



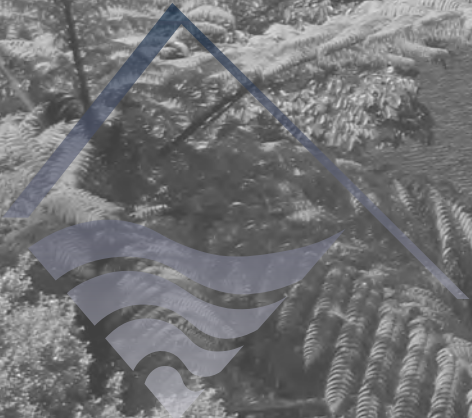
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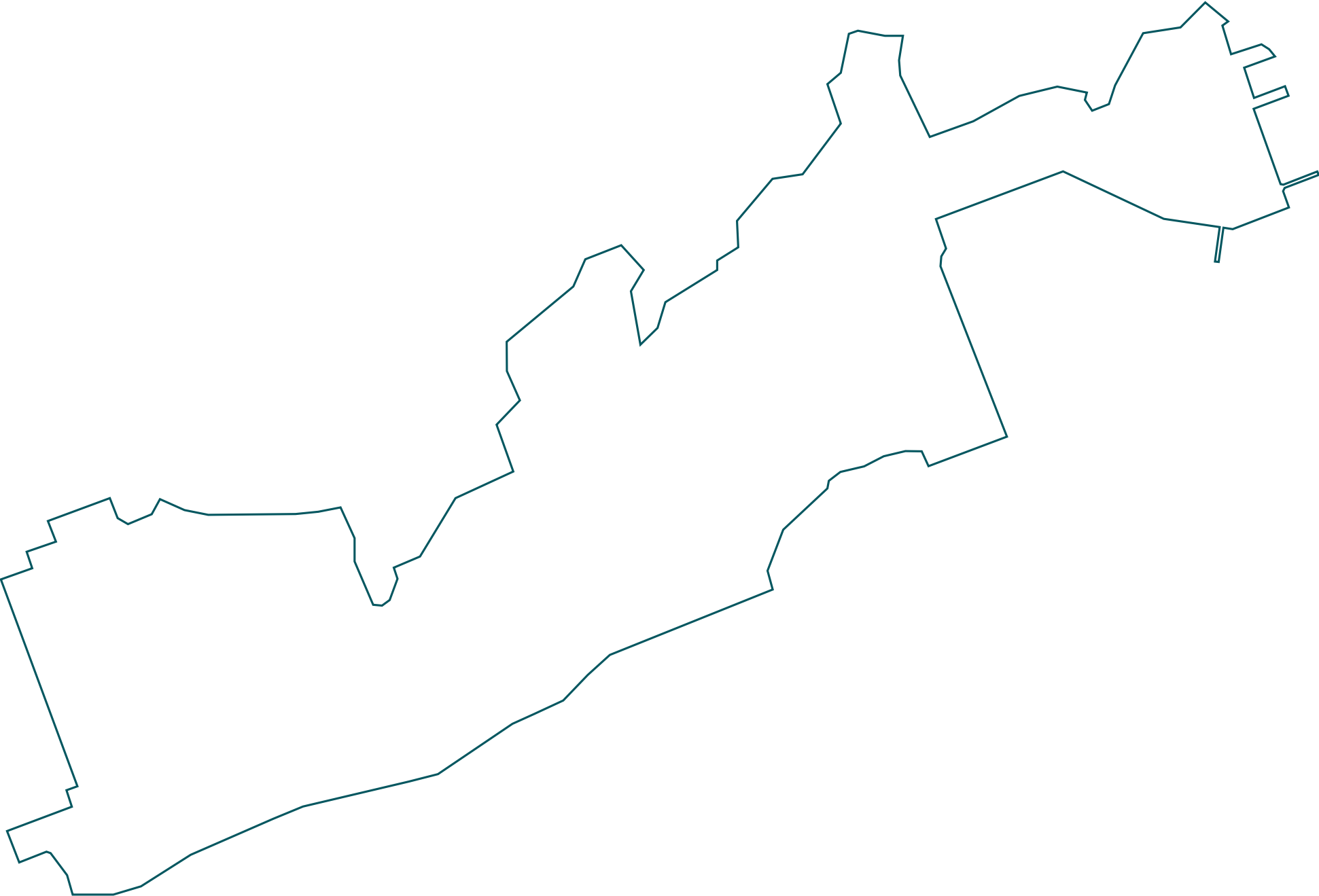
# **Pukekura Park**

