



Rangitikei
UNSPOILT...

2016

Marton Park Management Plan: Part 2



Adopted: XXXXXXXXXX

Part Two: Legislative and Policy Framework specific to Marton Park

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Introduction and background

Introduction

This is a management plan for Marton Park, a vibrant and popular park located near the centre of Marton. Comprising of mature trees, sports fields, gardens, a pavilion and numerous memorials, Marton Park provides for both formal and casual recreational opportunities, and commemorative purposes.

Location of Marton Park

Marton Park is located off Follett Street, to the west of the Marton town centre. However, it can also be accessed from Oxford and Maunder Streets and through a walkway to Broadway. Marton Park is surrounded by a mixture of commercial and residential areas.

Topography

The rugby fields are located on the south of the Park, accessed directly from Follett Street. The rugby fields are flat and the surface of the fields is in fair condition. The site has a rise to the north-west of the park which contains gardens, mature trees, seating, paths and numerous memorials. The pavilion is located in the centre of the Park overlooking the main rugby field.

Purpose

The Marton Park Management Plan provides a policy framework for the future development of Marton Park.

Tangata Whenua

The principles of the Treaty of Waitangi are also relevant to reserve management and development. The Council will undertake consultation with local iwi and hapu in accordance with its Memorandum of Understanding Tutohinga with its iwi liaison komiti, Te Roopu Ahi Kaa.

Recreational Amenities

Marton Park contains the following recreational amenities:

- Playing fields
- Pavilion
- Rugby Clubrooms
- Small maintenance shed
- Gardens
- Memorials
- Seating

Legal Framework

Marton Park is located within Rangitikei District and overall management and administration of the park is the responsibility of Council. The Park is not classified as Recreation Reserve, but conforms to the requirements of a recreation and historic reserve management plan¹. Table 1 provides the legal description of the parcels of land that comprise Marton Park.

Table 1. *Legal Description of Marton Park*

Land title reference	Area	Description
CFR WN63/124	1.9273 hectares	Part Section 17 Rangitikei Agricultural Reserve and Lot 4 DP 15619.
CFR WN63/124	1.9273 hectares	Part Section 17 Rangitikei Agricultural Reserve.

The District Plan

Marton Park is zoned residential and is also listed as a heritage area (H54). The whole park is covered by the heritage listing, including the layout of the grounds, paths, plants, fences and plating arrangements. The listing does not include the rugby clubrooms or the shed on the western boundary of the Park. The heritage listing means that repair and maintenance of the existing assets of Marton Park can be completed as required, however any future alterations require resource consent. The resource consent process will ensure the proposed alterations are not likely to have a negative impact, and will contribute positively to the heritage features of Marton Park. Consultation with Heritage New Zealand may be an important part of this process.

There are also a number of notable trees, specifically English Oak protected under the District Plan. The notable tree listing means that removal of the trees requires resource consent,

¹ Council has previously agreed that it will prepare Management Plans for all its recreational parks and reserves within the framework prescribed by the Reserves Act 1977 (10/RDC/085 Adoption of Recreational Parks and Reserves Management Plan Part 1)

unless there is a danger to human life, or the health of the tree has declined to a state where there is no reasonable remedy to restore tree health’.

The playing fields at the southern end of Marton Park are affected by a flooding hazard. The flooding hazard will have no impact on future development, unless buildings are proposed to be constructed.

Bylaws

Control of Dogs Bylaw: Under the bylaw dogs must be on a lead at all times in the Park. Dogs must stay off the playing fields at all times.

Liquor Control Bylaw: Marton Park is a liquor controlled area in the Council’s Liquor Control Bylaw. In a liquor controlled areas nobody is allowed to consume, bring or possess liquor unless in a licensed premises.

Existing Leases/ Licences

There is current a leases over the land on the south-east corner of Marton Park for the Marton Rugby Clubrooms and a licence to occupy for Follett Street Kindergarten.

