

# MASTERTON PARKS AND OPEN SPACES STRATEGY (2021)



# HE HIRINGA TANGATA, HE HIRINGA WHENUA

## THE MAYOR

Kia ora koutou katoa. Welcome to our first Parks and Open Spaces Strategy.

Community wellbeing for our residents and visitors is a primary focus for the Council. The benefit of access to green spaces is well known, and we want to ensure that everyone who lives in our District, or anyone visiting us, has easy access to our fantastic parks and open spaces.

Ours is a unique part of New Zealand – one that, as locals, we know boasts a rich heritage shaped by rugged ranges, vast valley plains, and a stunning coastline.

Our shared connection to these natural spaces is further enhanced with a network of parks and sporting facilities, that encourages us to explore and enjoy these areas – from historic Queen Elizabeth Park at the centre of Masterton, to our riverside recreational trails and Henley Lake, and our spectacular coast. The areas we enjoy today reflect the spaces traditionally occupied by Rangitāne and Kahungunu – between the Waingawa, Waipoua, and Ruamāhanga Rivers, and the along the coast.

This Strategy explores how we can best protect and develop our parks, facilities, and open spaces in a way that reflects mana whenua values, including kaitiakitanga of the natural environment and whakapapa of the area. It recognises and provides for recreational and cultural opportunities to enhance Māori wellbeing and, through that, the wellbeing our broader community.

A thriving community needs resilient, healthy parks, sustainable environments, and healthy biodiversity. Our Strategy sets the direction for us to protect and enhance these taonga today, and for future generations.

‘Our parks are healthy, resilient, and connected; they enhance the wellbeing of our present and future communities and connect our people with nature’.

Lyn Patterson – Mayor of Masterton

# CONTENTS

## PART ONE – CONTEXT

1.	Introduction .....	1
2.	Masterton District at a Glance.....	1
2.1.	Mana whenua History.....	2
2.2.	Non-Māori Settlement of the Masterton Township.....	3
2.3.	District Growth Trends.....	4
3.	Why Do We Need a Strategy? .....	6
3.1.	Purpose of the parks and opens spaces strategy.....	6
3.2.	How We Developed The Strategy .....	7
3.3.	Strategic Alignment.....	7
3.4.	Network Approach .....	10
4.	What Do We Have and Why Are These Spaces Important?.....	13
4.1.	What Do We Have?.....	13
4.2.	Urban Management Areas.....	14
4.3.	Why Parks and Open Spaces are Important? .....	14
5.	What Do We Need To Think About?.....	15
5.1.	Strategic Alignment, Integrated Management, Legal Protection and Planning.....	15
5.2.	Have We Got Enough of the Right Space in the Right Place (Quantity)? .....	16
5.3.	Are Our Parks Meeting Community Need? (Distribution and Quality) .....	22
5.4.	Urban Growth .....	25
5.5.	Partnerships and Community Engagement .....	27
5.6.	District Heritage and Character .....	30
5.7.	Sustainable Environments and Biodiversity .....	30
5.8.	Rural and Coastal Parks and Open Spaces.....	31
5.9.	Parks Connectivity and Linkages.....	34
5.10.	Resourcing and Programming .....	34
1.	Vision Statement.....	35
2.	Our Principles.....	35
3.	How Will We Get There? .....	37
4.	Monitoring and Review.....	37

## GLOSSARY OF TE REO MĀORI TERMS

## APPENDIX 1 – URBAN NETWORK MAP

## APPENDIX 3 – URBAN ACCESSIBILITY MAP

## APPENDIX 3 –URBAN VALUES MAP

## APPENDIX 4 – RURAL AND COASTAL MAPS

## APPENDIX 5 – LIST OF STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT PARTICPANTS





# PART ONE – CONTEXT

## 1. INTRODUCTION

The benefits of public parks and open spaces have long been recognised. Victorian parks were originally founded on the principle of providing rich, stimulating places for rest and relaxation as an antidote to the grime of the industrial city. Perspectives on the benefits of parks and open spaces have evolved to having an emphasis on wellbeing and green spaces that are healthy, beautiful, fascinating, and fulfilling for people<sup>1</sup>. The most recent World Parks Congress focus on *'healthy parks, healthy people'*, acknowledged the significance of contact with nature for human emotional, physical and spiritual health and wellbeing, and reinforced the crucial role that parks play in nurturing healthy ecosystems<sup>2</sup>.

The parks and open spaces of Masterton/Whakaoriori have played an important part in the development of the township and district with urban spaces such as Queen Elizabeth and Henley Lake reflecting important events that form part of our local history. Masterton district's rural parks have also traditionally been the cornerstone of the farming community, and with changing communities the role of these spaces has become less clear. Masterton District Council (the council) owns some significant stretches of coastal reserve that have their own particular challenges and pressures given their location in sensitive coastal environment and communities that have large numbers of visitors over the summer months.

Mana whenua also have much to contribute in terms of telling the stories of Wairarapa, and a goal of this strategy is to develop stronger relationships with mana whenua to better integrate our Māori culture throughout the district's parks and open spaces.

The council owns and administers just under 400 hectares of parks and open spaces, with a little under half of this located within the urban area of Masterton. This strategy reviews how these spaces are provided and proposes a 'network' approach to their future provision and management, where each park has a clearly defined purpose and is managed as part of the whole. The council's aim is to optimise its parks and open spaces network to enhance the health and wellbeing of the Masterton community and its environment.

## 2. MASTERTON DISTRICT AT A GLANCE

Masterton District is located in the lower part of the North Island. It sits within the upper reaches of the Ruamāhanga River and Wairarapa Valley, with the Tararua Ranges to the west and Wairarapa Coast, including Riversdale, Castlepoint and Mātaikona beach communities to the east. Masterton town, located between the Waingawa and Ruamāhanga Rivers, is the largest

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<sup>1</sup> [http://www.fingalbiodiversity.ie/resources/biodiversity\\_guidelines/Encourage per cent20Park per cent20Biodiversity.pdf](http://www.fingalbiodiversity.ie/resources/biodiversity_guidelines/Encourage%20Park%20per%20Biodiversity.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> A Guide to the Healthy Parks, Healthy People Approach and Current Practices Proceedings from the Improving Health and Well-being: Healthy Parks Healthy People stream of the IUCN World Parks Congress, 2014



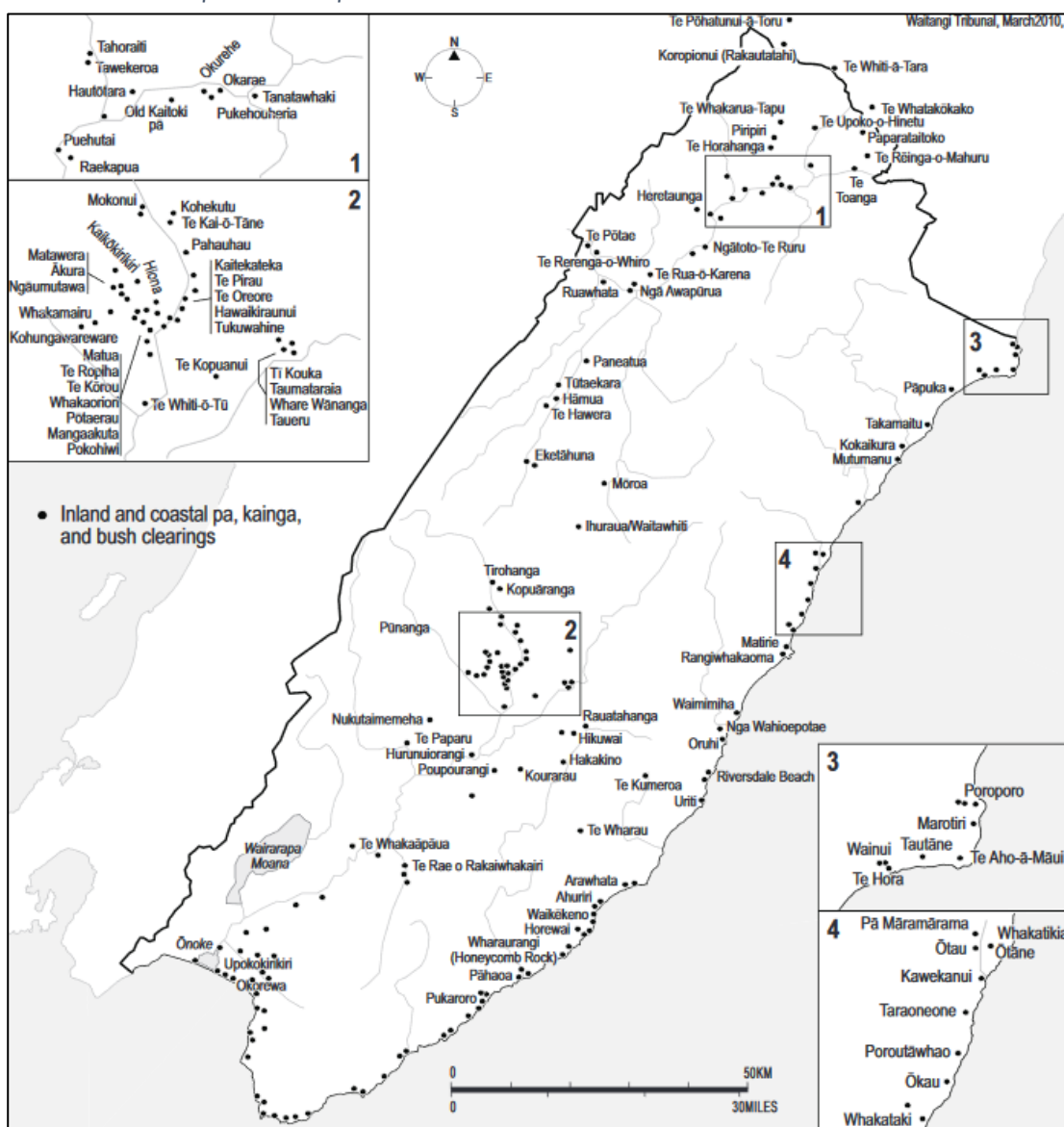
town in the Wairarapa. State Highway 2, is the main route connecting the district to the wider Wairarapa and Wellington to the south, and Tararua to the north.

## 2.1. MANA WHENUA HISTORY<sup>3</sup>

The many hapū resident in Wairarapa trace their descent to the ancestors Rangitāne or Kahungunu, or to both tīpuna. By the early 1800s, traditional occupation in the Whakaoriori area was clustered around the wetland areas between the Waingawa, Waipoua and Ruamāhanga Rivers and along the coast (refer Image 1 below).

Settlements were seasonal with many hapū moving between the coast and inland in response to the availability of food. Prior to 1840, all travel was on foot, or by water, and a network of tracks and waterways linked the various districts of the area.

IMAGE 1: Traditional Occupation in Wairarapa ki Tararua



<sup>3</sup> Refer Volume 1: The People and the Land, Wairarapa ki Tararua Report [https://forms.justice.govt.nz/search/documents/wt/wt\\_doc\\_68640003/wairarapa20ki\\_per\\_cent20tararua\\_per\\_cent20vol\\_per\\_cent20i.pdf](https://forms.justice.govt.nz/search/documents/wt/wt_doc_68640003/wairarapa20ki_per_cent20tararua_per_cent20vol_per_cent20i.pdf)

The period from 1800 to 1840 was one of considerable change for the people of Wairarapa ki Tararua. Within a relatively short span of years, introduced plants, animals, and technology altered the nature of the ecology and economy of the Wairarapa. Some traditional resources were destroyed by the introduced species, while the new crops and animals became major food sources. New diseases increased death rates among the local people, and muskets transformed the nature of warfare throughout New Zealand, with enormous impact on Wairarapa.

In response to the escalating warfare from Toa Rangatira, Ngāti Mutunga, Te Atiawa and Ngāti Raukawa, a large proportion of the tangata whenua population left their homelands for Nukutaurua and Manawatū. They returned in the late 1830s and 1840s, but changes in the economy and the adoption of Christianity modified their earlier settlement patterns.

As pākehā pastoralists moved into Wairarapa, they encountered a society in the process of change, both in terms of the food they ate and how they acquired it and, more importantly, in terms of their rates of sickness and death. Also, as a direct result of missionaries' challenges to long-held beliefs, the spiritual power of tapu and related concepts was questioned for the first time.