**Reserve Management Plan**

**2023**

**Summary Document**





## THE PUKEKURA PARK DRAFT RMP

Pukekura Park has provided public open space in the heart of New Plymouth since 1876 and encompasses around 52 hectares, with around 20 kilometres of pathways. Originally managed by a board of trustees, the park was handed over to the then New Plymouth Borough Council in 1929 and the park was administered by a committee of citizens until the mid-1960s.

The Pukekura Park Reserve Management Plan is now 20 years old and due for review. The plan outlines how the park will be managed for the next 30 years, confirming the character that will be maintained and identifying opportunities for development.

A first round of consultation took place in 2022 and after consideration of feedback, there were no significant changes from the initial proposals. However, some minor adjustments to allow for mobility parking/access at the Fillis Street entry by the proposed new Bellringer have been integrated.

A separate stakeholder consultation was held on the future of Brooklands Zoo, resulting in a draft proposal (now included in the draft Pukekura park RMP) including:

- Improving the visitor experience through education and sharing spaces, and greater links to education and conservation
- Improving the animal environments with higher-quality habitats
- Reducing the number of animal species by about one-third and focusing on those species best able to cope with noise and activity
- A forest canopy walk
- The zoo's main role continuing to be advocacy and education
- Staged development as funds allow

# Snapshot



# Have Your Say

## LOOKING FORWARD

Reserve management plans are something that we need to prepare according to the Reserves Act 1977. They provide strategic direction, and identify policies and plans for the use, enjoyment, maintenance, protection, preservation and development of parks assets, and tell everyone what they can expect from the management of the park.

The draft Pukekura Park Management Plan lays out the vision and direction of our iconic park for the next 30 years.

The management plan doesn't sign-off on future developments. Any future developments and their budgets would first need to be approved through a Long Term Plan process, but we do want to know what projects are a high priority for you.

All proposed infrastructure upgrades are subject to change and are currently not budgeted for. They have been grouped by cost to make it easier to consider the options.

We received great feedback during the early discussion with the community last year, with more than 600 submissions received.

As a result, we're proposing the same developments that were in last year's discussion document with some adjustments based on public feedback, e.g. on-site mobility parking and access for events outside of peak visiting hours.

We've also included proposals for redeveloping Brooklands Zoo, with a focus on improved animal welfare and visitor experiences.

**Please tell us which projects you want prioritised!**

## WHAT YOU'VE TOLD US

The first phase of consultation in 2022 resulted in 635 completed feedback forms from the community. Key results from the 2022 phase 1 consultation are:

- General acceptance that the current pedestrians/bikes/vehicles mix doesn't work very well
- Signs are inadequate
- Acknowledgement that some features could be more appealing/useable
- The welfare of animals during Bowl events is universally supported
- Differing opinions on the scale of any changes to enhance the park as an events venue, particularly regarding the Bowl of Brooklands and Bellringer Pavilion (although unanimous acceptance that something needs to be done concerning the current state of the pavilion)
- Majority accept the proposed modifications to the steep slopes of the Bowl
- Majority want to retain the Bowl Lake, but with an improved temporary staging system
- Strong opinion on keeping the park as a safe haven for pedestrians without having to worry about bikes, but with a general acceptance for a separate cycle route
- Mixed views were offered on the suggested upgrade of the tea house

