



HAVE YOUR SAY

Colson 2050

Draft Remediation Plan & Vision



Te Kaunihera-ā-Rohe o Ngāmotu

New Plymouth
District Council

Purpose

The purpose of this document is to create a remediation plan and future vision to guide the development of this land into a publicly accessible park.

The Colson Road landfill closed in 2019. The final capping to safely cover all the waste is underway and scheduled for completion at the end of summer 2026. The whole landfill site covers a large area (72ha) of which only about 1/3 is active landfill with buried waste.

A pine forest surrounds the landfill and will need to be milled within this time frame.

Over the next five years, there will be periods of settlement and cap maintenance, and the installation of drains for the management of stormwater. The Council is required to collect and treat landfill gas and leachate for the next 30 years.

As the site will consist of a number of areas of capped landfill, there are constraints on the type of use that can occur in particular areas of the site. There is however an opportunity to rehabilitate the site and create a significant and usable green space for the local community, and support specific recreational and creative outcomes within the District with the following objectives:

- **Develop the site as a public park and open up access**
- **Identify location and scale for future facilities and/or land use types**
- **Identify, improve and interpret natural and cultural heritage values**
- **Ensure ongoing maintenance and monitoring of the closed landfill is not compromised**
- **Design to suit the constraints of the site, based on its former use as a landfill**



Background

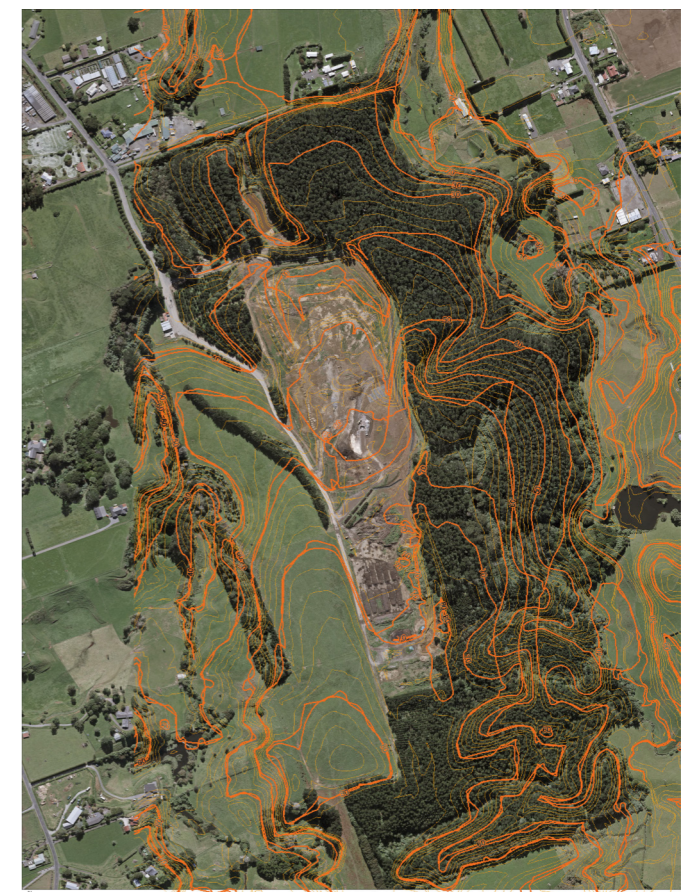
The Colson Road Regional Landfill is owned and operated by New Plymouth District Council.

This landfill has provided a facility for the disposal of 100% of the region's municipal waste and up to 95% of the region's industrial and commercial waste. However, from early August 2019 the region's domestic and commercial refuse has been disposed of at Bonny Glen landfill in Marton. From August 2019 the landfill operated on a much smaller scale, receiving only special wastes and at the end of October 2020 the landfill was closed for the acceptance of special waste.

The New Plymouth District Plan covers the design and operation of the landfill by a land use designation. That designation includes a schedule of conditions which require the adopting and annual updating of a 'Landfill Management Plan'. Conditions relating to the Landfill Management Plan are also required under resource consents.

This Regional Landfill Management Plan sets out the basis for future use of the Colson Road landfill site up to and until completion of the Stage 3 area of the landfill 'AREA B1' (shown in Appendix A, Drawing 1) including final capping.

The operational area of the landfill is screened on the north east and south by forestry. An excavated area that has supplied clay for the final landfill cap operation is sited on land between the Stage 3 footprint and the southern forest block. The western side is screened by three rows of trees planted along a ridge of area A. The forest is owned by Council and it is managed as a commercial forest. It is also subject to recreational activities controlled by the NPDC Parks team.



Cultural Values

To provide context and basis for the co-creation process that has been undertaken for the Draft Plan, an understanding of the receiving environment, and the context within which the site falls within is required. Ngāti Tawhirikura, and the cultural landscape forms a part of this context.

Tangata Whenua

Ngāti Tawhirikura are an ancient hapū of Te Atiawa. The rohe of Ngāti Tawhirikura begins at the Waitaha and extends inland to Ngungurutanga, beyond to Heao, to Whakamakau, to Pukepapa, to Tarurutangi, to Te Riu, to Mangaraka, there onto te Tona, to Manukapa, to Huatotahi, to Weraroa, to Hawaii, to Hauhau Pounamu, to Ngaio, to Te Mangonaia, to Porewa, to Pukewharangi, to Tahuna-tu-tawa, there ending on the western seaside. The area then follows the mountain of Taranaki to Pouakai, to within the district of Mangorei through to Waiwhakaiho, to the sea and beyond to Waitaha .

