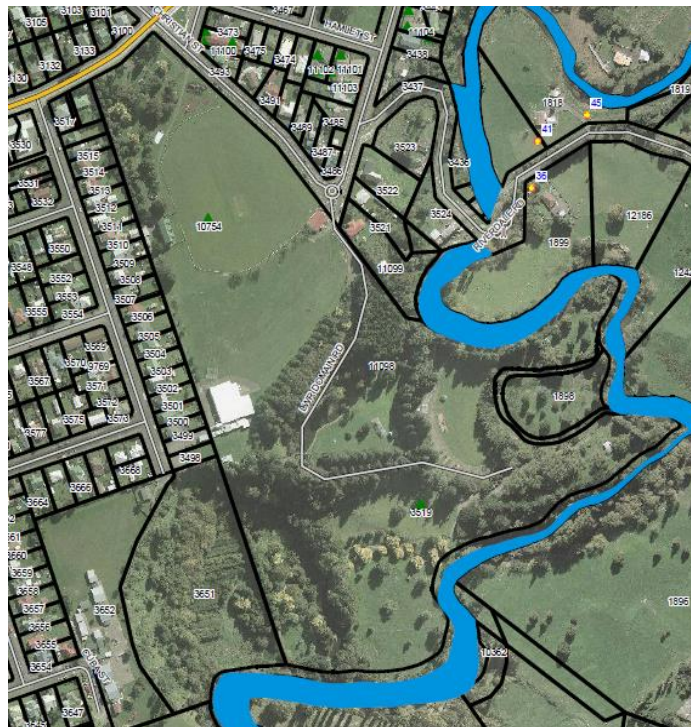


Reserve Management Plan Dannevirke Domain

September 2010



Dannevirke Domain Reserve Management Plan

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Dannevirke Domain Reserve Management Plan

Overview and Issues

Section 1 - Planning and Legislative Context

1.1 What is a Reserve Management Plan?

A Reserve Management Plan (Plan) is a document that is prepared under the requirements of the Reserves Act 1977. Under the Reserves Act 1977 public land classified and administered as a reserve by the Council (excluding local purpose reserves) are required to have a Management Plan prepared. This includes reserves owned by the Crown but vested or administered by the Council.

The process set out in the Reserves Act 1977 aims to ensure that such management is based on sound principles and that, through consultation, the needs of the public are clearly identified. The Reserves Act 1977 states that once a Plan is established it should be reviewed within 10 years.

1.2 Purpose

The purpose of this Plan is to:

"...provide for and ensure the use, enjoyment, maintenance, protection and preservation....and the development, as appropriate, of the reserve for the purpose for which it was classified...."
Section 41(3) Reserves Act 1977.

Reserves are classified to ensure their control, management, development, use and preservation for appropriate purposes (s.16(1) Reserves Act 1977). Some reserves are owned by the Crown and administered or vested in Council to manage. In some cases separate land titles used as part of a reserve are not classified at all and as such have no special protection.

The purpose of a Recreation Reserve under the Reserves Act 1977 is defined as:

An area of land (or land and water) possessing open space, and outdoor recreational values especially suitable for recreation and sporting activities and the physical welfare and enjoyment of the public, and for the protection and of the natural environment and beauty of the countryside, including recreational tracks in the countryside. (S.17 Reserves Act 1977).

This Plan provides Council with a clear framework for the day to day management and decision making for all the land covered by the Plan. Land covered by the Plan that is not a classified reserve under the Reserves Act 1977 is included in the Plan, but is not subject to the same legal requirements. In effect this Plan becomes a policy and operational guideline for non-reserve land.

1.3 What is covered - Overview

All Council administered reserve land in the Dannevirke Domain, including adjacent Council owned properties used for recreation or ecological objectives, have been included in this Plan. While this is not legally required, it is important to consider the management of the Domain in the context of the overall operation of the Domain. The following Council administered or owned land is included:

Land	Legal Description	Classification	Area (ha)	Current Uses
Domain (upper and lower)	Suburban Section 12 DANNEVIRKE	Recreation Reserve, Crown land. Gazette notice 1981/3036	16.19	Paths, driveways, lawns, gardens and amenity plantings, War Memorial, Playground, sheds, sportsground, grandstand, rotunda, Wai splash pools, scout halls, deer wildlife reserve, willow propagation, camping ground, aviary, duckpond, BBQ, toilets and grazing pasture.
Old river loop (lower Domain)	SECS 94 and 95 BLK III TAHORAITI SD	Recreation Reserve, Crown land Gazette notice 1981/3036	0.86	Grazing
35 York Street - Two residential sections	LOTS 3 4 DP 1572	Clear title - Residential	0.15	Parking and access to Pool
29-31 George Street	PT LOT 1 DP 7936	Clear title - Residential	0.5	Judo Hall and caretakers residence
Cuba Street	LOT 1 DP 12823	Clear title - Rural	3.01	Willow propagation - Regional Council lease, some grazing.

Detailed descriptions, uses and aerial photos of the above land parcels are contained in Appendix 1.

1.4 Classification

Under the Reserves Act 1977 the Minister of Conservation can delegate a number of powers to administer and make decisions on Crown owned land. These delegations depend on the ownership, classification and historical administering / vesting arrangements. The Domain is vested (the right to administer the Domain) in the Council and owned by the Crown. Historically the administration was authorised by an agreement to control and manage the Domain on behalf of the Crown, initially by a Domain Board in 1884. In 1981 the Domain was vested in the Dannevirke Borough Council as a Recreation Reserve under the Reserves Act 1977.

