

TAIRAWHITI

PARKS AND OPEN SPACES PLAN

2018





ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Parks and Open Spaces Plan is one of a suite of plans prepared under the Tairawhiti Community Facilities Strategy.

The development of the Strategy was guided by a governance group of regional stakeholders including:

- ▶ Eastland Community Trust
- ▶ Gisborne art community
- ▶ Gisborne District Council
- ▶ Hiruharama School
- ▶ Sport Gisborne Tairawhiti
- ▶ Tairawhiti Cultural Development Trust
- ▶ Te Runanganui o Ngati Porou
- ▶ Te Runanga o Turanganui a Kiwa
- ▶ Tolaga Bay Area School

Many other organisations and individuals have generously contributed to the Plan through focus groups, meetings and submissions.

Many thanks to all of these people for the time and energy they volunteered to ensure Tairawhiti has a clear path for our community facilities.

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PLAN ON A PAGE

The Plan on a Page summarises the key parts of the Parks and Open Spaces Plan – the key issues and opportunities, the objectives and the actions. Details are in the body of the document.

KEY ISSUES AND OPPORTUNITIES

- ▶ Community satisfaction
- ▶ Changing demand for services

Collaboration and partnerships

- ▶ Importance of proximity
- ▶ Best place for lifestyle and environment
- ▶ Management, maintenance and renewals.

OBJECTIVES

Network planning and provision

- ▶ By 2030, Tairāwhiti will have a network of parks and open spaces across the region that is fit-for-purpose, affordable and accessible, ie that:
 - meets community needs where there is a compelling demand
 - reflects local identity, culture, heritage and values
 - supports biodiversity and ecosystem values
 - is provided in the most cost-effective way
 - meets needs of the whole region regardless of socio-economic status and ability.

Collaboration and partnerships

- ▶ By 2019, there are strong relationships between Council and communities and they are working together to ensure the most efficient use and delivery of parks and open spaces that meet community needs at optimal levels.

Effective management

- ▶ Parks and open spaces in Tairāwhiti are actively managed to:
 - encourage high levels of use and enjoyment for the community
 - ensure sound management including asset management that minimises operational and maintenance costs
 - meet health and safety requirements.

ACTIONS

Key actions	Partners	Cost (est)	Timeframe
Establish a Community Facilities Relationships and Partnerships position responsible for: community and corporate partnerships; coordinating volunteers and care groups; alternative funding sources	GDC / SGT / ECT	\$90k pa	By Jul 2018
Develop and implement neighbourhood reserve activation programme. A community-led development project where communities are actively engaged in design, development and care of neighbourhood parks	GDC / DIA / funders	\$100k pa	Ongoing
Develop and implement a "care group" programme. A programme to engage community in caring for the parks and open spaces network eg dune care, park care, hood care. (Links to Relationships and Partnerships position.)	GDC / DIA / DoC / funders	\$100k pa	By Jun 2020
Develop Parks and Open Spaces hubs: Midway to Waipaoa Hub (including Churchill Park); Titirangi Hub; Waikanae to Midway Hub	GDC / funders	\$1m per hub	By Jun 2028
Develop destination parks: Rere Rockslide, Rere Falls and Champagne Pools; and East Cape Lighthouse	GDC / funders	\$500k per park	By Jun 2028

INTRODUCTION

PURPOSE

The purpose of this Plan is to enable holistic and innovative thinking around affordable and effective future provision of parks and open spaces within the Tairāwhiti-Gisborne region.

SCOPE

The Plan provides the strategic direction for parks and open spaces in the Tairāwhiti-Gisborne region for the next 20+ years. It is a tool to assist decisions on planning, funding, managing and operating parks and open spaces. This Plan does not replace the need for more detailed site-specific research and analysis during project development.

For the purposes of this Plan, the term 'parks and open space facilities' means Council-owned parks and open spaces only. It focuses on land assets, wharves and other built assets such as paths, car parks and boat ramps. It does not include sports parks, art in public places and playgrounds as these are covered in other plans within the Community Facilities Strategy.

Some parks and open spaces are owned by other agencies such as the Department of Conservation, Maori entities, schools and private individuals, companies or trusts. They are considered to the extent that they provide opportunities for collaboration and partnership on the parks and open spaces network.

The Gisborne CBD and town centres are also excluded as they are dealt with in Council's Urban Development Strategy and Township Plans programme. However, where relevant links will be made with these work programmes to ensure consistency of approach and joined-up thinking.

LIVING DOCUMENT

The Plan has been developed based on current information available. But communities aren't static. The way we view facility provision shouldn't be static either. The Plan needs to be able to 'bend and sway' as information is updated and planning evolves over time. Regular reviews are important.

HOW TO USE THIS PLAN

The document is organised into the following parts:

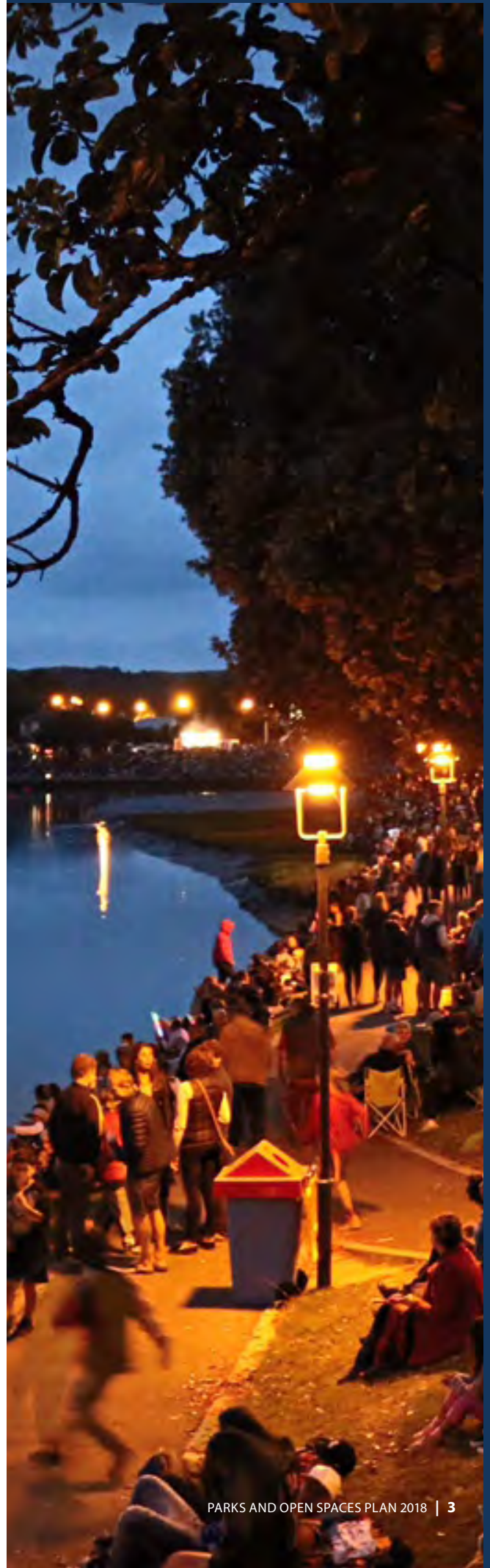
PART A: Context of parks and open spaces activities and provision

PART B: Issues and opportunities

PART C: Objectives and policies

PART D: The network

PART E: Actions



IMPORTANCE OF PARKS AND OPEN SPACES

Parks and open spaces are important for our Tairāwhiti-Gisborne community.

