events to take place within Hastings parks and playscapes, e.g. concerts, wedding ceremonies, festivals, fetes and galas.	Community Services in conjunction with Hastings Tourism Facilities Trust
10.3 Incorporate Hastings parks, playscapes, walking trails etc in existing Hawkes Bay tourism brochures.	Community Services Hastings Tourism Facilities Trust Hawkes Bay Tourism
10.4 Promote Hastings playgrounds & parks as educational resources that schools and early childhood education centres could utilise.	Community Services

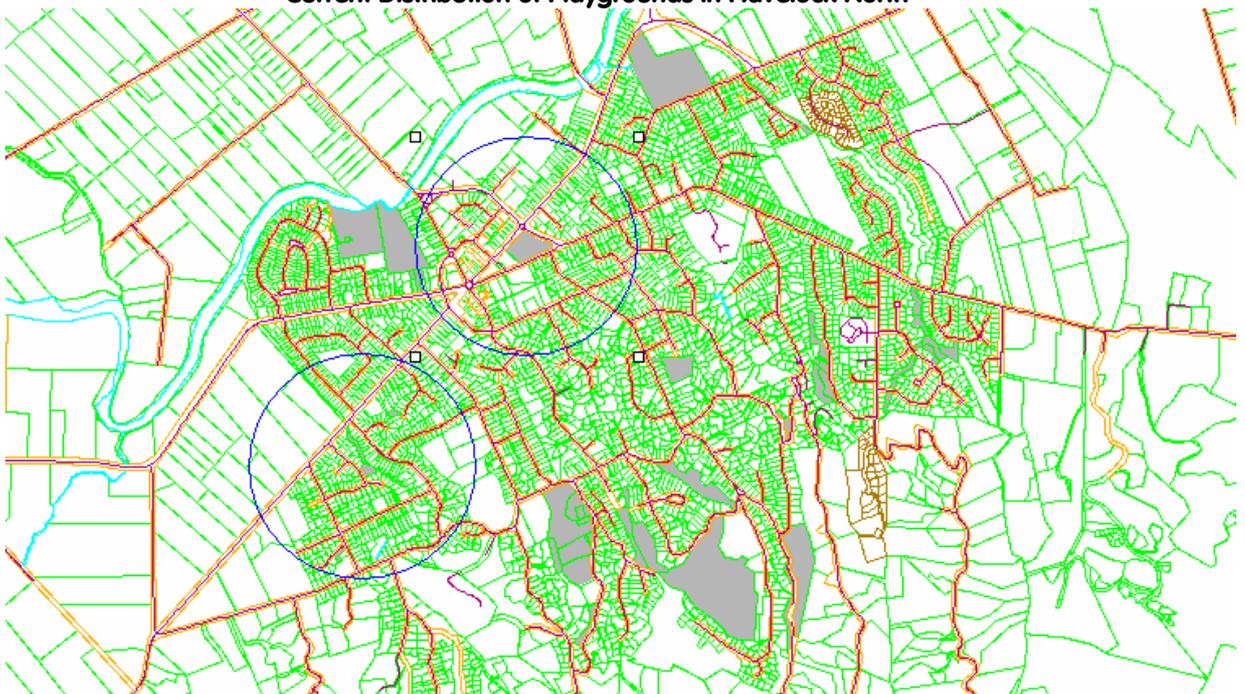
Appendix 1 – Existing Playground Provision in the Hastings District

The following diagrams show the existing parks within the Hastings, Flaxmere & Havelock North urban areas that have playgrounds. The circles illustrate the properties within a 500m radius of these playgrounds and therefore help to indicate where gaps are in our current provision (the difference in circle size between the maps is a result of the different scales of the maps – all circles still measure a 500m radius).

Current Distribution of Playgrounds in Hastings



Current Distribution of Playgrounds in Havelock North



Current Distribution of Playgrounds in Flaxmere

