

13. *Merrilands Domain*

Description

Location:	Mangorei Road, New Plymouth
Legal description:	Section 917 Grey District
Size:	2.39 hectares
Reserve Status:	Subject to the Reserves Act 1977
Reserve Classification	Recreation reserve



Physical description

Merrilands Domain is a sports park located on Mangorei Road to the east of Smith Road. There are three fields available which are used primarily for soccer.

The majority of the park is Open Space A Environment Area in the District Plan. These areas are used primarily for organised sports and recreation. Such areas will normally have associated buildings such as clubrooms, changing sheds or toilet facilities.

A small corner to the north west of the park is Open Space B Environment Area which is characterised by those areas that are predominantly focused towards informal recreational pursuits, usually of a more passive nature, such as walking, playing or fishing. They are more open, with less built features than the Open Space A Environment Area.

The remaining boundaries are surrounded by Residential A and to the east is Audrey Gale Reserve (Open Space B).

Tangata whenua interests

This reserve is within the tribal rohe of Te Atiawa Iwi and Taranaki iwi. The area is of historic and cultural significance to Ngati Te Whiti and Ngā Mahanga-a-Tairi hapū.

Land status and acquisition history

Section 917 Grey District was vested in Council in 1956 as a recreation reserve and subject to the Reserves and Domains Act 1953, however, the underlying title remains with the Crown. In 1956 a Gazette notice declared the reserve to be a public domain and to be known as the Merrilands Domain. In 1982 the land was further classified as a Reserve for Recreation Purposes and pursuant to the Reserves Act 1977.

History and cultural values

The Merrilands Domain Management Plan was approved by the Council in 1980 pursuant to Section 41 of the Reserves Act 1977. The field was developed for summer and winter use and provided a rugby and soccer field, and an artificial cricket wicket, as well as a children's playground. The Management Plan looked at the management of the sports park, buildings, access and parking, landscape and signposting, children's play area and public toilets.

The park has previously been used for soccer, rugby, cricket, athletics, softball, athletics, American Football, and various companies Christmas/Social functions and gala days.

Existing improvements

Existing improvements include:

Barriers, fences, gate, rubbish bins, four floodlights, paths, six signs, Council owned hall, carpark, road, a playground, amenities and clubrooms building.

There is a storm water pipe running through the domain from the south-western to the north-eastern corner.

Uses and activities

Merrilands Domain is a sports park with three fields suitable for organised and informal sport and recreation.

The Council owned Merrilands Hall is a community hall available for hire. One of the regular users; the NZ Society of Mendl Creative Dance Inc owns a room attached to the end of the hall.

The Council owns the concrete block amenities building (changing rooms and toilets) however, the club rooms directly above are owned by the resident club.

The following clubs have land only leases at Merrilands Domain:

- NP Rangers AFC for their clubrooms building (lease renewable every 21 years).
- NZ Society of Mendl Creative Dance Inc for a room added to the hall (lease expires 2029)

Management objectives and specific policies

- 1) The Merrilands Domain Management Plan 1980 shall be revoked and replaced with this plan.
- 2) The developed areas of this park will be managed as a sports park suitable for formal and informal sport and recreation.
- 3) Future development of Merrilands Domain will be in accordance with the development concept including:
 - i. New goal storage area
 - ii. Succession planting and staged removal of hedge
- 4) A lease will be maintained with NP Rangers AFC Club for their clubrooms. Any extensions to the footprint of the existing building will be considered on a case by case basis in accordance with General Policies for Council Administered Reserves. A licence will also be established for the floodlights.
- 5) In August 2010 the Council resolved an intention to transfer Council owned buildings or part of buildings to the clubs that use or occupy them. The Council is currently working with clubs to achieve this.
- 6) The hall on this park will be managed as an urban hall with leases established for parts of the building as appropriate – ie the part of the building owned by the Mendl Creative Dance Inc.
- 7) Fields to be used as overflow car parking for events at Audrey Gale Reserve.