Real people lived, worked and died in this place. These are the tūpuna of those obligated to preserve and protect today's cultural landscape of Ngāti Tawhirikura Hapū. To preserve this cultural landscape of Ngāti Tawhirikura is to secure a relationship and connection back to our tūpuna and in doing so to acknowledge the rights of Māori to have preserved, natural, historical, cultural, and spiritual values associated with this whenua.

Within this area, and more broadly for our people the Hapū hold aspirations to work towards thriving and resilient whānau and hapū, the revitalisation of te taiao, regenerative businesses and achieving an enduring cultural integrity and identity. Purposeful action towards these outcomes over a number of generations will be required for these to be realised.

Recently the Hapū outlined some overarching values which derive from this whakapapa, to drive towards these outcomes. These values include:

1. Tiakitanga
2. Mana Motuhake
3. Rangatiratanga
4. Tūturu

The Te Atiawa Claims Settlement Act 2016 recognises the failings of the Crown with respect to the Treaty and the impact that these failings had and continue to have on our community. The expectations of Ngāti Tawhirikura is that moving forward processes that manage the use and development of resources work to reconcile our conflict history to restore and embed the rich indigenous systems of design that communicate our lived expression.

Wāhi Tapu, Wāhi Tūpuna me Sites and Areas of Significance to Māori

The landscape within which the area sits includes numerous nearby native reserves, pā, kāinga, papakāinga and urupā and the associated archaeological, cultural, historic, scientific and technological features of these sites and surrounding areas. These include Aotere, Parapara-iti, Te Rerenga, Te Rewa Rewa, Raiomiti, Tarereari, Katere-ki-te Moana and associated kāinga, urupā, food production and farming areas. Some of these areas are included in the Proposed District Plan and are mapped, others are not, and it is reasonable to expect that sites may be re-discovered through the course of any earthworks.

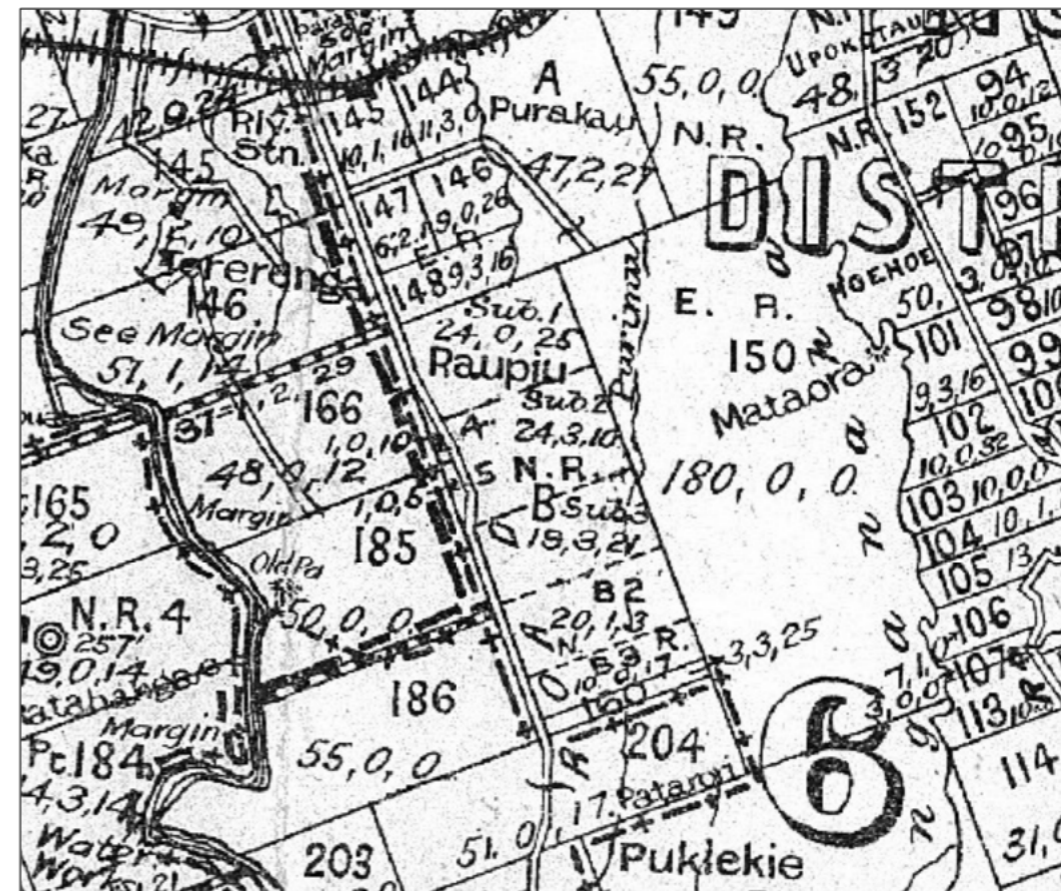
The site is located within Raupiu Native Reserve. Wiremu Te Ahoaho was the owner of the reserve. It is not clear how this reserve was alienated.

It is important to note that these places and sites cannot exist in isolation, and the connections between places is also significant. These areas, the narratives and people associated with them form the basis upon which applied cultural expression can build up and out from.

The site is located within the Waiwhakaiho catchment, and includes the Mangaone stream, Manganaha stream along the eastern edge and Puremu streams. The Waiwhakaiho catchment is recognised as a statutory acknowledgement area through the Te Atiawa Claims Settlement Act 2016. In the opinion of tangata whenua this catchment is severely degraded, with a number of threats to water quality, quantity, and use and modification elevated in the Mangaone due to the level of urban and industrial development within its catchment.