Under the vesting arrangement the Council can exercise many powers in managing the Domain only if there is an approved Reserve Management Plan approved under the Reserves Act 1977. Without this Plan all new commercial leases or changes of use must be approved by the Minister of Conservation. Previous arrangements such as the original lease to operate the camping ground were approved by the appropriate Minister. The brief Reserve Management Plan contained in the Dannevirke Borough Operative District Scheme 1985 enabled the Council to approve the construction of the new Wai Splash Pools on the Domain.

As the Domain is classified as a Recreation Reserve it is not able to be subdivided or used for other purposes (apart from those set out for a recreation reserve in the Reserves Act 1977) without changing or revoking its reserve classification. Given its history and current use this would be very difficult to achieve as the Minister of Conservation would have to approve any changes. It is likely then that the Domain will be a recreation reserve available to the residents of Dannevirke into the foreseeable future.

1.5 Process

This Plan has been prepared under the Reserves Act 1977 process that has included the following Council actions:

- Resolved to prepare at the Council meeting of 9 December 2009,
- Public notice of its intention to prepare a Reserve Management Plan advertised on 21 December 2009 in the Bush Telegraph, and invited written comments and suggestions on the proposed Plan that closed 12 February 2010,
- Drafted a Plan giving consideration to comments and suggestions received that was adopted by Council on 10 March 2010,
- Gave public notice of the draft Plan and invited submissions on it. All parties who made comments and suggestions to be given written notice. Submissions closed on 11 June 2010,
- A copy of the draft Plan was sent to the Minister of Conservation for comment / information (through local DOC area office),
- Report on submissions was prepared and a Council hearing held on 21 July 2010,
- Council deliberated and made decisions on submissions on 25 August 2010,
- Council adopted amended Plan on 22 September 2010.

1.6 Other Policies and Plans

1.6.1 Horizons MW Regional Council proposed One Plan

The Domain is bordered to the south and east by the Mangatera Stream. The Council is required to ensure that the stormwater runoff from the Domain meets certain criteria, and that any chemicals and stock grazing are kept out of the river. This impacts on operational management of weed and pest control, and on ensuring stock fencing of the deer and grazing land is at a high standard.

1.6.2 Tararua District Proposed District Plan

The Upper Domain is zoned residential and the lower Domain Rural in the proposed District Plan. The requirements of the Reserves Act 1977 do not allow for subdivision on recreation reserves and so subdivision is not possible on the main Domain. The reserve status of the land would have to be revoked by the Minister of Conservation before any zoning in the Proposed District Plan would be relevant.

Subdivision is allowed on the land not classified as reserve and owned by the Council subject to meeting water, stormwater, wastewater, stability and access requirements (plus other factors). In practical terms

- the property with the Judo Hall and caretakers house (29 George Street) could be subdivided for residential use.
- the property at 35 York Street used as access to the Wai Splash pool could be partly sold for residential use but this would result in the need to develop new access and parking for the pool.
- the property off Cuba Street behind the old Hillcrest Primary School (used for willow propagation) has no public road access and is only accessible through the Domain.

1.7 Council Plans and Strategies

1.7.1 Reserve Management Plan

Council has no current reserve management plan for the Domain. A very brief plan was prepared prior to 1985 and included in the Dannevirke Borough Operative District Scheme 1985. This old Plan should have been updated 15 years ago. It states the following (this is the complete text of the Plan):

Council intends that the present multi-purpose form of the Domain should continue. That is, the upper terrace will continue to accommodate the more formal gardens, children's playground, sportsgrounds, baths (and associated carpark). Sports buildings and clubrooms will be subject to conditional use application. The lower terraces will continue to be used as picnic area, camp ground, wildlife enclosures, boating lake, informal gardens and areas of bush and grazing. Buildings ancillary to these uses will be permitted in terms of Section 12.4 of the District Scheme.

General plans may have been prepared in the past as the land has been used as a reserve since 1884.

1.7.2 District Reserve Strategy

There is no District Reserve Strategy although the need for one is recognised in the Proposed District Plan and is likely to be completed by 2012.

1.7.3 2009 – 2019 LTCCP

The current LTCCP was adopted in June 2009. The LTCCP contains funding for ongoing maintenance. Levels of funding are increased from around 2015/16 by 25% (in \$2010), although this does contain some reallocation of budgets rather than additional resources. Project funding of \$12,000 for new playground equipment is budgeted for 2014/15. Additional funding is set aside for completing this Reserve Management Plan.

1.7.4 Bylaws and Policies

A Draft Asset Management Plan for Parks and Reserves was prepared in 1998 and updated in 2008 that has a section on the Domain. Issues identified related to lack of funding for maintenance of facilities and parts of the Lower Domain. Many of these issues are still relevant today.

Council passed a new camping policy in 2006. Freedom camping by self contained campervans and caravans is allowed in non-urban areas except in prohibited areas. Freedom camping in tents is not permitted anywhere. Camping in urban areas other than those specifically designated for this purpose is prohibited. The prohibited areas, other than all urban areas, have never been identified. New Zealand Motor Caravan Association has published (on TDC advice) that self contained motor homes are allowed to camp on any non-urban Council land. This policy has been reflected in an update of the Public Places bylaw (section 202.3).