- ▶ There is a strong body of research that points to the physical health benefits of parks and open spaces largely due to the provision of space for walking and active recreation. Studies show that people living in walkable neighbourhoods get about 35–45 more minutes of moderate physical activity per week (and are substantially less likely to be overweight) than do people of similar socioeconomic status living in neighbourhoods that are not walkable. Studies have also identified that the proportion of neighbourhood green space in cities can improve the perceived general health of residents, particularly the elderly and those from lower socioeconomic groups.
- ▶ Access to parks and open spaces also supports mental wellbeing. Research shows a relationship between proximity to these spaces and stress across all demographic groups – the more often a person visits urban open green spaces, the less often they report stress-related illnesses. Likewise access to parks and open spaces may help to decrease the risk of psychosocial stress-related diseases including depression.
- ▶ Parks and open spaces are democratic spaces – they are public and non-exclusive and provide opportunities for civic engagement. They also contribute to social cohesion because they provide spaces for all people from diverse backgrounds to interact for a range of social and cultural reasons.
- ▶ Most children would prefer to play in outdoor spaces that provide them with a range of sensory experiences. Spending time in parks and open spaces can help enhance self-growth and development in children – it has a positive impact on children’s physical movement and motor skills.
- ▶ Parks and open spaces are opportunities to express local identity. Well-designed and maintained open green spaces define the identity of towns and cities, because they offer visual variety in the urban landscape and create opportunities for a wide range of activities, therefore improving attraction for living, working, investment, and tourism.
- ▶ Parks and open spaces can have economic benefits as well. International research in larger urban areas shows they can have a positive effect on nearby residential property values. A recent hedonic study by Hutt City Council looked more closely at this and found certain reserves have altered the nearby properties’ sale prices by -20% to +21% - the impact on house sale prices depended on the quality of the reserve and proximity to it. Further, the net sale price of properties nearby reserves is about 5.3% higher than other similar properties while the prices of properties adjacent to neighbourhood reserves sell for approximately 7.3% lower than other similar properties.
- ▶ Parks and open spaces also contribute to supporting our natural environment. Parks with high biodiversity values provide important ecosystem services such as habitat, shelter and food for native flora and fauna. Green spaces also provide ecological connectivity and pathways for movement through urban areas.
- ▶ Tairāwhiti – Gisborne is a community with a very strong relationship to the land, rivers and the sea – the green / blue interface is a key part of the community’s culture. Parks and open spaces provide the main public opportunities for people to enjoy these places.



DEMAND FOR PARKS AND OPEN SPACES

- ▶ Figure 1 shows how important parks and open spaces are to our community. Key points to note are:
 - 91% of people rate beaches as important or very important
 - 88% of people rate parks as important or very important
 - 83% of people rate walk and cycleways as important or very important
 - 79% of people rate wilderness areas as important or very important.
- ▶ Overall, people value parks and open spaces more than our built sporting and recreation environments.
- ▶ The high value of parks and open spaces to Tairāwhiti people is reflected in recreation participation rates. Figure 2 shows the percentage of Tairāwhiti people who participate in a range of recreation activities. The most popular sport and active recreation activities in Tairāwhiti are: walking/running (77%); swimming (47%); fishing (38%); fitness classes (33%); road cycling (31%); field sports (30%); surfing sports (23%); outdoor court sports (21%); mountain biking (19%); water craft sports (18%) skateboarding/scooter (17%). Of those who do walk, 54% do so at least three times a week making this a significant regular activity for Tairāwhiti people.
- ▶ The majority of the most popular sport and active recreation activities take place in our parks and open spaces. People participate in them for fun, for fitness, for competition, for a thrill and/or for time with family and friends.
- ▶ Figure 3 shows what proportion of Tairāwhiti people visit specific parks and open spaces across the District. It gives a rough indication of the most visited sites.
- ▶ Figure 4 shows the proportion of people (above 1%) who visit specific parks and open spaces across the District 3+ times a week. It gives a rough indication of the most frequently visited sites.
- ▶ All parks and open spaces get some community use. The most popular parks and open spaces are:
 - ▶ City beaches (Kaiti to Waipaoa) – 19% visit 3+ times a week and 83% visit 3+ times a year
 - ▶ East Coast beaches – 14% visit 3+ times a week and 78% visit 3+ times a year
 - ▶ Gisborne City riverbanks – 13% visit 3+ times a week and 67% visit 3+ times a year
 - ▶ Wainui Beach Reserve – 5% visit 3+ times a week and 44% visit 3+ times a year
 - ▶ Titirangi – 5% visit 3+ times a week and 48% visit 3+ times a year
 - ▶ Botanical Gardens – 3.5% visit 3+ times a week and 79% visit 3+ times a year.
- ▶ It is important to note that there are some parks and open spaces not included in this data (eg Anzac Park) as their primary function is as part of the sports facilities network. However the role they play in the parks and open spaces network will be included in this Plan.

SUPPLY OF PARKS AND OPEN SPACES

- ▶ Tairāwhiti – Gisborne has a high rate of parks per capita. Council administers a total reserve area of about 960 hectares. Reserves for recreation comprise 384 hectares, neighbourhood reserves cover 25ha, heritage reserves 120ha, cemeteries 54ha and amenity reserves 377ha.
- ▶ Approximately two thirds of the value of the parks and community property assets are located within urban Gisborne with the balance spread throughout the district roughly in proportion to population distribution.

Figure 1: Percentage who rate sport and active recreation facilities as important/very important 2017

