



# Kowhai Park

## Management Plan

August 2019

[www.mdc.govt.nz](http://www.mdc.govt.nz)



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# User Guide

## Purpose

The purpose of this management plan is to provide for use, enjoyment, protection, maintenance, preservation and development of Kowhai Park. The management plan establishes a vision, objectives and policy for long term management of the park and to guide everyday management decisions. This allows the community and the Council to move forward with a clear vision and a plan to fund and support maintenance, development and improvement of the park as opportunities, resources and priorities permit.

## Term

This management plan has a term of up to 10 years or until it is comprehensively reviewed or amended. Once Council approves this management plan it will be on the Council's website.<sup>1</sup> A comprehensive review of this management plan requires public notification and a public submission process as outlined in section 41 of the Reserves Act 1977. Corrections and amendments that the Council does not regard as comprehensive may be made during the management plan's term.<sup>2</sup> This will ensure that management of the park adapts to changing circumstances and increased knowledge.

## Structure

This management plan has five sections:

**Section 1:** outlines the park's history, its features and the activities that take place in the park.

**Section 2:** sets out the vision for the park and management objectives.

**Section 3:** sets out management policies.

**Section 4:** outlines park development throughout the life of this management plan.

The appendices include legal descriptions of the lands that make up Kowhai Park, land ownership, land area and current Reserve Act classifications, a list of actions identified through the policies in this management plan, plant species in the podocarp remnant forest, wetland and along the margins of the Makino Stream, and an accidental discovery protocol should an archeological site be discovered during physical works at the park.

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<sup>1</sup> [http://www.mdc.govt.nz/Living\\_Leisure/Parks\\_and\\_Reserves/Reserves/Reserve\\_Management\\_Plans](http://www.mdc.govt.nz/Living_Leisure/Parks_and_Reserves/Reserves/Reserve_Management_Plans).

<sup>2</sup> Reserves Act 1977 section 41 (3) (8) (9).

## Management plan development

The review of the current management plan and preparation of this draft management plan followed the process according to section 41 of the Reserves Act 1977 (outlined in Figure 1 below). The management plan was developed after public notice of the intention to review the current management plan, receiving comments from the public and incorporating these into the draft management plan. Meetings and workshops were held with Council officers who are responsible for the management of the park.

## Next steps

Once this draft management plan has been approved by the Council it will be released to the public for a two-month submission process. After the public submission process, hearing and decision making, the final management plan will be put to the Council for adoption.

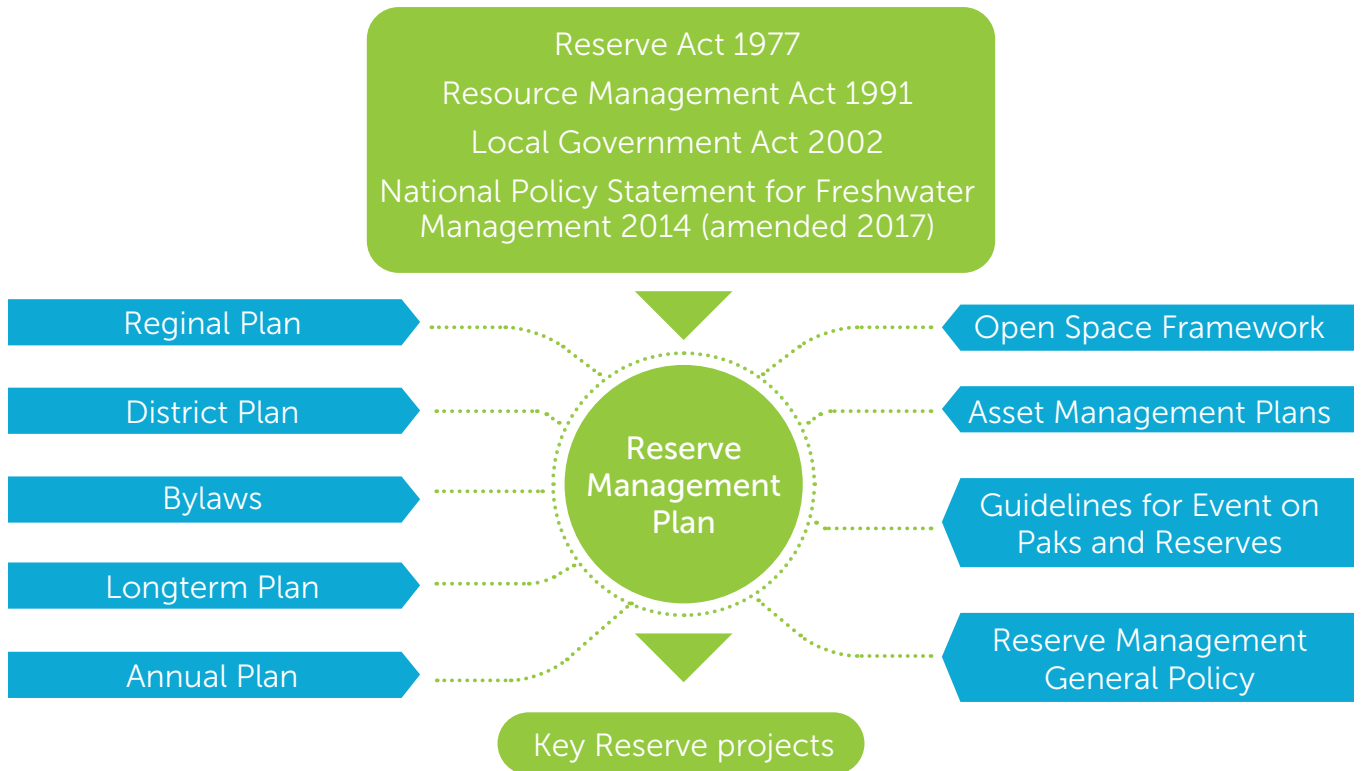
Figure 1: Process to review this draft management plan



## How to use this plan

The draft management plan has links to a range of national and regional statutory requirements and policy statements and should be read alongside the Reserve Management General Policy document and Council Bylaws, plans and strategies. Figure 2 illustrates the relationship between this management plan, statutory requirements and other Council plans and strategies. Policy in this management plan has precedence over policy in the *Reserve Management General Policy* document.

Figure 2 - Relationship with Council plans and strategies





1920 aerial view



Kohwai Park Feilding Tourist Series 2174 -  
Kowhai Park - Date not specified



Opening of the cricket Pavillion - 1940



Opening of the cricket Pavillion - 1940





# 1. About the park

The following section outlines the history of the park and its heritage features, the park's Reserves Act classification and its two main natural features - the park's podocarp forest remnant and the Makino Stream. It also covers entrances and path connections, information and interpretation and the park's special features. Issues for park management are identified in this section and are addressed in the policy and development sections of this management plan (Sections 3 and 4).

## Location

Figure 3 – Location of the park within the immediate setting



Kowhai Park is located less than half a kilometre from Manchester Square in central Feilding (see Figure 3 above). The park is just under 10 hectares and is bounded by South Street, Rata Street and Manfeild Park, a large multi-purpose events complex used for agricultural field days, motor racing and other large events. The Makino Stream runs along the park's western boundary.

