



**Horowhenua**   
DISTRICT COUNCIL

# DRAFT Shannon Reserves Management Plan

December 2018



# SHANNON RESERVE MANAGEMENT PLAN

This document presents a **DRAFT** Reserve Management Plan for six parks and reserves in Shannon—Shannon Domain, Te Maire Park, Moynihan Park, Hyde Park, Stafford Street Esplanade and 35 Margaret Street.

The Shannon Reserves Management Plan is an extension to Council's *Parks and Reserves General Policy* document. The General Policy document provides detailed direction for the use and management of open space throughout Horowhenua. From this, the Shannon Reserve Management Plan defines the purpose of the Shannon parks specifically and provides additional direction for matters unique to the individual parks.

This Reserve Management Plan also presents a list of actions for each reserve. These are ideas and initiatives to enhance the parks, proposed by members of the Shannon community. The actions provide direction for Council when funding is available for investment in all or any of the six parks.

This document is a draft version, prepared to seek feedback and input from Shannon's community.

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# WHAT IS A RESERVE MANAGEMENT PLAN?

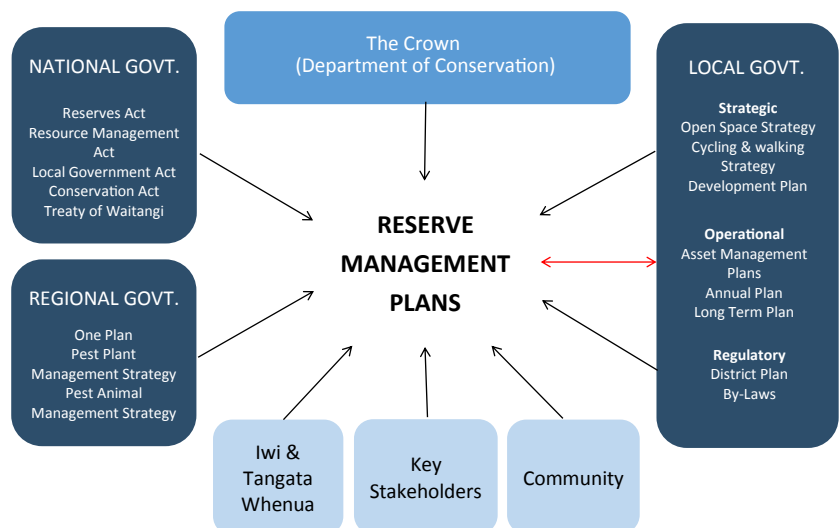
**What is a Reserve Management Plan?** A reserve management plan (often referred to as a RMP) is a document prepared under the Reserves Act 1977 (the Act). It contains objectives, policies and actions relating to the use, management and future development of a reserve. All reserves that have been gazetted and classified as reserves under the Act, require a reserve management plan in accordance with section 41(1) of the Act. Once prepared and adopted, reserve management plans must be kept under continuous review to address new issues and opportunities as they arise for each reserve (section 41(4)). Council's reserve management plans provide a guide for Council staff in making both day-to-day and long-term decisions about how reserves and open spaces under Council's ownership or control are to be used, managed and developed.

**Statutory Context:** Reserve management plans are prepared and reviewed in accordance with the requirements of the Reserves Act 1977. However, there are a number of other pieces of national legislation as well as plans, strategies and regulations at the regional and local level that need to be considered when preparing them. The diagram below identifies the key statutes, plans, strategies and regulations that Council should also consider when preparing or reviewing its reserve management plans.

Those shown in the diagram are not an exhaustive list, as there are other statutes that may also be relevant (e.g. Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga Act 2014).

Further explanation about the key statutes, plans, strategies and regulations and how they are relevant to reserve management plans is provided in Council's Parks and Reserves General Policy Document.

Also highlighted by this diagram are the different roles and functions that Council has in relation to the management of parks, reserves and open space.