In the 1840s and 1850s, Pākehā settlers began to move from Wellington to the Wairarapa to establish homesteads and sheep runs. Initially there were informal leasehold arrangements with Māori, but after the Native Land Purchase Ordinance of 1846, this option was no longer available, and the Crown acquired large tracts of land from Māori. This alienation of Māori land continued throughout the remainder of the 19th and 20th centuries and today mana whenua owns less than one per cent of its original land area.<sup>4</sup> Redress has been sought through the Treaty Settlement process with the Ngāti Kahungunu ki Wairarapa Tamaki Nui-ā-Rua Treaty Settlement Trust and the Rangitāne Tū Mai Rā Settlement Trust mandated and established to progress the respective treaty claims of Ngāti Kahungunu ki Wairarapa uri and Rangitāne o Wairarapa uri. The Crown and Rangitāne Tū Mai Rā signed a Deed of Settlement on 6 August 2016. The Crown and Ngāti Kahungunu ki Wairarapa Tamaki Nui-ā-Rua Trust initialled an Agreement in Principle on 22 March 2018.

## 2.2. NON-MĀORI SETTLEMENT OF THE MASTERTON TOWNSHIP

Masterton township was founded in 1854 by the Small Farms Association, described as follows in Gareth Winter's book, 'A Very Publick Reserve'<sup>5</sup>:

*'The broad outline of the pakeha settlement of Masterton is a well-known story - a fable almost. It runs like this. A group of Wellington working class men with little capital, led by cooper Joseph Masters, became concerned about their lack of access to farmland. They formed the Small Farms Association and petitioned Governor George Grey to set aside land in the Wairarapa valley for a small farm settlement.*

*Although details change over the time of the scheme, the central concept involved 40- acre farms surrounding a central township, where each of the participants was allotted a 1-acre section.... The 40-acre farms were designed to be large enough to be self-sufficient...'*

The original survey plan of the town shows land alongside the Waipoua River, set aside a 'publick reserve'.

The original shape of the town is still evident today and the 'publick' land along Waipoua River forms the core of Council's parks and open space in the town. Masterton today remains a

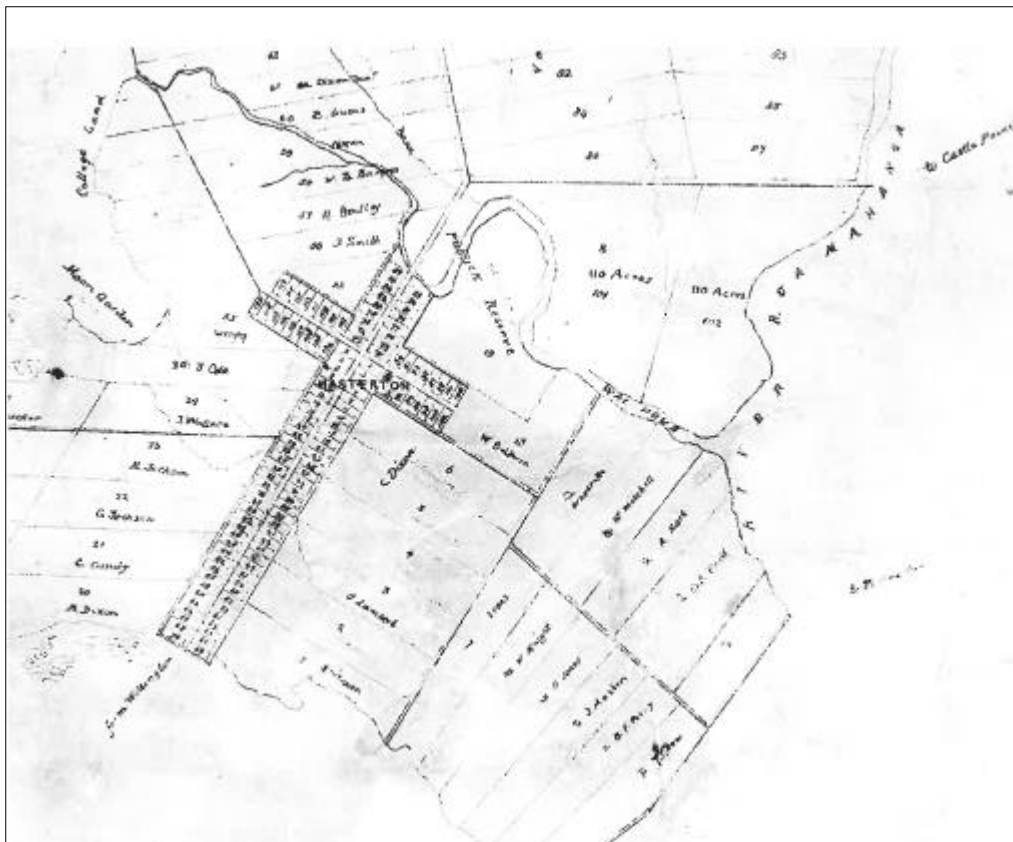
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<sup>4</sup>[https://forms.justice.govt.nz/search/documents/wt/wt\\_doc\\_68640003/wairarapa20ki\\_per\\_cent20tararua\\_per\\_cent20vol\\_per\\_cent20i.pdf](https://forms.justice.govt.nz/search/documents/wt/wt_doc_68640003/wairarapa20ki_per_cent20tararua_per_cent20vol_per_cent20i.pdf)

<sup>5</sup> A Very Publick Reserve - the Story of a Community's Parks, 2008 Gareth Winter

relatively low-density urban area, influenced by its surrounding rural environment and with numerous valued green spaces and high numbers of mature trees and plantings within the urban area.<sup>6</sup>

IMAGE 2: 1856 Plan of Masterton Town<sup>7</sup>



### 2.3. DISTRICT GROWTH TRENDS

Since its early settlement, Masterton District has grown to a total population of 26,800 with most of residents, 21,510 people or 80 per cent of the district's total population, living in Masterton town. Population growth has been strong over the past decade, and while this is anticipated to slow in the near term as a result of COVID-19, it is expected to pick up again in 2023 as the economy recovers and hold at a steady level until the mid-2030s. Masterton's population is projected to grow from 26,800 in 2019 to 31,692 in 2051.

Population growth is expected to take place mainly within the Masterton urban area, with expansion on the north and west fringes and light intensification around the railway station and Masterton Central. The strongest growth is expected to take place in the Upper Plain area (a population increase of 1,265 over 2019-2051), followed by Opaki (1,336), Lansdowne West (1,001), and Lansdowne East (502). Moderate growth is expected in Solway North (213), Solway South (363) and Ngaumutawa (330). Small population declines are projected in McJorow Park, Whareama, and Cameron and Soldiers Park (refer Figure 1 below), however it is important to note that this is due to a decreasing household size rather than a decrease in the number of households.<sup>8</sup>

<sup>6</sup> Masterton Urban Growth Strategy | Planning for Growth To 2043 | 29 March 2019 Boffa Miskell Ltd

<sup>7</sup> A Very Publick Reserve – the story of a community's parks, 2008 Gareth Winter

<sup>8</sup> Wairarapa Population Projections 2019-2051, June 2020, Infometrics. NB: areas referred to are Census Area Units (CAU) as defined by Statistics NZ



FIGURE 1: Masterton District Sub-District Population Growth Projections (Medium)<sup>9</sup>

<b>Statistical Area 2</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2051</b>	<b>Change 2019-2051</b>
Opaki	1,224	2,560	1,336
Upper Plain	1,316	2,581	1,265
Lansdowne West	1,681	2,682	1,001
Lansdowne East	2,875	3,377	502
Solway South	3,604	3,967	363
Ngaumutawa	1,626	1,956	330
Solway North	2,438	2,650	213
Douglas Park	2,082	2,188	106
Kuripuni	1,711	1,786	75
Masterton Central	741	800	59
Kopuaranga	966	1,015	49
Homebush-Te Ore Ore	1,090	1,138	48
Cameron and Soldiers Park	2,256	2,212	-44
Whareama	1,464	1,375	-89
McJorrow Park	1,726	1,405	-321
<b>Masterton District Total</b>	<b>26,800</b>	<b>31,692</b>	<b>4,892</b>

Key demographic trends that will impact on the way parks and open space are provided and managed in the future include:

- Steady population growth to 2040, followed by a period of levelling out as flat employment leads to lower levels of net migration. This will mean an estimated 4,892 additional residents, or 2,756 new households by 2051. Household growth will continue to be mainly accommodated in the urban areas.
- An ageing population over the next 30 years with the over 65 years age group projected to grow by around 75 per cent between 2019 and 2051, with the average age rising from 42 in 2019 to 48 in 2051.
- The youth population (under 15 years of age) and working age groups (15 - 64 years of age) are projected to remain at similar levels throughout the projection period.
- The Māori population, currently just over 21 per cent of the population<sup>10</sup>, is forecast to grow significantly over the next 20 years, however at the same time the rate of growth will slow. The age structure of the Māori population is youthful, with about a third of Māori under the age of 15.<sup>11</sup>
- As a consequence of an ageing population and broader changes in family size, the fastest growing household types will be one person households and couples without children households. This will result in a strong growth in number of households.

<sup>9</sup> Wairarapa Population Projections 2019-2051, June 2020, Infometrics

<sup>10</sup> ID Community Profile Masterton District

<sup>11</sup> <https://thehub.swa.govt.nz/resources/future-demographic-trends-for-maori-part-one-population-size-growth-and-age-structure/>

- A significant increase in the number of people who identify as Māori (2018:20 per cent of total population/2038: 39 per cent of total population)<sup>12</sup>.
- An increase in Asian (from 4 per cent of the total population currently to 9 per cent) and Pasifika peoples (from 3.8 per cent currently to 8 per cent) by 2038<sup>13</sup>.

We also know from other council strategies that the parks and open spaces network needs to provide for its increasingly diverse population and changing needs through consideration of, for example:

- accessibility needs of those with disabilities
- providing a range of opportunities to meet older people’s recreation needs
- providing safe and accessible transport options along recreation corridors and linkages<sup>14</sup>; and
- providing opportunities for young people/rangatahi to engage with nature, be physically active and learn about the environment.<sup>15</sup>

It is therefore important that future provision of parks and open spaces take into account the district’s changing demographics as well as recreation trends. For our ageing population, there will likely be decreasing demand for sportsground use and increasing demand for informal recreation, access to quality neighbourhood park spaces, and a safe and accessible walking and cycling network. For our stable youth population, the profile is changing, with a larger proportion of this age group being Māori. Continued access to local neighbourhood space, play opportunities, as well as both formal and informal opportunities to be physically active will remain important.

To be effective, planning for these spaces will need to ensure that parks and open spaces provide spaces and opportunities in a way that recognises and provides for these changing community demographics.

### 3. WHY DO WE NEED A STRATEGY?

#### 3.1. PURPOSE OF THE PARKS AND OPENS SPACES STRATEGY

The following objectives (in priority order), were approved by Masterton District Council in November 2018<sup>16</sup>:

1. *To engage with our community and iwi partners to understand and evaluate our parks and open space network*
2. *To align our network with Council’s strategic outcomes*
3. *To set clear directions and develop a sound planning framework for the next ten years*
4. *To develop an affordable and effective prioritised action plan every three years to align with the Long-term Plan.*

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<sup>12</sup> <https://profile.idnz.co.nz/masterton/highlights> accessed on 29 May 2020

<sup>13</sup> Ibid

<sup>14</sup> Wairarapa Positive Ageing Strategy (2016 -2021)

<sup>15</sup> Wairarapa Rangatahi Development Strategy (2016 -2021)

<sup>16</sup> Extracts from the Request for Proposal for the preparation of a Draft Masterton District Council Parks and Open Spaces Strategy, January 2020

In developing this strategy, the council is seeking to 'provide a strategic framework for the district's parks and open space network; a framework that considers the provision, connectivity, purpose and quality of our parks and open space to meet current and future needs of our community' and to ensure:

- *'We operate strategically in a dynamic environment;*
- *Align our thinking across the organisation and beyond relating to parks and open space;*
- *Consider our parks and open space as an interrelated network rather than individual stand-alone assets;*
- *Clear and consistent decision making; and*
- *We meet current and future community needs, expectations and aspirations.'*

## 3.2. HOW WE DEVELOPED THE STRATEGY

### 3.2.1 Methodology

The following section describes the processes undertaken to inform the development of the Parks and Open Spaces Strategy:

- **Literature review** – this involved a review of Council strategic and operational documents, other relevant strategic documents (regional and national), population and growth data etc.
- **Spatial mapping** – this involved mapping the Council's parks and reserves and their associated values. Each park or reserve has been assigned an 'activity' category based on their core function or use. The purpose of this is to better understand the parks and reserves as a network, as well as to visually present the accessibility of the parks network to the urban community (refer Appendices 1 and 3 attached).
- **Assessment of parks provision** – an accessibility assessment and benchmarking against national provision of open space has been included as a source of data to help inform the development of the strategy (refer Appendices 2 and 4 attached).
- **Staff workshops** – a staff project team was established to assist with development of the strategy with several workshops held at different stages of the project.
- **Hui** – A hui was held with representatives of hapū, iwi and hapori Māori to seek feedback on preferred methods for hapū and iwi to be involved in this project, and any input on issues and opportunities for Māori, and a second hui is being held to provide feedback to the draft strategy.
- **Key stakeholder interviews** – interviews were held with representatives of the following groups: Wairarapa Economic Development, Sport Wellington (Wairarapa), Greater Wellington Regional Council, the Sustainable Wairarapa Trust, and Henley Lake Trust.
- **Stakeholder workshop** – stakeholder groups were invited to a workshop to provide input to the strategy. This was attended by 22 individuals from a range of stakeholder organisations.
- **Issues and Opportunities Paper** – an issues and opportunities paper bringing together information to inform the development of the strategy.