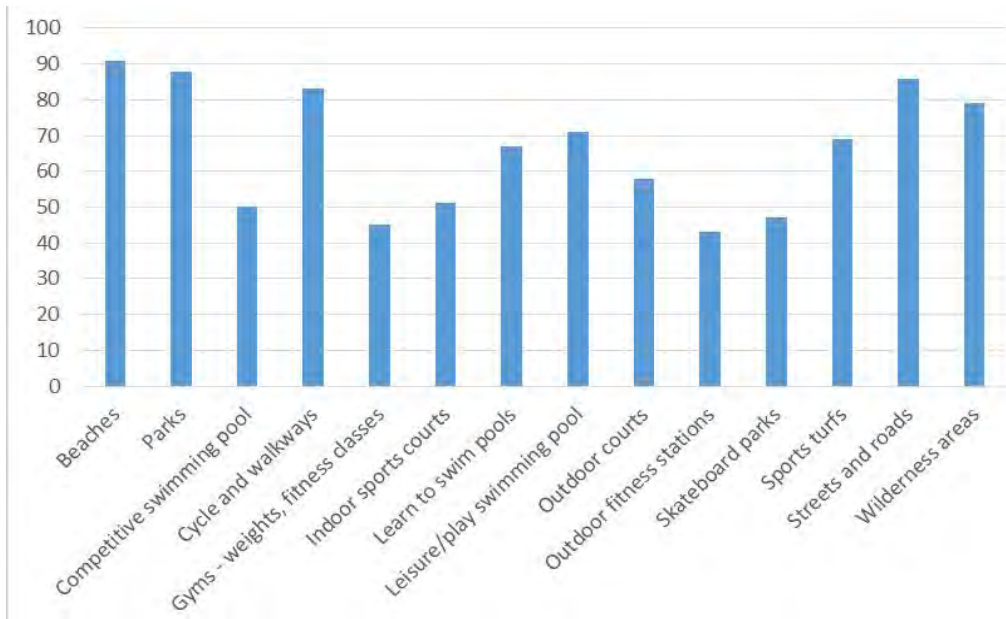


Figure 2: Percentage of people participating in recreation activities 2017

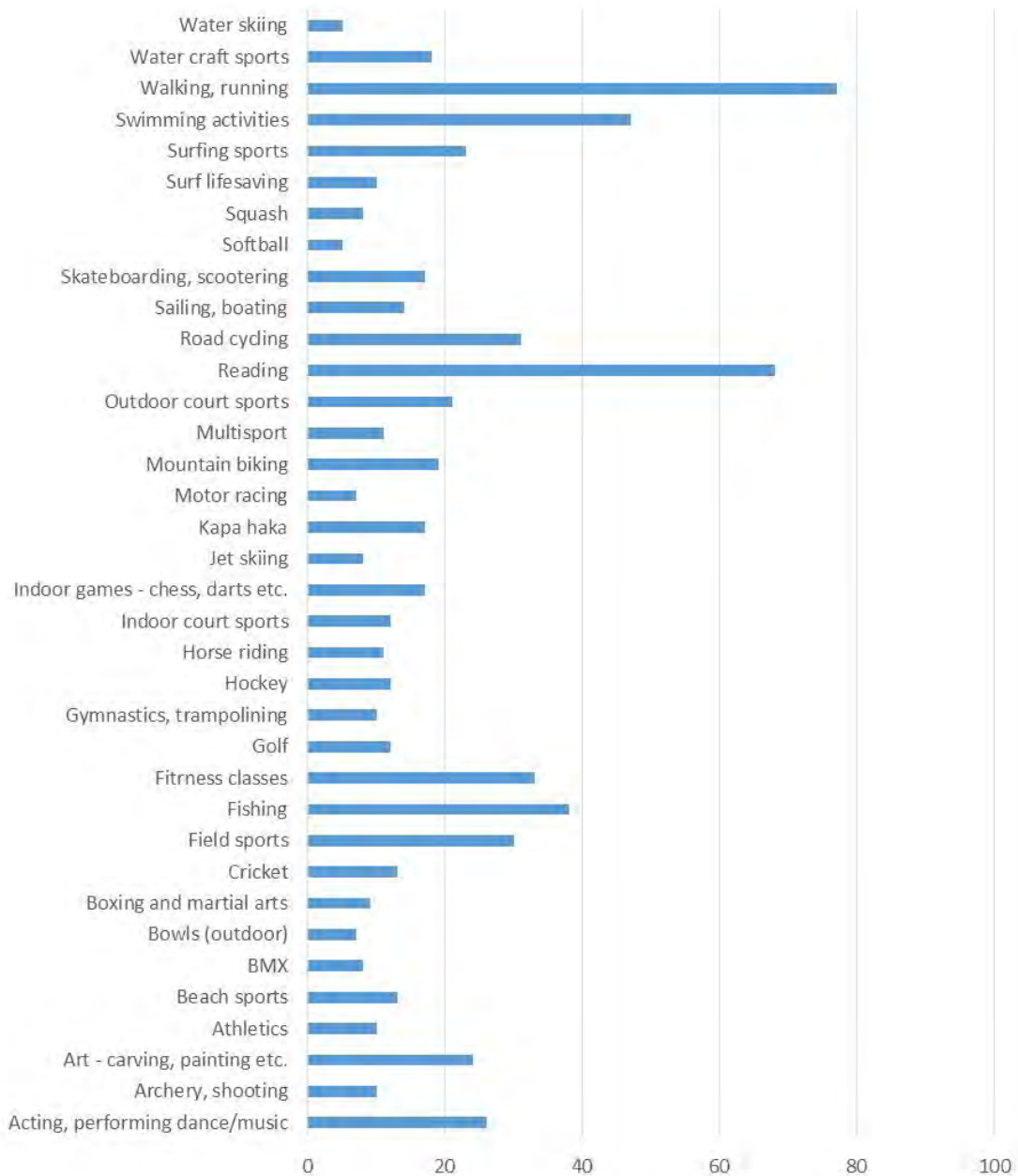


Figure 3: Percentage of people visiting parks and open spaces 3+ times a year 2017

