

Open Space

Goal

To have parks and open spaces that provide abundant recreational opportunities; plus cultural, landscape and ecological protection and enhancement.

Description

The Council has an open space network that includes:

- sub-regional parks, neighbourhood reserves, sports fields, beaches, natural areas
- walking and cycling paths and linkages that support transportation goals
- marine facilities (wharves, jetties, boat ramps)
- the Mount Maunganui Beachside Holiday Park
- cemeteries and crematorium.

The network has amenities such as: playgrounds, public toilets, street trees, street gardens, park furniture, barbeques and skate parks.

Where we are now

The Council manages 1000 ha of open space – this includes parks, coastal areas and playing fields.

There are:

- 69 sportsfields
- 21 active reserves
- 74 playgrounds
- 34 public barbeques
- 41kms of walkways
- 2,034 street gardens
- 6 boat ramps.

Currently 79% of the urban population live within 400-500 metres of an open space area.

There is a total of 2.64 ha of open space per 1000 of population.

Land has been acquired (in anticipation) specifically for active reserves. Key active reserve land holdings are in Bethlehem (Parau and Smiths farms), Ohauti and Pyes Pa.

The TECT All Terrain Park is planned to be operational within the next three years (as an Active Rural Park) with the first stage of development programmed to be carried out in 2008.

WBOPDC and Tauranga City Council have jointly purchased the Huharua Harbour Park (at Plummers Point). Both Councils have adopted a Reserve Management Plan for this park. The site is currently being developed and it is anticipated that the park will be open to the public in 2008.

Park rangers provide a seven day a week service.

Currently 113 out of a total of 198 neighbourhood and other city parks (excluding active reserves) are covered by a reserve management plan.

A communications plan has been completed to actively promote the parks, open space and coastal areas of the City. Live to Play month in October each year is a significant event in the communications calendar.

The Council contributes funding to EBOP for Coast Care co-ordinators, plants and plan implementation.

The Council has an Encroachment Policy with a target of a minimum of 20 encroachment removals per annum.

Harbour Reserves Management Plan has been adopted.

Coastal Structures Policy adopted.

Council has obtained resource consent for the removal of mangroves from certain areas within the inner harbour.

Vegetation Management Strategy 'Growing Tauranga Green' adopted 2006. Council reviewed and adopted a Lead Vegetation and Tree Management Policy in 2007.

There are currently seven contracts for vegetation management. We have a disjointed and outdated spray policy.

Notable trees have been registered.

Walkway and cycleway signage is inadequate.

The Council charges no fees for the sporting and community use of its active reserves. Increasing maintenance and operational costs are being met through an increase in rate payer funding each year.

Mount Maunganui Beachside Holiday Park

Undergoing a progressive upgrade that has seen new and revamped amenity blocks and infrastructure as well as attending to deferred maintenance. This activity is managed by the Property team.

Marine Facilities

The wharf network is in a poor state of repair and the activity is being reviewed in order that all marine assets and activities are managed more effectively within the Property team.

Cemeteries and Crematorium

Provide the main cemetery at Pyes Pa with two cremators at this location. The operating surplus funds development needs of the activity and the maintenance of five other cemeteries in Tauranga. The activity is managed by the Property team.

Where we want to be

Coordinated and holistic approach from the three Councils (Tauranga City Council, WBOPDC & Environment Bay of Plenty) as to the future development and ongoing operation and management of sub-regional parks.

Agreed funding split for acquisition, development and operation of Regional and Sub-regional Parks.

Sub-regional parks have adopted management and implementation plans. Park Rangers all qualified rural fire fighters.

McLaren Falls Management Plan adopted and implementation commenced. International exchange and local volunteer programme established. Education Programmes implemented.

TECT All Terrain Park Manager and Park Ranger managing the development and operation of the TECT Park.

All reserves covered by Reserve Management Plans and reviewed on a 10 yearly basis.

A land acquisition plan prepared and implemented.

A review of the reserve level of service completed.

Maintenance Contract Strategy geographic or functional implemented.

No encroachment in coastal and harbour areas.

Mangroves removed as per the consent.

Partnerships with Coast Care and Estuary Groups enhanced.

Boardwalk coverage from Mauao all the way along Marine Parade.

Improved road to beach accessways between Papamoa Domain and Taylor

Road Reserve.

Coastal Structure Policy (Seawalls) implemented.

Sustained, successful weed management in coastal, harbour reserves and estuarine areas.

An approved and adopted management plan for Harbour Reserves Estuary.

Coastal structures consented and maintained to satisfactory standards as determined by resource consents and LoS.