## 3.3. STRATEGIC ALIGNMENT

Council's Wellbeing Strategy 'He Hiringa Tangata, He Hiringa Whenua, My Masterton - Our People, Our Land Strategy' sets out it's overarching framework for supporting the people and



communities of the Masterton/Whakaoriori District in the areas of social, cultural, environmental, and economic development.

Council revised its vision and community outcomes as part of the development of the 2018-28 Long-Term Plan. The community outcomes are also the vision statements in the Wellbeing Strategy, with the inclusion of a community outcome focused on infrastructure:

*Vision: 'Masterton/Whakaoriori: Providing the best of rural provincial living'*

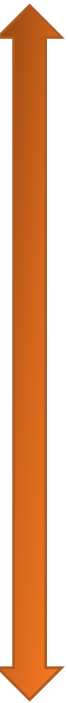
*Community Outcomes:*

- **An Engaged and Empowered Community** - Masterton/Whakaoriori is a positive, strong, inclusive, and self-determining community with equitable opportunities for everyone.
- **Pride in our Identity and Heritage** - Masterton/Whakaoriori values the place and role of tangata whenua and is proud of our cultural identity and heritage.
- **A Sustainable and Healthy Environment** - Masterton/Whakaoriori has rivers we can swim in and drink from, clean air to breathe, green and blue spaces that we can enjoy and share with future generations.
- **A Thriving and Resilient Economy** - Masterton/Whakaoriori has a strong, sustainable economy that supports our people and places.
- **Efficient and Effective Infrastructure** - Masterton/Whakaoriori has high quality and cost-effective infrastructure that meets the current and future needs of our community.

The Parks and Open Spaces Strategy is one of a number of key Council strategies that contribute to Council's vision and desired outcomes for its District. The relationship between this strategy and other key strategies is summarised in Figure 1 below. Issues and priorities identified in these other strategies have also informed the development of this strategy.

FIGURE 2 Strategy Alignment

<b>Council &amp; Community Vision</b>	<b>He Hiringa Tangata, He Hiringa Whenua My Masterton – Our People, Our Land Strategy</b>									
	Spatial Approaches					Community Approaches			Economic Development	Biodiversity
	Town Centre Strategy	<b>PARKS &amp; OPEN SPACES STRATEGY</b>	Sport Facilities Plan	Five Towns Master Plan	Walking & Cycling Strategy	Wairarapa Rangatahi Youth Strategy	Arts Culture & Heritage Strategy	Wairarapa Positive Ageing Strategy	Wairarapa Economic Development Strategy	Regional & District Biodiversity Strategies
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- District Plan</li> <li>- Reserve Management Plans</li> <li>- Council Long Term Plan</li> <li>- Asset Management Plans</li> <li>- Walking and Cycling Plan</li> </ul>								
	<b>Improved Community Outcomes</b>									
<b>Benefits</b>	<b>Social</b>		<b>Cultural</b>		<b>Environmental</b>			<b>Economic</b>		



### 3.4. NETWORK APPROACH

A key outcome for this Strategy is to manage Council's urban parks and open spaces as an integrated network, where each park is understood in relation to the broader network within which it sits.

To assist with this, a Parks Category Framework, based on Recreation Aotearoa guidelines<sup>17</sup> has been developed for the council's use (refer Table 1 below). Each urban park, or space within a park, has been assigned a category that reflects its main or primary function as identified on the Urban Parks and Open Spaces Network Plan (refer Figure 3 below and Appendix 1).

TABLE 1: URBAN PARKS CATEGORY FRAMEWORK		
CATEGORY	DESIGNATION PRIMARY PURPOSE	TYPICAL CHARACTERISTICS
Premier Park/ Public Gardens	High-quality plant collections and landscaping provided for relaxation, contemplation, appreciation, education, events, functions, and their amenity/intrinsic value.  There is only one kind of these parks in a district.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Horticultural/botanical display plantings</li> <li>- Display houses</li> <li>- High-quality landscaping</li> <li>- Interpretation, e.g. plant names, historical or horticultural information, visitor centres, education programmes</li> <li>- May be used as venue for events and functions e.g. weddings and light displays</li> </ul>
Active Sport and Recreation	Organised/competitive sport and recreation activity, recreation facilities, often multiple use.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Sports facilities, e.g. grass fields, half courts, artificial surfaces</li> <li>- Buildings, e.g. toilets, changing rooms, clubrooms, community centres, community activities</li> <li>- Recreation facilities e.g. playgrounds, skate parks, half courts, picnic areas, bike tracks etc</li> <li>- Seating</li> <li>- Landscaping</li> <li>- Usually large size</li> <li>- Leased sites could be small (e.g. the size of a single club)</li> </ul>
Neighbourhood	Informal recreation and sporting activities, play and family-based activities, and social and community activities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Playgrounds</li> <li>- Recreation facilities e.g. skate parks half court, etc</li> <li>- Picnic facilities e.g. BBQ's/tables/shade</li> <li>- Usually small areas (up to 2.5 ha) located near of within residential areas</li> <li>- Dog exercise areas and dog parks</li> <li>- May have sports fields for junior or informal use</li> <li>- May have building e.g. toilets, community centres/halls etc</li> </ul>
Pocket/Amenity Parks <sup>18</sup>	Smaller spaces used informally for relaxation, reflection, and amenity.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Small areas for informal outdoor use</li> <li>- Seating areas</li> <li>- Landscaping</li> </ul>
Civic Space	Areas of open space often provided within or adjacent to CBD area and developed to provide a space for social	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Business/retail area location</li> <li>- Hard paving</li> <li>- Soft landscaping</li> <li>- Seating areas</li> </ul>

<sup>17</sup> Parks Categories Framework, August 2017, (New Zealand Recreation Association now known as Recreation Aotearoa)

<sup>18</sup> This is a Masterton Specific Category not provided for by the NZRA Parks Categories Framework

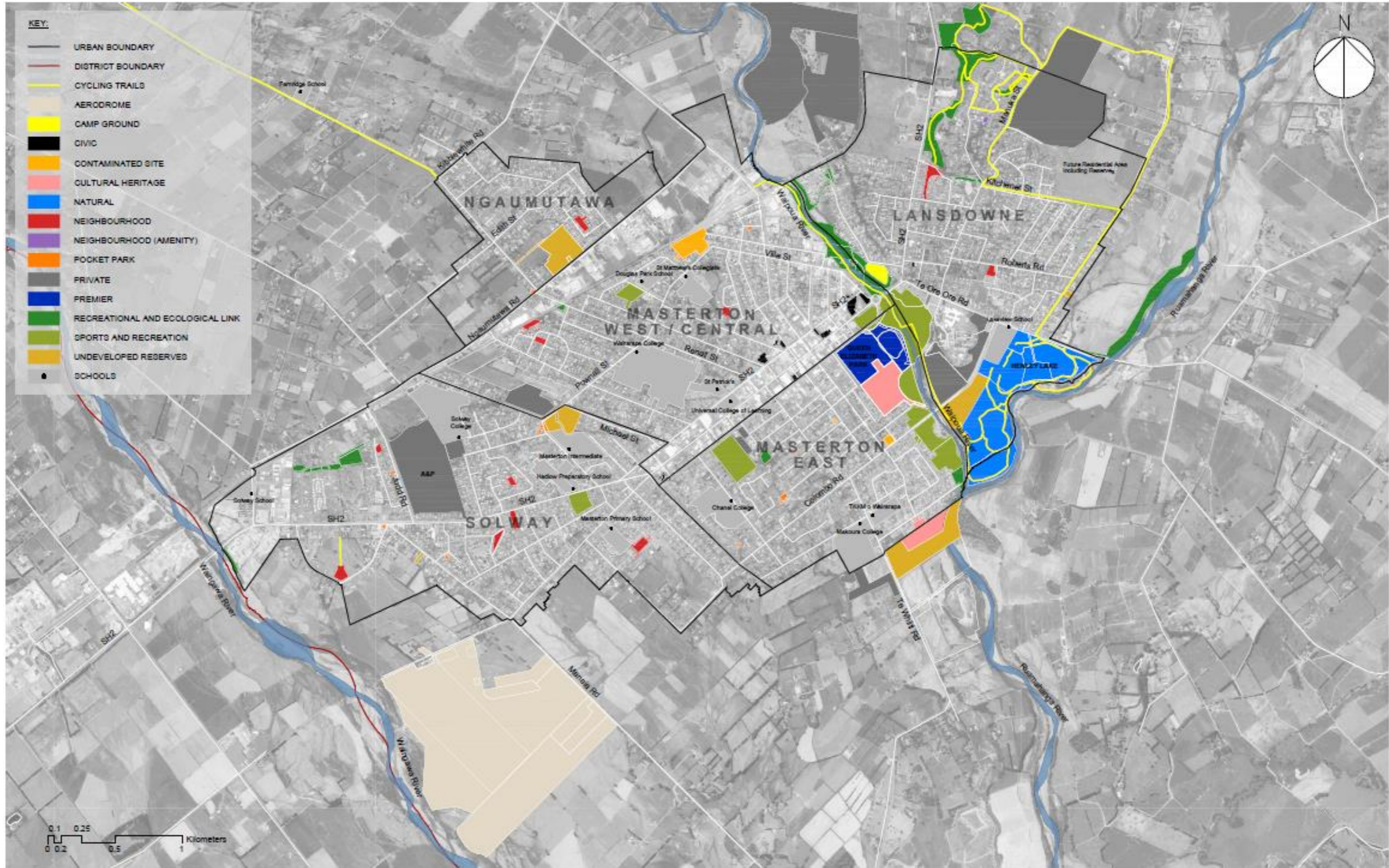


**TABLE 1: URBAN PARKS CATEGORY FRAMEWORK**

CATEGORY	DESIGNATION PRIMARY PURPOSE	TYPICAL CHARACTERISTICS
	gathering, meeting places, relaxation, and enjoyment.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- High standard of presentation and maintenance</li> <li>- Associated with Council service buildings such as town hall, library, swimming pool etc</li> </ul>
Recreation and Ecological Linkages	Open space, linkages and corridors. Cater for walking and cycling activities and active transport linkages. May provide for environmental protection and access to waterways.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Often, but not always linear in nature</li> <li>- May be alongside waterways or utilise old rail or road corridors</li> <li>- Variable size and often difficult topography</li> <li>- Grass/tree planting or natural vegetation</li> <li>- Walking/cycling paths and tracks</li> <li>- Often connect or provide access to other parks or waterways</li> <li>- Generally, a low level of development other than formed paths and trails</li> </ul>
Nature	Experience and/or protection of the natural environment:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Native bush, coastal margins, forestry, wetlands, riparian areas and water bodies</li> <li>- Developments to provide facilities for walking, biking, horse riding, camping, picnicking, birdwatching, scenic viewing and visitor information</li> </ul>
Cultural Heritage (cemeteries)	Protection of built cultural and historical environment to provide for heritage conservation, education, commemoration, mourning and remembrance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Cultural heritage features e.g. pa sites</li> <li>- Historic heritage, buildings or structures</li> <li>- Memorial sites</li> <li>- Cemeteries</li> </ul>
Undeveloped Reserves	Undeveloped site that may be part of existing parks or reserves land parcel, or may be other undeveloped site not currently being utilised but with potential for future inclusion in the parks and open spaces network	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Mown grass</li> <li>- Leased out for grazing or similar</li> <li>- Public excluded</li> </ul>



FIGURE 3: OVERVIEW OF MASTERTONS PARKS AND OPEN SPACES BY CATEGORY





## 4. WHAT DO WE HAVE AND WHY ARE THESE SPACES IMPORTANT?

### 4.1. WHAT DO WE HAVE?

Council owns an estimated area of just under 400 hectares of parks and open spaces across the district<sup>19</sup>, as summarised in Tables 2 – 4 below. Approximately a third of this land is located within the urban boundary. While some of these open spaces are not publicly accessible, all Council owned land has been identified to provide a full picture of open space in this district. Those sites that are not publicly accessible, subject to further assessment, may be able to contribute to the network in the future.