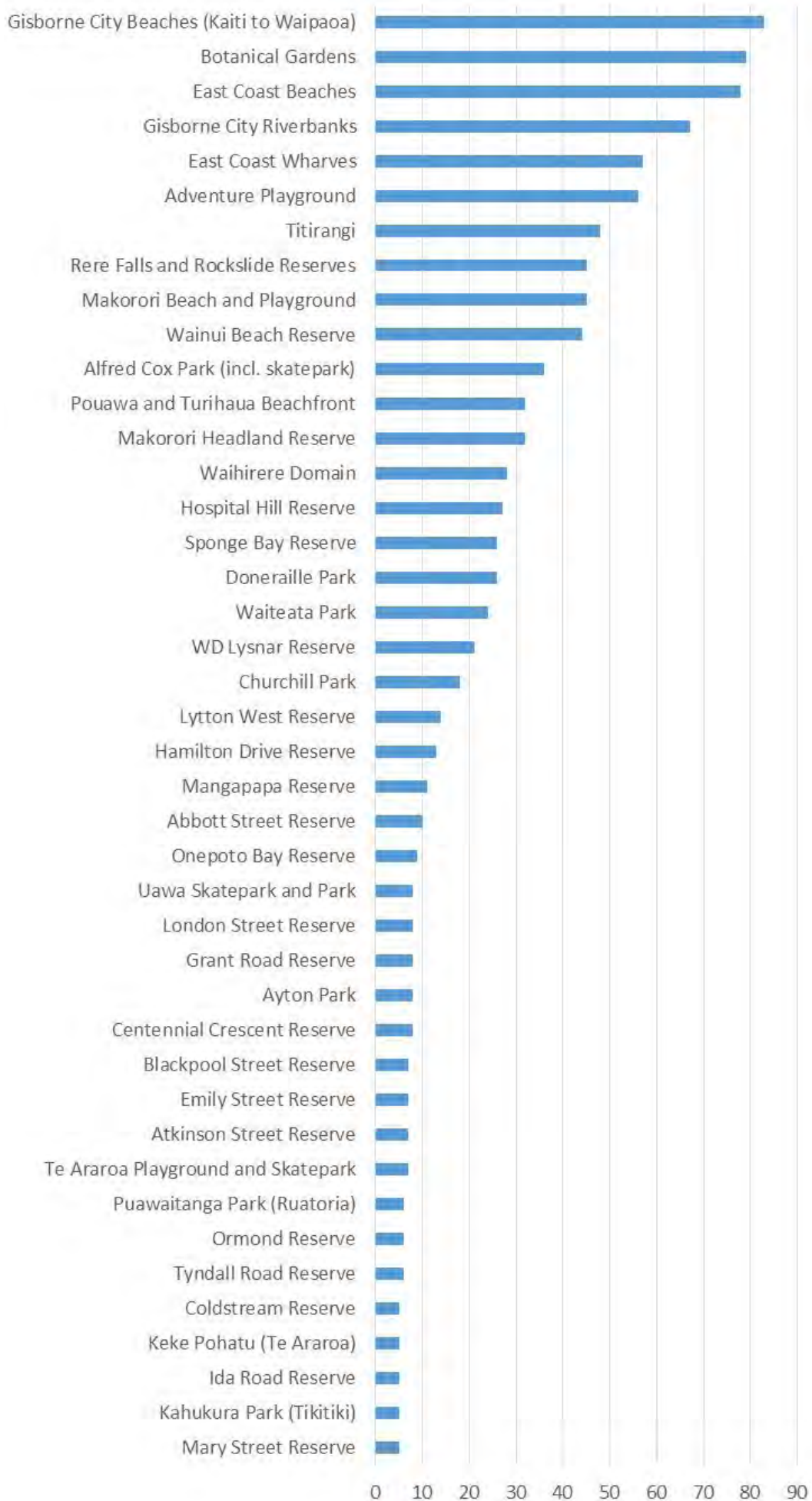
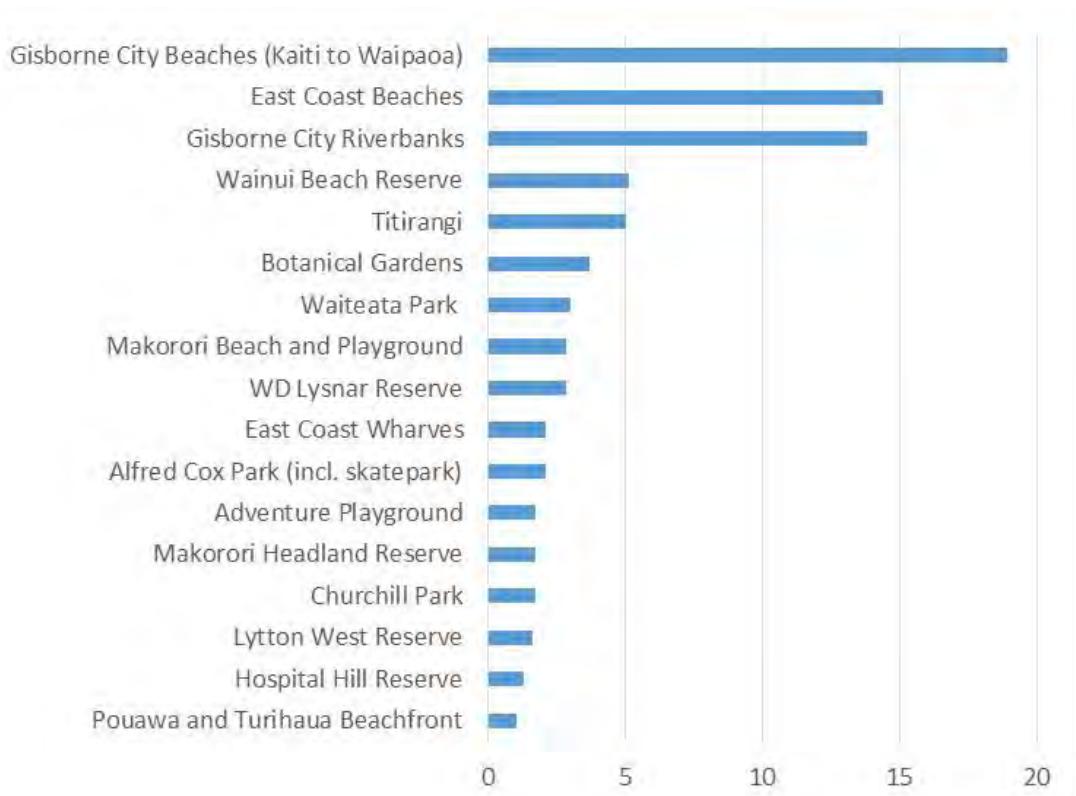


Figure 4: Percentage of people visiting parks and open spaces 3+ times a week 2017



ISSUES AND OPPORTUNITIES

ROOM TO IMPROVE COMMUNITY SATISFACTION

- ▶ The most recent resident satisfaction surveys show that 82% of Tairāwhiti residents are satisfied with Council provision of parks. The survey also shows that rural wards are less satisfied (75%). While these numbers appear high, they do not compare well with ratings of other similar Councils – the New Zealand median in 2016 was 90.3% were satisfied. Gisborne has been consistently below the New Zealand median score for the past five years by at least 5%, in 2013 the gap was 13%.
- ▶ All parks and open spaces get some community use. However there are vast differences in the visitation rates and frequencies of parks across the region. While there is no black and white evidence around the reasons for this, it is possible to draw some conclusions from data available. A 2016 survey asked visitors at two parks, Rere Rockslide and Botanical Gardens, what their level of satisfaction was with the park experience. Botanical Gardens had recently been upgraded and had a 100% satisfaction rating. Only 61% of people were satisfied with the Rere Rockslide experience.
- ▶ Much of the time it is not the physical park or open space that people are dissatisfied with – it is the lack of suitable supporting infrastructure to encourage people to visit, participate in activity and extend the length of stay within parks and open spaces. Facilities such as seating, play equipment and toilets facilitate use and enjoyment as do the ability to grab a coffee and bite to eat.

CHANGING DEMAND FOR SERVICES

- ▶ Gisborne's population is changing. While we are expecting only moderate overall population growth, like the rest of the developed world, our demographic structure is shifting. By 2023 it is projected that 23% of the population will be over 60 years and 28% will be under 17 years. We also have unique demographic characteristics with approximately half the population being Māori, considerably more so in some rural centres along the East Coast.
- ▶ Changing demographics bring changing community needs for parks and open spaces. It is likely that we will see increased demand for facilities that support older people's and younger people's recreation needs.

IMPORTANCE OF PROXIMITY

- ▶ The geographic location of parks and open spaces is important. The nearer parks and open spaces are to where people live, the higher the benefits to those individuals. Proximity to quality parks and open spaces can have a significant impact on people's wellbeing and property values. Council decisions on investments in the parks and open spaces can have significant impacts on individuals.
- ▶ Figure 5 shows the distribution of parks and open spaces across Gisborne city. It illustrates that there is an unequal distribution of parks across the city. When combined with a lack of street tree coverage in some areas this lack of open or green space is exacerbated.

