



Rangitikei
UNSPOILT...

2014

Centennial Park Management Plan: Part 2



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Part Two: Legislative and Policy Framework specific to Centennial Park, Marton

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Introduction and background

Introduction

This is a management plan for Centennial Park, a vibrant and popular park located near the centre of Marton. Comprising both sports fields and gardens, Centennial Park provides for formal and casual recreational opportunities.

The two main issues for Centennial Park are,

- to promote and encourage the use of Centennial Park for a range of recreation activities and
- to develop a sustainable plan for the Centennial Park Pavilion and other built facilities at the Park.

This Recreational Park Management Plan outlines a vision for the future of Centennial Park.

Location of Centennial Park

Centennial Park is located on Broadway close to the centre of Marton. It is almost surrounded by a mixture of commercial and residential areas with a small section of farmland to the north-east. The Tutaenui Stream provides the boundary down the east side of the park.

Topography

The playing fields are mostly flat and the surface of the fields is in fair condition. The boundary edge provided by the Tutaenui Stream is part of the old stream bed and is liable to flooding.

Purpose

This plan provides a policy framework for the development of Centennial Park, Marton. It provides the necessary authority for the specific policies and action plan contained as part of this Management Plan.

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

Centennial Park contains the following recreational amenities:

- Playing fields (one and two)
- Cricket wicket and practice nets
- Artificial surface with hockey pitch and four tennis courts
- 6 netball courts
- Youth Club and associated gardens
- Shed and other maintenance buildings
- Skate park
- Rose Garden (with some memorial features)
- Car parking area off Totara Street
- Pavilion with toilets and changing rooms, kitchenette, social area, bar, club rooms

History of the Park

In 1938, the New Zealand Centennial Exhibition Committee was set up, with regional sub-committees. The Wellington Provincial Court sub-committee levied all boroughs within its area with the idea being that all towns would display advertising and exhibit local manufacturing products. Marton Borough Council was levied £209 based on its population of 2,737. On the 6th February 1938, the Town Clerk wrote to the Town Clerk at Feilding that:

"I am directed to inform you that the Marton Borough Council has arranged the purchase of approximately 6 ½ acres¹, adjoining the business and residential area of the Borough of Marton for a Centennial Park. The cost, including survey and transfer fees will be £1,600, and provision for tree planting will amount to £400, making a minimum total of £2,000."

The money was raised by way of Government subsidy (£755), proceeds from a Baby Carnival (£358), donations (£308) and a contribution from Marton Borough Council (£600). The Baby Carnival took place on 6th May 1939 (and was won by Brian Gracie). The land was ploughed and fenced and tree planting commenced and the Marton Centennial Celebrations took place between 16th and 19th February 1940. The war effort put further development on hold until 1946. Sports Carnivals were held in 1946, 1947 and 1948 and raised approximately \$8,000. Much of this was spent on Centennial Park and the balance was used to purchase grounds for Marton District Hospital.

It is not clear exactly when the sports grounds were established. However, it is known that the Tennis Club sold their land to Wanganui Education Board for the future erection of Rangitikei College and built their tennis courts and pavilion in Centennial Park.

¹ The land purchased had been known as Thurston's Paddock and was bought from Mr John Hannan, the former owner of Marton Hotel. It was known as a stony piece of land that flooded.

It is also known that the Hockey Club Pavilion was extended in 1954 (and so presumably had been first erected sometime earlier), that netball were using the grounds from the 1950's and that junior sports of all these codes have "always used the grounds".

At this time the Suburbs Cricket Club pulled down the old Dalley Home in Cuba Street and extended the Hockey Pavilion, putting in toilets at each end, equipment sheds, two dressing rooms, a kitchen and a hall. The work was completed by Clem Calkin, a local builder and member of the Suburbs cricket team, with his staff and other members of the team. The building was plastered by Mr Charlie Hunt.