The Waiwhakaiho River mouth, the wetlands and associated water bodies were important because of resources such as raupō, water, ferns, berries, birds, fish, flax and kaimoana. The river fish and whitebait were caught from particular purpose-built sites called whakaparu and these remain and continue to be used today. There were several papakāinga on the river from its mouth to further inland. Rewa Rewa was located on a hill above the river mouth and was an ancient pā which, over the generations, housed a large population. Other papakāinga along the river were Waiwhakaiho, Raiomiti, Te Ngaere, Pukemao, Te Rerenga, Puke o Te Pua and Papamoa.

The river was also used as a means of transport to nearby papakāinga to trade food and taonga and to maintain whanaungatanga. The Waiwhakaiho River remains an important river today. Te Atiawa has a physical, historical and spiritual relationship with the Waiwhakaiho River. All elements of the natural environment possess a life force or mauri. This is a critical element of the spiritual relationship of Tawhirikura to the Waiwhakaiho River which has a spiritual force and personality of its own. The Waiwhakaiho River has been and continues to be an integral part of the social, spiritual and physical fabric of Tawhirikura and is celebrated in karakia, waiata and pepeha.



Map showing Raupiu Native Reserve, and adjoining native reserves and pā/kāinga

Site Information



1967



1969



1970



1982



2000



2022

History

- Site is of significance to Ngāti Tawhirikura and the landscape included pā, kāinga, papakāinga and urupā
- Raupiu Native Reserve
- Farm leases from 1948 to 1975
- Council purchased lease in 1975 for public utility
- Council purchased lease freehold in 1985

Planning Issues/Constraints

- Closed landfill and sensitive clay cap
- Ongoing gas monitoring
- Adjacent to future residential area of Smart Road
- Screening and buffer requirements depending on use
- Cleanfill needed to remediate clay excavation area

Key Features

- Manganaha Stream
- Puremu Stream
- Wetland area
- View of Taranaki Maunga
- View out to coast
- Forested hillslopes

Potential Uses/Programmes/Activities

- Creative activities and sculpture park
- Mountain biking
- Equestrian trails
- Walking trails
- Native forest restoration
- Native harvestable forest trial
- Wetland restoration
- Native plant nursery
- Viewing areas and open space

Site Photos

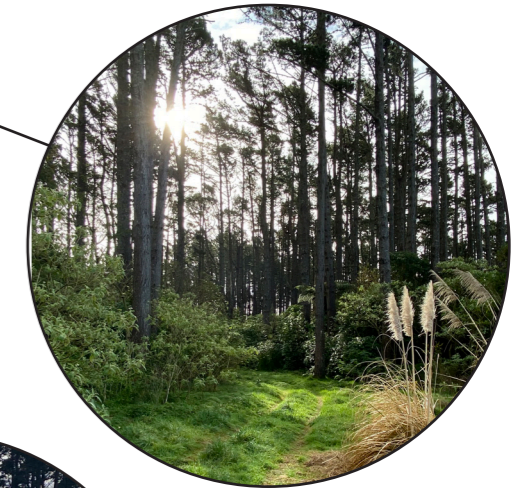
View up valley
(pines recently removed)