## PARK SPECIFIC CONSIDERATIONS

In addition to the general requirements expected of all reserves, Pukekura Park has a number of park specific issues, opportunities and influences which the plan looks towards:

### Plant Collections

### Heritage Items

### Event Hosting

### Bowl of Brooklands

### Sportsground

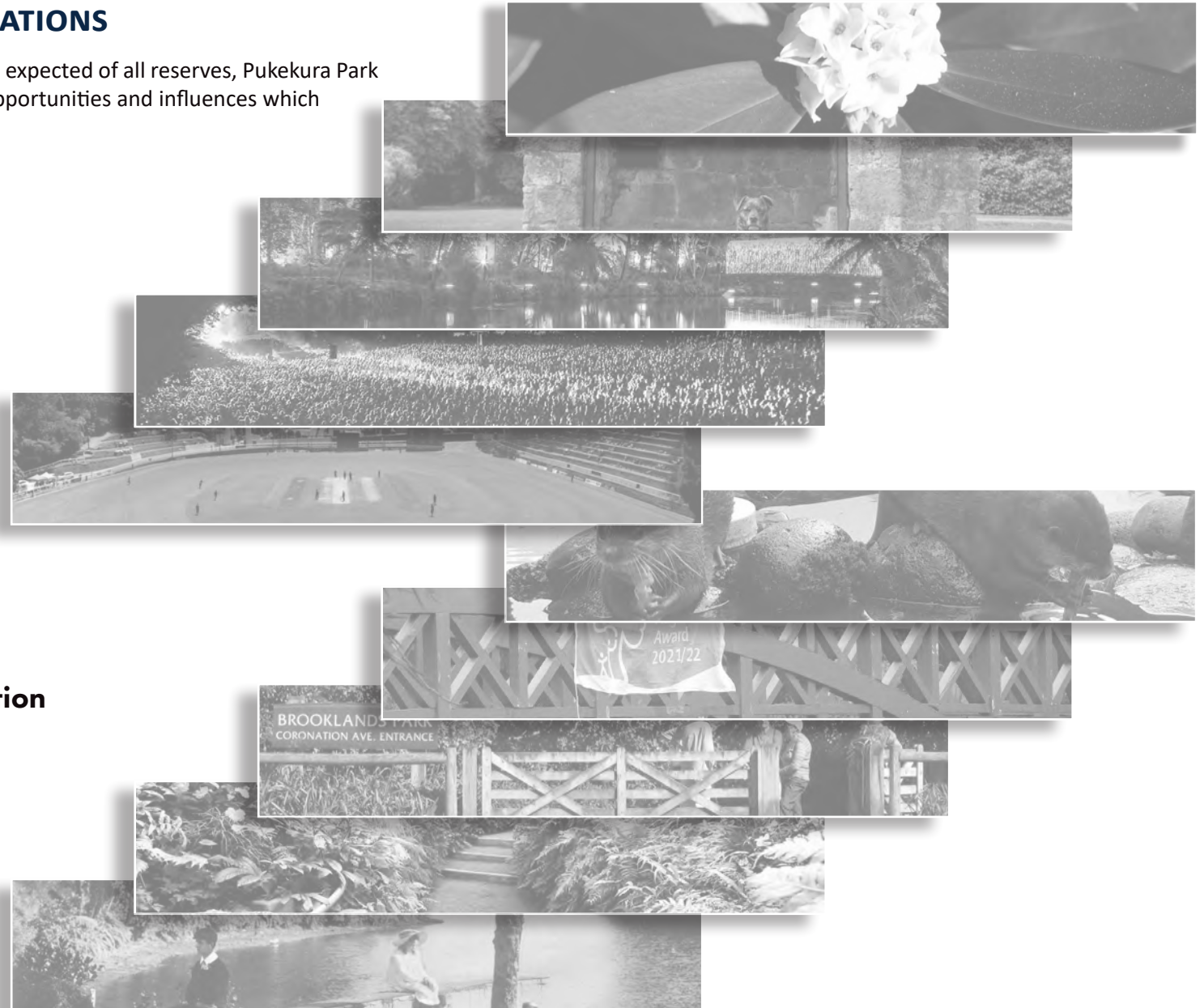
### Brooklands Zoo

### Green Flag/NZGT Certification

### Friends of the Park

### Fernery

### Waterways



# Issues & Opportunities

Issue	Proposal
<p><b>User Conflict</b></p> <p>With so many people using the park there are some activities which don't always work well together such as pedestrians, cycles and vehicles</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Minimise the number of motor vehicles entering the park</li> <li>• Make cycle prohibitions clearer</li> <li>• Provide separate commuter paths for cycles</li> </ul>
<p><b>Confusing Path Network</b></p> <p>Many paths criss-cross the park leading to a many destinations, or even no destination at all. This confusing network, with signage that isn't fit for purpose, makes it hard to easily navigate the park</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Undertake a complete review of the path network</li> <li>• Implement a wayfinding strategy which implements a clear path hierarchy and provides clear, suitable signage</li> </ul>
<p><b>Maximising Potential of Key Features</b></p> <p>The park has a number of key features and characteristics which need to be formally identified and supported</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Upgrades to Cannon Hill, the Tea House and surrounds</li> <li>• Renew lakeside paths and provide a sealed loop route around Main Lake</li> </ul>
<p><b>Water Management</b></p> <p>At times the water quality in the waterways can become compromised. Climate change and increasing extremes of weather also need to be accommodated.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Seal or consolidate paths next to waterways to reduce gravel and sediment runoff</li> <li>• Upgrade dam and spillway of main lake</li> <li>• Aerate still or slow moving water</li> <li>• Create wetlands in appropriate locations to manage stagnant areas</li> </ul>
<p><b>Park Vegetation</b></p> <p>As plants grows, they naturally mature and die. For some exotic species which aren't used to our growing climate this means that they don't last as long as they do in their native climates</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Implement a succession planting scheme to remove vegetation that is dead, dying, diseased or in decline; and plant species with the best chance of long term success which fit in with the park's botanical character</li> </ul>