History of the Park

A full history of Marton Park is provided in the heritage registration report ([Appendix 1](#)). This section provides a summary of this information

Park Establishment

Marton Park was established in response to residents’ desire to establish a public park. A group of residents formed The Marton Park Company following a public meeting in 1893, with capital of £700.

The Marton Park Company purchased ‘Shannon’s Paddock’, a 3.801 hectare portion of land that had been surveyed for subdivision in 1887. The Company purchased the land to convert it to a public park, which was then planned to be sold to the Marton Borough Council within seven years. The Company needed to borrow an additional £200 to finance the works.

The Marton Park Company provided the park free of charge to local societies for sports days, while other users and events were charged, with profits used for the upkeep of the grounds. The Company also reduced costs by requesting that rates were no longer charged on the land.

The Marton Park Company sold Marton Park to the Marton Borough Council for £700 in 1895, with the land formally transferred on 4 May 1896. The Council funded further improvements to the Park, including the completion of a pavilion, donated by R.E Beckett, and a band rotunda. The pavilion was initially constructed in the 1880s, however, was replaced with the current grandstand in 1930. The band rotunda was used regularly over many years, but was removed during World War II.

Initially Council was criticised for the management of Marton Park. The Council had planned on running the park at a profit, however, between 1900 and 1907 the park ran at a loss of £557. In response to criticism Council undertook extensive permanent works, including the construction of the post and rail fences.

Sport and Recreation

Marton Park has always provided for both sporting and recreational uses. It was the main sporting ground until 1940 when Centennial Park was formed. Rugby games have been held at the Park since the 1890s, while cricket, athletics, hockey, cycling, tennis, marching, show jumping and quoits have also been Marton Park users. In 1971 the national cycling championships were held at the Park. A wide range of recreational activities have also occurred at Marton Park including; carnivals, parades, A&P shows and community celebrations.

Commemoration

Marton Park has a long history of public commemoration. The first memorial was a tree planted by Mayoress S.J. Humphrey in 1897 to commemorate Queen Victoria's jubilee. The next memorial was a tree planted by Mayoress J.J. McDonald. This memorial commemorated the coronation of King Edward VII on 9 August 1902. Following the end of the South African War, a memorial was erected to commemorate trooper George Hyde, who lost his life in the war. The memorial is also used as the commemoration of King Edward VII's coronation, who was crowned only three months after the war ended and to note the end of the South African War. The memorial is a concrete plinth and iron stand, inscribed on three sides.

A second war memorial, entitled 'The Glorious Dead' was erected following World War I and was unveiled on 25 April 1922. The memorial is a tribute to the soldiers from throughout the District that served in World War 1. The names of the 86 men who fought and were killed in the war are listed on the memorial, which also contains an inscription, which notes it was '*Erected by the people of the Marton District in grateful memory of the men who fell in the Great War*'.

The tradition of Mayoress' planting commemorative trees continued. In 1929, Mayoress, F. Purnell planted a tree and placed a plaque under the tree to commemorate Marton's fiftieth jubilee celebrations. Mayoress A. Meads planted a further tree to celebrate the seventy fifth jubilee in 1954. In 1990 the women's section of the RSA planted a tree to memorialise the ANZAC troops that landed in Gallipoli on 25 April 1915.

Beautification

During the early years of its establishment the Marton Scenery Preservation and Beautifying Society played a large role on improving the appearance of Marton Park. The Society contributed to planting and maintenance of the Park. In 1913 The Rangitikei Advocate reported that the Marton Borough Council has given control over Marton Park to the Society. However, by 1921 the Society had folded and management had reverted back to the Council.

Tree planted continued into the 1920s, particularly native trees that were donated from Councils from other parts of New Zealand and Duncan and Davies, a nursery in New Plymouth.

A range of further developments occurred at Marton Park throughout the years, a children's playground was constructed in 1931 (now demolished), lighting was installed in 1927 for evening sports, and a picnic area with toadstools was established in 1963. The Rugby Clubrooms were constructed in 1971, following permission sought from the Council from the Marton Old Boys Rugby Football Club.