Silt control pond



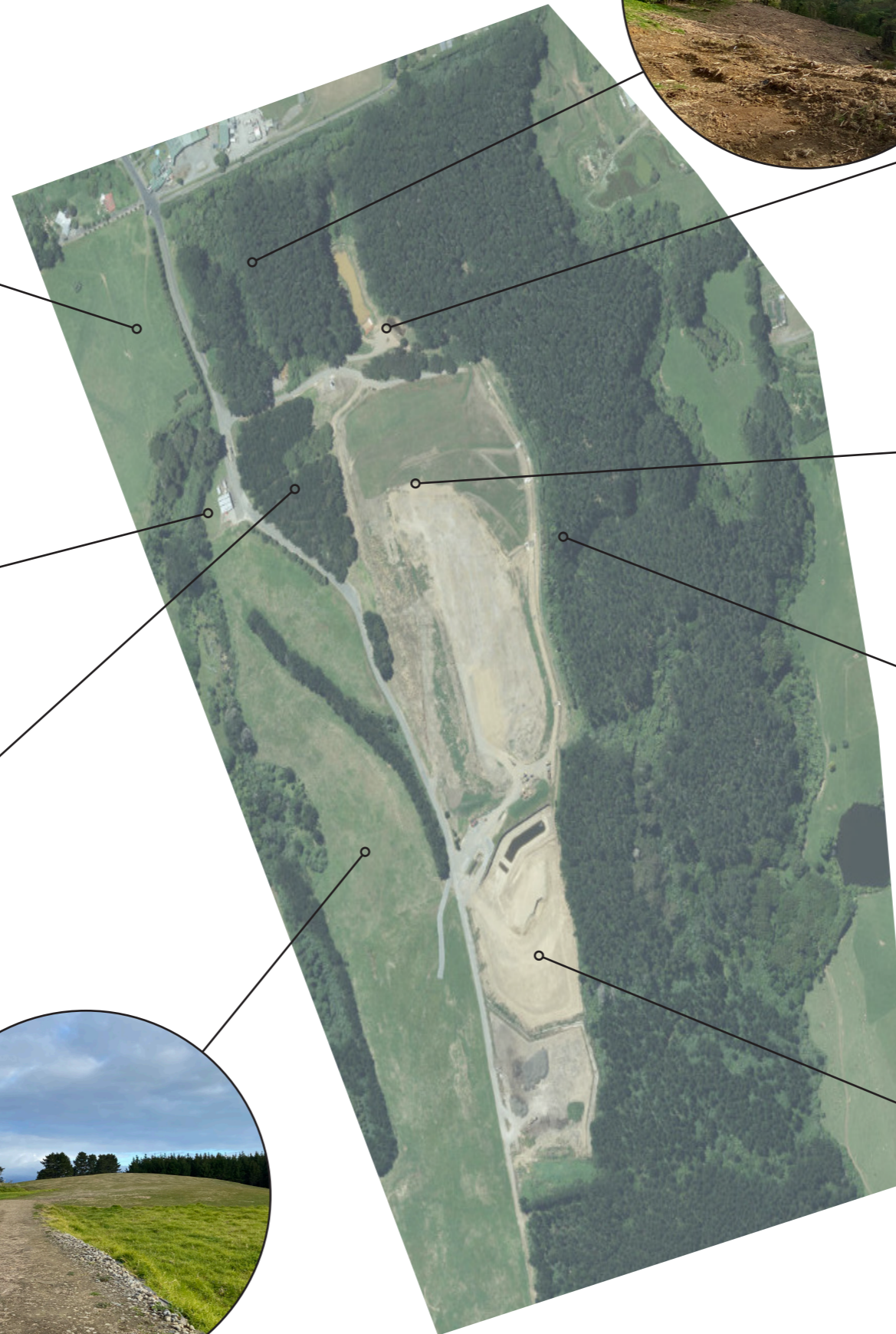
View of closed landfill area



Pine forest



Clay capping excavation area



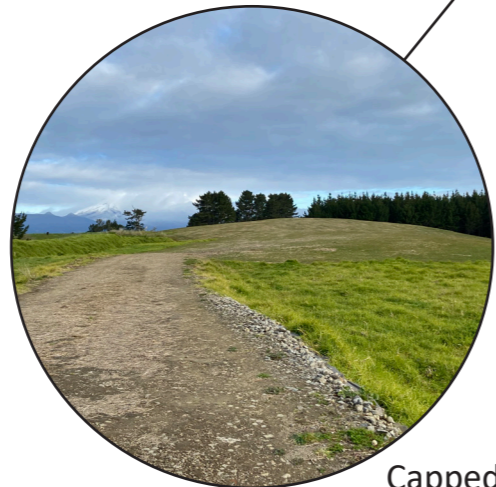
Non-landfill paddock area at entry
(currently deer grazing)



Non-landfill area at entry



View of capped landfill
(pines recently removed)



Capped landfill with view to Taranaki Maunga

Site Constraints

The site contains areas that have been used for landfill and areas that have not been used as landfill. Depending on the area there are different constraints to the type of activity and use that can occur.

Due to the organic nature of much of the landfill material, settlement across this area is occurring, and is expected to continue over the next decade or more. There is a clay cap which creates a containing barrier over the landfill material, which means that activities in these areas cannot involve any potential damage which may compromise the integrity of the cap (including grazing). Ongoing management of gas on site is required for a number of decades. This does not prevent certain uses occurring but needs to be considered in any design planning.

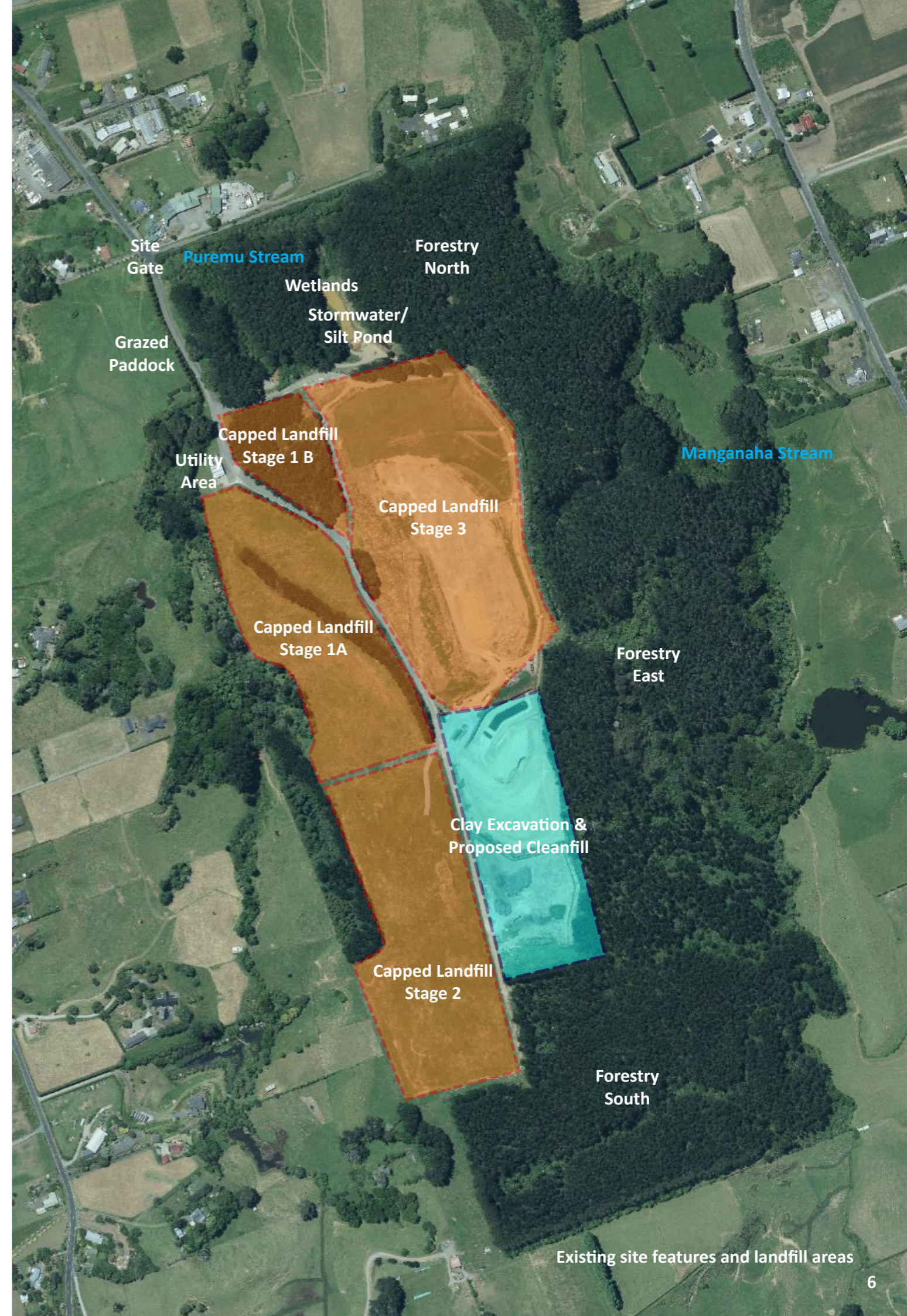
The capping activity has used clay from the site and will result in a large excavated area. This site is not landfill, and as such offers opportunity for public use. In order to return this area to a usable space, filling of the hole left from excavation is desirable. This would require importing cleanfill over an estimated period of five years.