Kowhai Park is Feilding's premier park and a leading Feilding attraction. The park's central location means it is accessible for a wide range of people and is valued and promoted as a place of interest for locals and visitors. It is used for organised and casual recreation and has formal garden areas, cricket oval, play areas, bird aviary, heritage buildings and an important remnant of the podocarp forests of the Manawatū. The Makino Stream links the park with the wider stream catchment. A path along the stream connects Kowhai Park and Awahuri Forest–Kitchener Park.

## History

The park was established in 1906 when the Feilding Borough Council and the Scenic Preservation Society purchased nine-and-a-half acres (3.85 hectares) from the Feilding A & P Association for a public park. The park was known as South Street Reserve. A feature was an artificial lake with an island that was completed in 1908. The park became the home of the Feilding Cricket Club in the same year. A memorial oak was planted inside the main entrance gate to mark the end of WWI.<sup>3</sup>

A Kowhai Day was held at the park in 1910 in support of a proposal for the kowhai to become the national flower of New Zealand. The park was officially named Kowhai Park in 1913 following a recommendation by the Feilding Beautifying Society. The current kowhai collection in the park reflects this aspect of the park's history. The National Dahlia Society of New Zealand established trial beds for dahlias in the park. Dahlia beds are now located in the Mason Family Rose Gardens along with the rose beds and the pond. A 'Camellia Walk' was established with input from the community through volunteer work, donations and memorial planting and was opened by the Governor General in 1991. A book of donators and the camellia they donated is held at the Feilding public library.

The first cricket pitch at the park was laid out by Feilding Cricket Club in 1908 and the park became the home of the club. The cricket pavilion was opened in 1940 (known as the Centennial Memorial building). This building is no longer used by the cricket club who have newer clubrooms near the main entrance gates and carpark.

The Old Tote Building was built by the Feilding Jockey Club in 1913 and the park's entrance gates on South Street in 1928.

Over the years additional land was acquired and the Manawatū District Council assumed management responsibility for the park following local government reorganisation in 1989. A 5.5-hectare area of land containing the main entrance gates and parking area, podocarp forest remnant, undeveloped land on Rata Street between the forest remnant and Manfeild Park was purchased by the Council from the Feilding Jockey Club in 1991.

## Heritage features

Heritage features at the park include the Tote Building, the Centennial Memorial building and the South Street entry gates and turnstile.<sup>4</sup> The interpretation boards in the park tell the story of these heritage features. The podocarp remnant is a natural heritage feature.

The Tote Building had one of the first electrical totalisator machines in New Zealand. The foundations of the brick building that housed the generator for the totalisator remains at the edge of the forest remnant. The 'copper room' that housed coppers for heating water for race day cups of tea has been removed. The Old Tote Building is leased by No 32 Squadron Air Training Corps (ATC). The 1994 lease agreement included conditions that waived rental in return for repair and maintenance of the building's interior. Consequently, major modifications were carried out on the building's interior for ATC's use. The Council has responsibility for on-going structural and maintenance of the exterior of the building.

The entrance gates, the turnstile and the Old Tote Building are reminders of the park's association with horse racing and horse breeding in the Manawatū.

The Centennial Memorial building is an Art Deco style building and was built to commemorate the 1940 centennial of the signing of the Treaty of Waitangi. The style of the building and its link with the 1940 centennial means the building and the park have wider national social and historical significance. The building is currently used as the base for the Manawatū Pottery Society whose members meet regularly at the park and hold pottery demonstrations, firings of their kiln and other events associated with the society.

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<sup>3</sup> Information in this section was gleaned from the Cultural Heritage assessment by OPUS International Consultants LTD in 2007.

<sup>4</sup> Information on the park's heritage was sourced from Kowhai Park Reserve Management Plan Implementation – Heritage Assessment, Opus International Consultants Ltd, 27 March 2007.

## Comment

These buildings, structures and podocarp forest remnant are reminders of Fielding's heritage and bring an understanding of Feilding's history and the cultural and social life of the people who lived here.

While the foundations are all that remain of the generator shed and the Copper room has been removed, they are important relics of Feilding's heritage. These relics, along with the Old Tote Building, the entrance gates, the turnstile and Centennial Memorial building, along with the podocarp forest and the park itself have significant cultural heritage<sup>5</sup> values and require protection and enhancement. Their ongoing use is essential in order to ensure their viability and ongoing care.

## Reserve classification

The park is made up of seven land parcels that range in size from 0.065 hectares to 5.49 hectares. Parts of the park have been declared reserve and classified Recreation Reserve to reflect its purpose under the Reserves Act 1977. However, the area of the park that lies to the west and south of the cricket field is held in Fee Simple and is currently unclassified. The policies of this management plan that affect Lot 1 do not come under the Reserves Act while the land is unclassified, although they do state the intentions of the Council. This 5.49 hectare area makes up more than half of the park and includes the Makino Stream, the remnant podocarp forest, land extending to Rata Street, the Tote Building and the main entrance, driveway and carpark.

## Comment

At the time the 2003 Kowhai Park Reserve Management Plan was finalised, development proposals for Manfeild Park and its interface with Kowhai Park were still unresolved. Manfeild Park boundaries have since been resolved, therefore it is timely to consider classifying it Recreation Reserve under the Reserves Act in line with the rest of the park.

Section 17 of the Act sets out the primary purpose and management objectives of Recreation Reserves. These are to protect and preserve:

*Recreation and sporting activities and the physical welfare and enjoyment of the public, and for the protection of the natural environment and beauty of the countryside, with emphasis on the retention of open spaces<sup>6</sup> and on outdoor recreational activities.*

In addition sections 53 and 54 of the Act provides the Council with specific powers for managing and developing the park.

## Implications of classification for park management

In general, the public is to have freedom of entry and access to the park, although the Council has specific powers for managing and developing the park under Sections 53 and 54 of the Act. These include:

1. The ability to protect the general well-being of the park and the public use of it.
2. Management and protection of the park's scenic, historic, archaeological, biological, geological or other scientific features or indigenous<sup>7</sup> flora and fauna or wildlife.
3. Conservation of the qualities that contribute to the pleasantness, harmony and cohesion of the natural environment and better use and enjoyment of the park.
4. Maintain the value of soil, water, and forest to the extent compatible with the primary purpose of the reserve.

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<sup>5-6</sup> Any area of land or water with recreational, ecological, landscape, cultural and/or historic value which provides public access.

<sup>7</sup> Any naturally occurring association of indigenous species.

## Comment

Classifying Lot 1 Recreation Reserve would preserve this part of the park for the use and enjoyment of future generations and it would be managed under the policies of this management plan. The Recreation classification is appropriate because it provides for recreation as well as conserving the park's natural and heritage features.

## Podocarp forest remnant

The forest in the park is a remnant of the original forest that once covered the Manawatū (see page 40 for a view of the forest remnant). Ephemeral or seasonal water courses within the remnant form wet depressions and create soil conditions that range from very moist to dry, which this type of forest thrives in. The forest remnant is in relatively good condition given its small size and urban setting.<sup>8</sup> It has a diversity of indigenous trees, shrub and understorey with few weeds and vegetation that are not native. The remnant is a seed source for further plantings in the park. Tracks and boardwalk wind through the forest and provide access.

