

Public space

Hamilton has an extensive network of public open spaces made up of major facilities, public civic spaces and community spaces. Council must prepare reserve management plans for public open space classified under the Reserves Act 1977. These plans are prepared in consultation with the community and describe the use, development and management of the subject reserve or reserves.

It is important Hamilton has land set aside to accommodate various open space functions. This ensures our residents and visitors continue to have convenient access to safe, pleasant and attractive public spaces.

Neighbourhood Amenity

Public open space within neighbourhoods is made up of land that is developed and maintained to enhance the amenity of an area or to facilitate a sense of community wellbeing.

Open space is an important part of every community and the quality and amenity value of our neighbourhoods are often characterised by the quality and nature of the public open spaces that exist within them. Neighbourhood parks, civic and community spaces provide opportunities for community activities, passive recreation such as walking, cycling, playgrounds and areas for community gatherings.

Outcome

To enhance Hamilton's neighbourhoods by providing well designed, safe and pleasant open spaces. To make sure these open spaces are well utilised but also that effects such as noise, lighting, traffic and parking are well managed.

The plan response

The District Plan currently has three recreation zones and allows for informal recreation in all zones. Reserve management plans are used as an 'other method'. This is a tried and tested approach that people are familiar with and adverse effects are generally managed well, although there is room for improvement.

Option 1

The current approach of the District Plan which provides for open space through three recreation zones with reserve management plans available as an 'other method'.

Option 2

One zone covering all types of open space. Activity status and standards would be consistent across all areas and local effects could be managed by permitting specific activities and structures identified in reserve management plans.

Option 3

Specific zoning. This approach would involve matching the function of the neighbourhood open space with appropriate zoning, tailored specifically to the function and purpose of the open space.



What we are thinking so far

Option 3 would best meet the desired outcome. It would enable the specific outcomes, in respect of neighbourhood amenity for each type of open space, to be provided for through specific zones.

Parks & Reserves

Hamilton's network of reserves accommodate a variety of functions. Access to open space helps people to provide for their social and cultural wellbeing.

The linkages between these reserves offer opportunities for movement and connectivity as well as stormwater and ecological networks. Reserves are predominantly planted or intend to be planted in vegetation ie Jubilee Bush and can also include gullies such as and Mangaiti.

Outcome

To ensure that Hamilton's residents continue to enjoy and have convenient access to a safe, pleasant and integrated network of parks, reserves and natural landscapes.

The plan response

The current District Plan zones are too general and are not always appropriate to the function of a particular reserve. There are also inconsistencies and/or duplication between the District Plan and reserve management plans which sometimes means a notified consent needs to be obtained for an activity that has already been approved as part of a reserve management plan.

Option 1

The current approach of the District Plan with reserves categorised under one of three general recreation zones with reserve management plans available as an 'other method'.

Option 2

One zone. This approach would involve having one zone that applies to all reserves with activities and standards consistent throughout. Specific issues for a given reserve could be managed by permitting specified activities and structures as identified in reserve management plans.

Option 3

Specific zoning. This approach would involve matching the function of a given reserve with appropriate zoning, resulting in a number of zones that are tailored specifically to the function of the reserves.

What we are thinking so far

Option 3 would ensure that the particular characteristics, needs and desired outcomes for each reserve can be provided for through specific zones. In addition a review of the content of current reserve management plans will inform what activities and standards are appropriate for each zone.

Sports & Major Recreation

Sports related spaces comprise land that is developed and maintained predominantly to serve as a venue for sport and active recreation. These areas range from large sports parks such as Porritt Stadium through to smaller local sports areas such as Dawson Park.

Major recreation spaces are made up of land of a significant size and are able to cater for a range of activities and functions. These areas include Hamilton Gardens and Minogue Park.

Outcome

To ensure that Hamilton has sufficient land to accommodate active and passive recreation activities and that the scale and nature of this land is capable of accommodating a variety of uses, values and functions.

The plan response

The District Plan currently provides for open space by having three recreation zones including 'environmental', 'general' and 'major' – all of which allow for informal recreation and ancillary buildings. Desired outcomes are not always achieved as the zones are too general and restrictions in the respective zones do not necessarily lead to open space that is flexible and adaptable.

Option 1

The current approach of the District Plan provides for sports and major recreation under three general zones.

Option 2

One zone. This approach would require that the relevant reserve management plans would form part of the District Plan and a change to the District Plan would need to be made each time a reserve management plan ceases to have effect, is updated or a new one is created.

Option 3

Specific zoning. This approach would involve matching the function of the open spaces used for sports and major recreation with appropriate zoning, resulting in a number of zones that are tailored specifically to their function.

What we are thinking so far

The provision of specific zoning, Option 3, has the main advantage of setting out particular outcomes for each type of open space. In addition a review of the content of Reserve Management Plans could detail what activities and standards are appropriate for each zone.

This approach would also ensure that the content of Reserve Management Plans is considered indirectly through compliance the District Plan standards. Reserve Management Plans could also be taken into account as a consideration when assessing resource consents.

Find out more

To tell us what you think or for more in the series of Fast Forward Factsheets visit www.fastforwardhamilton.co.nz

The period for public comments closes on 29 October 2010.



HAMILTON DISTRICT PLAN REVIEW
www.fastforwardhamilton.co.nz



Hamilton City Council
Te kaunihera o Kiriitiroa