COLLABORATION AND PARTNERSHIPS

- ▶ Working together can result in the community getting a better outcome – better parks and open spaces that meet their needs better. Parks and open spaces, by their nature are public and democratic spaces. While Council provides these on behalf of the community, partnerships with mana whenua, other providers, funders and the community generally are critical to ensure we get it right. Research shows that one of the critical success factors in an effective parks and open spaces network is the degree of citizen participation. Community engagement in parks and open spaces can lead to greater community care for these spaces.
- ▶ Council cannot afford to fund all the parks and open space activities that the community wants or needs. However there is significant untapped potential in communities to play a more significant role particularly in contributing to design and maintenance of parks and open spaces. Harnessing community resources is an opportunity to stretch existing funding further. This has the potential to engender a sense of community ownership and care for public assets.



Figure 5: Council reserve land Gisborne city



BEST PLACE FOR LIFESTYLE AND ENVIRONMENT

- ▶ Community facilities support liveability. A vibrant, accessible and well-maintained parks and open spaces network contributes to attracting talent and visitors to Tairāwhiti and presents a region that is proud of its place in the world and cares about its people and place. There are great opportunities for parks and open spaces to reflect who we are as a community.
- ▶ Parks and open spaces provide unique opportunities to grow and support the region's indigenous biodiversity. They can provide habitat for native plants and animals to thrive, provide stepping stones and corridors for the movement of native species across the landscape, and encourage native species in to urban areas. Biodiversity also provides ecosystem services to the region including temperature regulation, water retention and purification, soil nutrient cycling, and provides cultural and recreational benefits.

MANAGEMENT, MAINTENANCE AND RENEWALS

- ▶ With so many parks, Council needs to be clever about how to invest in them to meet community needs while not spreading budgets too thin. As the network grows so does the cost of maintenance and renewal. There may be opportunities to optimise existing assets through co-location to reduce duplication.
- ▶ Council is evolving its asset management systems around parks and open spaces and working to fill information gaps. This will help with planning and forecasting of budgets for asset management and with identifying any inefficiencies in provision.



NETWORK PLANNING AND PROVISION

OBJECTIVE

By 2030, Tairāwhiti will have a network of parks and open spaces across the region that is fit-for-purpose, affordable and accessible. The network will:

- ▶ provide for community needs for a range of formal and informal recreation activities and social interactions
- ▶ reflect local identity, culture, heritage and values and be a source of community pride
- ▶ support biodiversity values including the habitat and foraging needs of native species and contribute to protecting ecosystem services
- ▶ be provided in the most cost-effective way, considering the whole-of-life costs of facilities and ensuring optimal use, so it is financially sustainable for the community and users
- ▶ meet the needs of the whole region, be available to the community regardless of socio-economic status, provide healthy and safe recreation space and be suitable for all physical and intellectual abilities.

POLICIES

Parks and open spaces networks

- ▶ Tairāwhiti will have a connected network of parks and open spaces that reflect a diverse range of scenic, recreational, cultural, coastal and other opportunities.
- ▶ Facility network planning is based on robust evidence and considers, first and foremost, the current and potential community needs for parks and open spaces.
- ▶ Provision of parks and open spaces will take a precinct-based approach and be based on four tiers: hubs; destination parks; neighbourhood parks; and activation spaces. The nature of provision for all tiers will take into account the community to be serviced, the needs to be met, geographic spread, access to transport networks (including walk and cycleways) and costs of provision. The desired specifications for the tiers are outlined in this Plan.
- ▶ Equitable provision of parks and open spaces across the region is important as proximity to these spaces is a key driver of use.
- ▶ Council recognises that the community's needs and preferences for parks and open spaces are diverse and changing, and will regularly review priorities and investment plans as part of its Long Term Plan process.

Development of parks and open spaces

- ▶ Decisions on redevelopment of existing spaces and development of new spaces will be based on compelling and robust evidence and projects will be assessed according to the community facilities investment principles and criteria. Projects seeking major investment of community and Council funding should follow the community facilities investment process.
- ▶ Requests for Council assistance and resources (including access to land) will be required to follow the investment framework outlined in the Community Facilities Strategy.
- ▶ Before considering investment in redeveloping or developing new parks and open spaces, there will be careful consideration of alternative options including:
 - if changing management practice or culture would address issues
 - if changes to rules and regulations would address issues
 - if minor capital works can be made to existing space to address the issues
 - if multiple or shared use of the facility or another facility would address the issues
 - if the facility is actually needed at all and what benefit it adds to the community facilities network overall.
- ▶ Council will adopt due diligence and consideration of land use planning best practice in decisions around new reserve locations to avoid unreasonable adverse amenity impacts on adjacent property owners and users, while ensuring the reasonable needs of park users are met.
- ▶ Decisions on the transfer of parks and open spaces to Council will need to be consistent with all of the following criteria:
 - there is a clear and justifiable community need for the space that cannot be filled by other facilities or activities
 - there is strong evidence that the space can meet the relevant level of service requirements outlined in this Plan
 - the increased maintenance and operational costs are reasonable
 - the individual or group transferring the asset agrees that once the asset is transferred, Council has sole discretion over the upgrade, maintenance and

eventual disposal of the asset with no ongoing obligation to the previous asset owner.

- ▶ So that parks and open spaces continue to meet changing community needs we will:
 - design facilities to easily and cost-effectively adapt to future potential needs and uses
 - monitor the use of and demand for these spaces annually (and seasonally where relevant) to inform future planning and development and so we can take timely action on operational issues and opportunities.

Optimising use

- ▶ New parks and open spaces, and those being renewed or repurposed, will be designed to enable multiple uses, to be fully accessible and inclusive and to be adaptable to potential future community needs. This involves making decisions that carefully consider demographic trends and changes and links to active transport and road network.
- ▶ Council will encourage sharing assets across user groups to ensure optimal use. Council will not support the development of new parks and open spaces where there is surplus capacity within the existing network unless there is a strong case for greater efficiency. This will ensure that existing spaces are used to their maximum potential and the limited funds can be directed to be of most benefit to the community.

Park and open space design

- ▶ When considering upgrades to existing parks and open spaces or future development of new spaces, key site design considerations (alongside best practice) will be:
 - the flexibility of the space for multiple uses and ability to be inclusive
 - the useability, comfort, safety and accessibility of spaces for all ages, stages and abilities
 - the health and safety for users and operators (including shade)
 - the enhancement of biodiversity values and opportunities for community interaction with the natural environment
 - the whole of life costs of operating and maintaining the space
 - the consistency with best practice urban design particularly around accessibility, fit with surrounding environment and reflecting local character and identity
 - the application of Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) principles to promote health and safety and personal security
 - the need to ensure environmentally sustainable developments

- the consistency of design with best practice standards.