Emergent canopy trees in the remnant are Totara *Podocarpus totara*, Prumnopitys *taxifolia matai*, *Dacrydium dacrydioides kahikatea*. Other trees include *Alectryon excelsus titoki*, *Laurelia novae-zelandiae pukatea*, *Pittosporum eugenioides lemonwood*, *Hoheria* spp, lacebark and *Corynocarpus laevigatus karaka*. Seedlings from many of these tree species can be found in the understorey. The established understorey includes *Coprosma grandifolia kanono*, *Macropiper excelsum kawakawa* and *Coprosma areolate thin-leaved coprosma*. Ferns include *Asplenium oblongifolium spleenwort*, *Dicsonia squarrosa wheki* and *Phymatosorus diversifolius houndstooth fern*. The climber *Ripogonum scandens supplejack* is also found, (see Appendix 3 for a list of species recorded in the forest remnant).

## Comment

This small forest remnant has considerable value as an example of the original extensive Manawatū podocarp forests. It is connected to a larger forest remnant 1.5 kilometres to the south in Awahuri Forest-Kitchener Park by the Makino Stream walkway from Rata Street. These important lowland forest remnants require ongoing management to retain the conditions these forests thrive in and to keep them free of invasive weeds, pest plants and animals. The parts of the park on the eastern and southern sides of the remnant provide opportunities to protect forest margins and increase ecological values by planting suitable indigenous species. Along with Awahuri Forest, the forest remnant in Kowhai Park has significant potential for environmental education and to provide habitat for some of the native birds that used to be housed in the park's native bird aviary.

## Makino Stream

The Makino Stream runs through Feilding, the park and southwards through Awahuri Forest before running into the Oroua River. The stream has a gravel bottom and near Rata Street the banks have been reinforced with large concrete blocks. The stream marks the eastern edge of the park. The stream edge on the park side is mostly open with mown grass along with predominantly non-native species. Enhancement of the riparian margin<sup>9</sup> with appropriate plants will improve stream habitat for aquatic life.

## Comment

The stream is a conduit for weeds such as the invasive *Tradescantia florescence* and bamboo, especially during floods. It is important that plant species chosen to improve habitat along the stream are non-invasive and do not adversely affect areas along the stream south of the park. Enhancement of the riparian margin with appropriate plants that provide shelter and shade will improve stream habitat for aquatic life. This will need to be balanced with stream access for recreation in this park setting.

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<sup>8</sup> This section and the plants referred to below are based on the 2007 Ecological Assessment by Opus International Consultants LTD.

<sup>9</sup> The area along the stream. This area has an important role in retaining nutrients and soil, habitat biodiversity and cleaner water. Appendix 2 has a plant list of species suitable for this riparian margin.

## Park entrances

The park has three entrances from South Street, two vehicle entrances and one for pedestrians or cyclists only. The historic park entrance is through the iron gates on the park's boundary with Manfeild Park and provides an extensive on-site carpark that supports recreational use of the park. The entrance on Rata Street connects to the walk and cycleway along the Makino Stream to Awahuri Forest-Kitchener Park and the wider Manawatū trail network.

The second entrance off South Street was developed in 2018 with new gates, signage and a 20 vehicle car park next to the public toilets. A wide pathway with lighting links the entrance to the pond, Mason Family Rose Gardens, the Centennial Memorial building, playground and recreation areas.

## Comments

Included in comments received from the public in response to the public notice of the intention to review the current management plan is that the main gateway from South Street needs redevelopment. The entrance lacks clarity which reduces the function of the gates and diminishes their purpose as the main park entrance.

## Path network

A network of paths lead to the different parts of the park. The main path inside the vehicle entrance on South Street is shared by vehicles. Vehicle access through the South Street main gates and along the driveway on the western side of the park connects to Rata Street. Paths lead around the Mason Family Rose Gardens, through the forest remnant and follows the Makino Stream to Rata Street.

## Comment

The path from South Street through the park to Rata Street and beyond to Awahuri Forest-Kitchener Park forms part of the wider walk and cycle trail network. This trail needs defining as a path shared by pedestrians and cyclists. The driveway from South Street along the western side of the park to Rata Street is vehicle dominated and this could also be defined as a shared path.

## Information and Interpretation

The park has a series of information boards that tell the story of the park and highlight its natural, recreational and heritage features. They are informative, are a feature of the park and reflect its status.



## Recreation

The park is a multi-purpose park used for organised sport as well as for casual recreation.<sup>10</sup>

### Organised Recreation

The park is one of the few dedicated senior club-level cricket venues in the Manawatū region<sup>11</sup> with a grass block with six strips, an artificial wicket, practice nets, cricket club rooms and carpark. Premier, senior and junior cricket are played at the park. The cricket oval is also used from time to time by sports clubs, schools and other recreational organisations.

Recreation changes over the years and it is important that the park has flexibility and can respond to these changes. For example, Feilding Paintball Club plans to use a field in the south west area of the park for practice and events with secure fencing erected when the field is in use and accessed from Rata Street.

### Casual recreation

The park has a variety of spaces for a wide range of uses and visitors. The cricket oval is used for informal groups, schools and individuals. Two play areas with equipment are located on opposite sides of the cricket oval and provide for young to older children. Barbecues, paths, toilets, drinking fountain, park interpretation, Mason Family Rose Gardens and pond area, the Makino Stream, the forest remnant, seating, picnic tables, pergola and amenity<sup>12</sup> planting throughout the park invite the community to spend time in the park. Paths link the different areas of the park. The aviary with non-native birds is a long established attraction at the park and are located near the Centennial Memorial building. The park has spaces of different sizes for group activities as well as quiet places for rest, relaxation and contemplation.

### Comment

Among the comments from the public received after the public notice of the intention to review the current management plan were several that concerned play opportunities. They asked for play equipment to be updated and new play opportunities added to hold interest and invite return visits.

An issue raised by submitters is that the western playground is near the main carpark and parents have to remain vigilant.

A number of submitters also asked for a fenced play area for young children so that children are safe and for more opportunities for free or adventure play where children can interact with the natural world.

### Events

The park is used for events and has infrastructure to support them with carparking and electrical services for lighting and sound. Recent events that have been held at the park include 'Christmas in the Park', summertime 'Picnic in the Park' and the 'Long Lunch', and winter 'Fantasy in Lights' display. The circus has been based at the park and regular regional park band contests have been held.

### Comment

Events include celebrations, activities, exhibitions or performances and contribute to the District's economic development and community well-being. Kowhai Park is a venue for a wide range of events and providing

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<sup>10</sup>Casual or informal recreation is recreation that is self-directed and unstructured and takes place at any time. Organised or formal recreation typically refers to clubs or other organisations that arrange, administer and supervise recreational activities. These activities usually take place at regular times and locations and often involve interclub activities and competitions.

<sup>11</sup> Reference Report, Regional Sport Facility Plan (Final).