Section 2 - Local Community Groups

People, clubs and organisations have leases and/or ongoing relationships with the Domain. These include:

- RSA
- Swimming club
- Judo Club
- Cricket club
- Athletics club
- Hockey club
- Junior Soccer club
- Ruahine Scouts
- Tararua Bird Club
- Rotary
- Camping ground lease holder
- Horizons MW
- Department of Conservation
- Lions
- Met Service
- Infracon Tararua
- Individuals that carry out volunteer work or who have made donations

Section 3 – Dannevirke Domain in Detail

3.1 Brief History

Dannevirke started to grow from a small township in the bush (around 60 houses) with the arrival of the railway in 1884. Three prominent businessmen of the town petitioned the Government Lands Board in 1884 for land to be set aside as a Domain. Suburban Section 12 (an original 40 acre section) of the town was set aside by the Lands Board as the Dannevirke Domain for recreation purposes. A Domain Board under the control of the Waipawa County Council administered it, although a Town Board governed the town from 1885 to 1892. At this time organised sports were played on the Domain but it was mainly grazed and not developed.

The Domain Board was incorporated into the Dannevirke Borough Council in 1892, and references to the Dannevirke Borough Council acting as the Domain Board were made until the 1960's. In 1905 the Domain Board transferred administration of the reserve to the Dannevirke Borough Council. The Domain was utilised as a showground and development began on gardens and recreational facilities. The administering authority transferred from the Dannevirke Borough Council to the Dannevirke District Council in 1987, and ultimately to the Tararua District Council in 1989.

- In 1911 the Coronation Baths opened on the Domain to commemorate the Kings (George V) coronation in 1910.
- First A&P Show held at the Domain 1910.
- In 1911 the Band Rotunda was completed.
- The first grandstand opened in 1912.
- Extensive amenity plantings established (Redwoods).
- In 1923 the War Memorial was placed in the Domain.
- In 1923 the construction of a playground was started. This playground was replaced in 1999.

- Camping ground established pre 1936, formally approved in 1940 by the Commissioner of Crown Lands. New amenities block built 1970.
- Wildlife reserve operated in the 1950's.
- Weather recording site established .
- Scout Hall built and Scout Park usage agreed (not a formal lease) prior to 1970.
- Deer Park formally established 1969 with approval from the Commissioner of Crown Lands.
- Judo Hall relocated onto 29 George Street 1970 (old YHA hostel).
- Fountain built in 1985 (donated).
- Pavillion built inside grandstand (which has been strengthened at some point).
- Boat lake built by Rotary 1970's. 3.01 ha block may have been purchased for part of this use.
- New playground donated 1999
- Paddling Pool removed 2009

The Domain in its history has hosted English and Danish Royalty, parades, armed forces, celebrations and shows. The Dannevirke Borough Council purchased further properties adjacent to the Domain over the last 100 years to service some of the uses on the Domain.

- 1911 - residential section 35 York Street as part of access to first public baths
- 1954 - 29-31 George Street as caretakers residence
- 1974 - land to the east of the Lower Domain.

Over the last 20 years a number of developments have been carried out in the Domain. These are summarised as:

- Changing rooms under the grandstand 1992/93
- Toilets built under the Grandstand 1993/94 and 2003

3.2 Demand and usage

Demand for use of the Domain needs to be considered in separate parts. The sports fields are well used by with seasonal peak demands in summer. The oval is used by Athletics, Cricket (summer) and Hockey (winter), while the back field is used by Cricket and Soccer. Demand is stable and additional major facilities are not planned by Council. The Grandstand is seldom fully used. Through the comments and suggestions phase of this Plan the sporting clubs have indicated a desire to develop indoor sports facilities, as well as an all weather sports ground with additional carparking.

The duck pond and BBQ area in the Lower Domain receive heavy usage over summer. The camping ground is full over peak summer holiday periods only. The Aviary is appreciated by many and has a number of local residents that support its maintenance.

The deer park and aviary are popular but rarely crowded. Usage is light for the majority of the year. Wai Splash usage is stable and the carpark is often full. Gardens and general lawn areas (Upper Domain) are well used in good weather. The War Memorial is the centre of remembrance services on ANZAC day.

3.3 Leases and Management Contracts

3.3.1 Wai Splash

The Council has a Contract for Service to operate and manage a public pool on the Domain with The Tararua Aquatic Community Trust (TACT). TACT owns the Wai Splash

indoor pool which was built in 1997. The Council leases the land, old toilets and changing rooms / club rooms that were previously part of the old Coronation Baths. The current Contract for Service was signed in 2001 and rolled over in 2004. The Council budgeted \$191,000 in 2009/10 for the Contract.

TACT was formed in 1993 and from 1995 managed the Coronation Baths public pool.

3.3.2 Camping Ground

The camping ground has a management agreement with the current managers that was initially signed in 1998 for three years. The agreement had four rights of renewal each for three years. The original caretakers house at 29 George Street is provided to the manager of the camping ground at no rent as part of the agreement. The Council also continues to own the amenities block, boiler room, two A-frame cabins plus another cabin, sewerage pump, power boxes and septic tank. The camping ground manager is responsible for the ongoing maintenance, management and operations.

3.3.3 Scout Hall and Scout building in the Lower Domain, Judo Hall (on adjacent Council land at 29 George Street) and the Met Service weather station have no formal leases. Agreements may have been made 40-50 years ago.

3.3.4 Sports fields and the Grandstand are used by the Athletics, Hockey, Cricket and Soccer Clubs. Clubs pay annual ground fees for this use and hold keys to access the Grandstand, Pavilion and storage sheds behind the Grandstand.