<p><b>Brooklands Zoo Purpose</b></p> <p>Zoos have changed a lot since Brooklands Zoo was established in the 1960s. The current zoo doesn't have a clear purpose, or relate to modern zoo philosophy. Conflict between animal welfare and Brooklands events such as WOMAD and concerts needs addressing</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide the zoo with a clear direction and rationale</li> <li>• Ensure this direction is compatible with Brooklands events</li> </ul>

Issue	Proposal
<p><b>Development Consistency and Quality</b></p> <p>As a large park developed over nearly 150 years, the park has seen a lot of different styles and quality of interventions. These don't always fit well within the park nor have been subject to consistent oversight</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Implement a design guide for the park which presents guidelines for materials, consistent design approaches and reflection of character spaces</li> </ul>
<p><b>Suitability for Events</b></p> <p>Needs and expectations for sporting and event facilities continue to increase. At times the park does not fit the requirements or desires of event holders. Some infrastructure is past its best and needs renewing</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Implement suitable options for Bowl of Brooklands to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Increase capacity to be nearer to 20,000</li> <li>o Mitigate cost and performance issues around staging over the lake</li> <li>o Streamline accessibility and venue management</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Implement a suitable option for the Sportsground to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Replace the compromised Bellringer pavilion with a facility suitable for park events, public use and first class sport</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p><b>Meeting Modern Standards</b></p> <p>Due to the age of the park, some older features and developments may not meet modern needs, standards, rules and expectations at times</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Certain features need upgrading or renewing to meet contemporary needs, rules and requirements such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o The Main Lake dam and spillway</li> <li>o Pathway lighting and security</li> <li>o Bellringer pavilion</li> <li>o Brooklands and Fillis St entrances</li> <li>o Staff operational areas</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p><b>Interaction with Racecourse Reserve</b></p> <p>The proposed multi-sports facility at Racecourse Reserve will almost certainly impact the way people approach and use the park</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consider options to maximise connectivity with Racecourse Reserve and identify likely impacted areas of the park for development to complement the anticipated increased use of the park from the eastern side associated with the Tūparikino Active Community Hub (TACH)</li> </ul>