<sup>12</sup> Amenity refers to the natural or physical qualities and characteristics that contribute to people's appreciation of its pleasantness, aesthetic coherence, and cultural and recreational attributes (Resource Management Act).

infrastructure encourages events appropriate to the vision and objectives of this management plan. The development plan in section 5 of this management plan includes proposals that will support events at the park. For example, the existing gazebo is relocated and developed into a band rotunda.

## Gardens, plant collections and aviaries

The Mason Family Rose Gardens are a feature of the park and along with the neighbouring duck pond attract visitors to the park. The rose gardens are named after the Mason family, well known in Feilding for their rose and plant nursery established in 1912. The family is recognised nationally and internationally for their horticultural expertise.

Other attractions are the Monarch butterfly garden and the Kowhai collection which was launched in 2010 with representatives of eight of the known New Zealand Kowhai species. The added value of the collection is that the flowers attract nectarloving birds, including tui, korimako and kereru. The Camellia Walk has also been an attraction.

## Comment

Plant collections have been a feature of the park almost since the park's establishment. Sadly, many of the camellia in the Camellia Walk were damaged in the 2004 floods from silt brought into the park. Since then, some of the surviving camellia have been shaded out or are no longer suitable for the conditions. A pruning regime has attempted to bring the camellias back to life and has been partially successful, although some plants were removed during this process. Replacements for some have been planted near the Rata Street entrance.



## 2. Vision and objectives

The vision for Kowhai Park identifies what is important about the park and the objectives and policies in this draft management plan have been developed to achieve this vision.

### Vision

Kowhai Park is managed as the District's premier park, encourages active lives in a pleasant and healthy environment and conserves and celebrates the park's natural and cultural heritage

The vision is a helpful touchstone to refer to when making decisions about the park's management, development and day to day maintenance.

Two questions to ask whenever a decision is being made for the park throughout the life of this management plan are:

1. In what way does this decision contribute to achieving the vision for the park?
2. Which objective is the decision meeting?

### Management Objectives

The following objectives are grouped under five headings: protection, connections, recreation, gardens and features, and development.



#### Protection

- Protect and manage the park as the District's premier park
- Protect the heritage places in the park associated with the Feilding Jockey Club and Feilding Cricket Club and manage their care and use appropriately and consistently
- Protect and manage the podocarp forest remnant and conditions that allow its ecology to thrive
- Protect and manage the Makino Stream corridor and its riparian ecology



#### Connections

##### Physical Connections

- Extend and connect the park's internal network of paths
- Connect paths with the District's wider walking and cycling network

##### Connections with people

- Work collaboratively with iwi and hapū who have traditional authority over the land, recognising the kaitiakitanga (stewardship) for the land the park sits on



- Work with Horizons Regional Council on improving the ecology and amenity of Makino Stream, protection from flooding and control of animal and plant pests
- Liaise with owners of neighbouring properties on issues of common interest
- Work with recreational clubs, organisations and concession holders who use or propose using the park for their activities
- Work with interested community groups, organisations and individuals on management of the park, activities and events in the park and park facilities



## Recreation

- Provide opportunities for a range of casual and organised recreational activities
- Support, encourage and provide infrastructure for community events that are appropriate to the park's setting



## Gardens, aviary and features

- Provide, manage, develop and maintain the gardens and features of the park that attract visitors and provide for visitor enjoyment
- Provide for the humane and considerate care of birds held in the aviaries and use good husbandry practices



## Development

- Develop the park so that it encourages health and physical activity, sustains interest for return visits, conserves the park's special features and maximizes its use

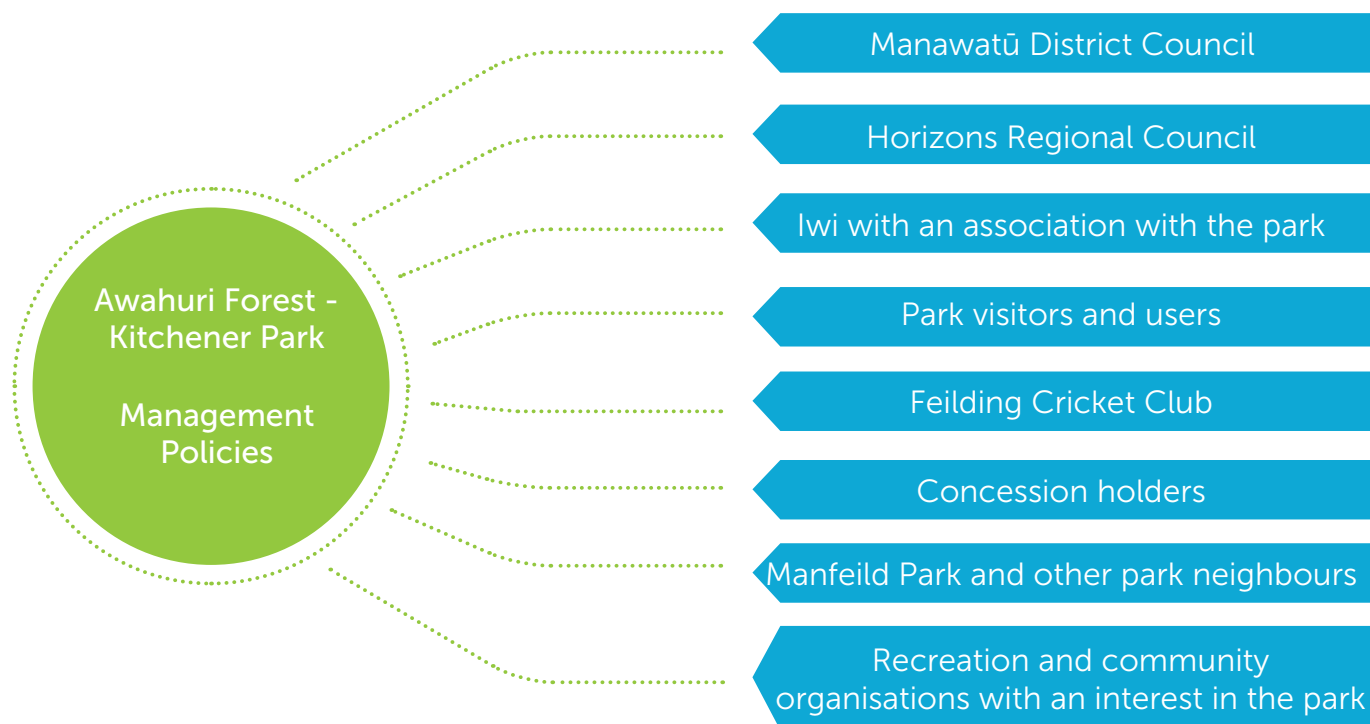


# 3. Management Policies

## Introduction

The policies in this section are a guide to all people and organisations undertaking activities in the park (see Figure 5 below). These policies refer to all lands that make up the park, including the area not yet classified Recreation Reserve, and are in addition to and take precedent over policies in the Parks and Reserves General Management Policies document. Policies are organised under the following headings: protection, connections, recreation, gardens and features, and development.

Figure 5 People and organisations who may use or refer to the management plan



## Protection

The following policies are aimed at protecting the lands that make up the park as reserve under the Reserves Act, conserve built heritage, the forest remnant and Makino Stream.

