

1. Introduction

Neighbourhood parks and reserves are highly valued by the communities in the New Plymouth District and have an important role in local neighbourhoods. They contribute to the quality of life of local residents and enhance the visitor experience. The Waitara Neighbourhood Parks Management Plan has been developed to identify appropriate uses and activities within each neighbourhood park in Waitara and assist with day to day management and decision making.

This document is an omnibus plan (plan which cover more than one reserve) that applies to all neighbourhood parks in Waitara. It sets out objectives and policies in order to provide guidance to the Council about how these reserves will be managed and developed. Development concepts, which provide a vision for the future of each park or reserve, are also presented in this plan.

For the purposes of the Waitara Neighbourhood Parks Management Plan, a parcel of land is considered a 'neighbourhood park or reserve' if it meets some or all of the following criteria:

- Designed for use by local residents
- The land is managed by NPDC and used by the public as a park or reserve.
- Suitable for active or passive recreation
- Suitable for or may include play equipment, seating, paths and attractive amenity planting
- Easily accessible
- Well maintained, free-draining, flat or gently undulating
- Adaptable to changing demographics

This plan should be read in conjunction with the NPDC General Policies for Reserves (2006). Where any matter is addressed by this document and the general policies, then the provisions in this document must take precedence. **Figure 1** demonstrates how this document fits in the council's overall strategic framework.

Key points regarding the way the plan deals with activities and the development of reserve are -

- Where an activity or development is contemplated in this plan, this can not be taken as a guarantee that it will occur. Decision making on particular activities and future development will take into consideration any requirements under the Reserves Act, Resource Management Act 1991 and Local Government Act 2002 as well as funding availability as determined through the long term council community plan. Public consultation may also be required, depending on the nature of the activity and the implications for other reserve users, reserve neighbours and the public at large.
- Where an activity is noted as prohibited on a reserve then any proposals for that activity will not be approved unless a subsequent review and amendment of the plan is undertaken, in part or in whole.
- If the plan is silent on an activity, the activity may still be considered. Decisions on whether or not to approve the activity will be weighed against the objectives and policies for the reserve and the general policies on reserves, and any other policy or strategy relating to reserve management

The majority of parks and reserves in Waitara are not held subject to the Reserves Act 1977 but rather held for municipal purposes subject to Section 9 of the Waitara Harbour Act 1940 ("Waitara Harbour Trust Land") or held upon trust for the Town of Waitara for town improvements ("Endowment Land"). For this reason Waitara Neighbourhood Parks are covered in this separate document rather than included in the New Plymouth District Neighbourhood Reserve Management Plan, which is a statutory document prepared subject to the Reserves Act 1977. Both documents however contain the same general policies and objectives which reflect the New Plymouth District Council policy that all reserves are managed and developed in the same manner regardless of the underlying land status.

One Waitara neighbourhood reserve, James Nuku, is held subject to the Reserves Act 1974 and is included in New Plymouth District Neighbourhood Reserve Management Plan in order to meet statutory requirements of the Reserves Act 1977. A copy of information pertaining directly to this reserve is also included in this plan so that all of Waitara's neighbourhood parks and reserves can be viewed in one document.