Topsoil coverage however, is quite shallow (150-200mm), which could restrict plant growth.

Issues relating to fire safety regulations around gas production on closed landfills, and requirements to locate and access infrastructure, preclude allowing long grass to grow, and the grassed cap sites would need to be mown.

Sensitive landuse activities (food growing) or those introducing potential ignition sources (e.g. BBQ's) are not generally suitable for the site.

There is a very small (but non-zero) chance of issues arising with gas leachate or ground stability that will require restriction of public access to certain areas. Hence, maintaining some form of fence around the former landfill area until the site is safe for public re-entry will be necessary.



Outcomes



Ecology

- Habitat restoration
- Nature preservation
- Wildlife linkage
- Water quality improvement



Passive Recreation

- Picnic and leisure
- Dog walking
- Trails
- Nature discovery



Environmental Management

- Landfill care and monitoring
- Water management
- Climate change
- Resilience best practice



Arts, Culture & Heritage

- Traditional crafts
- Harvestable native forest
- Art installations
- Temporary activations
- Cultural landmark preservation



Active Recreation

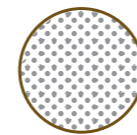
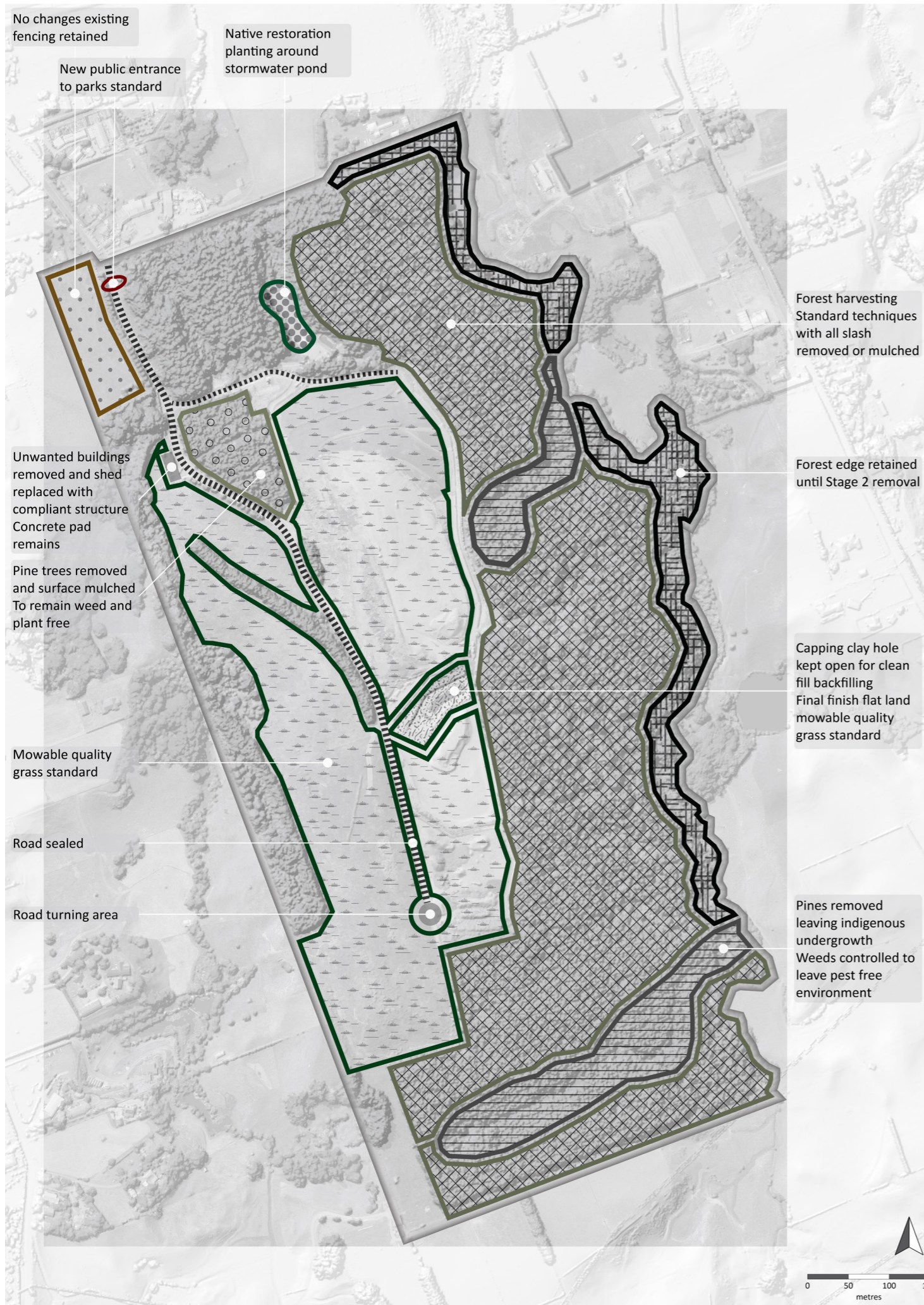
- Informal games
- Trail running
- Mountainbiking
- Horse riding
- Nature play