## Extend reserve protection

1. The Council will classify Lot 1 Recreation Reserve under the Reserve Acts 1977 and manage this area under the policies of this management plan (See Figure 6 below for the location of this area).

## Explanation:

This area of 5.49 hectare includes the podocarp forest remnant, the Makino Stream, the Old Tote building and structures associated with Feilding’s horse racing history, the historic entrance gates, the green open space on Rata Street to the south of the Old Tote building and. Classifying this area will mean it is managed under the policies of this management plan.

Figure 6– Area of the park proposed to be classified Recreation Reserve



## KEY

- Area of the park classified Recreation Reserve under the Reserves Act
- Area of the park proposed to be classified Recreation Reserve under the Reserves Act

## Conserve Built Heritage

2. A conservation plan will be prepared with repair and maintenance and the specifications for structures associated with the Feilding Cricket Club and the Feilding Jockey Club: the Old Tote building, generator shed foundations, South Street entrance gates, the turnstile and the Centennial Memorial building.
3. Use of the Old Tote building and the Centennial Memorial building will not detract from the cultural heritage value of the buildings as identified in the conservation plan.
4. Any change to the built heritage will be kept to a minimum and not detract from the cultural heritage value of the place or structure.
5. Further research on the Old Tote building, the South Street entrance gates, the turnstile and the Centennial Memorial building will be undertaken and the building and structures put forward for registration with Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga and included in the Manawatū District Plan.

## Explanation

The 2007 Cultural Heritage Assessment states that survival of heritage buildings depends on having a viable use for them.<sup>13</sup> To enable viable uses, modifications may be necessary. However, before any major modifications are undertaken, a Conservation Plan will establish the heritage values, what is important about the fabric and history of the structures and how to protect these values. Putting these structures forward for Heritage NZ protection and including them in the District Plan will ensure their ongoing protection and conservation.

## Conserve the forest remnant

6. A data base of species in the podocarp forest remnant (plants, birds, reptiles and invertebrates) and the Makino Stream (aquatic life) will be maintained, regularly revised and used to:
  - Monitor changes
  - Measure success of ecological protection, maintenance and enrichment programmes
  - Identify tree and understorey plant species that would have once occurred in the forest remnant and which are currently absent
7. The ecology of the forest remnant will be maintained, enhanced and enriched.
8. The eastern and southern edges of the forest remnant will be extended to help protect the podocarp remnant forest.
9. Additional plants for the forest remnant will be sourced from the remnant forest itself or when they are not currently present from local sources within the Manawatū.
10. Weeds and pest plants and animals in the forest remnant will be monitored and controlled.
11. Karaka and lemonwood in the forest remnant will be monitored and removed where they are becoming dominant and starting to exclude other indigenous species.
12. The forest remnant and its ecology will be managed to avoid adverse effects. This may mean some activities are excluded from the park and restrictions applied to activities and visitors.

## Explanation

An inventory of plant species in the forest remnant was undertaken in 2007. A follow up inventory will reveal any changes and measure success of management and maintenance regimes.

## Conserve the Makino Stream

13. Flood protection works along the Makino Stream will be in sympathy with the forest remnant context, park setting and casual recreation activities along the stream.
14. Stream access for flood protection works will be appropriately ameliorated.
15. The riparian edge to the Makino Stream will be developed and a riparian ecosystem created.
16. Weeds, pest plants and pest animals will be monitored and controlled along the riparian margins of the Makino Stream.

## Concessions

17. Concessions (leases, licences or permits) will be considered for activities that:
  - Are appropriate to the park and its Recreation Reserve classification

<sup>13</sup> Opus International Consultants Ltd, *Cultural Heritage Assessment*, 2007.

- Will help achieve management plan objectives
  - Will have no adverse effects on park activities, natural features,<sup>14</sup> facilities and structures
18. The concession applicant will demonstrate the ability to avoid, remedy or mitigate adverse effects on the park and the following:
- Recreational activities
  - Forest remnant
  - The Makino Stream
  - The birds in the aviary
  - Gardens
  - Features, facilities and structures
  - People's enjoyment and use of the park
19. The placement of utilities, rights of way, other easements or communication stations within the park will generally not be allowed unless exceptional circumstances apply.<sup>15</sup>
20. Where exceptional circumstances apply and rights of way, other easements or communication stations are placed on, over or through the park, they will be placed unobtrusively with minimal impact on the functioning and use of the park.
21. With the prior consent of the administering body, network utility operators with existing works on the park will be permitted conditional access to the park to inspect, maintain, operate or carry out minor upgrade or replacement of these works subject to the provisions of the relevant empowering Acts and Regulations.<sup>16</sup>

### Explanation:

Some concessions are appropriate for the park, help achieve the vision for the park, meet management objectives and have no adverse effect on the park and its uses. The park also needs to be protected from inappropriate uses. Therefore, the Reserves Act 1977 and the RMA set out the types of rights of way, other easements or communication stations permitted on reserves and the processes required to be undertaken.

In addition, the RMA sets out the requirements for public notification of any proposed work involving utilities, consideration of alternative sites, assessment of effects and avoiding, remedying or mitigating adverse effects.

These policies on utilities, rights of way and easements are additional to Resource Management Act and Reserves Act requirements.

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<sup>14</sup> Includes features on a reserve that are part of nature and may include individual plant or tree specimens and ecosystems that require special care and attention for their preservation.

<sup>15</sup> 'Exceptional circumstances' allows for the placement of a utility on a reserve to be considered (rights of way, other easements or communications infrastructure) when the reserve affords the only site available and all other sites or options are proven to be unsuitable and when the utility is an essential service for wider community benefit. Impacts will be taken into account and the normal notification and consultation process would apply prior to making a decision for approval or otherwise. This does not preclude requirements under both the RMA resource consent process and delegated authority under the Reserves Act.

<sup>16</sup> The Electricity Industry Act 2010, Electricity Act 1992, Electricity (Safety) Regulations 2010, NZECP



## Recreation

22. The Council will encourage use of the park for a range of organised and casual recreation that are appropriate to the park's status as the District's premier park, its Recreation Reserve classification and its setting.

23. Proposed recreational uses for the park or parts of the park other than those identified in this management plan will be assessed against the following:

- The park's Recreation Reserve classification
- The park's status as Feilding's premier park
- The degree the proposal will help achieve the vision and objectives of this management plan
- The effect of the proposal on other park users, its flora and fauna and birds in the aviary

24. The Council will monitor the impacts of recreation activities on the park and its users and may modify or stop activities that cause damage or are a nuisance or disturb other park users, its flora and fauna and birds in the aviary.

## Cricket oval

25. The cricket oval will primarily be used for cricket over the summer months, although this will not preclude other organised and casual recreation activities use of the area.

26. The Council will determine which organised recreation activities may use the cricket oval in consultation with Feilding Cricket Club.

## Explanation

It is important that the cricket oval at Kowhai Park is well utilised, especially outside of the cricket season and when cricket is not played at the park. However, other uses need to be compatible with cricket while the club is based at Kowhai Park. This acknowledges the established connection Feilding Cricket Club has with the park and the club's investment in the development and maintenance of cricket facilities.