Vegetation Management Strategy implemented.

City entrance and 200m section of state highway beautification upgrade implemented.

Minimum and maximum levels of service for street garden provision implemented.

Effective connectivity of the Walkway/Cycling Network is achieved.

An Active Reserve level of service of 1.7 hectares per 1000 people is provided.

Active Reserve Management Plan implemented.

Mount Maunganui Beachside Holiday Park

A successful profitable business that provides a good quality holiday experience for visitors while respecting the unique site that the business occupies.

Marine Facilities

Provide a basic level of service for wharves, jetties and boat ramps which is self funding.

Cemeteries and Crematorium

Continues to be a self funding activity which provides a regular reliable service and receives excellent customer feedback.

How we are going to get there

Parks - Sub-regional

- Tauranga City Council, WBOPDC and Environment Bay of Plenty

continue to meet and agree on future management processes and way forward including consideration of acquisition, funding, ownership, governance, management and development of sub-regional parks.

- Continue to review and implement the sub-regional parks policy with WBOPDC.
- Complete management and implementation plans for all purchased parks.
- Complete education programmes and training for Park Rangers.
- Set up systems for volunteer groups including recognition, clear objectives, leadership and co-ordination.
- Implement the communications plan.

Parks - City

- Continue to develop Reserve Management Plans (and implementation plans) for all reserves.
- Develop and implement the land acquisition plan to meet the required level of service.
- Implement the Communications Plan, to promote the City's parks, open space and coastal areas to the community.
- Invest resources in our existing neighbourhood, passive and coastal reserves to meet the needs of local communities.
- Reserve encroachments are recorded.
- Contract strategy implemented.

Coastal and Harbours

- Become more active in the implementation of the Councils Encroachment Policy.
- Work with Coast Care to educate the community on the need for safe access and the negative impacts of private encroachment.
- Work with and assist in the development of Harbour Catchment Care Groups.
- Present coastal structure options to Council.
- Comply with the mangrove removal consent when the community wish to embark on community removal projects.
- Ensure adequate understanding of the Vegetation Management Strategy and develop appropriate programmes for implementation; initiate relationship development with strategy partners.
- Continue support to Coast Care operations.
- Install boardwalk along Marine Parade.
- Improve road to beach accessways between Papamoa Domain and Taylors Road Reserve.
- Work with EBOP and other stakeholders to provide estuary management strategies using a structure similar to the Coast Care Programme for wetland areas on TCC land.
- Coastal Structures included in Asset Management Plan with appropriate levels of funding.
- Ensure adequate training and understanding of the Beach Bylaw.
- Include the Harbour Reserves Management Plan in the 09/19 LTCCP and implement accordingly.

Vegetation

- Implement levels of service for street garden and street tree provision
- Introduce whole road corridor design principles, including the principle that street trees and other vegetation should be factored into the whole road corridor.
- Complete issues, options and policy review for the use of chemicals.
- Develop the Memorial Park Vegetation Management Plan
- Contribute to the development of the Joint WBOPDC/TCC Code of Practice.

Walking and Cycling

- Implement the Open Space parts of the Walking and Cycling component of the Integrated Transport Strategy.
- Prioritise future links and continue implementation identified in the Strategy
- Purchase land required for future links identified in the strategy
- Complete condition rating survey of existing walkway network based on NZ Walkway Standards
- Identify required LoS (in conjunction with SBOP Walking Co-ordinators) and maintain them.

Active Reserves

- Focus for first 10 years on redevelopment/enhancement of existing and in use active reserves.
- Development of land purchased (and yet to be purchased) for active reserves will occur between 2014 and 2040.
- Purchase of additional land in Papamoa East Stage I and Stage II.
- Review 1.7ha/1,000 population level of service.

Mount Maunganui Beachside Holiday Park

- In depth business plan produced.
- Three year plan to upgrade infrastructure and facilities.
- Work in with the proposed changes to the hot pools.
- Work with the wide group of interested parties.

Marine Facilities

- Business model prepared that sets out the future for this activity .
- Develop the boat storage at Sulphur point.
- Cluster the Council activities at Sulphur Point into one Marine activity.
- Review the opportunity for boat ramp charges and other sources of revenue to fund this activity.

Cemeteries and Crematorium

- Review the business model to make sure it is sustainable in the market.
- Develop lineages with Western Bay District Council for regional facilities.
- Continue to provide a reliable service and maintain a high level of customer satisfaction.
- Continue maintenance and development of the Pyes Pa cemetery and commission a new cemetery in the region to accommodate the long-term needs of the sub-region.