The management of Marton Park has been subject to significant criticism over the years. These controversial decisions include the construction of the rugby clubrooms, the removal of a hedge that bordered Follett Street, and the removal of the post and rail fences inside of the ground. A petition with 800 signatures was raised which delayed the removal of the hedge. However, when finally removed, debate surrounded what type of fence should be constructed as a replacement. The post and rail fences inside the ground remain today.

Current Users

Marton Park is still well used today by a range of groups including:

- *Sporting activities*, both formal and informal – rugby, boot camps, Samoan community (volleyball, rugby), Tai Chi, exercise, school sporting events, marching.
- *Public events* – RSA ANZAC Commemorations, Christmas Parade, Jaycees lolly scramble, carol singing, Market Day, Car Club Rally/Targa Rally, Harvest Festival.
- *Recreation* – public enjoyment, dog walkers, family groups, wedding photos, tangata whenua, Samoan Community, youth meeting space, picnics, lunches.
- *Connections* – Edale residents, Marton residents, Motor Caravan Association.

Consultation

During the development of the Marton Park Management Plan a range of consultation was undertaken. Expressions of interest were open for two months for residents to submit their ideas. A workshop was then held with the community to examine community interests for Marton Park further. Following this process the Marton Park Management Plan was drafted and released for public consultation for a further two months. Council considered the submissions received and adopted the Plan.

Current Values

A workshop held on 29 June 2016 asked participants to identify that they valued about Marton Park and wanted to keep the same. The responses have been categorised and are discussed below.

Horticultural qualities

Strong support was shown for the existing trees and gardens. More generally the community identified the open space nature of Marton Park as important, as well as the tranquillity that the green spaces provide.

Sporting and recreation qualities

The use of the park for organised sports, particularly rugby featured as a key activity the community members wanted to remain the same, as well as ensuring Marton Park remains available for other recreational users and events. Marton Park is also important for many events including the Harvest Festival, Market Day and the Christmas Parade. The current mix of uses was considered to be complementary. Marton Park was identified as an important community hub.

Historic connection

The historic elements of Marton Park were identified as important, including the pavilion, cenotaph, memorials and overall historic values.

Facilities

The easy access for Marton Park from a range of entrance points was identified as a key feature which enable a range of uses. The walkways and paths are complementary to these access points in ensuring the connections between the Park, the community and the town centre.

Future Development

The feedback received about future development of Marton Park fits into three categories discussed below, maintenance, projects, and events.

Maintenance

Minor maintenance of Marton Park was identified as important including improving the Oxford Street entrance, painting of fences, refurbishment of the memorial plaques, maintenance of gardens and existing furniture, planting of native trees, maintenance of pathways and maintenance of the field.

Improvements/Projects

There were a wide range of improvements/projects suggested outlined below.

- *Public toilets* – the most common request was for public toilets. There are currently no public toilets at Marton Park. Given the high use of the Park, the lack of toilets has been raised as an issue that is highly problematic, particularly for the local businesses in the surrounding area who have been negatively affected.

- *Pavilion redevelopment* - a further major project is the development of the pavilion. There were a number of suggestions raised for the incorporation of a stage and other amendments to seating.
- *Seating* – a number of community members suggested increased seating would be beneficial for both the picnic area to the north of Marton Park, as well as, around the rugby fields.
- *Recreational facilities* – drinking fountain, walking track around the outside of the Park, fitness circuit, BBQ area, dog exercise area, wifi, Tui Trail, playground,
- *Lighting* – security, along the paths, to highlight commemorative trees.
- *Signage* – on trees, events, regulatory information, historic.
- *Art* – artistic entrances, sculptures.

Events

A range of events currently occur at Marton Park. Some community members were keen to see the number of events increased, specifically for outdoor movies, outdoor art competitions and an increased number of ANZAC related events.

Strategic Context

The strategic context for the development of the Marton Park Management Plan is set out in both the Recreational Parks and Management Plan: Part One and the Historic Reserves Management Plan: Part One. While Marton Park is not technically a recreational or historic reserve, Council decided reserve management plans should be created for all Council-owned parks. Given the use of Marton Park for recreational purposes and the heritage listing, it is useful to consider both the Recreational and Historic Reserves Management Plans.