# Character Areas

## UNIQUE PLACES

The history and evolution of the park has resulted in a number of areas within the park that have unique characteristics.

These areas have a look and feel which reflects their environment, location, history and use.

The combination of the qualities that make up a character area can indicate what an area is like. It can also help inform what types of management may work best to maintain or improve a location.

An assessment of these traits enables Pukekura Park to be subdivided into relatively distinct areas which each have their own management priorities.

Each character area will be managed to maximise their existing traits and to minimise any reduction of the identified character. That is, only activities, features and developments which suit the identified character will generally be allowed.

This helps protect the parks look, feel and history and ensures that what people love about the park is recognised and celebrated.





## RULES & GUIDELINES

Policies, being the documented rules for reserves, are a critical part of any plan as they state what can and cannot occur on a reserve. Policies represent the actions and rules that guide how activities will take place at the park.

These policies are the implementation of all of the higher level visions, goals and objectives on the ground, and they provide a basis for decision making around activities and developments.

General policies covering all reserves can be found in Caring for our Parks, Part A RMP.

The day-to-day use, protection and development is also guided by other regulatory documents including the District Plan, Regional Plan, and Council's Bylaws. Funding is determined through the Long Term Plan (LTP).

Policy Area	Policy Item	Policy Objective
<b>Character</b>	<i>Heritage &amp; Culture</i>	To protect meaningful park heritage items from unconsidered development or disposal while still allowing for appropriate development and management.
	<i>Information &amp; Education</i>	To maximise learning potential about the park, and to make best use of the space for complementary activities in keeping with the parks purpose and character.
	<i>Furniture &amp; Built Forms</i>	To ensure new infrastructure is fitting, suitable, fit-for-purpose and consistent within the park area it is to be introduced into.
<b>Conservation &amp; Preservation</b>	<i>Biodiversity &amp; Ecology</i>	The park caters for a wide variety of uses, but is primarily a green refuge in the urban environment. This aspect should be a primary consideration and the ecological values of the park should be protected and maximised.
	<i>Climate Change</i>	Expected climate changes have the potential to significantly impact the park through more extreme weather events, particularly wind and rainfall, and increasing temperature effects on vegetation. Reserves management should try to anticipate any changes and take steps to mitigate, minimise or adapt to these effects.
	<i>Pest Plants, Animals &amp; Diseases</i>	Pest plants and animals negatively impact reserve use and ecological values. The park, being densely vegetated, can also be susceptible to plant diseases. Where pests and diseases are causing unwanted issues a control program should be implemented where feasible.
	<i>Water Management</i>	Water is an integral feature of the park. The health of waterways should be maintained, as well as the effectiveness and safety of waterways infrastructure.
	<i>Flora &amp; Fauna</i>	Vegetation is the defining character of the park. Where possible significant vegetation should be retained and the overall planted environment enhanced. Where appropriate the natural ecosystems in the Park will be protected and enhanced to increase opportunities for people to enjoy nature in the Park.
	<i>Brooklands Zoo</i>	Brooklands Zoo has a defined purpose in line with best practice views on wild animals and conservation; and achieves positive outcomes for individual animals as well as the species they represent alongside recreational and conservation education.