## Play areas

27. The play areas will be consolidated away from vehicle access and carpark areas for safety.

28. Play areas will be updated with new play opportunities (see the Development Plan in section 5 for proposed play development).

## Explanation

A number of people submitted on play at the park, asking for the play areas to be moved away from vehicles and to extend play experiences.

## Access

29. All parts of the park will be open to pedestrians at all times, unless a notice restricts access for maintenance or other management operations or special events. Any restrictions will be in accordance with the Reserves Act 1977.

30. Fences or barriers, temporary or permanent for the safety of park users or control and management of the park may be allowed when:
- They are consistent with the park’s development plan
  - User safety, control or management cannot be achieved by other means
  - Have been approved by the Community Facilities Manager or their equivalent
31. Vehicles may access marked vehicle entrances and parking areas when the gates are open. All other paths are for pedestrians, mobility scooters and maintenance vehicles only.
32. Paths at the Mason Family Rose Garden, forest remnant, the proposed contemplation garden, art deco lawn and picnic lawn and are restricted to pedestrians, mobility scooters and maintenance vehicles.

### Explanation:

In some areas of the park it is appropriate to minimise conflicts by restricting path users to pedestrians. The exception is mobility scooters and maintenance vehicles. Temporary access for vehicles needed for events will be considered as part of the event application.

33. Self-contained campervans may use a designated area inside the main entrance gates nearest to the Manfeild entrance off South Road for up to three nights.

### Events

34. Use of the park for recreation and community events will be encouraged.
35. Event organisers must apply to the Manager Community facilities or their equivalent for approval to hold an event at the park and a bond may be required from organisers to cover potential damage to the park.<sup>17</sup>
36. When a recreational or community event requires exclusive use of an area of the park on a one-off or an annual basis, they may take precedence over regular activities provided sufficient notice is given to affected users and an alternative location can be found or other suitable arrangements made.
37. Event organisers will be responsible for the collection and removal of rubbish, temporary toilets and other temporary facilities associated with the event.

### Dogs

38. Dogs are welcome in the park as long as they are on a leash except in developed play areas.



### Connections

Connections include connections with Feilding’s wider trail network, with people, mana whenua, recreation organisations and clubs, the wider community, park neighbours, concession holders and statutory agencies.

### Connections to the wider trail network

39. The path through the park between South Street and Rata Street will connect to the wider Feilding Cycle Loop.

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<sup>17</sup> Refer to Manawatū District Council Guidelines for Events on Parks and Reserves.

## Explanation

The Feilding Cycle Loop runs through Kowhai Park and connects to Awahuri Forest-Kitchener Park along the Makino Stream. This connection is in line with the Council's Walking and Cycling Strategy and the park becomes part of the wider trail network as well as a destination in itself.

## Connections with people

Connections with iwi and hapū<sup>18</sup>

40. Iwi and hapū will be engaged with on aspects that affect their interests in the park.

## Explanation

Enduring and effective partnerships with mana whenua<sup>19</sup> achieve enhanced conservation of natural, historic and cultural values. Meaningful and early engagement on issues and activities that affect mana whenua interests in the park are important in forming and maintaining these partnerships.

Interests and the types of activities where collaboration with mana whenua may be required include but are not limited to the following:

- Changes to the management plan
  - The Makino Stream including flood management of the stream
  - Control of pests and weeds
  - Management of the forest remnant and activities in the forest remnant
  - Management of the Makino Stream's riparian margins and activities along the stream's margins
  - Information, interpretation and signage
41. Collection of native specimens by mana whenua, including fallen trees, may be authorised by the Manager Community Assets or their equivalent.
42. If activities or work on the park uncovers archeological sites, the Accidental Discovery protocol will be followed (see Appendix 4 for the Accidental Discovery Protocol). Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga defines archaeological sites as a place associated with pre-1900 human activity, where there may be evidence relating to the history of New Zealand. Evidence includes but is not limited to oven stones, charcoal, middens, ditches, banks, pits, building foundations, artefacts of Māori and European origin or human burials.

## Connections with Horizons Regional Council

43. The Council will work with Horizons Regional Council on the following aspects of Makino Stream management:

- Aquatic ecology
- Flood protection
- Development and management of recreation and amenity values such as stream access

## Explanation

Flood protection activities, management decisions and activities upstream of the park or within the park's boundaries undertaken by Horizons Regional Council may influence or affect the stream and impact on the stream's amenity and recreation values.

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<sup>18/19</sup> Refers to the iwi and hapū who have traditional authority over land and power associated with possession and occupation of tribal land.



44. The Council will work with Horizons Regional Council and owners of properties on the park's Makino Stream boundary to improve stream margins by facilitating:

- Weed control
- Indigenous riparian planting to increase habitat for aquatic life

### Connections with recreational organisations and clubs, the wider community, park neighbours and statutory agencies.

45. The Council will promote and encourage use and enjoyment of the park for recreation that help achieve the vision for the park and the objectives and policies of this management plan.

46. The Council will consider and engage with park neighbours when making decisions about the use and development of the park.

### Explanation

Park neighbours include Manfeild Park management and residential and commercial property owners that adjoin park boundaries and have the potential to be affected by activities and development in the park.



### Gardens, aviaries and features

Gardens in the park include the rose and display gardens at the pond and trees and other plantings that enhance the park setting for the enjoyment of park users. Features covered by policy below include the aviaries, display gardens, the park's trees, the former site of the caretaker's residence and park furniture.

### Display gardens

47. Native and non-native specimen trees and other plants will be used outside of the remnant forest and forest remnant buffer planting areas.

48. When selecting plants, their contribution to the following will be considered:

- Providing habitat for birds, lizards, butterflies, moths, insects and pollinators
- Reducing dependence on watering
- Reducing weeds and the spread of non-native plants into the stream riparian margins and the indigenous forest remnant
- Reducing use of fertilisers and pesticides

### Amenity trees

49. An assessment of trees outside of the forest remnant will be undertaken by a qualified and experienced arborist. The assessment will include an assessment of tree health, recommendations for tree management and include succession tree planting.

### Explanation

Trees in the park have a range of values and contribute to the park's character and identity. It is important to conserve this tree framework, manage individual trees and have a plan for succession planting.

## Aviaries

50. A new aviary will be constructed as a priority to replace the current aviary for non-native birds.
51. The aviaries will be sited where the birds will not be disturbed unduly by park activities and where they are able to be monitored for their safety and wellbeing.
52. Birds selected for the aviaries will be species appropriate for confinement in an aviary and will be limited to birds that have been bred in captivity.
53. Aviaries will be designed so that birds have space and opportunity to exhibit their natural behavior and character, free from fear and stress and in the company of birds of their own kind.
54. Guidelines for the care and welfare of birds caged in the aviaries will be developed by a suitably qualified and experienced expert in the husbandry system that meets the physiological and behavioral needs of confined birds.

## Explanation

The birds in Kowhai Park provide enjoyment for visitors. Park users, the community and the Council as park owners and managers in their turn have a duty of care for the birds so that the birds live a fulfilling life. This includes being free from undue stress and discomfort, injury or disease and being able to express normal behaviours.