3.3.5 Horizons MW (on adjacent Council land access from Lower Domain) have a 10 year lease for a poplar/willow nursery that started in 1993 on the non-reserve land east of the Lower Domain. The current lease started in 1999 has been renewed in 2009. No income is derived from the lease but the Council is able to access a supply of poles / willows for planting purposes. The Regional Council uses the willows for erosion control across the District.

3.4 Structures and facilities

The following structures and facilities are currently on the Domain.

Upper Domain

- Grandstand
- Band Rotunda
- War memorial
- Scout Hall
- Fencing and Paths
- Tractor shed and other storage sheds
- Wai Splash public pools and some carparks
- Cricket practice wickets (owned by Cricket Club)
- Hedges, amenity plantings, shrub and rose gardens
- Childrens Playground
- Fountain (and pump shed),
- Walking tracks
- Weather station (Metservice)
- 2 drinking fountains, sundial, birdbath, litter bins, seats, lights, fencing and signage.

Lower Domain

- Duck ponds
- BBQ area with cover
- Camping ground with amenities, cabins and powered sites
- Toilet blocks
- Aviary
- Sheds (boat and deer)
- Boating pond (not used)
- Deer park with extensive fencing
- Scout den
- litter bins and seats, picnic tables, lights and signage
- Amenity plantings
- Grassland
- Road access and Walking tracks
- Gates and fencing to camping ground, scouts area and propagation unit.

Section 4 Current Issues

There are no major issues currently facing the Domain. Facilities seem to be adequate to meet the basic demand of residents and visitors. The sporting codes using the Domain would like more indoor facilities and an all-weather pitch.

This does need to be constrained by realistic funding sources, however much can be done with community commitment and input. Identifying future uses for the currently undeveloped areas of the Domain will assist Council in managing the Domain. Final decisions from this Plan will be able to input into the next Council long term (LTCCP) budget round in 2012. Residents need to be aware that any additional facilities or recreational assets will likely require more funding to maintain and renew in the future.

The Department of Conservation, as the owner of the reserve, has provided input into this Plan.

4.1 General Maintenance

Funding through Council rates is used to maintain the Domain grounds and adjacent Council owned properties. Council also funds the maintenance and replacement of Council owned assets such as the grandstand, furniture, playgrounds, gardens, roads and tracks, memorials, sheds, ponds, the Rotunda, BBQs and fencing.

The Domain is managed by the Parks and Reserves department of the Council. The operations and maintenance is contracted out generally to Infracon, with some other local contractors from time to time.

Clubs, volunteer organisations and private businesses also help to maintain the current assets located on the Domain that they own, such as the Scouts and Judo halls and the camping ground. Over time community groups, and individuals, have also gifted facilities to the people of Dannevirke that are now in Council ownership (such as the playground, fountain and some seats and trees).

The water in the Duck Pond and the Boating Lake in the Lower Domain is largely stormwater runoff. Quality issues can arise in summer due to low flow that causes weed and algae to build up. Occasionally the town water supply is used to flush out the ponds. At present this can only occur when there are no water shortages in the Dannevirke water system.

The current level of Council funding is sufficient to maintain the Upper Domain to the current high standard. Parts of the Lower Domain public areas are maintained to a lower standard and grazed by sheep. The Duck Pond area is one facility that receives requests for more maintenance.

There are some areas in the Lower Domain that require more weed control and tree management.

4.2 Renewal of existing facilities and new facilities

The Grandstand in the Upper Domain is the original 1912 structure. It has been strengthened through concrete supports. An assessment as to whether it needs earthquake strengthening will be required in the future to comply with the Building Act 2004.

The Council owned facilities at the campground will need renewing in the medium term. The future standard of the camping ground will need to be considered against the demand for camping sites and the ability of Council to fund any upgrades.

The Domain contains a number of assets such as seats, paths, fountains, playgrounds etc. These will all need to be renewed at some stage and the current Council policy would be to replace them at the same equivalent standard.

Possibilities could exist for new recreational facilities and structures. Recreation trends have changed over time with less emphasis on traditional organised team sports and more usage in casual individual activities such as mountain biking, climbing walls and fitness circuits.

More involvement by community groups such as a 'Friends of the Domain' are a possibility to develop facilities / paths etc as well as any increase in rates funding. A focused community group could also access more grants funding.

4.3 Signage

There is a lack of signage directing visitors to the Lower Domain and the facilities that exist within the Domain. Out of town visitors especially have little knowledge of the Domain and only a small frontage is visible from the state highway.

4.4 Future usage of undeveloped areas

There are a number of large relatively unused areas in the Lower Domain that could be better utilised for recreation purposes. These are the areas bordering to the Mangatera Stream, the old boating pond, the area adjoining the Scouts that is fenced off and the area of the old stream bed.

4.5 Other Issues

4.5.1 Vandalism

A general concern is providing more assets that are subject to vandalism and graffiti. Greater involvement by community groups and higher usage of the Domain would likely reduce the level of vandalism. Options to address this concern will need to be researched.

4.5.2 Bylaws

Control of public nuisances, litter and damage to the Domain set out in the Public places chapter of the Council Bylaws. This chapter of the Bylaws was last updated in August 2006 and is available on the Council website.