The entrance to the Park, in Broadway, was transformed into the Centennial Rose Garden by the Marton Jaycees over 14 months of voluntary work and opened in 1957. It was paid for by Mr H Sutcliffe in memory of his son and by generous donations of equipment from trades and businesses. Prior to this time it was an unsightly, weed-infested dumping area.

For a number of years, the Hockey and Cricket Club leased the grounds. Then in 1971, when the Pavilion needed re-roofing, the Council met the cost and cancelled the leases with the approval of both clubs.

In 1979 a Queen Carnival was held by the hockey, netball, tennis and cricket clubs to raise funds to build The Shelton Pavilion. The building was named after the long serving former Rangitikei MP Norman Shelton and designed by Gerry Guertjens. Over \$46,000 was raised from events, a Dudding Trust grant, \$10,000 from the Borough Council, and couple of small donations. Further grants from the Lotteries Commission and other sports clubs such as Marton Rugby, the Marton Swimming Club and the Rangitikei Rugby Sub Union made the project possible. It was built with a view to becoming a Marton sports club bringing together all sports. It was designed to suit all codes from a netball broadcasting corner to separate changing rooms for visiting teams. The building was opened on 2 May 1981. The cost was \$118,298. Further extensions were built in 1985.

The Marton Tennis Club officially folded after the floods in 2004 but had invested significant funds into a synthetic surface and lighting before its decline. Tennis had opted out of using the Shelton Pavilion some ten years or so after it was built saying it didn't suit them.

The Pavilion was administered by a committee comprising Rangitikei Hockey Association, Rangitikei Cricket Association and Marton Netball for decades. Over the years, the committee gradually dwindled and it was left to Felix Bell, of Marton Netball, who has been overseeing bookings for the past few years.

A skatepark was built by Marton Rotary Club for the youth of Marton in 2007. A section of the Park has been leased to Centennial Park Bowling Club who have built and maintained the bowling green and club rooms. The Bowling Club merged with Marton Bowling Club in early 2012 and the grounds reverted to Council. Council has since leased this area to the Marton Youth Centre and the facility has been well used since for youth activities and events.

So, Centennial Park’s sports field has been the home of all levels of hockey, netball, cricket and tennis over the last sixty-five years. The park grounds are still well used by casual users including schools. The pavilion itself is a very versatile community space and is well used by a diverse range of groups. Current users groups include:

- Town residents who enjoy and use the park on a regular basis
- South Rangitikei Schools Cluster
- Turakina Maori Girls School
- Sporting clubs based at or using the park (netball, cricket, hockey)

Since 2009, the Council has been explicit that it expects to reduce the number of community and leisure assets that it manages and maintains over the next ten years or so. It will do this in consultation with local communities. In the 2012 Long Term Plan, Council outlined its default position that the Shelton Pavilion will not be able to rely upon ratepayer funding to renew the building beyond 2017.

Legal Framework

The Centennial Park is located within Rangitikei District and overall management and administration of the park and reserve is the responsibility of the Council. Only a small part of the overall park is classified as Recreation Reserve but 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). Therefore, this Centennial Park Management Plan conforms to the requirements of the Plan that is required to cover the area that is prescribed a Recreation Reserve.

Table 1 provides the legal description of the parcels of land that comprise Centennial Park and their reserve classification.

Land title reference	Area	Description	Comment
CFR WN968/70	2018m ²	Lot 2 DP 17825 (fee simple)	Totara Street Carpark
CFR WN563/248			Broadway, Part of Rose Garden
CFR WN481/21	2.6608ha	Lot 1 DP 11958	Broadway (Park proper)
CFR WN485/206	607m ²	Part Section 18 Rangitikei Agricultural Reserve	Broadway, Part of Rose Garden
CFR WN6D/933	1922 m ²	Section 427, Rangitikei District Recreation Reserve (Gazette Notice 1967 page 1451)	South Eastern corner (formerly Tutaenui Stream bed)

The District Plan

For development purposes the area around Centennial Park is zoned commercial and residential. There are no current or proposed listings of notable trees or significant buildings at Centennial Park. There is a water bore designation in the car park area on Totara Street.