## Former caretaker's residence

55. The former caretaker's residence and associated outdoor area garden will be removed and the site returned for public use.

## Explanation

The former caretaker's residence has been leased on a tenancy agreement. This has had some benefits in that it is a presence in the park after hours and provides some security outside of normal park hours e.g. for evening users of Centennial Memorial building. However, it occupies a central area of the park and essentially privatises this part of the park.

## Park furniture

56. Park furniture, including but not limited to seating, picnic tables, shelters, signs and interpretation, rubbish bins, drinking fountains and lighting will be functional, consistent and of a style that is appropriate to the park.
57. As park furniture needs replacement, it will be replaced with furniture of a consistent design that reflects the park's premier status.

## Explanation

Styles of park furniture change over the years but it is important that there is some consistency throughout the park so that the park retains an identity. The park has well-designed and informative interpretation boards of a consistent style, but other furniture is a mixture of different styles and materials. For example, the Mason Family Rose Gardens and pond area has four different styles of seating.

## 4. Development

The draft development plan establishes a direction that will help achieve the vision and objectives for the park. The plan is aspirational and can be implemented over a period of time as resources allow. While the Council is not required to implement the plan, it will enable the community and the Council to strategically plan ahead, prioritise development and improve the park.

### Overview of proposed development

The development plan incorporates suggestions received from the public after the notice of the intention to review the current management plan, refreshes some parts of the park and introduces new elements into six development areas (see Figure 7):

- The entrance from South Street to the pond, Mason Family Rose Gardens and other garden display beds is made more prominent. The pond and display gardens remain unchanged. The existing pergola is renovated and the gazebo moved and developed into a band rotunda. A contemplation garden and parkland picnic lawn are developed
- Use of the cricket oval is broadened and a second active recreation area developed south of the Old Tote Building. Playgrounds are consolidated at the forest edge with play equipment, separate pre-school and older children's play areas with opportunities for natural play
- Interaction with non-native birds is updated with a new non-native bird aviary. Interaction with native birds is through bird feeding stations and indigenous plant species that provide seasonal food to encourage native birds
- Access to and interaction with the Makino Stream and the indigenous forest remnant is improved
- Use of park buildings is maximized. An outdoor area at Centennial Memorial building is proposed for Manawatū Pottery Club public firings and a ceramic sculpture and exhibition area. Multiple use of the Old Tote Building is encouraged and its special heritage character highlighted

### Development Policies

58. Changes to Kowhai Park over the life of this management plan will be based on the development plan.
59. Development will be prioritised over the life of this management plan.
60. Detailed landscape plans will be prepared before implementation begins.





Development Plan



## KEY

- Pond and gardens – includes the Mason Family Rose Gardens
- New non-native bird aviaries
- Centennial Memorial building with outdoor kiln – leased by Manawatū Pottery Club
- Art deco lawn for outdoor sculpture and ceramic exhibitions
- Contemplation garden
- Parkland picnic lawn
- Forest themed separate play areas for pre-school children and older children with play equipment, natural play, platforms, seating and relocated toilets
- Relocated gazebo as band rotunda
- Cricket oval and perimeter path with fitness stations
- Blocks of mass planting
- Cricket pavilion
- Redefined historic gates and main vehicle entrance with parking and an area set aside for overnight self-contained camper vans with powered sites
- Old Tote Building with radiating lawns, paths and trees
- Active recreation area
- Remnant forest with forest gateway, native bird feeding stations, boardwalk, treetop lookout and canopy swing bridge
- Revegetation to buffer the forest remnant
- Makino Stream with stream access, sloping lawns, steps, streamside platforms, walkway and riparian planting for a healthy stream environment
- Wetland and forest buffer with boardwalk and groves of emergent wetland trees
- Rata Street entrance highlighted with potential angle parking and trail connection along the Makino Stream to Awahuri Forest-Kitchener Park

## References

*Cultural Heritage Assessment* - Kowhai Park reserve management plan implementation, prepared by Elizabeth Pishief, heritage consultant, Opus International Consultants, 2007.

*Ecological Assessment* -Kowhai Park reserve management plan implementation, prepared by John Turner, principal ecologist, Opus International Consultants, 2007.

*Wanganui Regional Sports Facilities Plan*, Jamie Detich, Facilities Consultant, Community Sport, Sport New Zealand, March 2018.



## Appendix 1 – Lands that make up Kowhai Park



### KEY

- Kowhai Park boundary
- Area of the park classified Recreation Reserve under the Reserves Act



Legal Description	Area (ha)	Vested/ Gazetted	Reserve Act Classification
Lot 2 DP 66725 CT 35c/60	0.2597	Vested in MDC	Recreation Reserve
Lot 4 DP 47041 CT 779/35	0.0650	Vested in MDC	Recreation Reserve
Lot 7 DP 912 Gaz. 1987 pg289	2.0234	Vested in MDC	Recreation Reserve
Lot 8 DP 912 Gaz. 1987 pg289	1.8211	Vested in MDC	Recreation Reserve
Pt lot 8 DP 912 CT 144/135	0.1012	Vested in MDC	Recreation Reserve
Pt lot 8 DP912 CT 173/253	0.1012	Vested in MDC	Recreation Reserve
Lot 1 DP 70108 CT38D/10	5.4900	Fee Simple	-



## Appendix 2 – Actions

Number	Action	Policy Number
1	Conservation plan for the Old Tote Building, turnstile, Centennial Memorial building, generator shed foundations, South Street entry gates and turnstile	Policy 2
2	Further research on the Old Tote Building, Centennial Memorial building, South Street entry gates and turnstile and put forward for registration with Heritage NZ Pouhere Taonga and inclusion in the Manawatū District Plan	Policy 5
3	Data-base of species in the forest remnant (plants, birds, reptiles, and invertebrates) and riparian plants and aquatic life in the Makino Stream. Compare with the 2007 Inventory of plant species present in the podocarp forest remnant and along the Makino Stream. Use to monitor changes, measure success and identify gaps	Policies 6 and 16
4	Extend the forest remnant to the east and south as a buffer for the forest core	Policy 8
5	Source seeds from the forest remnant, propagate and use to replace plants as necessary and for buffer and wetland planting	Policy 9
6	Monitor the forest remnant for karaka and lemonwood and remove if they become too dominant	Policy 11
7	Consolidate play areas and move from vehicle access areas and parking	Policies 27 and 16
8	New aviaries to house the non-native birds to be designed and constructed so that birds are able to exhibit their natural behavior, free from fear and stress and be able to express normal behaviors	Policies 48, 49 and 51
9	Guidelines for the care and welfare of birds caged in the aviaries developed by a suitably qualified and experienced expert in husbandry appropriate to the physiological and behavioral needs of confined birds	Policy 52
10	Remove the former caretaker's residence and associated outdoor garden area	Policy 53
11	When park furniture needs replacement, replace with furniture of a consistent design that reflects the park's premier status	Policy 57
12	Base changes to Kowhai Park on the development plan	Policy 56
13	Prioritise development over the life of the management plan	Policy 57
14	Prepare landscape plans before implementation begins	Policy 58