- ▶ All new parks and open spaces will have lifecycle maintenance models established prior to any development to inform operational plans and material selection.
- ▶ Council will ensure all design for parks and open spaces and associated assets will consider the resource and staff costs arising from Safety in Design, and Health and Safety obligations, particularly in construction and maintenance phases.
- ▶ Parks and open spaces will be designed as inclusive spaces welcoming to users of all ages and abilities and where all feel safe. Special consideration will be given to how design can improve use of parks for the physically and intellectually disabled (eg those with autism or who ride a wheelchair) in a way that does not make them feel different and encourages positive interactions between all users.
- ▶ Safety of users at parks and open spaces will be a key factor in design including consideration of:
 - minimising personal security risks
 - safety of small children near roads and rivers.

Funding

- ▶ The cost of parks and open spaces must be affordable for the community. Council and other providers and funders will work closely to ensure the desired provision of these spaces is achieved according to regional priorities.
- ▶ There is a robust funding programme in place, through Council and non-Council funding, to develop, maintain and operate the parks and open spaces network.
- ▶ Potential funders collaborate to ensure funding for priority parks and open spaces projects can be accessed in a streamlined way.

COLLABORATION AND PARTNERSHIP

OBJECTIVE

By 2019, there are strong relationships between council and communities and they are working together to ensure the most efficient use and delivery of parks and open spaces that meet community needs at optimal levels.

POLICIES

- ▶ Council will collaborate with communities, including mana whenua, agencies, schools, community groups and funders to provide, fund and manage the parks and open spaces network and to ensure parks and open spaces are shared to a greater extent for benefit to the wider region.
- ▶ The type and scale of Council's contribution to parks and open spaces will reflect the priorities in this Plan and:
 - be consistent with the investment framework in the Community Facilities Strategy
 - be aligned with council's strategic framework (vision, values, community outcomes, strategic priorities, strategies and policies).
- ▶ Council will work with local communities to identify opportunities to develop neighbourhood reserves consistent with the intention of this Plan. This is on the basis that local communities are best place to understand local needs and have untapped potential to contribute to design and maintenance of parks and open spaces.
- ▶ Council will work together with partners such as mana whenua, schools and private landowners to consider co-management of parks and open spaces consistent with the intention of this Plan and to extend the parks and open spaces network across providers.
- ▶ Council will work with mana whenua to ensure that mana whenua values are reflected in the planning, design and management of the parks and open spaces network including reflecting tikanga maori and facilitating cultural practices.
- ▶ Council will foster voluntary community involvement in the care of our parks and open spaces including rivers, dunes and neighbourhoods (subject to being able to meet health and safety requirements) through a programme of "care groups".





EFFECTIVE MANAGEMENT

OBJECTIVE

Parks and open spaces in Tairāwhiti will be actively managed to:

- ▶ encourage high levels of use and enjoyment for the community
- ▶ ensure sound management including asset management that optimises operational and maintenance costs
- ▶ meet health and safety requirements.

POLICIES

Demand management

- ▶ Fee structures for exclusive use of parks and open spaces will be reviewed every three years (as part of reviews of Council's Revenue and Finance Policy) and will reflect operational costs of facilities, the opportunity cost of exclusive use and the ability of the Tairāwhiti community to pay.
- ▶ Healthy and whānau-friendly use of parks and open spaces will be encouraged including appropriate controls on tobacco, alcohol, psychoactive substances and behaviour.
- ▶ Council will seek to avoid adverse amenity impacts on adjacent property owners and users, while ensuring the reasonable needs of park users are met.

Biodiversity

- ▶ Council will work with others to ensure biodiversity and natural ecosystems are maintained or enhanced either in isolation or through connected networks.
- ▶ Council will grow its understanding of the opportunities, risks and threats to biodiversity and ecosystems associated with parks and open spaces in Tairāwhiti and work with kaitiaki, the community and other organisations to protect and enhance biodiversity and ecosystems.
- ▶ Council will work with mana whenua and the community in developing planting plans for parks and open spaces to enable local flavour and identity to be expressed while ensuring that wider objectives related to place-cohesiveness, cost, toxicity and sustainability can also be met. (Some guidance is provided around some of these matters in the Street Trees and Gardens Plan.)
- ▶ Council will provide for cultural plantings and harvesting, including rongoa and harakeke, as well as orchards and community gardens in parks.

Asset management

- ▶ Decisions on asset management of parks and open spaces consider the whole-of-life costs. This includes identifying the appropriate timing for upgrades and redevelopment of facilities so ongoing maintenance costs do not rise unreasonably as facilities age.
- ▶ The efficiency and environmental sustainability of parks and open spaces are important. Council will seek to reduce the environmental footprint of assets and users by, for example adopting water sensitive design, waste minimisation measures and facilitating sustainable transport modes.
- ▶ Technologies that enable water harvesting and storage and efficient use of energy will be considered where they prove affordable over the life of any developments eg lighting, irrigation etc. Innovation in these areas is strongly encouraged.
- ▶ Council will maintain, and frequently review, a comprehensive asset management plan for its parks and open spaces and actively encourage and support other providers to do the same, particularly where Council is partnering or supporting the provision of those facilities.
- ▶ Council's asset management information will be comprehensive, up-to-date, readily accessible and regularly reviewed to inform asset management plan reviews.
- ▶ Council will stay abreast of sustainable and 'smart' technologies and will look to apply these to parks and open spaces when upgrading facilities where the whole of life costs are neutral or better compared with the status quo.

Leases and exclusive use

- ▶ Council supports public and non-exclusive use of public lands. Leases of Council reserve land will only be considered under the following conditions:
 - the proposed lease is consistent with the investment framework in the Community Facilities Strategy
 - the exclusive use of part of the area is essential to support high demand recreation activities
 - the activity is complementary to the purpose and function of the space
 - there are no other facilities or spaces that would adequately meet needs
 - there is a clearly demonstrated need and the activity will provide for the recreation needs of a wide range of community members

- the lessee is responsible for the maintenance of the leased area consistent with Council's standards and an appropriate level of insurance as defined in the lease agreement
 - the purpose of the lease would be the most appropriate use of that site
 - the lease promotes equitable support and provision across recreation activities
 - the lease is the most cost-effective way to meet community needs for recreation facilities
 - Council's satisfaction with the lessee's past performance.
- ▶ Council supports retaining parks and open spaces for maximum public use. Long-term exclusive use for activities such as clubrooms, storage facilities etc will only be considered where:
- the proposed use is consistent with the investment framework in the Community Facilities Strategy
 - it is legal to do so under the Reserves Act, Building Act and other relevant statutes
 - there is a clearly demonstrated need and the activity will provide for the needs of a wide range of community members
 - the activity contributes directly to enhancing use and enjoyment of the space for community purposes
 - the new building would be multi-use and have an element of public access
 - there are no other facilities that would adequately meet needs
 - there is a reasonable intended level of use throughout the year
 - any buildings are consistent with Council's design standards, best practice urban design and Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design principles.
- ▶ Leases, licenses and permits will be subject to charges. Council will regularly review its charging regime.