<b>Policy Area</b>	<b>Policy Item</b>	<b>Policy Objective</b>
<b>Function &amp; Use</b>	<i>Access</i>	The park should be open for appropriate public use whenever possible. Users should feel safe and welcomed without threat of conflict with other users.
	<i>Camping</i>	Camping is generally not a suitable activity to take place in Pukekura Park and should only be considered in exceptional circumstances where no other feasible options are available and potential damage to the park is negligible.
	<i>Commercial Activity</i>	Commercial activity may be considered where it enhances the park user experience and is in keeping with the character and existing uses of the park.
	<i>Domestic Animals</i>	While Pukekura Park is a popular dog-walking location; this pleasure for some parts of the community must be balanced with the needs of other park users. Not all people are comfortable around dogs and other animals, and provision should be made to ensure that animals are only allowed in locations where they are least likely to cause conflict with other users. This is particularly important in confined locations and around locations of high public physical interaction.
	<i>Events</i>	Pukekura Park is a popular events location- particularly the sports ground and bowl areas. The ongoing use of these areas for events which promote the park and community should be supported; but only if they are in keeping with the park character, and do not detract from the park. Facility development needs to be carefully managed to ensure that event desires do not overwhelm the primary day-to-day use of the park.
	<i>Safety</i>	Park design should attempt to mitigate any physical factors which may contribute to an unsafe environment. The park is also full of mature vegetation and large trees which need to be suitably managed to minimise opportunities for harm coming from any failure of large trees etc.
	<i>Recreation &amp; Use</i>	A minority of users should not lessen the enjoyment of the park by other users. Smoking and vaping do not fit in with the family focused nature of the park or the character or purpose of the park.
	<i>Utilities</i>	The park being in the centre of town is a place where multiple services exist. While it is understood that use of the park for these is necessary, their impacts on the park should be minimised and future management of services should be simplified as much possible.
	<i>Vehicles</i>	The park is primarily a pedestrian space; and is one of the few large-scale open spaces that walkers can enjoy without conflict with cyclists or vehicles. This unique aspect of the park should be retained as much as possible; and other modes of transport should not adversely impact walking activities within the park.
	<i>Key &amp; Specific Park Activities</i>	The park is well used for existing activities. These have shown to be largely compatible with the park, and should continue to be accommodated so long as they don't adversely impact the park. New activities may be considered where they use existing infrastructure and/or are inherently compatible with the park.

<b>Policy Area</b>	<b>Policy Item</b>	<b>Policy Objective</b>
<b>Management</b>	<i>Mana Whenua Involvement</i>	Recognise, protect and as appropriate promote the Māori cultural and historical values of the Park and work in partnership with hapū on the management of sites of significance in the Park and enhancement of visibility of a cultural presence within the Park.
	<i>Commemorative Items</i>	Commemorative items should be carefully considered, and where implemented should be inclusive. They should not favour individuals or societal groups, nor should they in any way make park users feel uncomfortable or unwelcome. Memorials in particular need careful consideration and should be avoided where possible.
	<i>Encroachments</i>	Private appropriation of public land is not acceptable. Where Council becomes aware of an encroachment, steps should be taken to remove it and restore the land back to public use. Existing or historical use does not justify ongoing occupation.
	<i>Operational Management</i>	Views are critical to enjoyment and understanding of the park; and iconic or special views need to be protected. The park needs adequate staff operational areas to ensure ongoing high-quality park outcomes.
	<i>Strategic Management</i>	The park should be planned and managed with regard to adjacent uses and the overall park, transport and infrastructure network.
	<i>Leases, Licences &amp; Easements</i>	Existing users will be accommodated while current agreements are valid. All proposed uses should be fitting to the park, its character and purpose. The public should have the opportunity to comment on exclusive use of park areas by groups or individuals.
	<i>Facilities, Buildings, Structures &amp; Amenities</i>	To ensure that facilities are well-used and maintained to an appropriate standard; and to ensure that only useful facilities which are fit-for-purpose are retained to avoid escalating maintenance costs and neglected buildings.
	<i>Grazing</i>	To make it clear that the park is not a suitable location to be managed by livestock grazing.
	<i>Volunteers &amp; Stakeholders</i>	To enable interested parties to be involved with, and contribute to the park in a safe and effective manner; and to take on board the feedback and experiences of people intimately interested in the park without compromising the feasible operation of the park.
	<i>Tools &amp; Vehicles</i>	To promote operational activities in the park to be as low-impact as possible while still retaining suitable levels of service and park standards.
<b>Development</b>	<i>Acquisition &amp; Disposal</i>	Retain all of the existing park land; and where appropriate, add adjacent land to the park if it becomes available.
	<i>Development</i>	To allow for ongoing review of feasibility and appropriateness of projects and to provide for proposals which have gained prior community and Council approval through this management plan to be progressed from concept stage through to implementation without further consultation on the design.

