

Executive Summary

The Hauraki District Council manages a large area of public land that includes approximately 310 hectares of reserves. The retention and management of reserves provides significantly towards the vibrancy of the community; recreational pursuits; economic strength and enjoyment; and protection of the environment for both current and future generations.

Determining community preferences regarding to reserves, and establishing the best methods to provide for them are essential ingredients for good planning. The preparation of a District Reserve Management Plan allows Council, together with the community, to establish the desired mix of uses and values for each reserve, and set in place consistent policy to guide their day to day management, as well as their long term development. This Plan covers all of Council's reserves, including those administered under the Reserves Act 1977.

This District Reserve Management Plan is a community document. It will provide the community with certainty about the function and management of each reserve. Having an adopted Plan means that Minister of Conservation's consent and public notification are not required for routine matters.

Reserve Management Plans are guided by the statutory requirements of the Reserves Act 1977. The Reserves Act requires the development of Reserve Management Plans and a formal planning process for the management of public reserves in New Zealand.

This plan establishes clearly defined objectives that are compatible with the Act's requirements, community interests, and the character and qualities of each reserve. This plan contains policies and objectives for the effective management of the reserves portfolio, and also for each reserve. They are aimed at maximising use, enjoyment and appropriate development, while balancing ecological sustainability and affordability. These objectives and policies are in part driven by other planning documents and processes such as the Hauraki Community Plan (LTCCP), the Hauraki District Plan, and the recently developed Community Outcomes for Hauraki.

Portfolio planning for reserves aims to assist in ensuring that the mix of reserves held by each local authority best meets the present and future needs of communities for open space, community services, and conservation values. Reserves have been grouped according to use to streamline planning, management, setting of standards and ultimately help to minimise the cost of operation. The groups are:

1. Principal reserves
2. Neighbourhood parks
3. Community parks
4. Sports fields
5. Scenic or amenity reserves

The community has indicated a high level of satisfaction with the provision of the group of community assets and services which includes reserves. Present reserves and facilities are seen to be meeting current demand, and the population growth is static, so future activity will focus on more relevant use and management of existing reserves rather than

acquiring more. However there may be opportunities to create new reserves in the future, to protect sites of conservation value within the District.

The ageing nature of the population will affect the type of facilities provided, for example there will be less need for playgrounds and more walkways and formal gardens will be needed. An increasing number of travellers using roadside reserves and accessible parks to take a rest will need to be catered for.

To maintain relevance to changing circumstances and increased knowledge reserve management plans are required to be reviewed regularly.