**TABLE 2: URBAN PARKS AND OPEN SPACES PROVISION**

PARK CATEGORY	AREA (HA)	INCLUDED	NOT INCLUDED
Premier	15.0	✓	
Neighbourhood	4.93	✓	
Civic	2.83	✓	
Pocket Parks	1.31	✓	
Recreation and Ecological Linkage	27.88	✓	
Sport and Recreation	18.46	✓	
Natural	46.67	✓	
Cultural Heritage	3.05	✓	
Campground	(6.37)		✓
Hood Aerodrome and Masterton Motorplex Facility	(146.3)		✓
Undeveloped Reserves and Open Space /Grazed/Vacant (urban)	(77.19)		✓
<b>Urban Total</b>		<b>120.12</b>	<b>229.87</b>

**TABLE 3: RURAL PARKS AND OPEN SPACES PROVISION**

PARK CATEGORY	AREA (HA)
Recreation/Neighbourhood Reserves	5.38
Rural Reserves (with community facility)	14.79
Natural (Esplanade Reserves)	26.25
Natural Heritage (Cemeteries)	4.811
Holding Paddocks	21.88
Forestry Blocks	65.59
Gravel Reserves	9.28

<sup>19</sup> Note: areas provided are approximate based on the information available at the time of writing. GIS mapping and title checks are required to ensure accuracy. Council also has a further 230 ha of open space including Hood Aerodrome, the Masterton Campground (Mawley Park) and other smaller parcels of land not currently accessible to the public.



**TABLE 3: RURAL PARKS AND OPEN SPACES PROVISION**

PARK CATEGORY	AREA (HA)
Rural Total (ha)	<b>147.98</b>

**TABLE 4: COASTAL PARKS AND OPEN SPACES PROVISION**

PARK CATEGORY	AREA (HA)
Coastal Reserves	2.17
Community Reserves (with facility)	0.9255
Natural (Esplanade Reserves)	111.19
Holding Paddocks	0.5018
Gravel Reserves	2.23
Other	9.69
Coastal Total (ha)	<b>126.72</b>

## 4.2. URBAN MANAGEMENT AREAS

Three urban management areas have been defined for parks and open spaces within the urban area of Masterton. These are:

- **The CBD Management Area** – this area comprises the civic parks contained within the CBD area bound by Bruce Street, Chapel Street, Walton's Ave/Kuripuni Street and Dixon Street. These spaces are included as part of the Town Centre CBD Strategy and therefore have little emphasis in the Parks and Open Spaces Strategy. It is important however, that Council staff coordinate efforts across these spaces to ensure integrated outcomes can be achieved.
- **The Waipoua River Management Area** – this area comprises a cluster of parks and open spaces located along both sides of the Waipoua River. It includes some of Masterton's oldest and most significant parks and reserves areas including Queen Elizabeth Park and Henley Lake, the Pioneer Section of Masterton Cemetery, as well as sports fields and connections along the riverbanks. There is also public land owned by other community groups and organisations within this area including Masterton Red Star Rugby Club sports field. This area has local and regional significance, as well as being an important visitor destination in Masterton. Coordinated planning for this area as a whole is critical to maximising its benefits to the district.
- **The Masterton Suburban Management Area** – this area comprises the parks and open spaces in the suburban communities of Masterton. It includes areas of sports fields, cemeteries, neighbourhood parks, pocket parks, natural areas and recreation and ecological linkages. Maximising use of parks and open space within these suburbs to ensure good access for the communities in which they are located, and a strong local neighbourhood function is important for parks within this management area.

## 4.3. WHY PARKS AND OPEN SPACES ARE IMPORTANT?

Parks and open spaces are an essential part of any community providing opportunities for contact with nature, health and exercise, social connection as well as for nurturing healthy ecosystems and conserving and enhancing our natural world. They also provide important connections to our past and opportunities for remembering our stories and celebrating our

heritage. For mana whenua, public land also provides an important opportunity to strengthen their traditional practices and cultural relationships with the land.

In our progressively urbanised and technological world, creating relevant spaces and opportunities to continue delivering health and well-being outcomes is increasingly important. The value of access to quality parks and open space was highlighted during the recent Covid-19 lockdown (March – May 2020) when demand for access to the district’s parks and open spaces and public recreation trails skyrocketed.

## 5. WHAT DO WE NEED TO THINK ABOUT?

An ‘Issues and opportunities – Discussion Paper (October 2020)’ developed to inform this strategy, identified key issues and opportunities for the parks and open spaces of the Masterton District. The findings of that paper are summarised here as context for the Strategy.

### 5.1. STRATEGIC ALIGNMENT, INTEGRATED MANAGEMENT, LEGAL PROTECTION AND PLANNING

#### 5.1.1 Strategic Alignment and Integrated Management

The importance of strategic alignment and the need for integrated management planning are addressed in section 4.2 and 4.3 above and will influence how Council seeks to manage its parks and open spaces into the future. Understanding the role of each park within the wider network setting is important, not only for existing parks and open spaces, but also for future areas that Council may consider acquiring (e.g., when residential land is subdivided).

#### 5.1.2 Legal Protection

Councils existing parks and open spaces varies across the network and in some cases, there is no protection applying to parks and open spaces.

Methods of protection include:

- **‘Gazettal’ (Reserves Act 1977)** – Land gazetted under this Act is classified according to its principal or primary purpose. The only classifications that are controlled or managed by local authorities are Recreation and Local Purpose Reserves, or occasionally Scenic or Historic Reserves. Other reserve classifications are mainly managed by the Department of Conservation
- **Zoning or Designation in the District Plan (Resource Management Act 1991)** – Zoning of land for parks and open space purposes provides some protection and a public process (Plan Change) is required should the zone ever be changed. Currently the Wairarapa Combined District Plan does not have any parks and open spaces zones. A number of Council’s parks and reserves are however ‘designated’ in the District Plan, which allows uses to be carried out consistent with the purpose of the designation. Removing a designation is not a complex process and does not offer any long-term protection for these sites. As part of the District Plan Review there is an opportunity to consider a specific zone for Council owned parks and open spaces.
- **Requiring Esplanade Reserves or Esplanade Strips on Subdivision (Resource Management Act 1991)** – Council can require esplanade reserves or strips when land is subdivided adjacent to the coast, rivers, or wetland areas. Esplanade reserves must be purchased by Council whereas esplanade strips stay in the ownership of the subdivider.
- **Interests Registered on Land Title** – e.g., Queen Elizabeth II Covenants or Conservation Covenants (tends to apply more to private land); Ngā Whenua Rāhui (protective kawenata/covenants on Māori land) or in some cases the title may record that land has

been donated to the council for the use and enjoyment of the public. Examples of this include Douglas Park and Mawley Park.

Application of protection to land acquired for parks and reserve purposes has not been consistently applied over time and unless there is good reason not to protect land (i.e. it has limited value to the network), it is recommended that the presumption should be to protect it in perpetuity. This is important for Council investment in these spaces, to ensure that the community can have long-term confidence in the enduring benefits of its parks and open spaces network. A review of land within the network is required to ensure appropriate protections are in place.

A key time to initiate protection of land being set aside for public use and recreation, is when it is being considered for subdivision. The Wairarapa Combined District Plan requires that on subdivision of land for residential purposes, the developer provides either land, or financial contributions (or a combination of both). It is important that when taking land for reserve purposes, it should be for a clearly identified community purpose and function in terms of the wider network, and be of an appropriate size and location, to meet this need and be appropriately protected.

### 5.1.3 Planning

Reserve management planning is a tool for managing public land acquired under the Reserves Act 1977. The purpose of such plans is to provide for and ensure that any plan objectives and policies are in line with the park classification as deemed by that Act. Reserve management planning is recognised by Councils nationally as a 'best practice' tool for the management of publicly owned parks and reserves regardless of whether the land has been protected under this Act or not. Reserve management plans provide long term certainty of use, and opportunity for community involvement and input into the planning of individual parks.

A key issue for the council is the need to provide and update its management plans. This has been identified in the council's Parks and Open Spaces Asset Management Plan, as a 'medium' level legal risk, modified to a 'low' level legal risk with ongoing action to update or complete all RMP's being a 'high' ongoing priority.

Recommendations for a suite of reserve management plans will be identified in the working action plan that will be developed to accompany this strategy.

## 5.2. HAVE WE GOT ENOUGH OF THE RIGHT SPACE IN THE RIGHT PLACE (QUANTITY)?

### 5.2.1 How do we compare to other areas?

Between 2013 and 2016, the council participated in Yardstick™, a national benchmarking tool where membership organisations contribute information that is then compared across participating Councils. The 2016 results indicated that Masterton District provision of park land at 8.61 ha per 1,000 residents was substantially lower than the rest of New Zealand (19.65 ha) and its peer group of similar sized Councils (14.24 ha). In addition, according to this survey, Masterton District fell well short of neighbourhood park and sports field provision per 1,000 residents; was slightly under in terms of playground provision per 1,000 residents (2.57 per 1,000 compared to national median of 3.98 per 1,000 residents); but had good provision of 'premier park' space (2.48 ha per 1,000 residents compared to national median of 0.6 ha).

The relatively low amount of council-provided park space is in part compensated for by large amounts of publicly accessible land owned by other providers, such as private sports provider Masterton Red Star, the 11 primary and secondary schools in Masterton, the A and P Society, and Millennium Reserve, owned by Masterton Trust Lands Trust. This emphasises the importance of

the council establishing strong strategic partnerships to meet the community's parks and open space needs.

### 5.2.2 Urban Network Assessment

The following section provides an overall breakdown of provision by category and calculates the provision per 1,000 residents, and a comparison with the national median<sup>20</sup>. A summary of parks provision by suburb is also provided. The suburban boundaries are based on Statistics New Zealand Census Area Unit (CAU) boundaries.

#### **Total Urban Provision:**

Table 5 below summarises urban provision by park category using the framework outlined above.

<b>TABLE 5: URBAN PARK AND OPEN SPACE BENCHMARKING (URBAN)</b>			
<b>PARK CATEGORY</b>	<b>AREA (HA)</b>	<b>HA /1,000 RESIDENTS (URBAN)</b>	<b>NATIONAL MEDIAN /PER 1,000 RESIDENTS<sup>21</sup></b>
Premier	15.0	0.70	0.39
Neighbourhood	4.93	0.229	0.94
Civic	2.83	0.13	0.05 ha
Pocket Parks	1.31	0.06	-
Recreation and Ecological Linkage	27.89	1.30	2.47
Sport and Recreation	18.46	0.86	2.77
Natural	46.67	5.1	4.97
Cultural Heritage	3.05	0.16	0.45
<b>Urban Total</b>	<b>120.12</b>	<b>5.58</b>	<b>19.65 ha</b>

In addition, there is a further 72 hectares of other land owned by the council within the urban area that does not currently have public access. Overall, these figures indicate that the council's provision of parks and open space is at the lower end of provision, when compared with other councils in New Zealand. This, however, needs to be balanced with factors including Masterton's low housing density, proximity to large areas of conservation land, school provision, and provision by other private providers.

#### **Suburban Provision:**

Two assessments of the district's urban neighbourhood parks and reserves space have been completed as part of this strategy as follows:

<sup>20</sup> Obtained from Councils Yardstick™ Report 2016.