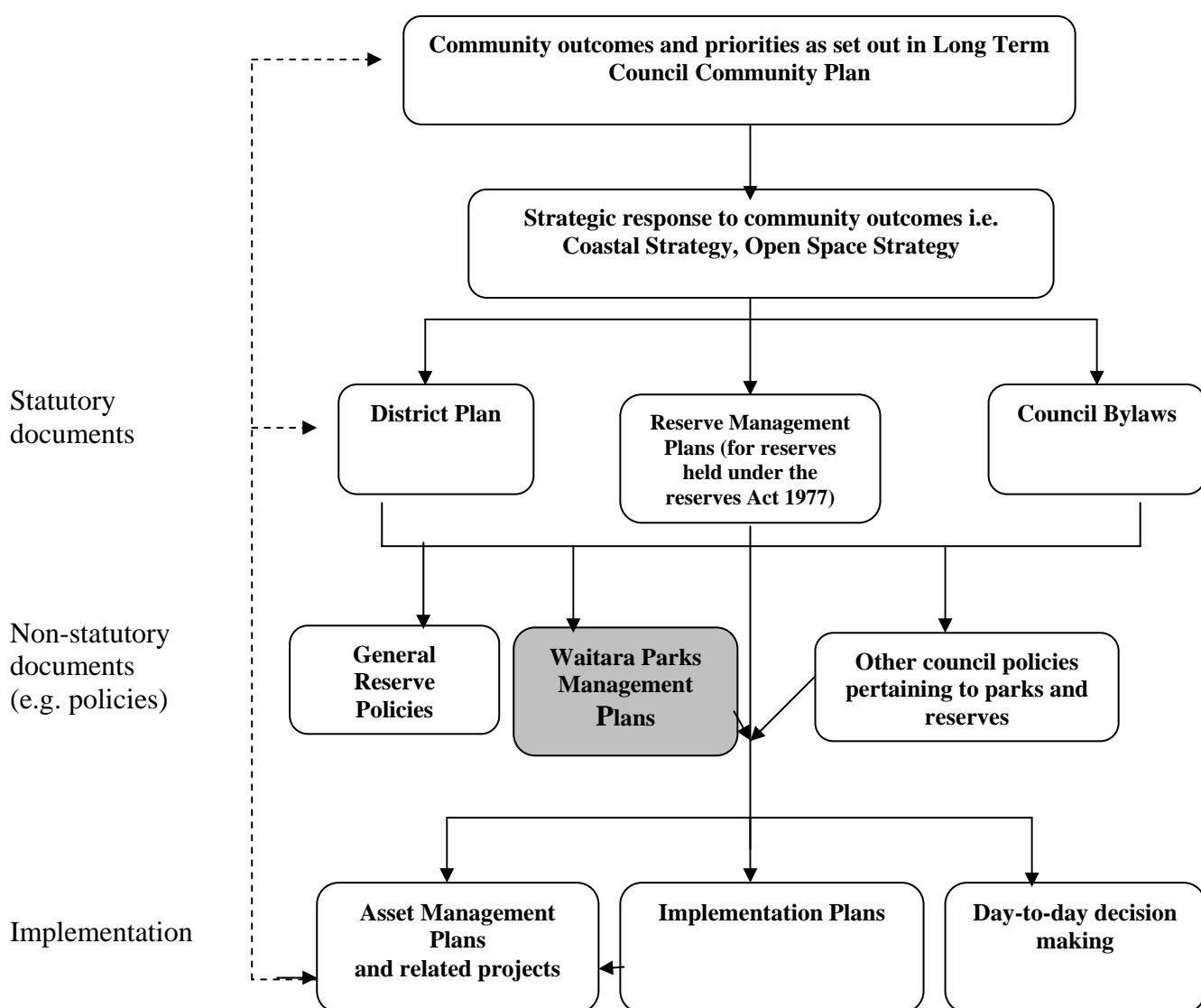


Figure 1: Statutory and non-statutory documents that guide day to day decision making regarding reserves

1.1 Plan overview

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| Chapter 2 | Provides the context within which this management plan has been developed, including national legislation, and plans and policies within Taranaki Region and New Plymouth District. |
| Chapter 3 | Describes considerations particular to tangata whenua in the district. |
| Chapter 4 | Outlines objectives and policies, which apply to all neighbourhood parks and reserves. |
| Chapter 5 | Levels of service relating to the development of neighbourhood reserves |
| Chapter 6 | Outlines objectives and policies specific to individual reserves. |
| Chapter 7 | Summarises process for plan implementation, review and amendments. |
| Glossary | |
| Appendices | |

1.3 Management plan objectives

The following are objectives for the Waitara Neighbourhood Parks Management Plan:

- To provide a clear set of policies that allow NPDC to manage its park and reserve resources consistent with the purpose of each reserve, both now and into the future.
- To prepare a comprehensive document that deals with all neighbourhood reserves in an integrated manner.
- To provide the people of New Plymouth District an opportunity to have a say in the management of their parks and reserves by making submissions to the preparation and development of this plan.

1.4 Planning process

The process being followed for development and adoption of the Waitara Neighbourhood Parks Management Plan is the same as that which is being undertaken for the New Plymouth District Neighbourhood Reserve Management Plan and as outlined in the Reserves Act Guide (Department of Conservation 1999).

The intention to prepare the management plans was public notified in June 2008 and the public were invited to submit comments and information to guide its development. In total 50 comment forms were received. These were used to aid to the development of the draft plan, in particular the policies and aspects of the concept development plans.

A second formal consultation period on the draft plans was undertaken over a two and a half month period from mid December 2008 to the end of February 2009. During this period 46 submissions were received. A hearing was held in June for submitters who wish to speak in support of their submission, prior to the adoption of the final plan.

The plan was formally adopted by the Council at the Council meeting held on Tuesday 9 June 2009.