4.5.3 Utilities

Utilities maintained in the Domain include:

- Water (toilets, camping ground, drinking fountain, stock water, aviary)
- Sewerage (toilets, camping ground)
- Roads (treated as a private road from deer park to boating lake)

Section 5 Aims, Objectives and Policies

Based on the issues in Section 4, Council has considered the possible future management of the Domain. It is proposed that the management of the Domain should continue to focus on providing a mix of passive and active recreation opportunities. The strategy proposed in this Plan is to:

- enhance the existing assets through targeted upgrades
- open up access to land in the Lower Domain
- provide better information and direction
- allow for the possibility future development in the Upper Domain by identifying sites for development to occur if and when the local community can source funding.

This Plan proposes to provide additional signage. New signage would improve understanding and possibly the usage of the Domain. More usage by the travelling public is likely to lead to economic benefits for local businesses as well through sales of food and accommodation. New signage would be useful at the playground on Christian Street, on the State Highway 2 frontage, at the Wai Splash pools and at the entrance to Lower Domain Road.

5.1 Land and Amenities Management

Description

The Domain has a mixture of exotic and native plantings. This reflects the historical use and development of the Domain from the late 19th century. The avenue of Sequoia (redwoods) are notable trees and a feature of the Domain. There are many exotic specimen trees around the gardens in the Upper Domain.

Most of the animals are exotic species. The deer park, aviary and Duck Pond are integral parts of the Lower Domain. There are no plans to change this at present. The planting programme is focused on flowering plants and trees. More native trees will attract native birds.

Large areas in the Lower Domain adjacent to Mangatera Stream are in need of cleaning up. Some of this will be addressed as part of the formation of new tracks. New plantings will largely consist of native plants and trees, including Kowhai, Rata and Pittosporum. The gums along the bank between the Upper and Lower Domain will be replaced with natives including Rata. Volunteer work is already underway to achieve this.

Turf quality is related to usage. The sport areas of the Oval and number two ground are maintained at a high quality level. The Lower Domain is mowed less regularly reflecting the passive uses.

There are no changes proposed for the structure and composition of the established gardens. Liquid amber and flowering exotics have been part of planting plans around the Duck Pond.

Objectives

- The upper Domain is managed to cater for active sports and passive recreation.
- The Lower Domain will provide passive recreation and animal interaction activities, as well as walking and commercial camping facilities.
- Activities controlled in order to provide a safe and enjoyable experience for the most users.

- Trees and gardens will reflect appropriate species to attract birdlife and will be safe for users.
- More areas in the Domain will be actively managed and planted / maintained
- The Deer Park and Aviary will be maintained as long as the public support for these continue

Policies

- Native species will be favoured except in areas where notable historical exotic trees exist
- Additional areas adjacent to the Mangatera Stream will be actively managed and planted with natives
- The following activities are restricted:
 - Camping (tents and motorhomes) are allowed in the camping ground only,
 - After hours activities require permission from the Council. The Domain is gated and closed to vehicles overnight,
 - Social events involving large numbers of people or vehicles or marquees may be allowed with permission. Events that restrict access to any areas of the Domain or interfere with the enjoyment of the Domain to others will be prohibited.
 - Cycling is not permitted in the Upper Domain
- The following activities are prohibited:
 - Fireworks
 - Cycling is not permitted in the Upper Domain
 - Dogs
 - Horse riding
 - Fires
 - Activities not allowed in the Public Places chapter of the General Bylaws

Implementation

- Remove dangerous / poor quality trees and replant with natives including Kowhai, Rata and Pittosporum.
 - Replaced the gums along the bank between the Upper and Lower Domain with natives including Rata
 - Remove the lawsonianas that run along the South West boundary
- Work with DOC to form a plan for the Lower Domain areas adjacent to the Mangatera Stream

5.2 Cultural Heritage

Description

The Domain has a history that stretches back to the early days of Dannevirke. The Domain was set aside by the government at the request of local residents and is an original 40 acre section. Major events through the history of Dannevirke have taken place on the Domain. As such the Domain is very important to the residents of Dannevirke as a place for active and passive recreation, as well as community events.

Objective

- To recognise and protect areas and assets within the Domain that have special historical significance. These are the war memorial, the fountain, and the gardens in the Upper Domain, the avenue of sequoia trees and two memorial trees in the scout park area of the lower Domain.

Policies

- Activities that have detrimental effects on the specific areas and assets will not be allowed.
- Council will provide for the protection and maintenance of these areas and assets.
- Signage will inform the public on the significance and history of historical assets
- Plantings are maintained in keeping with historical context.

Implementation

- Signage at entrance to Upper Domain and in Lower domain near Duck Pond
- Priority given to funding of maintenance
- Replanting of exotic trees as required
- Possible use of resource consent processes

5.3 Community Partnerships

Description

There is no formal community group currently associated with the Domain. The Council would welcome such a group to help care for the Domain as well as act as a fundraising group for additional enhancements.

There are many organisations that work with the Council as users of the Domain. These include sports clubs, other clubs, RSA and individual volunteers.

A number of organisations work with the Council specifically to improve and protect the Domain. This includes Forest and Bird, the Garden Club and the Country Women's Institute. DOC as the owner of the Domain is a partner in the long term management of the Domain.

The Aviary is managed by Infracon with volunteer help from the Tararua Bird Club who work with Council management to maintain this asset.

Objective

- Management of the Domain and future development is a partnership between the community, clubs and organisations that operate on the Domain, and the Council.