<sup>21</sup> Ibid

- An assessment of provision of parks space per category, per 1,000 residents, per suburb (based on Census Area Units); and a separate assessment for the Waipoua River Management Area given its district wide significance.
- High-level accessibility mapping applying a 500m radius (10-min walk) to each neighbourhood park (Refer Urban Accessibility Map in Appendix 2 attached).

In addition, social deprivation index and population density for each suburb is noted. Where there are higher levels of social deprivation and/or higher density, access to open space is particularly important. Populations whose health is greatly affected by urban environments, are those that are more constrained in getting around urban areas as a result of financial limitations, limited mobility, or dependency on others. Such populations include children, older people, people living with disabilities and people living in more socioeconomically deprived neighbourhoods.<sup>22</sup> In higher density areas, individual lots size tends to be smaller and the demand for access to open space increases.

Lansdowne (CAU: Lansdowne East and Lansdowne West)

Population	4,293
Number of Houses	1,260
Density (persons per ha)	7.02 – 8.12
Social Deprivation Index <sup>23</sup>	995 – 1022
Total Area of Council Owned Space	21.36 ha
Provision/1,000 residents	4.97 ha
Comment on Parks and Open Space Provision:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Low overall provision of neighbourhood park space and limited/dated play equipment</li> <li>• Good access to recreation and ecological linkages</li> <li>• Waipoua River and Henley Lake located on southern edge of this area</li> <li>• No sportsgrounds</li> <li>• Important that future greenfield residential development in this location addresses shortage of neighbourhood space in this area</li> <li>• Could also better utilise recreation and ecological linkages to provide playgrounds e.g. Ngāti Te Korou Reserve (Fourth Street).</li> </ul>
Other Open Spaces	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Māhunga golf course</li> <li>• Lansdowne golf course</li> </ul>

<sup>22</sup> Ministry of Health. 2008. A Portrait of Health: Key results of the 2006/07 New Zealand Health Survey. Wellington: Ministry of Health.

<sup>23</sup> For the purpose of comparison, the Social Deprivation Index is presented as a scale, ranking small areas from the least deprived to the most deprived. The mean is 1000 index points and the higher the number the greater the deprivation.

The Social Deprivation Index is used in the measurement and interpretation of socioeconomic status of communities for a wide variety of contexts such as needs assessment, resource allocation, research, and advocacy. Note that the deprivation index applies to areas rather than individuals who live in those areas.



Schools /Education Providers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lakeview Primary School.</li> </ul>
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Masterton West (CAU: Douglas Park, Kuripuni and Masterton Central)

Population	3,312
Number of Houses	1,731
Density (persons per ha)	4.02 – 16.61
Social Deprivation Index	1020 – 1104
Total Area of Council Owned Space	6.1832
Provision/1,000 residents	1.86 ha
Comment on Parks and Open Space Provision	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Low overall provision of neighbourhood park space, and no specific play provision</li> <li>• Limited recreation and ecological linkages</li> <li>• Investigate opportunities for additional neighbourhood park space and/or consider play/multi-purpose opportunities for Douglas Park</li> <li>• Well located for access to open spaces along the Waipoua River including Queen Elizabeth Park</li> </ul>
Other Open Spaces	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• None</li> </ul>
Schools /Education Providers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wairarapa College</li> <li>• St Patrick’s Primary</li> <li>• St Matthew’s Collegiate</li> <li>• Douglas Park Primary</li> <li>• U-Col of Learning (Tertiary)</li> </ul>

Masterton East (CAU: Cameron and Soldiers Park, and McJorow Park)

Population	3,831
Number of Houses	2,331
Density (persons per ha)	14.51 – 18.57
Social Deprivation Index	1062 – 1240
Total Area of Council Owned Space	37.81 ha
Provision/1,000 residents	9.86 ha
Comment on Parks and Open Space Provision	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No formal neighbourhood park space provided and limited play provision</li> <li>• A large proportion of this open space comprises undeveloped land (26 ha) and cemetery land (3 ha) leaving little space for recreational use.</li> <li>• Limited recreation and ecological linkages</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Investigate opportunities for additional neighbourhood park space and/or consider play/multi-purpose opportunities for existing sports field in this location (McJorow Park/Memorial Park)</li> <li>Determine purpose of pocket parks in this location (Timms Pace and Sussex Street) and opportunities for neighbourhood park type provision</li> <li>Consider biodiversity enhancement and education opportunities associated with small area of native bush (Garlands Bush)</li> <li>Well located for access to open spaces along the Waipoua River including McJorow Park and Queen Elizabeth Park</li> </ul>
Other Open Spaces	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>RV Hullena Sports Ground 16A Te Whiti Road (2.43 ha)</li> <li>16B Te Whiti Road RDA land (3.88 ha)</li> <li>Masterton Bowling Club (0.45ha)</li> <li>Wairarapa Tennis Centre (0.85 ha)</li> </ul>
Schools/Education Providers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mākoura College</li> <li>Te Kura Kaupapa Māori o Wairarapa</li> <li>Chanel College</li> </ul>

Ngaumutawa (CAU: Ngaumutawa)

Population	1,485
Number of Houses	627
Density (persons per ha)	17.41
Social Deprivation Index	1025
Total Area of Council Owned Space	7.58 ha
Provision/1,000 residents	5.1 ha
Comment on Parks and Open Space Provision	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Low provision of neighbourhood park space and limited play provision</li> <li>Limited recreation and ecological linkages</li> <li>Determine purpose and function of pocket park on the corner of Ngaumutawa and Upper Plain Road.</li> <li>Important that future greenfield development in this location addresses shortage of neighbourhood space in this area</li> </ul>
Other Open Spaces	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No privately owned open spaces recorded</li> </ul>
Schools /Education Providers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Fernridge School</li> </ul>

Solway (CAU: Solway North and Solway South)

Population	5,799
Number of Houses	2,190
Density (persons per ha)	5.41-11.3

Social Deprivation Index	1024 -1028
Total Area of Council Owned Space	11.90 ha
Provision /1,000 residents	2.052 ha
Comment on Parks and Open Space Provision	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• While there are a number of neighbourhood and pocket parks within the Solway suburb, size of individual neighbourhood park space is small, particularly in Solway South. In addition, the distribution and appropriateness/quality of play provision in these spaces is not well matched to community demographic.</li> <li>• There is potential opportunity to extend link recreation and ecological linkages in (Pragnell Street/ Solway Bush/William Donald Drive) through a partnership with the A and P Society, links to Millennium Reserve (Masterton Trust Lands Trust), extending to Council land on corner of Pownall Street and Michael Street.</li> <li>• Low provision of parks space and recreation and ecological linkages in Solway South indicates a need to investigate opportunities for additional neighbourhood park space and connectivity linkages in this location.</li> </ul>
Other Open Spaces	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A and P Showgrounds</li> <li>• Millennium Reserve</li> <li>• Northern banks of Waingawa River and access for example via South Road</li> </ul>
Schools /Education Providers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Masterton Intermediate</li> <li>• Hadlow Preparatory</li> <li>• Masterton Primary</li> <li>• Solway College</li> <li>• Solway School</li> </ul>

### Waipoua River Management Area

#### Parks and Open Space Provision

Population (Urban Area)	21,510
Population (District Area)	26,800
Total Area of Council Owned Space	102.89 ha
Provision /1,000 residents (urban area)	4.7 ha
Provision /1,000 residents (District)	3.84 ha

The Waipoua River Management Area comprises a collection of key open spaces located along the Waipoua River Corridor that accounts for approximately 86 per cent of the total urban area's parks and open spaces. These are spaces that are enjoyed by locals, wider district residents, as well as visitors to Masterton and have significant heritage value to the town. It includes Queen

Elizabeth Park, a legacy from Masterton's early urban development, Henley Lake, Colin Pugh Sports Bowl, McJorow Park, Mawley Campground and large tracts of green space and pathway links alongside the river.

The development of these areas has been organic over the years and the council recognises that it is time to take an integrated and coordinated approach to the ongoing management and future development of this area. It is the 'jewel in the crown' of Masterton's parks and open spaces and, given its size and prominence, it is important that the council is strategic in how it manages this area to ensure the community benefits are maximised. The Masterton Town Centre Strategy<sup>24</sup> also highlights this area as a strategic green space with opportunities to develop strong linkages with the CBD identified as a priority.

There are a number of significant challenges for this area that will require the council to refine its purpose and rethink how it manages this area. Key challenges include:

- **Water security** – this is an issue across the parks and open spaces network due to the impacts of climate change. Keeping these spaces green in the way they currently are serviced will increasingly become a challenge, requiring different management and vegetation planting approaches.

Water security is a particular concern for Henley Lake that has historically diverted water from the Ruamāhanga River. Future permitted take volumes are set to be reduced, and this will impact on the size and health of the Lake. In addition, water quality is an existing issue, and that will be further exacerbated by low flows.

The water for the lake in Queen Elizabeth Park is sourced from the Waipoua River. The resource consent for this expires in 2023, after which time Council anticipates that they may no longer be able to draw water for this purpose during low river flows. There is a significant existing leakage issue with this lake and Council are currently investigating options to address this. Currently, water quality is not an issue for this lake.

In the future, it is likely that Council will have to move to a greater level of intervention if both lakes are to be preserved in their current form.

- **Future purpose and function** – given the importance of all these spaces along the Waipoua River to the district, it is imperative that they have a clearly defined function and that each space works well individually and together as a whole.

The purpose and function of Queen Elizabeth Park, for this exercise, has been categorised as a 'premier' park. It appears to primarily have a botanical gardens function, but its future use and management should be clarified and could be extended to include educational and cultural opportunities.

A key part of the future management of this area will be to understand how all the areas link with each other and the movement of people through the site (vehicles, pedestrian and cycling) as well as the rationalisation of entrance and parking areas and the location of ablutions. Where possible parking areas and community facilities should be shared. Identifying the role this core space plays in providing regional and local events will also be important in the development of this area.

### 5.3. ARE OUR PARKS MEETING COMMUNITY NEED? (DISTRIBUTION AND QUALITY)

Good accessibility to quality parks and open space is an important component of healthy urban areas and there are numerous international studies that indicate park quality and accessibility

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<sup>24</sup> <https://mstn.govt.nz/council-2/projects/cbd-village-concept-upgrades/>

are positively associated with wellbeing. While New Zealand is generally considered to be well provided for in terms of access to parks and open space, and these spaces are well-used and highly rated by users, consideration of the distribution and the quality of these spaces will become increasingly important as urban density increases and our town expands.<sup>25</sup>

For the purpose of this strategy, a 500-metre buffer has been applied to the town's neighbourhood parks as a general indicator of a 10-minute walk to available community open space (refer Urban Accessibility Map attached in Appendix 2). This map provides a broad indicator of gaps in access to neighbourhood park space which is further summarised in Table 6 below. Good access to neighbourhood parks is desirable in suburban areas, given their local community-oriented function (as outlined in Table 1 above).

**TABLE 6: ACCESS TO NEIGHBOURHOOD PARKS (URBAN)**

Suburb	Access to neighbourhood park space	Provision per 1000 residents	Park name and play function
Lansdowne	<b>Average - poor</b>	0.095 ha	Burling Park - limited play function
Masterton West	<b>Average - poor</b>	0.368 ha	Coddington Cres/Nops Reserve/Norris Reserve - no play function
Masterton East	Poor	0 ha	Play function provided as part of McJorrow Park (Cameron Cres)
Ngaumutawa	Average	0.415 ha	Ben Iorns Reserve - Limited play function
Solway	Average	0.5960 ha	Churchill Park/Taranaki Street/Surrey Street/Solway Crescent/Riverstone Park/ Kirk Reserve/Margaret Street Reserve Multiple neighbourhood parks with limited play function and small in size.

### 5.3.1 Neighbourhood Parks

Neighbourhood parks are spaces that are available for general community use. Typical characteristics include playgrounds, recreation facilities (e.g. skate parks, half courts, bike tracks and other informal recreation activities), picnic facilities, dog exercise areas and may have sports fields for junior or informal use, as well as buildings such as toilets, community centres/halls etc. These parks are generally small area (up to 2.5 ha)<sup>26</sup> and ideally every household would have access to such a park within a 10-minute walk.