PART D: THE NETWORK

HIERARCHY OF PARKS AND OPEN SPACES

- ▶ This Plan views parks and open spaces as a single network linked by roads, paths, the internet (and peoples’ memories and imaginations). The network has been divided into precincts to facilitate planning and action and to ensure equitable investment. There are 25 precincts in total (22 in the city and 3 rural). Together, these form a single, integrated network across the region.
- ▶ Gisborne City has been divided into 22 precincts as per the list and map below:

1. Urban core	12. Te Hapara
2. Waikanae to Midway	13. Roebuck Road
3. Midway to Waipaoa	14. Taruheru
4. Inner Harbour	15. Mangapapa
5. Titirangi	16. Whataupoko
6. Taruheru River	17. Showgrounds
7. Waimata River	18. Awapuni

8. Childers Road	19. Riverdale
9. Kaiti South	20. Tamarau
10. Outer Kaiti	21. Wainui
11. Elgin	22. Inner Kaiti

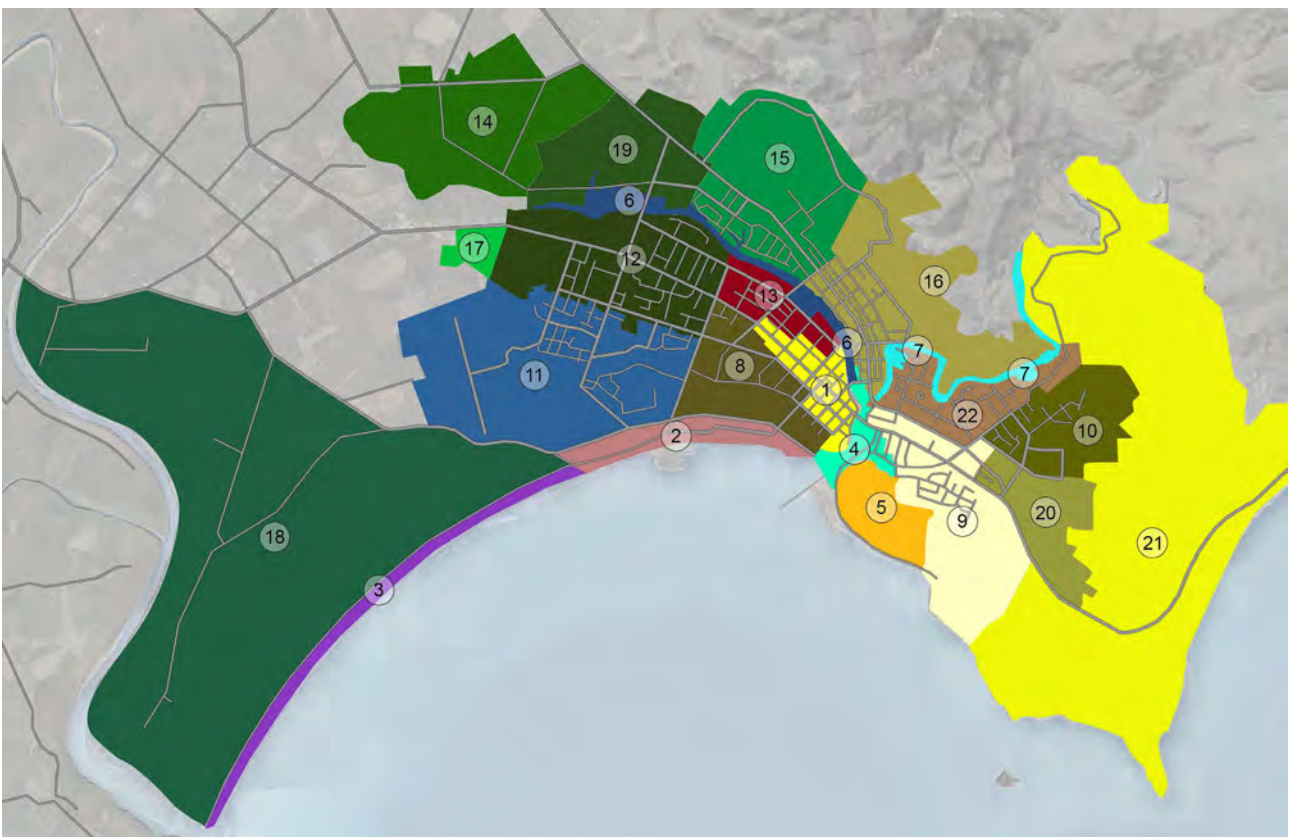
- ▶ The rest of the region is grouped into three precincts:
 - East Coast
 - Upper Cape
 - West.

RATIONALE BEHIND PRECINCT APPROACH

Precincts allow a targeted response to local, sub-regional and regional needs. The distribution of new investments will be based on precincts.

Response to local needs and opportunities

Figure 6: Map of parks and open spaces precincts



- ▶ The needs of local communities vary. At times these variances are subtle, at other times more pronounced. They arise from demographic and environmental differences between localities. For example, some localities have a higher proportion of older residents, others of young families. The needs of each are different. The first perhaps for passive and informal recreation opportunities such as walking or 'gardens', the latter perhaps for more active opportunities such as playgrounds or sports fields, bike tracks or skateboard parks.
- ▶ A precinct based approach also responds better to local environmental variation. Areas of high cultural, natural or heritage value may need different provision. Other environmental forms such as green-links and corridors (for open space or ecological values) and waterways can form green and blue connectors. Importantly all of these types of features can also form the basis of 'place-based' response. Using local heritage features and other environmental characteristics gives us the opportunity to add uniqueness to these spaces and facilities. Unique places are interesting and provide a range of experiences and opportunities for the wider community as well.
- ▶ Good examples of a place based or precinct based response might be recreation (play and/or learning based) associated with natural values in an area with natural heritage resources, or similarly based on features or historic events associated with culture or built heritage.

Neighbourhoods

- ▶ Precincts that respond to local neighbourhoods give an opportunity to ensure that each neighbourhood not only has equal access to facilities that meet local needs, but also provides an opportunity to provide a focal point and opportunity for social interaction and local neighbourhood pride.
- ▶ The development of accessible local facilities that recognise local neighbourhoods through features such as a recognisable locality name (for example Mangapapa or Makaraka), relevant features, and locally specific or unique opportunities for identity may present one of the greatest opportunities to respond to these needs. Where possible the integration of these opportunities with other features, uses and activities such as local shops and schools, or high amenity environmental features (for example coastal walkways, botanic gardens) should be used to further reinforce

local 'place' and identity, and opportunities for social interaction.

- ▶ It is important to consider inter-related design techniques and principles such as urban design, CPTED, connectivity, maintenance and the compatibility of adjacent uses in providing opportunity for social interaction.
- ▶ Neighbourhood based Precincts also recognise attractive walk and cycle distances taking into account much social interaction occurs while walking, cycling (including skateboards etc) to or within parks and open spaces.

Optimising corridors and connectors

The corridors and connector spaces between larger parks and facilities can emphasise these experiences, and through techniques such as 'road-maps' can highlight the unique identity and opportunities of each precinct within a connected network, bringing all the various parts into a connected whole able to be simply recognised and understood by the community. The value of some corridors, particularly green (open space or ecological), blue, heritage or cultural corridors may be so high as to form recreational experiences in their own right.