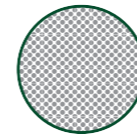
Community Integration

- Spaces for community groups
- District narratives
- Accessible facilities

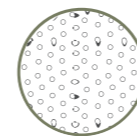
Phase 1 - Remediation



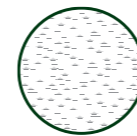
- No significant changes
- Retention of existing fences and gates



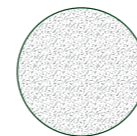
- Native wetland planting around stormwater detention pond



- Remove/harvest pine trees
- Mulch and weed control ground surface



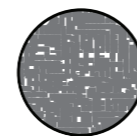
- Turf grass to mowable standard
- Flat to gently rolling ground surface contours



- Clay pit kept open until filled with clean back fill
- Once filled turf grass sown to a mowable standard



- Exotic tree harvesting
- Retention of existing indigenous understorey plants
- Ongoing weed control



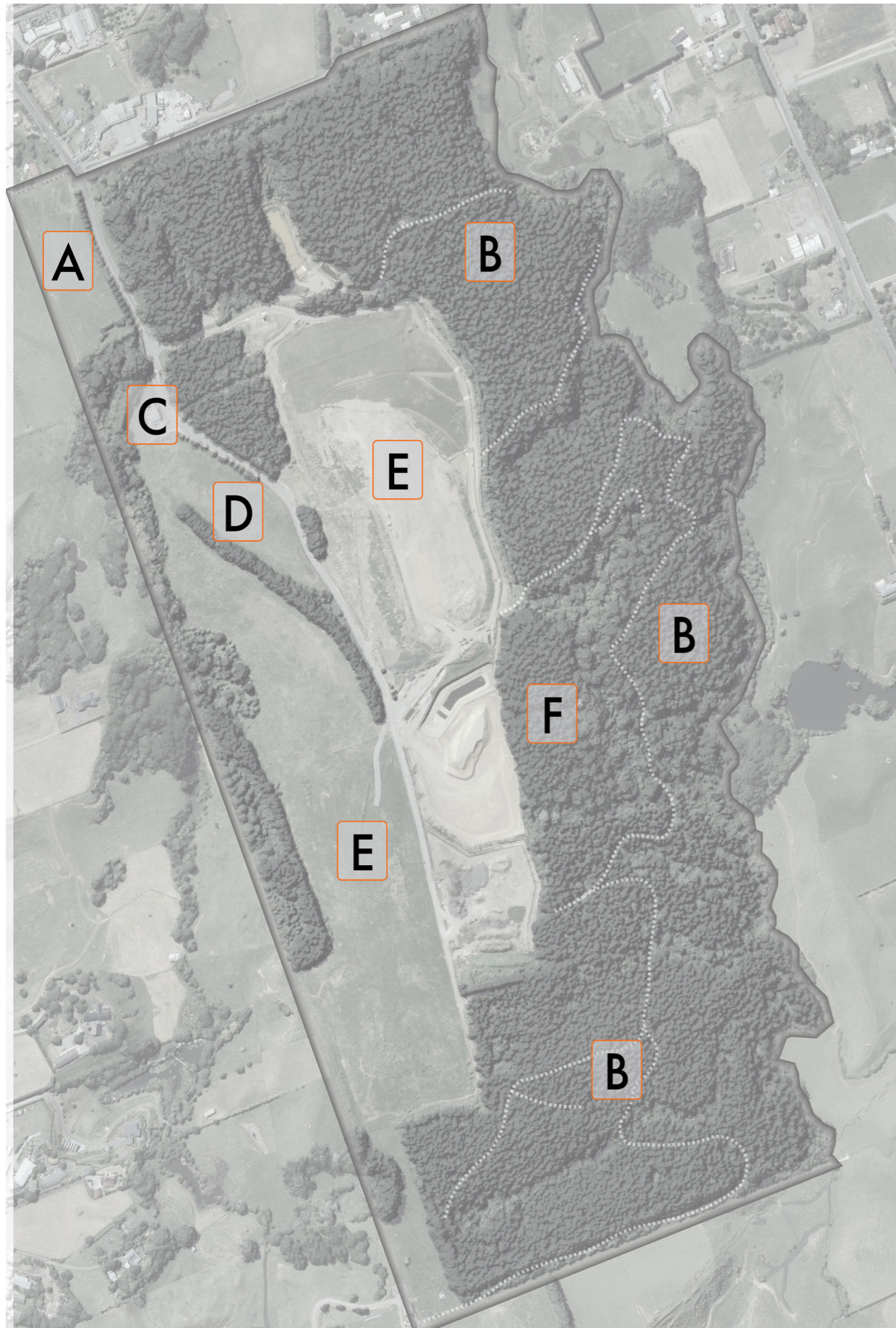
- No significant immediate changes
- Vegetation retained as a buffer short-medium term