The data above indicates that Masterton has a shortage of neighbourhood parks in some areas. In addition, the function of these spaces tends to have limited or ageing play equipment, with otherwise limited amenity, and there is opportunity to improve the function of these spaces. Provision of suitable spaces with a neighbourhood function can be achieved in a number of ways

<sup>25</sup> <http://sustainablecities.org.nz/wp-content/uploads/Blaschke-Chapman-et-al-30may17-on-Density-and-UGOS-final-delinked.pdf>

<sup>26</sup> NZRA Parks Categories Framework (2017)

[https://issuu.com/newzealandrecreationassociation/docs/nzra\\_parks\\_category\\_framework\\_-fina](https://issuu.com/newzealandrecreationassociation/docs/nzra_parks_category_framework_-fina)



including through developing other existing greenspaces (such as recreation and ecological linkages, or sports field) as multi-purpose spaces, improving accessibility to existing neighbourhood spaces with better cycling and pedestrian linkages, development of additional neighbourhood parks as new residential development occurs, or shared services with other open space providers such as schools and community trusts. In some cases, purchase of additional land may be required.

### 5.3.2 Playgrounds

The council has 10 playgrounds in the following locations:

- four within suburban neighbourhood parks (Ben Iorns, Burling, Judd and Margaret Street Reserves)
- two located on sports fields (McJorrow Park, Masterton East and South Park, Solway)
- one each district playground at Queen Elizabeth Park and Henley Lake.
- one at Mawley Park campground (not publicly accessible)
- one at Riversdale Beach.

An audit of these playgrounds was completed in 2017. As a result of the audit, Council has been working to address and improve compliance and maintenance issues to ensure playgrounds are in a good and safe condition.

As with the parks themselves, the provision of Council playgrounds is of mixed quality, age and location. Play needs within the district and particularly the urban area is based on historical provision and further assessment of play needs in the district would assist in ensuring future play opportunities are well located to meet identified community need.

### 5.3.3 Sports Fields and Facilities

The above data indicates Council provision of sports-fields is low by comparison to other local authorities. However, a Sports Facilities Plan<sup>27</sup> completed for the district in 2014 concluded that Masterton had an extensive estate of public parks, with an oversupply of sports fields (but an undersupply of flood lit fields for training). It also indicated that many of the facilities on Council Parks had reached or were nearing, the end of their functional and economic lives.

The Plan identified that *'partnerships and collaboration are the key transformational opportunities available to create a sustainable and 21st century sporting infrastructure in Masterton District over the next 20 years'* and made the following recommendations of relevance to this strategy:

- A focus on co-location of facilities where there is potential for sharing of facilities (gym/changing rooms and other amenities, meeting and social spaces), parking, and staff, etc.
- Integrated hubs and 'sportville partnerships' to enable a range of sport and recreation activities to be undertaken at this site.
- Sporting precinct: clustering similar facilities in close proximity, with Memorial Park and Queen Elizabeth to McJorrow Park identified as suitable locations. In particular the report noted that the Queen Elizabeth to McJorrow Park space has the largest collection of established sporting facilities within the district but that it does not function as a single cohesive precinct because of distances between areas and separate road entrances.

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<sup>27</sup> Prepared for Masterton District Council February 2014, Global Leisure Group

Since this plan was developed, a significant upgrade/development of the netball courts has been completed, however, overall conclusions potentially remain relevant to this strategy, particularly the idea of a sporting precinct within the Waipoua River Management Area. This should be addressed as part of the Reserve Management plan for this area.

A review of the Wellington Regional Sports Fields Strategy (2013) is about to be undertaken by Wellington City Council in partnership with Sport New Zealand. This presents an opportunity for the Wairarapa local authorities to be involved and take a strategic regional approach to provision, and to test if the findings of the above strategy are still relevant.

#### 5.4. URBAN GROWTH

Masterton's demographic growth trends are outlined in section 2.3 above. In terms of direction of growth, the Masterton Urban Growth Strategy<sup>28</sup> identifies that expansion to the east of the town is significantly constrained by the presence of public infrastructure in this general locality, including the wastewater treatment plant, waste transfer station, and the Hood Aerodrome and its main flight paths (to the southeast). There is also significant flooding risk from the Waipoua and Ruamāhanga Rivers.

By contrast, the western and northern sides of Masterton's current urban area are generally less constrained (particularly in terms of flood hazard risk and large infrastructure/land use compatibility). The Urban Growth Strategy identifies five growth areas in this location (refer Image 3 below) including:

- Williams Block outside Urban Boundary (3.7ha)
- Chamberlain Road FDA Extension (23ha)
- Opaki Road FDA Extension (23ha)
- Nikau Heights Extension (45.7ha)
- Carters South Belt outside Urban Boundary (5 ha).

These areas (subject to detailed assessment) could collectively yield about 870 new residential lots for Masterton. Some of these areas are within the existing residential boundary (and therefore suitably zoned within the District Plan) but others will require a plan change for residential development to proceed.

From a parks and open spaces perspective, it is important that Council can respond proactively and in an informed manner to residential expansion so that Council's vision '*providing the best of rural provincial living*' can be achieved. The western and northern sides have existing low levels of Council provided parks and open space and poor connectivity and linkages. They are also further located from the key recreational Waipoua River Management Area and have less local benefit from this area.

The council's parks and open spaces team need to be resourced to be involved early in the design and provision of these open spaces

Opportunities for involvement include:

- Plan Change/District Plan Review
- Concept Plan development stage

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<sup>28</sup> Masterton Urban Growth Strategy | Planning for Growth to 2043 | 29 March 2019 | Boffa Miskell Ltd

- Subdivision stage, including preapplication meetings, further information requests, recommending of conditions

It is also recommended that the Parks and Open Spaces team advocate to have input to a development of a subdivision guide for design and development of new open spaces.

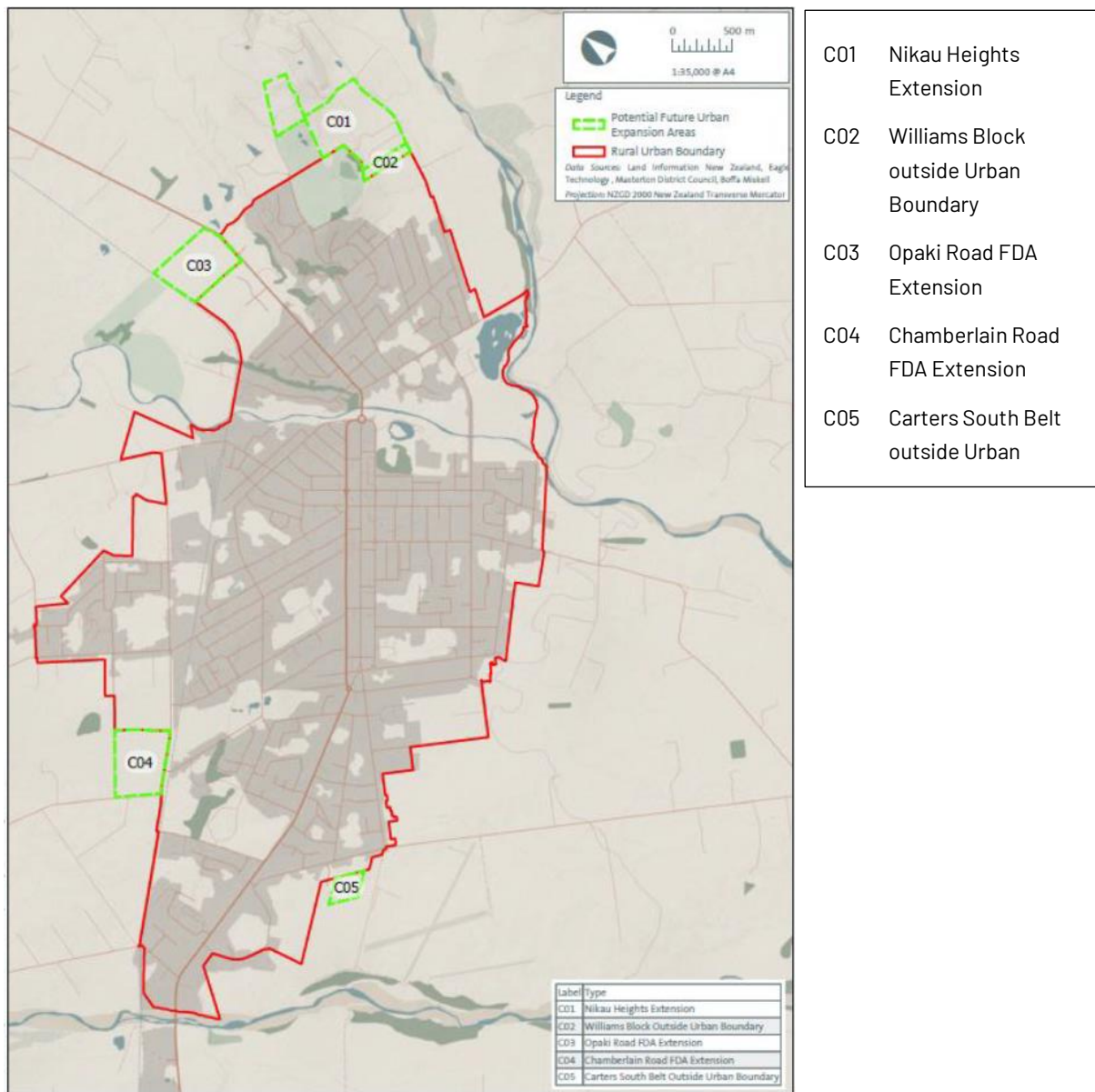
The current review of the Wairarapa Combined District Plan also presents an opportunity to provide District Plan provisions that encourage appropriately sized and well-located parks and open spaces and infrastructure.

#### **5.4.1 Land Acquisition and Disposal Guidelines**

Council from time to time may consider the selling of land under its ownership. For land not held within the parks and open spaces network (e.g. land for housing, underdeveloped sites, forestry blocks, gravel reserves, contaminated sites etc), the council should consider the potential recreation and open space values of these sites to the network prior to its disposal. If there is a strategic reason for doing so, i.e., to address an identified shortage of park space within an area, or as a potential linkage with the network and/or recreation trails this benefit should be addressed as part of any consideration.

The potential sale of land that is within the parks and reserves network should be discouraged unless it can be shown that there will be no negative effect to the community, or on the network, as a result of divesting this land.

IMAGE 3: Potential Residential Expansion Areas - to be investigated



## 5.5. PARTNERSHIPS AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

### 5.5.1 Mana Whenua

It is acknowledged that traditionally, Masterton District Council's parks and open spaces provision has not reflected the district's Māori history and heritage, and there has been little recognition of any partnership with mana whenua.

The loss of Māori land (less than one per cent of the Wairarapa region is in Māori ownership) has also impacted on the practice of Māori traditions and culture and for this reason Māori support work that enhances biodiversity, ecosystems and are future focused. Working with mana



whenua to understand and respect traditional kaitiakitanga<sup>29</sup> principles in the delivery of its parks and open spaces, is an opportunity for Council to develop stronger relationships with iwi, hapū, marae and hapori Māori. The desire by Council to do this is also reinforced in Council's Wellbeing strategy 'He Hiringa Tangata, He Hiringa Whenua'.

Hui with representatives of hapū, iwi and hapori Māori have identified a real desire to develop partnerships with Council in the area of parks and open spaces. Specific issues and opportunities identified at the hui included:

- Identifying key Māori values that can be reflected across the parks network by appropriate reference to place, and provision for special events (e.g., Matariki) and traditional practices (e.g. raranga/weaving and rongoā māori/traditional māori medicine) mahinga kai (food gathering areas) and maara kai (food gardens), water as the essence of life, access routes and a means of travel, indigenous planting, etc.
- Kaitiaki lens over management - with a focus on clean water and water resilience, i.e., looking at discharges (e.g. chemical use)/water use; vegetation sourcing and management etc. At the hui it was identified how important local sourcing of seed is to get the correct harakeke/flax for weaving for example. The seed needs to whakapapa to this area, be cared for correctly, and what is not needed or left over after weaving be appropriately disposed of.
- Providing partnership opportunities that will increase whānau pride in their identity, as well as increase pride Māori heritage generally across the district. For example, opportunities to co-design spaces will ensure that Māori whakapapa and aspirations are accurately and appropriately provided for in the parks and open network.
- Adoption of Māori names, use of pōhiri and whakapapa across the parks network, and educating about authentic local Māori stories as approved by the appropriate hapū. Passive technology provides a huge opportunity for this to take place.<sup>30</sup>
- The need to appropriately resource wananga and partnerships.