Policies

- Greater involvement and support from the community in future developments and maintenance
- Use of community groups to enhance the facilities of the Domain through grant funding

Implementation

- Facilitate the establishment of a 'Friends of the Domain' community group

5.4 Outdoor recreation

Description

A large part of the Upper Domain is set aside for active recreation and includes the Wai splash pool, the Oval and associated facilities and the number two ground. The Lower Domain is intended for passive recreation, camping plus walking, cycling and interactions with animals. Other features such as the Mangatera Stream could be further developed.

Currently cycling is allowed on the Lower Domain. This may become more popular with the formation of new tracks. There are potential issues with walkers, cyclists and vehicles that will need to be monitored for safety reasons.

Sports take place on the Upper Domain including cricket, athletics, hockey and junior soccer. The pavilion is used for club functions and after match activities. Community sport events are encouraged. Turf quality is achieved through the mowing programme managed by Council Parks and Reserves in conjunction with the sporting codes.

Additional signage in the vicinity of the main playground could significantly increase usage of the Lower Domain Duck Pond and Deer Park in particular. A developed picnic area next to the Mangatera Stream would also be popular in summer.

The future use of some of the undeveloped areas in the Lower Domain is proposed to be based around walking / cycling and passive use. This includes the areas bordering to the Mangatera Stream, the old boating pond, the area adjoining the Scouts that is fenced off and the area of the old stream bed.

Objectives

- Playing surfaces will be provided to a reasonable standard that meets the needs of the sports clubs.
- As much of the Domain as possible is accessible to the general public for recreational purposes
- The public (including out of District visitors) is informed as to the facilities and recreational options available in the Domain
- Modern sporting facilities are available to the local residents.

Policies

- Reasonable sportsground standards are agreed with sports club users
- The Upper Domain will be the site of a future artificial turf sportsground
- Additional areas of the Lower Domain are accessible for walking tracks
- The Mangatera Stream is accessible for the enjoyment of the public
- Walking access to the Lower Domain is accessible for the majority of the public

Implementation (see appendix 1 map)

- Develop picnic area adjacent to Mangatera Stream near Boating Pond
- Develop new tracks in the lower Domain
- Provide tracks linking the Upper and Lower Domain that have lower gradients.
- Facilitate provision for outdoor gym equipment
- Provide additional childrens playground equipment
- Discussions with sportsclubs annually on turf standards
- Provide a site for the development of an artificial turf on the number two ground.

5.5 Indoor recreation and buildings

Description

The Domain contains a number of buildings. The major indoor recreation activity is the Wai Splash Aquatic Centre. The grandstand and pavilion is used for club functions and after match activities.

The Plan has identified an area where new indoor sports facilities would be possible on the Upper Domain. These identified sites will give more certainty for recreational clubs / businesses as to what would be possible, as well as help the Council to administer the Domain. These development sites are shown in Appendix 1.

If the sporting clubs proceed with the indoor developments access and carparking will need to be improved as well. The main carparking would be on part of what is currently the number two ground. This will be accessed from Christian Street. An additional small area off York Street next to the Wai Splash Aquatic Centre is also identified as a possible future development site; either as carparking or another facility such as a mini putt course.

The Judo Club operates from a building located on Council land next to the Domain. The Scout Group operates from clubrooms located on the Upper Domain, and a building in the 'Scout Park' area on the Lower Domain. These buildings are maintained by the clubs, with the scout buildings owned by the Scouts. There are a number of sheds used for storage. The Boating Pond area has a structure that is now also used for storage.

Objectives

- Indoor sports facilities will be provided for in the Upper Domain
- A multi-purpose grouping of indoor facilities is established by sporting groups
- Existing sports and scout club buildings will continue to be accommodated in the Domain
- The Wai Splash Aquatic Centre continues to be a successful facility.

Policies

- The Council will facilitate and support the development of multi-purpose indoor facilities where possible, with funding to be raised by the community.
- No active sports indoor facilities on the Lower Domain
- Expansion of Aquatic Centre facilities such as BBQ areas supported
- Club buildings will have lease agreements

Implementation (see appendix 1 map)

- Staff advice on proposals
- Issues considered for 2012 LTCCP

5.6 Leases

Description

The camping ground leasee has a major role in the operation of the Domain. The camping ground attracts many visitors to the Domain and the professional management of this is critical to the success of the Domain. In addition the current lease holders graze the unused grassed areas in the Lower Domain. The camping ground managers house is part of the lease and is on adjacent land contained in this Plan.

There is a partnership with Metservice as the weather statistics for Dannevirke are collected from equipment located on the Upper Domain.

There is a long standing relationship with the Scouting movement. The Scouts have a clubhouse on the Upper Domain and a facility on the Lower Domain. The Judo clubrooms are situated on the land that also contains the camping ground managers house. There is no current lease arrangements for these buildings and usage however there have been many years of use with no problems.

The Regional Council has a 10 year lease on adjacent land for growing willow poles.

No formal permits are currently issued by the Council for activities. There are no casual fees required to use the Domain.

Fees for sports clubs use of the sports grounds are set by council policy in the LTCCP.

Objectives

- All club owned buildings and club activities are consistent with the objectives and policies of the Domain.
- The camping ground operations are complementary to the Domain
- Continue to lease land to current leases as long as appropriate and while the terms and conditions of the lease are being met.