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 and children's play area at all times.

Liquor Control Bylaw: Centennial 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 are no current leases over any of the land or property on Centennial Park.

Specific Policies for Centennial Park

Particularly in relation to Part One: Policies 1 and 2, the Council will work closely with the Marton community to implement progressive developments at the Park to meet the needs of today, bearing in mind the needs of future generations.

Explanation

During the pre-consultation over the 2012-22 Long Term Plan, it was suggested that Council should take a presumption against renewing any community and leisure facilities until a full review of use and the potential to relocate or combine activities was undertaken. The Pavilion at Centennial Park is due for a major renewal in 2017 and so the draft Long Term Plan clearly stated, as a key choice, that no further Council funding would be put in to refurbishing the facility^{2 3}.

Council needs to find an affordable solution for the Marton town and district ratepayers that will maximise the recreational amenity of the Park.

A series of public meetings convened by the Council and local interested parties has concluded that:

- Centennial Park Pavilion is valued by the community as the recreation 'heart' of Marton. It is important to maintain and develop a multi-sport facility at, or very near to, Centennial Park;
- A steering group should be established with invited representatives from:

² 2012-22 Draft LTP page 54

³ 2012-22 LTP, page 89

- Marton Jaycees
- Marton Netball
- Marton Soccer
- Marton Youth Centre
- Nga Tawa Diocesan School
- Rangitikei Cricket Association
- Rangitikei College
- Rangitikei District Council
- Rangitikei Hockey Association
- Rangitikei Tri Club
- South Rangitikei Cluster Schools
- Sport Wanganui
- Turakina Maori Girls College

The steering group has been meeting since October 2012 and has established that there is a group of sports clubs that are willing to take a more active role in managing the park and associated facilities. In the first instance an arrangement is being negotiated between Council and Saracen's Cricket Association to manage the Shelton Pavilion until June 2017.

The steering group has also established that the Pavilion is basically fit-for-purpose as a community centre and club rooms. It requires refurbishment and renewal but not a major redevelopment. The details of this work are outlined in the attached Action Plan. The steering group will continue to meet as a management group, convened by Council, and chaired by Saracen's Cricket Association, with the following Terms of Reference:

- 1 To support the Council and Saracen's Cricket Association to manage the park and associated facilities to meet the policy objectives of the Recreational Parks and Reserves Management Plan, Part 1:
 - encourage community participation in the planning, development, management and maintenance of Centennial Park
 - maintain and develop recreational facilities at Centennial Park in close consultation with the local community to enhance the recreational values and opportunities
 - encourage maximum use of Centennial Park by a range of different groups
 - ensure as far as practical, the safety of users at Centennial Park
- 2 To evaluate options for the best ownership and management mechanism for the Shelton Pavilion from 2017, including if necessary the associated facilities at Centennial Park, and to make recommendations to Council for consideration through its planning processes
- 3 To meet at least quarterly and to receive and consider reports from the Council and Saracen's Cricket Association

Action Table for Centennial Park Management Plan

Document and Policy	Action to implement	By Whom	Cost
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 values and opportunities.	Refurbishment and renewal of the Shelton Pavilion, and in addition: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Replace doors and windows • Reconfigure access to toilets • Refit kitchenette facilities • Insulate building • Carpet • Painting throughout 	Community and Regulatory Services Group	\$40,000 (included in Annual Plan 2014/15)
	Fundraise for additional funds to complete refurbishment	Community and Regulatory Services Group	Staff time
Part One: Policy 3 To encourage maximum use of Council parks and reserves by a range of different groups.	Review the leasing agreements with Saracen's Cricket.	Community and Regulatory Services Group	Staff time
	Develop management arrangements from 2017 onwards.	Community and Regulatory Services Group	Staff time