### 5.5.2 Strategic Partnerships

The council is not the only provider of parks and open spaces, nor can it meet the parks and open spaces needs of its community on its own. For this reason, strategic partnerships with the other providers are important. Strategic partners identified (but not limited to) in this strategy include:

#### Local and Regional Authority and Government Partners

Masterton District Council is encouraged to work strategically with its local authority partners in the wider Wairarapa area. An example of where this is working well is the evolving Five Towns Trails network where the council is working collaboratively with its local authority counterparts. Alignment of trail opportunities with the parks and open spaces network is anticipated to provide multiple health, and wellbeing as well as economic benefits to the district.

Collaboration for sports field provision has been identified above as another example where it would be beneficial for Councils to work together. Users of these spaces tend to be mobile and given the proximity to Carterton and South Wairarapa Councils, a regional network approach to the provision of sports fields is recommended.

Developing partnership with Greater Wellington Regional Council is also desirable given the location of MDC's key parks along the Waipoua River Corridor and ongoing issues with water

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<sup>29</sup> Broadly defined as 'guardianship' or 'protection'

<sup>30</sup> For example, refer <https://arataki.app/>

security and quality. Working collaboratively will also be important to achieve good connections and access to and along the Waingawa and Ruamāhanga Rivers as part of the Five Towns Trails network.

There may also be opportunities to partner with Government agencies such as the Department of Conservation and Sport New Zealand for the benefit of the district parks and open spaces.

#### Schools and the Ministry of Education

Masterton has 11 schools located within its urban boundary, and these schools contribute significant additional open space in the town. Whilst a number of these schools are integrated (i.e., they own their land) and public access to individual sites varies, a lot of residences bound these schools, particularly the colleges, and this provides indirect access to open space. Much of this open space is also accessible to the wider community and include sports fields and some playground provision.

#### Private Providers

Masterton also has a number of significant open spaces provided by other providers including:

- Māhunga Golf Club, 36 ha (Lansdowne)
- Masterton Golf Club, 48.80 ha (Lansdowne)
- Masterton Red Star Sports field (Lansdowne)
- RV Hullena Sports Ground, 2.43 ha (Masterton East)
- 16B Te Whiti Road RDA land, 3.88 ha (Masterton East)
- Masterton Bowling Club, 0.45 ha (Masterton East)
- Wairarapa Tennis Centre, 0.85 ha (Masterton East)
- A and P Show Grounds, 33.95 ha (Solway)
- Millennium Reserve – Masterton Trust Lands Trust, 5.92 ha (Solway)

#### **5.5.3 Community and Volunteer Partnerships**

Community groups and volunteers also contribute a significant amount of time and energy to Council's parks and open spaces. This includes time in terms of co-management (Henley Lake and Queen Elizabeth Park), as well as volunteer time working in the parks (e.g. Kirk Reserve community) and fundraising to implement community initiatives.

Working with groups such as the Sustainable Wairarapa Trust for example, is also important as Masterton works towards improving urban biodiversity.

On-going engagement with the general community, including representatives of different demographic and groups, minorities, families and specific neighbourhoods, will also be important going forwards as reserve management plans are developed for the different reserves or collective of reserves.

A workshop with stakeholder groups, held as part of the preparation of this strategy, emphasised a strong desire for community working together with the council on the development of the network to encourage community buy-in and a sense of ownership of these spaces. Show-casing the parks through celebrations and events was also highlighted as an opportunity to further strengthen these community relationships.

## 5.6. DISTRICT HERITAGE AND CHARACTER

### 5.6.1 Mana Whenua Heritage and Culture

As identified above, there is real opportunity to partner with mana whenua, to give visibility to the stories of district's early settlement, across the parks and open spaces network. We also know from other council strategies that the parks and open spaces network provides opportunity to celebrate language and culture through events, telling our district's stories and ahurea Māori<sup>31</sup>, as well as increase whanau pride in their identity.<sup>32</sup>

### 5.6.2 Urban Heritage and Landscape Character

Masterton's urban landscape character is derived from its many mature trees (within parks and on streets) and its relationship adjacent to the rivers and underlying network of streams. Recognition of this character across the parks network needs to be provided for in an integrated way. The history of the development of the town is also inextricably linked with the development of the surrounding rural area and it is important that these links are also acknowledged and provided for within the network.

Recognition and maintenance of this character in Masterton's parks and open spaces will help reinforce the district's identity.

### 5.6.3 Public Cemeteries

Councils are required by the Burial and Cremation Act 1964 to provide public places of burial. These spaces are important as places of remembrance and reflection, as well as being a record of social history. Cemetery management must ensure enough space is available for burials, and provide for maintenance of older cemeteries and protection of heritage items.

## 5.7. SUSTAINABLE ENVIRONMENTS AND BIODIVERSITY

The community has indicated that sustainable environmental development is a key priority, with issues such as biodiversity, water and air quality, and climate change, including energy conservation, being some of the top priorities. The council supports current education initiatives such as funding for Enviroschools and is a member of the Sustainable Living Trust.<sup>33</sup>

Masterton's parks and open spaces have an important role to play in addressing these environmental challenges Key issues include:

- **Climate change** - Addressing issues associated with climate change, such as water security, vegetation resilience, increased urban temperatures and the need for shade, asset maintenance in a harsher environment etc will be ongoing. There are also additional issues associated with the district coastal parks such as erosion and inundation.
- **Loss of indigenous biodiversity** - Nature is part of New Zealanders' everyday lives and our native trees, plants, birds, animals, insects, and the places they inhabit are all part of who we are. Native biodiversity helps provide clean water, nutrient cycling, mahinga kai (food provisioning), and materials for other purposes such as raranga (weaving) and rongoā (medicinal uses). However, our indigenous biodiversity is declining and is at risk of becoming extinct.

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<sup>31</sup> Arts, Culture and Heritage Strategy 2019-2014

<sup>32</sup> He Hiringa Tangata, He Hiringa Whenua, My Masterton: Our People, Our Land Strategy

<sup>33</sup> He Hiringa Tangata, He Hiringa Whenua, My Masterton: Our People, Our Land Strategy

A recent government draft National Policy Statement for Indigenous Biodiversity (NPS-IB)<sup>34</sup> sets out a national framework providing draft direction and guidance to territorial authorities with respect to the protection and enhancement of indigenous biodiversity, that once adopted, will be required to be implemented through Natural Resource Plans and District Plans. It sets a target of 10 per cent of indigenous vegetation cover for urban areas and proposes an integrated approach incorporating mātauranga Māori<sup>35</sup> and kaitiakitanga principles relating to indigenous biodiversity and a *ki uta ki tai* (mountains to sea) approach.

In the urban area, the council provides a range of open space environments. The way they are managed impacts on the health of these environments and their ability to have good biodiversity outcomes. Issues such as chemical use, pest management, water and vegetation management all need to be considered. Some parks will also lend themselves more to being managed as natural spaces than others. For example, Henley Lake is a natural environment that has significant positive benefits for urban biodiversity, whereas the district's sports parks are more strictly controlled environments where the focus is on providing good playing surfaces.

In addition, encouraging native plant regeneration and identifying carbon sequestration opportunities, however small, as part of the council's parks and open spaces management can also help address climate change issues.

Ecological and recreation corridors have an important role in enhancing the district's biodiversity as do the small remaining pockets of indigenous vegetation such as Garlands Bush and Kirk Reserve (urban area). Connecting with tree planting along road corridors and streams will also further enhance urban biodiversity.

Working closely with mana whenua will also be important in improving the networks indigenous biodiversity.

As the urban area grows, the council will seek to adopt urban design and sustainability principles as part of new open space design, taking into account frameworks such as the Healthy Streets<sup>36</sup> approach, as well as opportunities for water sensitive urban design to ensure urban growth proceeds in a way that that protects the environment.

The council also aims to demonstrate best practice in land management in the way it manages its own parks and open space, through moving to a low carbon future and delivery of low impact parks network.

There may also be opportunities for specific biodiversity projects that also provide recreation opportunities and other benefits associated with the parks and open space network.

## 5.8. RURAL AND COASTAL PARKS AND OPEN SPACES

### Rural Parks

The council's rural parks and reserves are a legacy from the days of early rural settlement and local rural communities often being established around a hall school and cemetery. Rural parks are generally managed locally, with council involvement varying depending on the nature of the relationship with the local community. Examples include Clarke Memorial Reserve on Opaki-Kaiparoro Road and Opaki Memorial Reserve.

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<sup>34</sup> November 2019

<sup>35</sup> Māori Customary Knowledge, Traditional Knowledge or Intergenerational Knowledge

<sup>36</sup> <https://healthystreets.com/home/about/>

Over time the focus of these spaces may have changed with some having less use as the communities around them have changed. A paper was recently presented to Council on the future of the district’s rural halls. Council may need to make some decisions in consultation with the community about the future of these lands.

There are also some sites owned by the council and managed by community trusts, i.e. Rewanui Forest, Trimble Trust, and Forest 500. It is not clear what, if any, input the council has to the management of these lands and there may be opportunity to develop stronger relationships/partnerships to ensure greater community benefit accrues from these sites.

The council’s rural parks in the district include:

**TABLE 7: COUNCIL RURAL PARKS AND OPEN SPACES**

Clarke Memorial Reserve
Mel Parkinson Reserve
Land next to Mel Parkinson Reserve
Opaki Memorial Recreation Soc Land
Tinui Cemetery/Tinui Village Land/Tinui War Memorial Hall land/Tinui Hall and Public Library/Tinui Firestation and land
Mauriceville Cemetery/Mauriceville Village Country Depot/Rural Reserve Mauriceville Village
Hastwell Cemetery
Tauweru Hall
Bideford Hall
Rangitumau Hall
Wainuioru Hall
Whangaehu Hall
Whareama hall
Rural Reserve (Kaka Amu Road)
Pokohiwi Road Local Purpose Reserve
Rural Esplanades

In addition, the council owns a number of disused gravel reserves, holding paddocks, and forestry blocks. Some of these potentially have recreation and biodiversity values that could warrant consideration of their inclusion as part of the rural parks network in the future. In making any divestment decisions, it is important that the council also considers the recreation and biodiversity values of these pieces of land. There may also be sequestration opportunities associated with these pieces of land, but this would need to be investigated as part of the council’s response to climate change.

Coastal Parks

The council owns and administers a number of coastal parks and open spaces as set out in table 9 below. Particular issues for parks and open spaces in the coastal environment include:



- Climate change will increasingly impact on coastal parks due to the dynamic nature of the coastal environment.
- Public access and recreational use can impact on the other special qualities of the coastal environment. For example, the creation of tracks can damage plants and heritage sites and public facilities can impact on the way the coast looks. It is important that council is sensitive to the ecology and cultural heritage of these areas in the development and management of these spaces.
- Development pressures can impact on access to the coast and people’s enjoyment of these areas, and it is important that the council considers opportunities to take esplanade reserves or strips on subdivision in the coastal environment.
- Seasonal visitor influxes create particular demand on the council’s parks in the coastal communities.
- Freedom camping is an issue across the district but particularly in coastal locations. Issues arise when campers are not self-contained or there is a lack of access to toilets, water and rubbish disposal facilities.
- There is a particularly high level of community ownership of the coastal parks, and the council will need to work closely with the community to address issues and management of these spaces.

In 2004, through a joint initiative between Masterton, Carterton and South Wairarapa District Councils, Rangitāne o Wairarapa and Ngāti Kahungunu Wairarapa, and Greater Wellington Regional Council, a Wairarapa Coastal Strategy was developed. This strategy was developed in response to concerns that development was proceeding along the Wairarapa coast in an ad hoc and fragmented way and highlighted ‘the need to provide for sensitive, sustainable development and management of the Wairarapa Coast which recognises and retains its special qualities’<sup>37</sup>. It is recommended that reserves planning for the coastal environment also occur in an integrated way, in partnership with iwi, the community and other key stakeholders, and that addresses the specific management needs associated with their coastal character.