Policies

- All club owned buildings have current formal leases that set out conditions to ensure the objectives of the Domain are being met.
- The camping ground lease will continue on a commercial basis

Implementation

- Prepare new leases for the Scout Group buildings and use.
- Prepare new lease for the Judo Club
- Prepare new lease for the Metservice weather station
- Renew the Camping Ground lease

5.7 Natural Hazards

Description

The Ponds and the cliff are the main hazards. The ponds are shallow bodies of water but care with children is required. The ponds are not fenced off. The cliff face between the upper and lower Domain is a danger. This is fenced off in the steepest sections. Tracks need to be constructed that are less steep to allow a wider range of people to access them.

Objective

To identify and minimise natural hazards in the Dannevirke Domain.

Policy

- a) Clearly mark and identify risks from ponds and steep sections of cliff to the public

- b) Improve and upgrade tracks to give lower gradient options to allow a wider group of people to use.

Implementation

- Additional signage
- Regardings of some tracks
- Additional tracks

Section 6 Summary of proposed actions and monitoring of management plan

This list of proposed improvements is subject to Council approval through the Annual Plan or Long Term Plan process.

Development	Budget	Timing
Signage	\$5,000	2011/12
Picnic tables (5), drinking fountain (Lower Domain BBQ)	\$6,000	2011/12
Increased maintenance budget ongoing	\$5,000	2011/12
Shade sails Lower Domain picnic area and Playground upper Domain	\$17,000	2011/12
Playground improvements (12/13), and shade sail	\$42,000 + \$10,000	2012/13
Reseal road by Boating Lake	\$20,000	2013/14
Picnic Area, carparking	\$10,000	2013/14
Tracks (2 years)	\$40,000	2014 to 2016
Increased maintenance budget ongoing	\$5,000	2014/15 onwards


This Plan will be fully reviewed in 2019/20. The action plan will be reviewed as part of the 2015 LTCCP. The budget approval will be part of the 2011/12 Annual Plan.

Appendix 1 Map of the Dannevirke Domain and Possible Future Developments

Appendix 2 Dannevirke Domain in Detail - classifications and primary purpose

Upper and Lower Domain

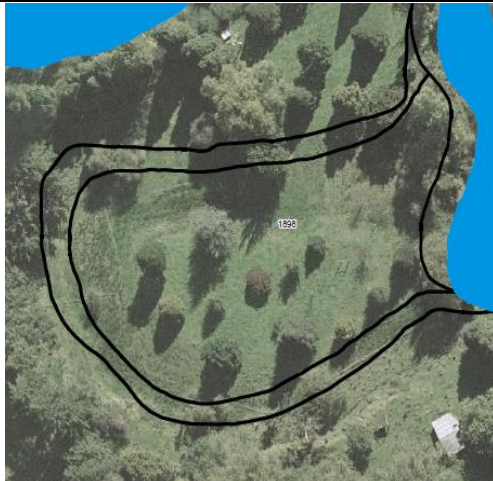
Reserve Classification	Recreation	Size	16.19 ha
Location	SH2 and Christian Street	Valuation Number	11200-13500, 11200-13500A and 11200-13500B
Current Zoning	Upper residential Lower rural	Legal Description	PTSUB SEC 12 -PT DANNEVIRKE DOMAIN. SUB SEC 12 -PT DANNEVIRKE DOMAIN--BALAT 11160/51700- and PTSUB SEC 12 -PT DANNEVIRKE DOMAIN-
DVR id	3519, 10754, 11098	Access	Corner of SH2, Christian Street. Access also off Domain Road with access to the Pool off York Street.
CV	3,200,000	Owner	Crown, vested in TDC in 1981

Asset Registry	Pool, grandstand, playground, war memorial, rotunda, storage sheds, aviary, deer enclosure, ponds and bridge, boating pond, fountain, roads, carparks, fencing and gates.	Leases and Management Contracts	Wai Splash, Camping Ground.
Background			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Set aside by the Government in 1884 the Domain was formally classified as a recreation reserve in 1981. Still owned by the Crown but vested and administered by the Council. 			
Landscape description			
In two levels with the upper Domain highly modified with sports grounds, gardens, playground, cenotaph, hall, Sheds and a public pool. The lower Domain has areas of minimal development with a mix of trees and pasture that is grazed, lawns (camping ground and for BBQs), a deer park enclosure, aviary and manmade ponds.			
Reserve Issues			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The lower Domain has areas that are maintained to a minimal level as funding is limited. There is high demand for usage of sports grounds at certain times of the year. The grandstand may need earthquake strengthening. No current formal leases for Scout halls and weather station Lack of signage to lower Domain. Vandalism is an ongoing concern, especially in the Lower Domain. 			
Reserve Management Policy			
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Future development areas for indoor facilities Future planting plans including species and walkways Plans for additional signage, tables, exercise equipment, picnic areas, tracks, access to Mangatera Stream 			
Proposed Development Cost Estimate Funding Priority			
Signage (\$5,000), Picnic tables (\$5,000), Tracks / walkways (\$40,000), Additional playground equipment (\$42,000) Carparking lower Domain (\$5,000), drinking fountain (\$1,000), Picnic area Mangatera access (\$5,000). Shade sails (2) (\$17,000), reseal road by boat lake lower Domain (\$20,000).			

