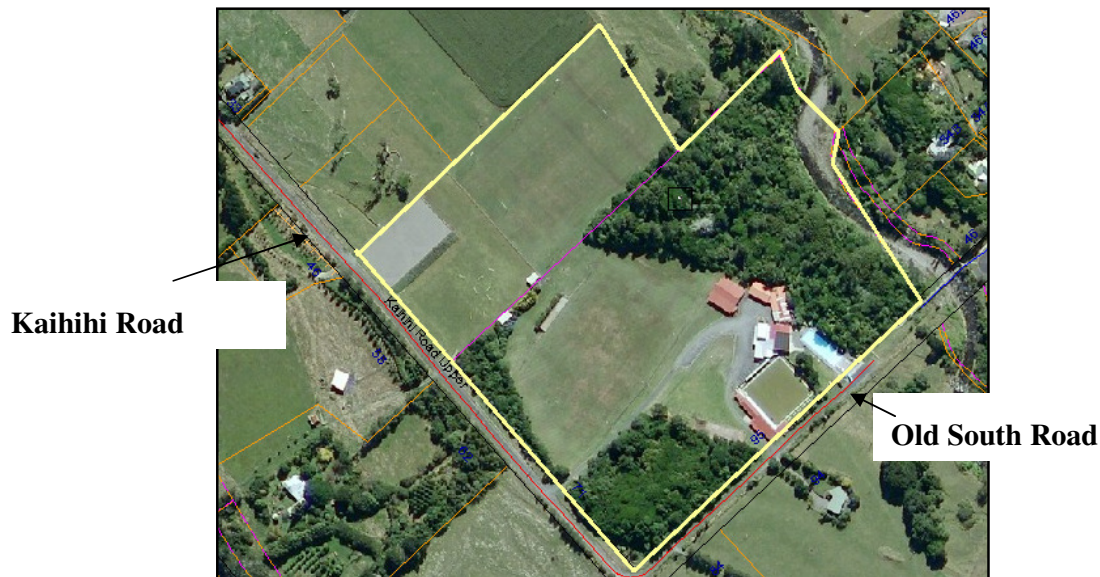


1. Okato Domain (also known as Okato Recreation Reserve)

Description

Location:	Kaihihi Road Upper, Okato
Legal description:	Section 31 Okato District (also known as Section 138 Okato District Block V CAPE SD), and Lot 1, DP 9334 being Part Section 26 Okato District situated in Block V CAPE SD
Size:	8.68 hectares
Reserve Status:	Subject to the Reserves Act 1977
Reserve Classification:	Recreation reserve



Physical description

Okato Domain is a sports park located within the rural township of Okato. Vehicle access is located off Upper Kaihihi Road with additional pedestrian access from Old South Road. The park has two fields available. The sports played at the fields are currently senior and junior rugby.

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

The bush remanent to the north east and the smaller bush area to the south are Open Space C Environment Areas which are areas that contain high natural heritage values. Development and use will be restricted, with these areas left largely in their natural state.

Okato Domain is surrounded by Residential C Environment Area to the north east and rural zoning on remaining boundaries. To the north east and south west there is a potential flood hazard identified.

There are a number of buildings and amenities on the site including a bowling club, football clubrooms and two pavilions, two floodlit sportsfields, changing rooms, toilet and shower facilities, swimming pool and squash club.

Tangata whenua interests

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

Land status and acquisition history

Lot 1 DP 9334 was purchased by the Taranaki County Council for recreation reserve purposes subject to the Reserves and Domains Act 1953, from an Okato farmer for the sum of £1859.12 for the city of New Plymouth. The recreation reserve was subsequently transferred to the Crown by way of free gifting and gazetted as an addition to the Okato Domain in 1965. Should at any time the reserve status be revoked, the land would be subject to statutory decision on offer back under the Reserves Act 1977, to the District Council as successor in title from the Taranaki County Council. The reserve in Crown ownership was classified for recreation purposes pursuant to the Reserves Act 1977 in 1979.

Section 31 Okato District (re- described as Section 138) was private land purchased by the Crown in 1913 from an Okato farmer for the purpose of public domain. The reserve in Crown ownership was classified for recreation purposes in 1979.