- Exotic tree harvesting
- Clear felling technique okay
- All slash to be removed or mulched

Phase 2 - 2050 Vision

Potential Activities



A

Nursery Activity

Growing plants for native restoration projects



B

Active Recreation

Mountainbike, walking and bridle trails



C

Buildings/Structures

Te Kupenga clubrooms and storage shed and public toilet



D

Sculpture Park

Showcase and activity area for Te Kupenga Stone Sculpture Society and similar and associated activities



E

Open Space

Active and passive activities on park lawn which doesn't pierce the cap over the sealed landfill



F

Sustainable Tree Harvest

Selective and sustainable harvesting of planted native timber for specific activities which retains the integrity of the native vegetation and natural environment



Masterplan



- Native plant nursery established in conjunction with Ngāti Tawhirikura
- New public entry identity to fit existing park standards



- Native restoration planting following standard harvesting of existing trees
- Some areas may be subject to selective harvesting of native trees for specific and significant community purposes
- Potential MTB and/or bridle trail network and other linkages



- Existing waste transfer area to be cleared of unwanted, landfill-specific infrastructure
- Development of infrastructure suitable for new site activities including a new shed/building and clubrooms



- Native restoration planting in gullies and low areas building upon retained native understorey vegetation left behind after forest harvesting



- Existing vegetation retained as a buffer while native restoration takes place on the interior spaces
- Once interior native vegetation is well established this buffer to be removed and restored with native vegetation



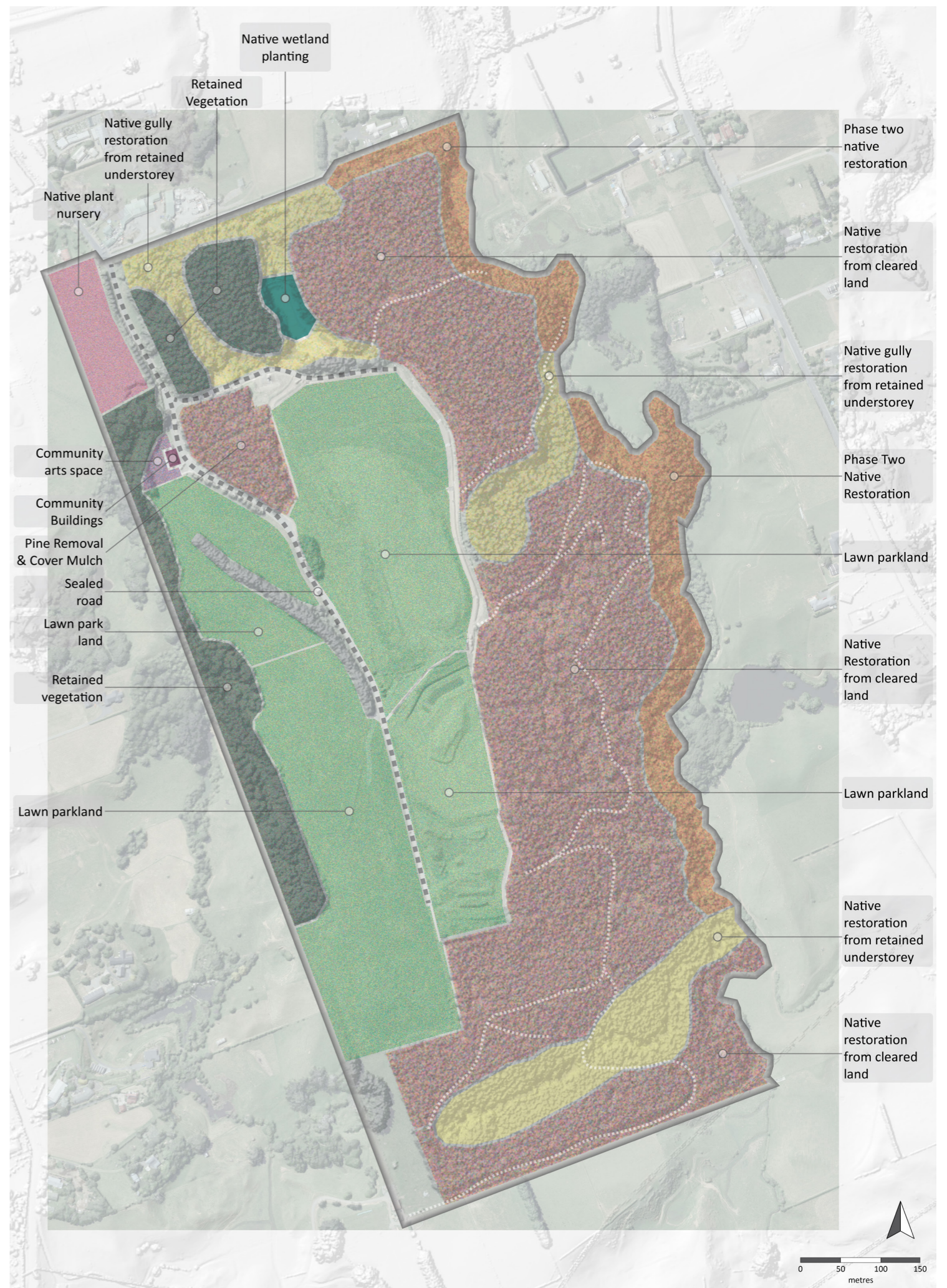
- Native wetland restoration planting of stormwater detention pond