It is important that precincts are based not just on unique or special characters, but also (particularly for urban precincts) that they are based on accessibility.

Clustering precincts for larger or area-based activity

A Precinct based approach also means that where several nearby areas (precincts) or facilities show a need or opportunity associated with activities, for example a higher proportion of younger families or a series of coastal environment based opportunities. These can be logically 'clustered' to provide for that wider group more significant facilities. Good examples might be a series of coastal walkways or a larger playground facility to serve one large area of Gisborne City while smaller neighbourhood playgrounds are provided in the local precincts.

This allows a logical response to the provision of larger facilities not justifiable for a single precinct alone, but justifiable for a larger group while still retaining a focus on local accessibility and identity. This approach also supports the ability to create a larger clustered identity or similar response, while maintaining or emphasizing sub-identities within it.

LEVELS OF SERVICE AND SPECIFICATIONS

Each precinct is categorised into one of four types that have a corresponding set of specifications and levels of service. The levels of service and specifications for each precinct type are shown in Table 1.

Table 1: Levels of service and specifications for neighbourhood parks

Precinct type	Specifications and levels of service
Hubs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Place-based, well connected to transport modes • Will draw users from a large catchment • Multiple ownership, governance and management • Multi-purpose, co-located with other services / facilities • Generate positive spill over effects, encourage innovation and offer cost savings through shared investment, governance, management • Provision of facilities to support the use of the space for a full day including: toilets, drinking water, shade, picnic areas • Easily accessible for all abilities and supported by good connections to the active transport network and adequate parking (including parking for those with disabilities).
Destination Parks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Large park with a discrete boundary, well connected to transport modes • Have a major single purpose, e.g. ecological function or coastal edge • Might generate spill over effects • Will draw users from a large catchment • Provision of facilities to support the use of the space for a half to full day including: toilets, drinking water, shade, picnic areas • Easily accessible for all abilities and supported by good connections to the active transport network and adequate parking (including parking for those with disabilities).
Neighbourhood Parks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Providing play opportunities for all ages, open space and amenity values • Usually small areas (up to 2 ha) located close to residential areas • May have recreation facilities, e.g. playgrounds, skate parks, half courts, picnic areas, bike tracks • Seating provided for range of users • Landscaping including shaded areas for sun protection • Easily accessible, ideally from more than one road frontage • Well maintained, free draining, flat or gently undulating grassed areas • Provide an attractive welcoming ambiance to the local community • Form part of a network of local parks, each with a different offering and character suited to local context • Be within a 10-minute walking distance of home (800m) • Be inclusive for all ages and abilities • Provide space for community activation of the space.
Activation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establishment of programmes that don't rely upon investment in, but might use, hard infrastructure – e.g. events, smart phone-based heritage interpretation • Interactive Augmented Reality (IAR) development of digital games using hand held devices to create fantasy play in parks and other areas in the open space network .

Park and open space hubs

Waikanae to Midway (Precinct 2)

- ▶ Foreshore hub that includes land adjacent to Turanganui River mouth, Waikanae Beach, Waikanae Surf Lifesaving Club, Oneroa Walkway, coastal margin and dunes.
- ▶ The focus is on family activities, walking / cycling, safe swimming.

Midway to Waipaoa (Precinct 3)

- ▶ Foreshore hub includes Churchill Park, Olympic Pool Complex, Midway SLS Club, Junior Cycle Park, Adventure Playground, Soundshell, Awapuni Stadium, Watson Park, coastal margin.
- ▶ Connects to and extends into Kopututea land down to Waipaoa River mouth.
- ▶ Focus is on adult water related activities (kite surfing, surfing,) sports and recreation, events, play trails, walking / cycling.

Titirangi (Precinct 5)

- ▶ Hub that includes heritage and recreation reserve (that is co-managed with mana whenua), Kaiti Beach, Cook Landing Site and Te Poho o Rawiri Marae.
- ▶ The focus is on nationally significant historic heritage (linking to the Tairawhiti Navigations Project) as well as improving recreation opportunities and enhancing ecological values.

Destination parks

- ▶ Rere Falls, Rere Rockslide and Champagne Pools
- ▶ East Cape Lighthouse
- ▶ Makorori Reserve and Beach
- ▶ Waihirere Domain (ecological park).

Neighbourhood parks

- ▶ All other precincts
- ▶ Examples of actions that have been raised by community members include:
 - Ruatoria – further investment in walk and cycleways, weed and pest management within reserves, restoration of river bank

- Te Puia Springs – clean and beautify lake area and develop local heritage trail, investigate reopening of hot springs as tourist activity, provision of skate park and children’s play space
- Tikitiki – build on new playground investment with supporting facilities, heritage walkway
- Te Araroa - skate park is well used but needs maintenance investment
- Hicks Bay – support ongoing initiatives to upgrade public open space
- Tokomaru Bay – toilet facilities, heritage promotion, native tree planting
- Tolaga Bay – continue foreshore enhancement and Uawa / Tolaga Bay walkway link project.

Activation

- ▶ Activation of the wharves at Hicks Bay / Wharekahika, Tokomaru and Tolaga – develop programmes using wharves and community facilities connected to public open space – encourage sport and recreation.





PART E: ACTIONS

Table 2 outlines the priority actions over the next ten years to implement the Parks and Open Spaces Plan.

Table 2: Actions to implement Parks and Open Spaces Plan

Key actions	Partners	Cost (est)	Timeframe (est)
1. Establish a Community Facilities Relationships and Partnerships position responsible for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> community and corporate partnerships coordinating volunteers and care groups alternative funding sources. 	GDC / SGT / ECT	\$90,000 pa	By Jul 2018
2. Develop and implement neighbourhood reserve activation programme. A community-led development programme where communities are actively engaged in design, development and care of neighbourhood parks.	GDC / DIA / funders	\$100,000 pa	Ongoing
3. Develop and implement a "care group" programme – a community-led development programme aimed at harnessing and supporting the community to engage in caring for key parts of parks and open spaces network eg river care, dune care, park care, hood care. (Links to Relationships and Partnerships position.)	Lead: GDC Support: DIA / DoC Funders: TBC	\$100,000 pa	By Jun 2020
4. Develop Parks and Open Spaces hubs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Midway to Waipaoa Hub (plus Churchill) Titirangi Hub Waikanae to Midway Hub 	Lead: GDC Funders: GDC / TBC	\$1,000,000 per hub	By Jun 2028
5. Develop destination parks <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rere Rockslide/Falls and Champagne Pools East Cape Lighthouse Makorori Reserve Waihirere Domain 	Lead: GDC Funders: GDC / TBC	\$500,000 per park	By Jun 2028
Operational actions	Partners	Cost (est)	Timeframe (est)
6. Prepare and implement a plan for building strong partnerships with the community, iwi, volunteers, other relevant service providers, funders and maintenance providers. (Links to Relationships and Partnerships position.)	GDC	Internal	By Dec 2018
7. Monitor parks and open spaces to gather data on use, satisfaction and demand.	GDC	\$10,000 pa	Ongoing





Te Kaunihera o Te Tairāwhiti
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