The objectives for recreational parks are:

- 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's recreational parks and reserve and to enhance the recreational amenities.

The objectives for historic reserves are:

- 1 To promote and encourage the use of Council's historic reserves for a range of activities that do not conflict with the reserves' main purpose as defined in the Reserves Act 1977.
- 2 To identify and protect the unique characteristics of each of Council's historic reserves and to enhance the historic heritage amenities, sites, structures, places and areas where appropriate.

The Marton Park Management Plan is consistent with these objectives.

Specific Objectives for Marton Park

To supplement the objectives from the Recreational Parks and Historic Reserves Management Plans, a number of objectives specific to Marton Park have been developed to guide future management.

Maintain and enhance the heritage and open space characteristics of Marton Park when implementing projects

Explanation

The community values the heritage and open space characteristics of Marton Park, including the memorials, the ability to see from one side of the park to the other, as well as the wide range of trees and gardens. Any future developments within Marton Park should consider how they interact, complement or detract from these features.

Protect and enhance Marton Park as a space that enhances community connections through a number of entrances and pathways.

Explanation

Marton Park has numerous entrances, from Follett Street, Oxford Street, Maunder Street and Wellington Road. These access points and the paths that connect them are important for providing links for residents and visitors to the park, but also to the Marton town centre, particularly for Edale residents and visitors using the Motor Caravan Association site on Oxford Street.

Continue to enable Marton Park to be used for a complementary mix of events, sports and recreation opportunities.

Explanation

Marton Park is currently well used for a wide range of activities that are complementary; rugby, boot camps, informal recreation by the Samoan community, youth, events and passive recreation. All of these uses are complementary because they occur at different times or use different facilities. Additional uses at Marton Park need to be complementary to the existing uses.

Appendix 1 – Marton Park Heritage Registration Report

Action Plan for Marton Park Management Plan

Document and Policy	Action to implement	By Whom	Cost
Recreation Part One: Policy 1 Historic Part One: Policy 1 To encourage community participation in the planning, development, management and maintenance of Council parks and reserves.	Establish and facilitate a Marton Park Group to progressively develop Marton Park in accordance with the objectives for Marton Park.	Council – Community and Regulatory Services Group Community	Staff time
Recreation Part One: Policy 2 Historic Part One: Policy 2 To maintain and develop recreational facilities at Council parks and reserves in close consultation with the local community to enhance the recreational and heritage values and opportunities.	Support community-led maintenance, projects and events that are consistent with the objectives for Marton Park and undertake Council-funded projects as budgets permit: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Toilet facilities • Pavilion development/refurbishment • Seating • Recreational facilities – BBQ area, drinking fountain, walking track, fitness circuit, wifi, dog exercise area. • Lighting • Signage • Art • New events • Garden maintenance • Painting of fences • Field maintenance • Refurbishment of memorial plaques 	Council - Community and Regulatory Services Group Community Groups	Staff time TCB
Recreation Part One: Policy 3 Historic Part One: Policy 3 To encourage maximum use of Council parks and historic reserves by a range of different groups.	Enable a range of users to access Marton Park, provided they are complementary to existing uses and with the objectives for Marton Park.	Council - Community and Regulatory Services Group	Staff time

Recreation Part One: Policy 4 Historic Part One: Policy 4 To ensure as far as practical, the safety of users at Council's recreational parks and reserves.	Carry out a health and safety assessment when planning new projects.	Council - Community and Regulatory Services Group	Staff time
	Consider Crime Prevention through Environmental Design principles when planning new projects.	Council - Community and Regulatory Services Group Community Police	Staff time
Historic Part One: Policy 5 To preserve the reserves' unique physical, historic, traditional and cultural values whilst providing for managed public access, amenity value, education and recreation.	Avoid adverse impacts on the historic features and character of Marton Park when developing projects. Co-ordinate projects to ensure they do not adversely affect the historic features and character of Marton Park.	Council - Community and Regulatory Services Group Community	Nil

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