Mangatera Stream bed loop – Lower Domain

Reserve Classification	Recreation	Size	0.86 ha (0.21 old stream bed)
Location	Lower Domain	Valuation Number	11160-51700
Current Zoning	Rural	Legal Description	SECS 94 and 95 BLK III TAHORAITI SD -PT DANNEVIRKE DOMAIN- -REFER 11200/135 Gazette 1981 p3063.
DVR id	1898	Access	Lower Domain Road then on foot, Mangatera Stream.
CV	18,000	Owner	Crown, vested in TDC 1981


Asset Registry	Fencing	Leases and Licences	Nil
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<p>Background</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Piece of land that was old stream bed and another title owned by the Crown • Surveyed in 1960 and partially classified as reserve for recreation purposes under the Land Act 1948 • Reclassified in whole as part of Domain as Recreation reserve under the Reserves Act 1977 in 1981 	
<p>Landscape description</p> <p>Pasture and scattered exotic trees including an old stream bed that adjoins the Mangatera Stream.</p>	
<p>Land Issues</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Currently grazed so no re-growth of natives possible • Lack of access to the Stream 	
<p>Reserve Management Policy</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Restricted public access due to fencing and gates. Access is currently restricted to the area Used by the Scouts. 2. The camping ground operation is approved by DOC 3. Plan is to open up the passive usage of this area through new tracks. 4. Development of more walkways / cycleways, carparking and signage 	
<p>Proposed Development Cost Estimate Funding Priority</p> <p>Part of track development (\$40,000).</p>	

Horizons propagation area – Lower Domain

Reserve Classification	Fee Simple (Not Reserves Act)	Size	3.01 ha
Location	Between Closed Hillcrest School and Lower Domain	Valuation Number	11200-24602
Current Zoning	Rural	Legal Description	LOT 1 DP 12823
DVR id	3651	Access	Lower Domain.
CV	87,000	Owner	TDC – purchased 1974 by DBC

Asset Registry	Fencing	Leases and Licences	Horizons MW tree propagation to 2019
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<p>Background</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Purchased in 1974 by the Dannevirke Borough Council • Possibly as part of Boating lake development 	
<p>Landscape description</p> <p>Steep river terrace to old stream bed flat to sloping. Trees on steep slope, pasture that is grazed near Stream. Area of tree propagation activity.</p>	
<p>Reserve Issues</p> <p>Not a reserve – but:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Used to grow plants for other reserves • Unsure as to original purpose of purchase. 	
<p>Reserve Management Policy</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To be Classified a reserve (local purpose) 2. Long term use of property to remain as supporting Domain and other reserves. Reviewed in 2019 when lease with horizons is up for renewal. 3. Planting plan – cleaning up current trees and access road. 4. Management of Stream interface 	
<p>Proposed Development Cost Estimate Funding Priority</p> <p>None proposed on actual property.</p>	

Additional properties adjacent to Domain used as part of Domain

Reserve Classification	General (NOT Reserves Act 1977)	Size	0.16 ha - Two residential sections
Location	35 York Street	Valuation Number	11200-11400
Current Zoning	Residential	Legal Description	LOTS 3 4 DP 1572.
DVR id	3498	Access	York Street.
CV	101,000	Owner	TDC – purchased 1911 by DBC

Asset Registry	Carpark for Pool and access. Part of old Coronation Baths.	Leases and Licences	Possible lease to TACT to manage part of old Coronation Baths that is on properties.
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Background

- Title searches show that the residential sections were purchased by the Dannevirke Borough Council in 1911. This was the site for the original public baths that were built in 1911.
- Currently the eastern residential section title appears to be incorrectly part of the title for the 3.01 ha property purchased in 1974. There used to be a house used for Council Staff on the section that is now used as an access driveway.

Landscape description

Flat and highly modified as carparks and driveway access. Also contains part of the pool storage area. The eastern section is two thirds grassed with a fence and hedge which runs along the top of the river terrace.

Land Issues

- None currently
- Section largely grassed could be sold if more carparks were developed or boundary adjustment undertaken to exclude most of the carpark (driveway and fencing would still be needed)

Reserve Management Policy Issues

1. Properties are managed as part of the Domain with no physical barrier.
2. Lawn area has to be managed for seasonal pressures (wet in winter, very dry in summer). Could be developed into garden.
3. Signage could be improved

Proposed Development Cost Estimate Funding Priority

No estimates done. Carpark and access will be resealed at some point. No need for additional carparks has been identified at this stage. Could be needed if new indoor facilities are built.



Additional properties adjacent to Domain used as part of Domain

Reserve Classification	Fee Simple (NOT Reserves Act 1977)	Size	0.51 ha
Location	29 -31 George Street	Valuation Number	11200-13600 and 11200-13600A
Current Zoning	Residential	Legal Description	PT LOT 1 DP 7936
DVR id	3520 and 11099	Access	George Street, Lower Domain Road.
CV	339,000	Owner	TDC, Bought April 1967 by DBC

Asset Registry	Caretakers house, deer fences and fences	Leases and Licences	Nil - Judo Hall has long standing usage
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Background

- Purchased by Dannevirke Borough Council in April 1967 as the caretakers house for the Domain.
- Judo Hall relocated onto site in 1970 by Council and Judo Club (lease was signed for building tenancy)
- House now occupied by Manager of campground as part of management contract.

Landscape description

Caretakers house area flat and lawn. Back half with Judo hall less developed with extensive trees on sloping land that becomes very steep / river terrace cliff at rear. Fenced off at top of river terrace.

Reserve Issues

Not a reserve, but:

- Management of trees
- Ongoing need for ownership could be considered when camping ground lease is up for renegotiation in 2013.

Reserve Management Policy

1. Tree plan and usage
2. Future use of property



Proposed Development Cost Estimate Funding Priority

No development proposed.