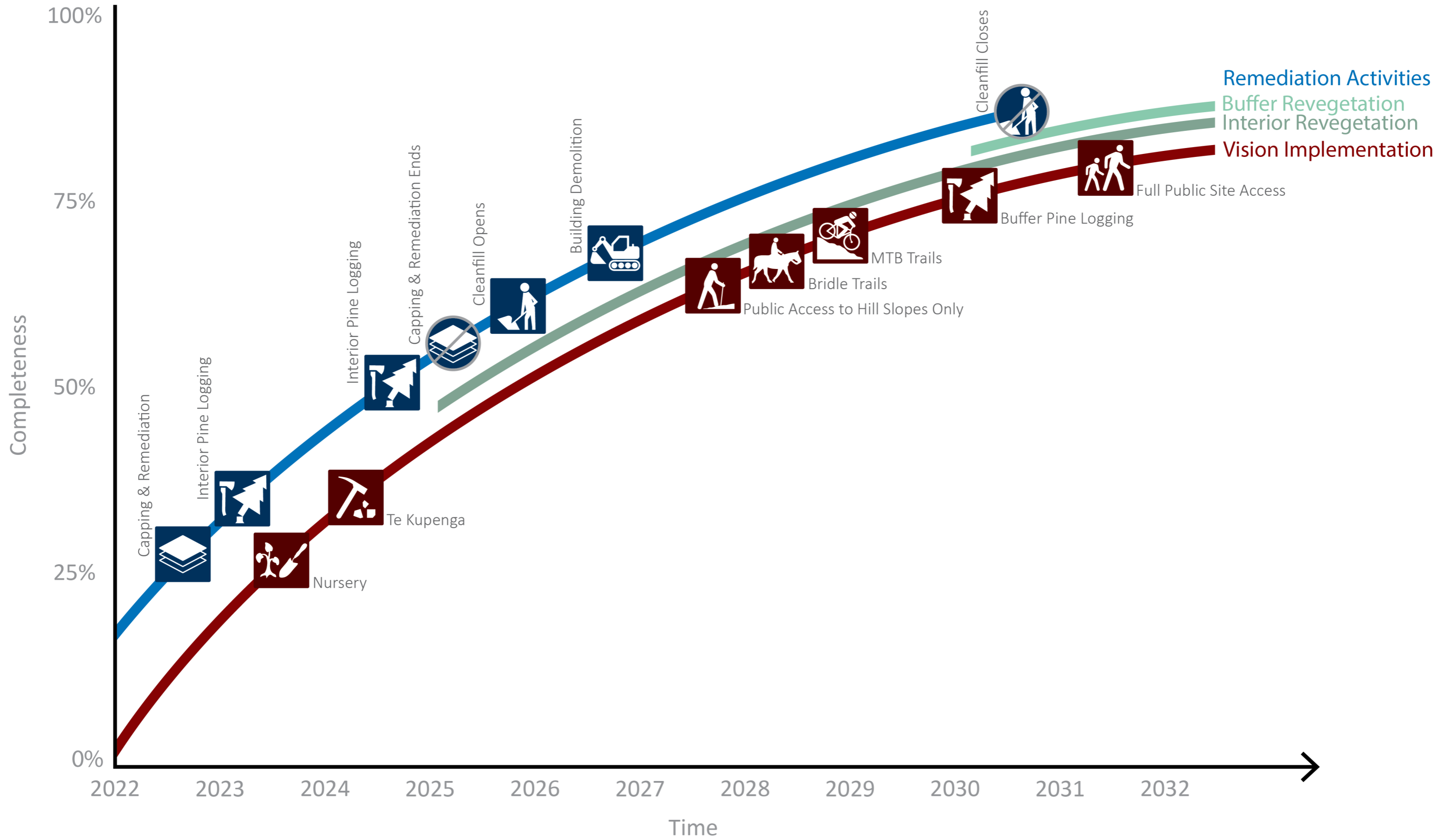
- Flat to gentle rolling contour lawn parkland for public recreation activities
- Uses should not require significant infrastructure or items requiring ground installation which could pierce the landfill capping



- Existing vegetation retained and enhanced as buffers and natural environments with an emphasis on strengthening native biodiversity



Phasing



How to Get Involved

Let us know what you think about this proposed remediation plan and vision for the closed landfill at Colson Rd.

The projects identified are proposed to be implemented over the life of this plan, subject to available resources and prevailing council and community circumstances at the time of proposed implementation.

The remediation works identified in the draft plan are partially budgeted within the existing Long Term Plan (LTP) with some additional works proposed within the 2024 LTP for consideration. Funding for the implementation of the future vision will not be required until 2028 or beyond and as such will be identified in future LTP for consideration informed by the community feedback and final adopted vision.

Online

Give us your feedback online.

Just complete the submission form at npdc.govt.nz/HaveYourSay



On Paper

Fill in a paper form or write your thoughts down and send feedback to us at:

Colson Road
Reply Paid DX
DX Box NP90081
New Plymouth

or email it to:
submissions@npdc.govt.nz



In Person

We will be available to meet and discuss with individuals and will have open day at the Junction.



Like to find out more?

More information is available online at npdc.govt.nz/HaveYourSay

**Submissions close at
2pm Friday, 16 February 2024**



View looking towards the coast from the capped landfill slopes