# Programmes & Projects

## PROPOSALS

With the changing needs of the community and some required updates to existing infrastructure within the park, there are some key projects and programmes of work identified to be provided for within the plan.

Projects within this plan have been proposed as they represent best-practice, necessary or desired changes to the park. The final decision to move forward and implement a project is made through the council's Long Term Plan process.

In order to assist in prioritisation and timing, projects have been categorised into indicative cost bands:

- Small < \$100,000
- Medium \$100,000 - 1 million
- Large > \$1 million
- Partner Proceeds with external funding contribution only

Programme	Description
Water Body Improvements	Ongoing interventions and maintenance to ensure the best health of the park's lakes and streams
Pest Control	Ongoing control of pest plants, animals and diseases
Succession Planning	Ongoing replacement of mature vegetation reaching the end of its natural life and other non-thriving vegetation with species suitable for the current and future park environment
Design Guide	A guide to ensure consistent and appropriate infrastructure and landscape development
Viewshaft Protection	Ensure selected viewshafts within park are kept open
Lighting Upgrades	Ongoing upgrades to lighting within the park and along pathways to improve safety and efficiency

Project	Band	Description	Priority
Bellringer Pavilion & Fillis St Upgrades	Large	Renew Bellringer pavilion and update Fills St entrance area including new dugout and scoreboard nb. Bellringer replacement driven by safety considerations	1
Brooklands Zoo Phases 2 - 7	Large	Renovation of animal habitats and public education spaces including playspace n.b. Phase 1 included in 2021- 2031 LTP	1
Main Dam Upgrade	Large	Upgrades to the main lake dam and spillways to meet modern safety standards and anticipated climate change effects n.b. Safety considerations with new (2022) dam guidelines	2
Path Network & Wayfinding Review	Small	Upgrade selected path surfaces and renew park signage suite	2
Dedicated cycle route	Partner	Dedicated path for commuter cycling	2
Brooklands Enviro-Hub	Small	Development of the former Brooklands house as a community environmental and park learning and advocacy facility for council and community groups	3
Staff Operational Area	Large	Develop an easily accessible staff operational area for storage of equipment and resources and works associated with the park	4
Cannon Hill Upgrade	Medium	Upgrade Cannon Hill as a more inviting visitor location	5
Tea House Plaza Upgrade	Large	Upgrade the Tea House, dock and immediate surrounds to improve the overall visitor experience	6
Canopy walk	Partner	Develop a canopy walk that connect the zoo to the surrounding native forest and provides educational canopy experience	6
Brooklands Terracing	Large	Increase Bowl of Brooklands capacity nearer to 20,000 and improve performer/audience connectivity	7
Brooklands Lake Stage	Large	Increase Bowl of Brooklands capacity and create quicker and more cost effective temporary stage infrastructure over lake	7
Brooklands Entry Improvements	Medium	Update Brooklands Rd entrance and parking	7
Lake Edge Protection	Medium	Work around lake edges to retain embankments and protect pathways	7
Victoria Road Entrance	Medium	Removal of Victoria Rd house and upgrades to public entry and car parking in this location	8



Te Kaunihera-ā-Rohe o Ngāmotu

**New Plymouth  
District Council**

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