The Okato Domain was administered by a locally elected appointed Domain Board and that Board was abolished under Local Government Re Organisation Order in Council 1989 and administration of the reserve transferred along with assets to the New Plymouth District Council with effect 1 November 1989. The Council administers the Okato Domain Recreation Reserve by way of appointment to control and manage as a consequence of the 1989 Order in Council.

History and cultural values

Okato Domain has been used for a number of outdoor sports including rugby, cricket, tennis and netball. The Domain has been also previously used for a variety of other recreation including shows, picnics, pony club events, squash, bowls, camping, and circus.

The Okato Domain is managed with the assistance of the Okato Domain Liaison Committee.

The bush remanent to the north east of the park contains a pa site relating to Nga Mahanga A Tairi iwi. The pa site is listed as a waahi tapu site in the District Plan (ref. 58). It is included in the waahi tapu review currently being undertaken by the Council's Environmental Strategy and Policy Team. This review will confirm the

name and location of the pa site. It is advised this team is contacted for further and up-to-date information on this waahi tapu.

Existing improvements

The existing improvements within the reserve include:

Barriers, fences, gates, three seats, 12 floodlights, a sign, shed, amenities building, grandstand, two toilets, hall/pavilion, carpark, and road.

Uses and activities

The sports park has two fields available. The sports played are currently senior and junior rugby.

Sports clubs that have facilities at the domain include Okato Bowls Club, Okato Squash Club and Coastal Rugby Club however, no lease agreements exist for the buildings owned by these users.

The Okato Pony Club utilise the western corner of the Domain. No lease exists for the area occupied by the Okato Pony Club and their associated buildings.

Objectives and specific policies

1. The Okato reserve will be managed as a site for indoor recreation facilities, community pool and open space suitable for formal and informal recreation use.
2. The Council will be responsible for approving any development undertaken on the sports park in accordance with the development concept. Future improvements contemplated in the develop concept include-
 - New main entrance signage and improvements to visibility of main entrance
 - Creation of a loop road within car park and additional areas of sealed car parking
3. Leases will be established and maintained with clubs who own buildings and facilities at Okato Domain.
4. The use of the northern field will remain as a rugby field for the foreseeable future though other uses may be considered in the future.
5. Consultation will be undertaken with Nga Mahanga A Tairi iwi when any change in management of the park or a new development is proposed that is not contemplated in this plan, particularly in regards to the pa site.
6. The Council will work with Nga Mahanga A Tairi iwi to develop a protocol regarding the management of vegetation on the pa site.
7. An agreement outlining the roles and responsibilities of the Council and the domain management committee will be established, including:

Responsibilities of the ‘committee’ –

1. Appoint a contact person who will be available to take bookings for the ‘reserve’ and have their details published on the Council’s website.

2. Take bookings for use of the reserve and set conditions for the use in accordance with Council's venue hire agreement.
3. Keep records of booking and use of the reserve and submit this information along with the committee's annual accounts by the 31st October every year.
4. Undertake basic maintenance of the 'reserve' to ensure it is maintained in a tidy condition, suitable for the purposes which it is used, including -
 - Maintenance of amenity gardens, including the removal of green waste
 - Removal of weeds and maintenance of areas outside of those areas which are mown by the Council.
 - Keep tidy and ensure removal of weeds in any areas which are maintained by grazing.
 - Collection and disposal of rubbish
5. Monitoring the grazing of any part of the reserves against conditions set out in a grazing licence issued by the New Plymouth District Council.
6. Maintain and keep clean Council owned buildings located on the reserve that are used by the committee or the community, including providing consumables for ablution facilities where these exist.
7. Report to the Council in a prompt manner any damage to Council structures and assets, including graffiti
8. Inform the Council of the need for major maintenance and capital improvements.

Responsibilities of the 'Council' –

1. Maintain mown playing surfaces to the level of service set out in the Community Plan.
 2. Undertake regular inspections of Council-owned structures and assets against safety standards
 3. Undertake repair of Council-owned structures excluding those covered by another agreement (i.e. maintenance of fences is usually covered in a grazing licence).
 4. Administer the Rural Domain funding scheme in accordance with the current policy and budget allocation set through the Community Plan.
 5. Grant and administer leases for buildings and/or other structures on the reserve.
 6. Provide technical support and advice to the committee when required.
- The Council will be responsible for approving any development undertaken on the sport parks in accordance with the development concept.