Council’s coastal parks include:

**TABLE 8: COUNCIL COASTAL PARKS AND OPEN SPACES**

Riversdale Northern Reserve and Beachfront (including Karaka Reserve)
Riversdale Southern Reserve
Riversdale Reserve (Playground)
Mātaikona Recreation Reserve
Mātaikona Beach Reserve
Mātaikona Esplanade Reserve (Spur Road)
Castlepoint Esplanade Reserve
Castlepoint Reserve
Castlepoint Facility

<sup>37</sup> Wairarapa Coastal Strategy (2004)

## TABLE 8: COUNCIL COASTAL PARKS AND OPEN SPACES

Coastal Esplanade Reserve (Riverdale to Whareama)
Coastal Esplanade Reserve from Otahome Road south
Other coastal esplanade reserves

### 5.9. PARKS CONNECTIVITY AND LINKAGES

A prerequisite in developing the parks strategy was to consider the parks as a collective network where each park has a clear role in relation to the wider network. As the town of Masterton grows it is important that new parks are acquired to meet demand and fit within this network.

This approach has been supported through the stakeholder engagement and submission process completed as part of preparing this strategy.

There is also a high level of support for physical linkages between parks, along rivers and streams and with the CBD and a recognition of the value such linkages to contribute to community's health and well-being, access to rivers for fishing, swimming etc, and as safe active transport routes. The roading network, including on-road cycleways, footpaths and road berms also has an important role to play in connecting parks and open spaces, as well as strengthening the recreation and ecological corridor function of the parks network.

Masterton has an existing cycling/walking recreation trail network and the evolving Five Town Trails network, and local Masterton trail developments will be an important part in further creating these links. Draft trail specifications emerging from the Five Towns Trail Master Planning project include provision of grade 2 family riding, easy walking track standard, with a preference for off-road. Safety is paramount. Trails with points of interest along the routes, including food, beverage and toilet stops, changing landscapes and easy access at multiple points are also favoured.

It is therefore important that this strategy and the developing Five Town Trail Master Plan are closely aligned to maximise benefits to the network and the community.

### 5.10. RESOURCING AND PROGRAMMING

Moving from current practices to a network approach will require additional or reallocated resourcing.

The following section of the Strategy sets out council high level goals and objectives for its parks and open spaces network. An associated Implementation Plan will be developed that identifies priorities, and any need for additional resourcing will be addressed as part of councils Long Term/Annual Plan processes, where community feedback is sought council projects and budgets are prioritised and allocated.

# PART TWO – OUR STRATEGY

## 1. VISION STATEMENT

This strategy contributes to Masterton District Council’s overarching wellbeing framework for social, cultural environmental and economic development as set out in the Wellbeing Strategy document, ‘My Masterton: Our People, Our Land/He Hiringa Tangata, He Hiringa Whenua’.







The specific outcome defined for the Parks and Open Spaces Strategy is that:

*‘Our parks are healthy, resilient and connected; they enhance the wellbeing of our present and future communities and connect our people with nature’.*

## 2. OUR PRINCIPLES

Our principles guide how Masterton District Council approaches the provision, planning and management of the district’s parks and open spaces:

We are committed to providing a parks and open spaces network that:

	<p>1. Reflects <b>mana whenua values</b>, including kaitiakitanga of the natural environment (e.g. land, water, flora, and fauna) and whakapapa of the area, and recognises and provides for recreational and cultural opportunities to enhance Māori well-being.</p>
	<p>2. Is based on <b>strengthening and maintaining community relationships and partnerships</b> that contribute to achieving community well-being and positive outcomes</p>
	<p>3. Values, celebrates, and protects our district’s <b>identity and heritage</b> acknowledging how we as a district change and evolve over time.</p>
	<p>4. Provides opportunities for our community to <b>connect with nature</b>, and <b>a high level of access</b> and opportunity to enjoy these spaces, through <b>a variety or sporting and recreation activities</b>.</p>
	<p>5. Comprises <b>resilient, healthy spaces</b> with sustainable environments that contribute to <b>positive biodiversity outcomes</b> for the district.</p>
	<p>6. Has a <b>planned</b> as an <b>integrated and interconnected system</b>, with individual parks categorised and managed according to their purpose and function within the network; and is supported by effective pedestrian, cycling and ecological linkages.</p>



7. Where Council staff and contractors are committed to **continuous improvement** to provide **a quality network** that meets the need of the community, in a fiscally and environmentally sustainable way.

The strategy outcome statement, principles, goals, and objectives identified in this strategy align with Masterton District Council's current vision and five community outcomes<sup>38</sup>.

The council's vision for Masterton District, is:

*'Masterton/Whakoriori: Providing the best of rural provincial living'*

The vision is supported by the following five community outcomes:

- *An engaged and empowered community*
- *Pride in our identity and heritage*
- *A sustainable and healthy environment*
- *A thriving and resilient economy*
- *Efficient and effective infrastructure*

The Masterton district's parks and open spaces have an important role in supporting the achievement of these outcomes. Asset Management Plans, this strategy, Reserves General Policies, and Reserve Management Plans provide the policy framework for the acquisition, development, and maintenance of public land as a means of achieving these outcomes.

In performing its role, Council must have particular regard to the contribution that core services make to its communities, including libraries, museums, reserves, recreational facilities, and other community infrastructure (Local Government Act 2002, Section 11A (e)). Council is also committed to working with local Māori in MDC's decision-making processes.

The Masterton District Council Parks and Open Spaces Strategy aims to support the achievement of the objectives, policies and desired outcomes for Council reserves and other Council owned land, as specified in these high-level documents.

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<sup>38</sup> These community outcomes have been identified through consultation with the community as part of the Long-Term Plan process. They are the outcomes council is working towards in order to promote community wellbeing

### **3. HOW WILL WE GET THERE?**

The following framework sets out the high-level goals and objectives for Masterton district's parks and open spaces network. An implementation plan, to identify actions, priorities and resourcing needs will be developed to support these goals and objectives. This work plan will be reviewed annually against the goals and objectives framework.

### **4. MONITORING AND REVIEW**

This is the council's first Parks and Open Spaces Strategy, and it is important that as communities change, new information comes to hand and actions are completed that it is monitored for effectiveness. A review recommended at least once every 10 years.



Masterton/Whakaoriori: He Hiringa Tangata, He Hiringa Whenua ...

Our People, Our Land, ...Our Parks

Strategy Outcome: Our parks are healthy, resilient, and connected; they enhance the wellbeing of our present and future communities and connect our people with nature.

GOALS

<p><b>GOAL 1:</b> <b>ACTIVE PARTNERSHIPS</b></p>	<p><b>GOAL 2:</b> <b>HEALTHY RESILIENT PARKS</b></p>	<p><b>GOAL 3:</b> <b>HEALTHY PEOPLE</b></p>	<p><b>GOAL 4:</b> <b>A STRONG IDENTITY</b></p>	<p><b>GOAL 5:</b> <b>PROTECTED, PLANNED AND CONNECTED PARKS</b></p>
<p>To strengthen and maintain active partnerships with mana whenua, strategic partners, community stakeholders and volunteers, to provide a vibrant, inclusive network.</p>	<p>To provide healthy and resilient parks and open spaces that support and enhance our district's biodiversity and natural heritage; and to deliver clean, safe spaces for our community to treasure and enjoy; and to actively plan for climate change.</p>	<p>To provide quality parks and open spaces that offer choice, are accessible and meet community needs; and connect our people with nature.</p>	<p>To provide a parks and open spaces network that values our district's heritage and celebrates our unique character.</p>	<p>To provide an integrated parks and open spaces network that meets our legislative and best practice obligations.</p>
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Mana whenua aspirations are visible and celebrated within the parks and open spaces network.</li> <li>2. Strategic partnerships are encouraged where it has demonstrated benefits to the network and community. This includes for example strategic alignment with:               <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Other Wairarapa local authorities, Greater Wellington Regional Council, the Department of Conservation, Sport New Zealand etc.</li> <li>ii. Schools and education providers</li> <li>iii. Clubs, the A and P Society, Masterton Trust Lands Trust</li> <li>iv. Henley Lake Trust and Friends of Queen Elizabeth Park</li> </ol> </li> <li>3. Community groups, volunteers and the wider community are actively involved and support our parks and open spaces network.</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. A resilient parks and open spaces network that contributes to how our district responds to the impacts of climate change, including innovative solutions that deliver positive outcomes for water quality and quantity, and planting of more resilient vegetation types.</li> <li>2. A parks and open spaces network that supports and nurtures the biodiversity of Masterton District.</li> <li>3. A parks and open spaces network where our remnant native bush areas and natural heritage values are valued and protected.</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. There are enough parks and open spaces to meet the needs of our families, young people, our ageing population, and our increasingly diverse communities,</li> <li>2. Our parks and open spaces network provide quality experiences and a good range of recreational choices.</li> <li>3. All residents within the Masterton urban area have access to open space within a 10-minute walk of their home.</li> <li>4. All members of our community can access and enjoy safe opportunities for play across the network, including those with impaired mobility.</li> <li>5. Sports fields meet the needs of the community within the Masterton District and across the wider region.</li> <li>6. Council will work with sports clubs and organisations (with facilities on council land) to take a collaborative approach to sharing and enhancing our facilities.</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Our district's unique heritage stories are acknowledged and celebrated across our parks and open spaces network.</li> <li>2. Our parks and open spaces network is respectful of, and values the special character of the Masterton District associated with its flora and fauna.</li> <li>3. The burial needs of the Masterton District are provided for.</li> <li>4. The cultural and heritage values of our closed cemeteries are protected and maintained.</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The key purpose and function of individual parks and their role within the wider network is well understood.</li> <li>2. The network is appropriately protected to ensure public access and enjoyment into the future.</li> <li>3. The network is managed in accordance with current Reserve Management Plans and best practice.</li> <li>4. Council parks and open spaces are provided for in a way that aligns with other key strategic goals.</li> <li>5. Masterton District's parks and open spaces network is well connected with safe and effective pedestrian and cycle connections to the CBD, the Five Towns Trails, and the wider community in which it is located.</li> <li>6. Masterton District's parks and open spaces network utilise the district's trails, roading corridor, and river and stream network to enhance physical connectivity and biodiversity corridors, as well as provide safe access to the district's rivers and streams or other key areas of interest.</li> </ol>

## GLOSSARY OF TE REO MĀORI TERMS

### TE REO MĀORI TERMS

<b>Ahurea Māori</b>	Māori culture
<b>Hapori Māori</b>	Maori community group
<b>Hapū</b>	Subtribe of an iwi
<b>Iwi</b>	Māori tribe, nation, - often refers to a large group of people descended from a common ancestor and associated with a distinct territory
<b>Kaitiaki</b>	Trustee, minder, guard, custodian, guardian, caregiver, keeper, steward <sup>39</sup>
<b>Mana whenua</b>	Those who whakapapa to lands through hapū or iwi
<b>Marae</b>	Meeting house
<b>Pākehā</b>	Non-Māori
<b>Pōhiri</b>	Māori welcome ceremony on a marae
<b>Rangatahi</b>	Younger generation, youth
<b>Tangata whenua</b>	Local people, hosts, indigenous people - people born of the whenua, i.e. of the placenta and of the land where the people's ancestors have lived and where their placenta are buried
<b>Tipuna</b>	Ancestors, plural form of <i>tipuna</i> and the eastern dialect variation of <i>tūpuna</i>
<b>Uri</b>	Descendant
<b>Whakapapa</b>	Genealogy
<b>Whānau</b>	Extended family, family group, a familiar term of address to a number of people - the primary economic unit of traditional Māori society. In the modern context the term is sometimes used to include friends who may not have any kinship ties to other members

### IWI AND PLACE NAMES

<b>Rangitāne o Wairarapa</b>	Local Wairarapa Iwi
<b>Ngāti Kahungunu ki Wairarapa</b>	Local Wairarapa Iwi
<b>Nukutaurua</b>	Area by the Mahia Peninsula
<b>Ngāti Mutunga</b>	Taranaki and Wharekauri Iwi
<b>Toarangatira</b>	Local Porirua Iwi
<b>Ngāti Raukawa</b>	Otaki Iwi
<b>Te Atiawa</b>	Wellington Central Iwi
<b>Manawatū</b>	Palmerston North and Whanganui area
<b>Wairarapa</b>	Ngawi to Eketahuna area

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<sup>39</sup> <https://maoridictionary.co.nz/search?idiom=&phrase=&proverb=&loan=&histloanwords=&keywords=kaitiaki>