## Appendix 3 – Plant species

### Flowering plants found in the podocarp forest remnant, 2007

Scientific name	Common name
<i>Alectryon excelsus</i>	titoki
<i>Chamaecytisus palmensis</i>	lucern (non-native but good bird food source)
<i>Coprosma areolata</i>	thin leaved coprosma
<i>Coprosma grandifolia</i>	kanono
<i>Coprosma robusta</i>	karamu
<i>Cordyline australis</i>	Te kouka / cabbage tree
<i>Corynocarpus laevigatus</i>	kahikatea
<i>Hoheria populnea</i>	lacebark
<i>Hoheria sexstylosa</i>	long-leaved lacebark
<i>Laurelia novae-zelandiae</i>	pukatea
<i>Macropiper excelsum</i>	kawakawa
<i>Melicytus ramiflorus</i>	mahoe / whiteywood
<i>Myrsine australis</i>	Matipo / Mapou
<i>Pittosporum eugenioides</i>	lemonwood
<i>Pittosporum tenuifolium</i>	kohuhu
<i>Podocarpus totara</i>	totara
<i>Prumnopitys taxifolia</i>	matai
<i>Ripogonum scandens</i>	supplejack
<i>Schefflera digitata</i>	pate
<i>Solanum aviculare</i>	poroporo
<i>Sophora</i> sp	kowhai

### Flowering plants

<i>Asplenium oblongifolium</i>	shining spleenwort
<i>Dicksonia squarrosa</i>	wheki
<i>Lastreopsis microsora</i>	creeping shield fern
<i>Microsorium pustulatum</i>	Hounds tongue fern
<i>Pyrrosia eleagnifolia</i>	leather leaf fern

## Wetland planting

<i>Astelia grandis</i>	swamp astelia
<i>Baumea rubiginosa</i>	Baumea rush
<i>Blechnum minus</i>	swamp kiokio
<i>Blechnum novae zelandiae</i>	kiokio
<i>Carex flagellifera</i>	Glen Murray tussock
<i>Carex geminata</i>	Rautahi / wetland cutty grass
<i>Carex secta</i>	pukio
<i>Carex virgata</i>	pukio
<i>Coprosma propinqua</i>	mikimiki
<i>Cordyline australis</i>	ti kouka / cabbage tree
<i>Cyperus ustulatus</i>	toetoe upokotangata / giant umbrella sedge
<i>Dacrycarpus dacrydioides</i>	Kahikatea
<i>Dicksonia fibrosa</i>	wheki
<i>Eleocharis sphacelata</i>	spike sedge
<i>Gahnia xanthocarpa</i>	tupari-maunga
<i>Isachne globosa</i>	swamp millet
<i>Juncus australis</i>	leafless rush
<i>Juncus gregiflorus</i>	leafless rush
<i>Juncus pallidus</i>	giant rush
<i>Juncus planifolius</i>	flat-leaved rush
<i>Laurelia novae-zelandiae</i>	piukatea
<i>Leptospermum scoparium</i>	mānuka
<i>Olearia virgata</i>	twiggy shrub daisy
<i>Phormium tenax</i>	harakeke
<i>Polystichum vestitum</i>	puniu
<i>Pseudowintera colorata</i>	horopito / pepper wood
<i>Rorippa palustris</i>	marsh yellow cress
<i>Rubus australis</i>	swamp lawyer
<i>Rumex flexuosus</i>	NZ dock
<i>Schoenoplectus validus</i>	kapungawha / swamp maire
<i>Syzygium maire</i>	swamp maire
<i>Typha orientalis</i>	raupo

## Riparian planting

<i>Alectryon excelsus</i>	titoki
<i>Aristotelia serrata</i>	makomako / wineberry
<i>Carex secta</i>	pukio
<i>Carpodetus serratus</i>	putaputaweta
<i>Cassinia leptophylla</i>	tauhinu
<i>Coprosma foetidissima</i>	hupiro
<i>Coprosma lucida</i>	shining karamu / kakaramu
<i>Coprosma parviflora</i>	leafy coprosma
<i>Coprosma propinqua</i>	mikimiki
<i>Cordyline australis</i>	ti kouka / cabbage tree
<i>Cyathea medullaris</i>	mamaku
<i>Cyperus ustulatus</i>	toetoe upokotangata / Giant umbrella sedge
<i>Dianella nigra</i>	inkberry
<i>Dicksonia fibrosa</i>	wheki / ponga
<i>Dicksonia squarrosa</i>	wheki
<i>Fuchsia excorticata</i>	kotukutuku / tree fuschia
<i>Hebe stricta</i>	koromiko
<i>Macropiper excelsum</i>	kawakawa
<i>Melicytus ramiflorus</i>	mahoe / whiteywood
<i>Phormium tenax</i>	harakeke / flax
<i>Podocarpus totara</i>	totara
<i>Prumnopitys taxifolia</i>	matai
<i>Pseudopanax arboreus</i>	whauwhaupaku / five-finger
<i>Pseudopanax colensoi</i>	mountain five-finger
<i>Pseudopanax crassifolius</i>	horoeke / lancewood
<i>Schefflera digitata</i>	Pate / seven-finger
<i>Solanum aviculare</i>	poroporo
<i>Solanum laciniatum</i>	poroporo
<i>Sophora microphylla</i>	kowhai



## Appendix 4 - Accidental Discovery Protocol

When physical works are undertaken on the park uncover archaeological sites, the person undertaking the works is required to adopt the following protocol.

Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga defines archaeological sites as a place associated with pre-1900 human activity, where there may be evidence relating to the history of New Zealand. Evidence includes but is not limited to oven stones, charcoal, middens, ditches, banks, pits, building foundations, artefacts of Māori and European origin or human burials. Archaeological sites include oven stones, charcoal, shell middens, ditches, banks, pits, building foundations, artefacts of Māori and European origin or human burials:

- Work shall cease immediately at that place
- The contractor must shut down all machinery, secure the area and advise the contract manager
- The contract manager shall notify the Central Region Archaeologist of the New Zealand Historic Places Trust and if necessary the appropriate consent process shall be initiated
- The contract manager shall notify the following iwi groups to determine what further actions are appropriate to safeguard the site or its contents:
  1. Aorangi Marae
  2. Kauwhata Marae
  3. Te Iwa Marae
  4. Ngāti Kauwhata.

If skeletal remains are uncovered the contract manager shall advise the Police.

Works on the site shall not resume until the Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga, the Police (if skeletal remains are involved) and appropriate iwi groups have each given the appropriate approval for work to continue.

Under the Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga Act 2014 all archaeological sites (within the meaning of the Act) are afforded statutory protection. This applies to unrecorded archaeological sites that may be accidentally uncovered. If there is 'reasonable cause' to suspect an archaeological site may be modified, damaged or destroyed in the course of any activity, an archaeological authority is required from the Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga. An authority is required whether or not the land on which an archaeological site may be present is designated, or a resource or building consent has been granted, or the activity is permitted by a district or regional plan.









Manawatū District Council	:	P 06 323 0000
135 Manchester Street	:	F 06 323 0822
Private Bag 10001	:	E public@mdc.govt.nz
Feilding 4743	:	www.mdc.govt.nz