



Rangitikei
UNspoilt...

2010

Recreational Parks and Reserves Management Plan

F E M A

Adopted: 25 March 2010 (10/RDC/085)

Part One: District-wide Legislative and Policy Framework

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Introduction

Local authorities are obliged to develop Reserve Management Plans for the recreational reserves that it administers under the Reserves Act 1977. Rangitikei District Council has undertaken to also develop management plans for all its recreational parks.

The management plan has been prepared to enable the Rangitikei District Council to establish the desired mix of uses for its recreational parks and reserves and to guide day-to-day management.

Determining community preferences and establishing the best means to provide for them are essential ingredients of good management planning. The management plan will provide the community with certainty about the function and future management of its recreational parks and reserves.

The management plan will contain a mix of classified recreation reserves and recreation parks. It is presented in two parts:

Part One applies to all recreational parks and reserves in the Rangitikei District. It outlines the legislative framework, relevant Council policies and plans and general management objectives and policies covering all Council-owned and administered recreational parks and reserves in the Rangitikei. The Reserves Act 1977 and Council's Reserve Policy apply only to classified reserves.

Part Two comprises sections applicable to individual recreational parks and reserves. As Council develops specific plans for each recreational park and reserve, new sections will be included into Part Two.

Review

The management plan will be subject to continuous review as outlined in section 41(4) of the Reserves Act 1977.

Definitions

Council: means the Rangitikei District Council
Park: refers to a recreational park
Reserve: refers to a classified recreational reserves under the Reserves Act 1977

Legislation and Policy specific to Reserves

The following documents are only relevant to classified recreational reserves.

The Reserves Act 1977

The Reserves Act 1977 is the principal piece of legislation that governs the management and development of reserves.

Section 17 of the Reserves Act 1977 states that recreation reserves are to be managed primarily for the purpose of:

providing areas for the recreation and sporting activities and the physical welfare and enjoyment of the public, and for the protection of the natural environment and beauty of the countryside, with emphasis on the retention of open spaces and on outdoor recreational activities, including recreational tracks in the countryside.

Section 17 also outlines the management principles by which a recreation reserve must be administered and maintained. These are:

- Generally, the public shall have free access
- Scenic, historic, archaeological, or other features present on the reserve (if at all), or indigenous flora or fauna (if any), must be managed and protected
- Those qualities of the reserve which contribute to the pleasantness, harmony, and cohesion of the natural environment and to the better use and enjoyment of the reserve shall be conserved
- Its value as a soil, water, and forest conservation area shall be maintained

Reserves Policy (PR1 of the Policy Manual)

This policy broadly outlines Council role in administering its reserves, in line with the objectives of the Reserve Act 1977:

- to emphasise retention of open space for outdoor recreation
- maximise freedom of access to reserves for all people rather than a few
- encourage multiple use of reserve land and facilities when feasible and appropriate
- facilitate greater involvement of the public in reserve administration and decision-making.

The Policy states that Council will be responsible for the management of all reserves, in accordance with the applicable Reserve Management Plan.

1 Reserve Management

Where no Reserve Management Plan is currently in place, management of the reserve shall have regard for the purposes as stated in the Reserves Policy. Where there is a demonstrated need for a separate governance arrangement, Council may, following the procedures below, form a Reserve Management Committee to be delegated responsibility for the management of a particular reserve or reserves.

2 Rights of public access

The public has a right to access all reserves administered by Council and it encourages public use through a variety of means.

The Council may, from time to time, limit access to any reserve under its administration for the protection of public safety and well-being, or in accordance with exclusive rights of access granted under a lease or licence to occupy to the lessee or licensee, or in respect of its powers under S53 of the Reserves Act 1977. Council may limit what animals may be brought onto a reserve, whether by the public or by any lease- or licence-holder. These restrictions will have regard for public safety, conservation values, and the management of the reserve.

3 Leases and licence to occupy

A lease is preferred where any or all of the following apply:

- The arrangement is to be long term (no less than 5 years);
- The lessee intends to operate the reserve for commercial gain;
- The Council desires to protect Council-owned improvements or assets located on the reserve;
- The Council desires to ensure the District's reputation is not brought into disrepute as a result of reserve mismanagement;
- If any of the above criteria are not present, or the cost of preparing a lease outweighs the lease rental, Council may negotiate a licence to occupy in lieu of a lease.

