

## **15. Waiwhakaiho Park**

### **Description**

Location:	Raiomiti Street, New Plymouth	
Legal description:	PT Lot 3 DP 10694	Lot 5 DP 10694
	PT Lot 37 Deed 16	Lot 3 DP 10481
	Lot 2 DP 6506	PT Lot 6 DP 5214
	Lot 3 DP 6074	Lot 5 DP 6512
	Lot 4 DP 6512	Lot 1 DP 11472
	Lot 2 DP 6471	PT Lot 3 DP 10694
Size:	2.77 hectares	
Reserve Status:	Subject to the Reserves Act 1977 except for Lot 1 DP 11472	
Reserve Classification:	Recreation	



### **Physical description**

Waiwhakaiho Park is New Plymouth's main netball park. Access is located off Raiomiti Street, Fitzroy and via the Waiwhakaiho Walkway which currently runs from Riversdale Drive to Raiomiti Street.

The park has 13 netball courts and up to four tennis courts. Parking is provided to the north of the courts for the players/spectators.

The land to the south east is within a flood hazard area. The courts are 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 courts carpark is Open Space B.

The park is surrounded by Residential A to the north, Industrial to the east, Business B and Sacred Heart College to the south, and Residential A, B and Business B to the west.

### **Tangata whenua interests**

This reserve is within the tribal rohe of Te Atiawa and Taranaki Iwi. It is of historic and cultural significance to Ngāti Te Whiti, Ngāti Tuparikino, Ngati Tawhirikura and Ngā Mahanga-a-Tairi hapū.

### **Land status and acquisition history**

In 1973 Lot 5 DP 10694 was vested in the city of New Plymouth pursuant to Section 352(4) of the Municipal Corporations Act 1954 as a recreation reserve and subject to the Reserves Act 1977.

In 1927 PT Lot 37 Deed 16 (Section 37 Fitzroy Township) was acquired by the New Plymouth Borough Council for a public work as a public pound by a taking under the Public Works Act 1908. Pursuant to the Public Reserves and Domains and National Parks Act 1928 the purpose of the Reserve was changed to a reserve for a “public plantation and pleasure ground and secondly for a recreation ground”. The land is held subject to the Reserves Act 1977.

Lot 2 DP 6506, Lot 2 DP 6471, Lot 3 DP 6074, Lots 4-5 DP 6512, and Lot 6 DP 5214 were vested in the Borough of New Plymouth in 1949, primarily for the purpose of a Public Plantation and Pleasure Ground to be used under conditions to be imposed from time to time at the will and discretion of the New Plymouth District Council and secondly for the purpose of a Recreation Ground. The land is held subject to the Reserves Act 1977.

Lot 3 DP 10481 was vested in New Plymouth District Council in 1973. The purpose was for recreation and is pursuant to the Reserves and Domains Act 1953.

The parcels above that are held subject to the Reserves Act were classified as part of the preparation of this management plan.

Lot 1 DP 11472 was obtained by the New Plymouth City Council in 1979 and is freehold.

PT Lot 3 DP 10694 was purchased by New Plymouth City from a County Clerk and and Engineer in 1987 for the sum of \$40,000.00. It is used as the carpark for the courts and is considered to be part of Waiwhakaiho Park. It was classified as recreation reserve during the preparation of this management plan.

### **History and cultural values**

Netball has been played on the Courts since the park was developed. In 1998 Netball New Plymouth became part of Netball NZ. As part of the restructure 33 Unions became 12 Regional Entities, with the New Plymouth area being part of the Western region. The Park has been also previously used for tennis.

The Courts have been upgraded a number of times due to the quick deterioration of the courts causing injuries to players and spectators.

### **Existing improvements**

The existing improvements within the reserve include:

Rubbish bins, barriers, fences, gates, seats, steps, walls, paths, four street lights, 12 flood lights, signage, toilets, Council owned hall/pavilion, Netball Taranaki owned office building, a playground, carpark, and courts.

There are storm water pipes in the north east area of the park.

### **Uses and activities**

Waiwhakaiho Park has 13 courts available which are used for netball. The Council owns the main pavilion (hall, showers and toilets). The office building is owned by Netball Taranaki. The public toilets are open 24 hours.

Netball Taranaki currently have a venue hire agreement for the use of the pavilion. There is no current lease for the office building.

### **Management objectives and specific policies**

- 1) While this park is used as a netball facility, the developed areas will be managed as a sports park suitable for formal and informal sport and recreation.
- 2) Analysis of future netball facility needs has identified an additional two courts will be required within the next 10 years. No opportunities have been identified at Waiwhakaiho Park for these courts and therefore relocation of the entire netball facility is contemplated.
- 3) A possible location for the relocation of the courts is a re-developed TSB Stadium/New Plymouth racecourse site.
- 4) Options for the future of the park if the relocation proceeds will be investigated including the option of disposal. Any disposal/sale of Council land will be carried out in accordance with the Approval of Properties for Sale and Method of Sale Policy (P05-019).
- 5) Should the courts not be relocated, future development of Waiwhakaiho Park will be in accordance with the development concept including:
  - i. Creating sealed warm up areas
  - ii. Canopy over the four southern courts
  - iii. Pathway development along the western edge of the park as part of the Lets Go Waiwhakaiho upgrade project
  - iv. An extension to the pavilion is contemplated if the future owners wish to apply to the Council for approval as part of upgrading the building.
- 6) In August 2010 the Council resolved an intention to transfer Council owned buildings or part of buildings to the clubs that use or occupy them. For the pavilion at this park these discussions are on hold awaiting the outcome of further decisions regarding relocation.

- 7) Should the courts not be relocated, a lease will be established with Netball Taranaki for the office building they own and any other facility they choose and the Council approves to install i.e. the canopy over the courts.