Council will not pay or otherwise compensate any occupier of reserves land for improvements to reserves remaining upon the termination of a lease or licence to occupy, unless agreed prior to the improvement being made. Where compensation is to be given, a methodology for assessing the compensation must be part of the lease or licence, or a variation to the lease or licence.

Legislation and Policy applicable across recreational parks and reserves:

The following documents apply to all Council owned recreational parks and reserves.

Promotion of Recreation Policy (CD6 of the Policy Manual)

This policy implies that the Council provides facilities to a certain level of service but has an expectation that anything over and above what Council provides is the responsibility of the code concerned. The principle appears to be that where the benefit is enjoyed by a fewer number, the responsibility rests with that group. Where there is wide community benefit, maintenance of Council facilities rests with the Council.

Leisure Plan

The Leisure Plan recognises the problems faced by the District due to the geographical isolation of the towns.

The Leisure Plan advocates co-location and shared facilities replacing dispersed and duplicated provision as one of six planning principles for the Council in guiding facility developments. In its more detailed consideration, the Leisure Plan proposes a single venue (agreed by the respective town consultative committees) for provision of facilities for each of Bulls, Marton, Hunterville and Taihape.

Bylaws

As public places, Council's Recreational parks and reserves are subject to controls outlined in the following bylaws:

- Control of Skateboarding Bylaw 2005
- Public Places Bylaw 2007
- Trading in Public Places Bylaw 2007
- Control of Advertising Signage Bylaw 2007
- Control of Dogs Bylaw 2005
- Liquor Control Bylaw 2005

The Long Term Council Community Plan 2009-19

The LTCCP outlines a review of leisure and community assets which will "aim to provide a full range of recreational parks and reserves that meet the needs of the population. It will work to maintain the range and quality of playing surfaces and facilities that meet the range of sporting codes".

Council will work with community boards, community committees and Te Roopu Ahi Kaa to review current community and leisure assets with the intention to achieve best fit for purpose in each community, and identify those which may be surplus or underutilised.

Ends Statements

Council's Ends statements detail the overall objective or end result that Council is aiming to achieve. Statements of particular relevance are:

1. The special character of the Rangitikei District is protected
4. Central and local government services meet community needs.
5. Residents and visitors have a safe environment.
7. There is a pleasant environment.
9. Efforts of residents and community groups to help themselves are supported

Management Objectives and Policies:

There are two overarching objectives and four general policies that describe how Council will manage its recreational parks and reserves in the future.

Objectives

1. To promote and encourage the use of Council's recreational parks and reserves for a range of recreational activities.
2. To identify and protect the unique characteristics of each of Council recreational parks and reserves and to enhance the recreational amenities.

Policies

1. The Council will encourage community participation in the planning, development, management and maintenance of Council recreational parks and reserves.

Rationale:

Community support is essential to the management and development of its recreational parks and reserves. Council will aim to manage the reserve in partnership with the local community.

Implementation:

Council will work towards a management structure which enables maximum ownership of its recreational parks and reserves and associated facilities by the community.

2. To maintain and develop recreational facilities at Council recreational parks and reserves in close consultation with the local community to enhance the recreational values and opportunities.

Rationale:

Community support is more likely to be forthcoming if Council works with local communities to develop and maintain facilities at Council's recreational parks and reserves that meet their needs.

Implementation:

Any developments at Council recreational parks and reserves will be consulted upon with the community.

3. To encourage maximum use of Council recreational parks and reserves by a range of different groups.

Rationale:

Good day-to-day operational management of appropriate recreational and leisure facilities has the potential to greatly increase the number of activities and events at Council recreational parks and reserves.

Implementation:

Council practice around the day-to-day operational management of the park and facilities will ensure that conflicting demands are managed and that use is maximised.

This may mean, for example:

- Balancing the demand from certain groups for exclusive use and ticketed events with the right of public access
- Restricting vehicle access onto the fields without preventing pedestrian access

4. To ensure as far as practical, the safety of users at Council's recreational parks and reserves.

Rationale:

It is important that users feel safe when using the facilities at Council's recreational parks and reserves. Council has its own procedures, but must also rely on users of the facilities to act appropriately in circumstances which involve Health and Safety, for example, to supervise their children whilst using play equipment etc.

Implementation:

Council will ensure that regular inspections and remedial work are undertaken effectively and will comply with all requirements for signage and safety etc.

Council will undertake an appropriate monitoring and surveillance regime, and will work with the community and Police to contain any vandalism or anti-social use of the assets, for example to use Crime Prevention through Environmental Design (CPTED) to enhance safety at all recreational parks.