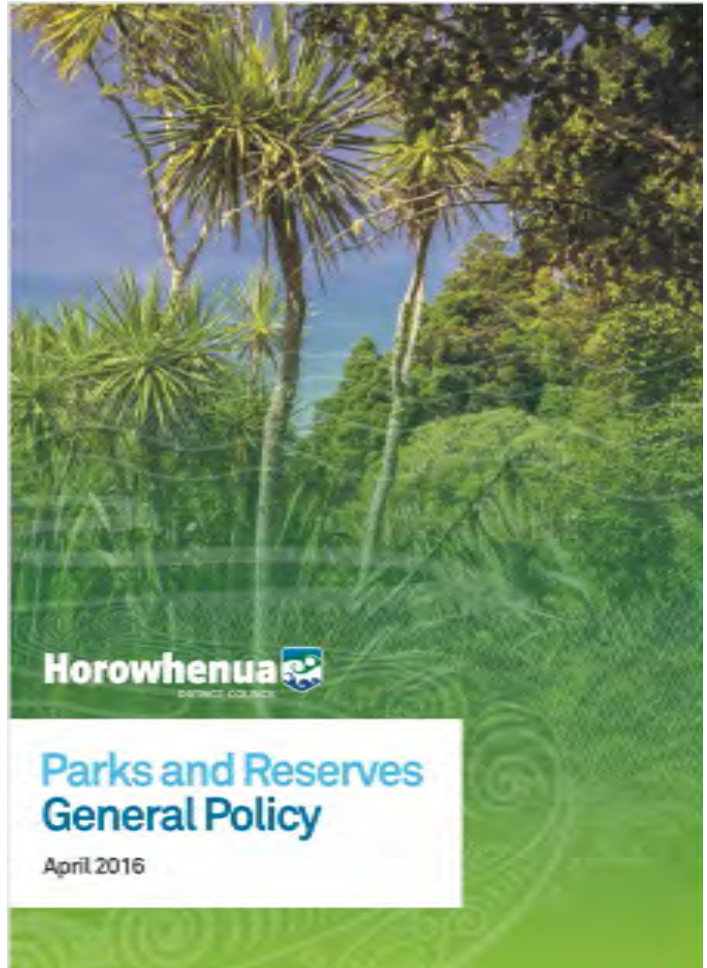
**Relationship with Council's Parks and Reserves General Policy Document:** The Parks and Reserves General Policy Document (adopted April 2016) applies to all parks and reserves in the Horowhenua District that are owned and/or administer by Council, and managed by Council's Parks and Property Team. The majority of these parks and reserves are gazetted as reserve and classified under the Reserves Act 1977. There is also a number of areas of open space recognised and managed by Council as reserve land that do not hold formal reserve status under the Act.

The General Policy Document provides objectives, policies and actions for management issues which are common throughout the majority of Council reserves. This allows the Council to adopt a consistent approach to the management of all reserves, in a cost and time efficient way.

The objectives, policies and actions outlined in the Shannon Reserve Management Plan are specific to the six parks and reserves identified within it. The objectives, policies and actions in the Shannon RMP are tailored to the specific issues or opportunities of each reserve and take precedence over the General Policy Document's provisions where they relate to the same issue. In reverse, where the Shannon RMP is silent on an issue then the provisions of the General Policy Document apply.

The Parks and Reserves General Policy Document includes a decision making process to guide Council staff and community when a request is made regarding a specific park or reserve and it is not covered by either the site specific RMP or the General Policy Document.

**How was the Shannon RMP developed?** The Shannon RMP is the outcome of a series of community discussions that identified shared aspirations for the future of the six parks and reserves it relates to. Community input identified both strengths and weaknesses of the parks at present, captured information on why and what people use the parks for and recorded ideas for how the parks could be developed over time to best provide for the Shannon community and visitors to their town. This input built upon previous RMP's that existed for some



of the parks and reserves and was further enhanced by input from Council staff who work with the Council owned/managed sites.

Next, the draft RMP is presented back to the community, for people to review and provide feedback either in support or by recommending additions or amendments. A Council hearing will be held to consider the community's input before then finalising the RMP, at which point it becomes an active Council policy document.

## WHICH PARKS ARE INCLUDED IN THIS RMP?



The town of Shannon is located in the north east of the Horowhenua district. Home to approximately 1,300 people, the small town sits on the plains near the base of the Tararua Ranges and is surrounded by agricultural land. Primarily residential in nature, the town's main Street (Plimmer Terrace) is lined by a small collection of commercial, hospitality and retail businesses. Shannon's primary school and early childhood centres provide for the towns youngest population but most residents travel elsewhere for secondary school and employment.

This Reserve Management Plan provides direction for the future use, investment and maintenance of six of the town's parks and reserves, which in combination provide for Shannon residents and visitors active and passive recreation needs — Shannon Domain, Moynihan Park, Hyde Park, Te Maire Park, 35 Margaret Street and the Stafford Street Esplanade. The map above locates the six parks and reserves in the context of the town's urban extent.



# WHAT DO WE KNOW ABOUT PARKS?

## OPEN SPACE TYPOLOGY

The six reserves contained within this management plan represent many typologies of open space. Typology describes a range of 'types', as a concept of multiple types placed upon a spectrum from one extreme to another. When considering open space typologies, terms such as neighbourhood park, sports field and nature reserve are familiar names often given to open spaces within our urban settlements. As a reference point, the open space typology presented below and on the following page is used to help consider the public open space provided for

the Shannon community. Looking at open space typologies help with understanding the different types of reserves and their associated facilities available and whether additional or different types are required to meet the needs of the Shannon community and its visitors.

The typology framework used here was sourced from design guidance produced by the Parks and Recreation Team at Auckland Council, which can be viewed at [www.aucklanddesignmanual.co.nz](http://www.aucklanddesignmanual.co.nz).



Ecological



Civic Space



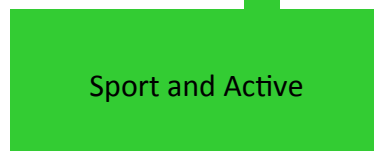
Informal Recreation



Landscape



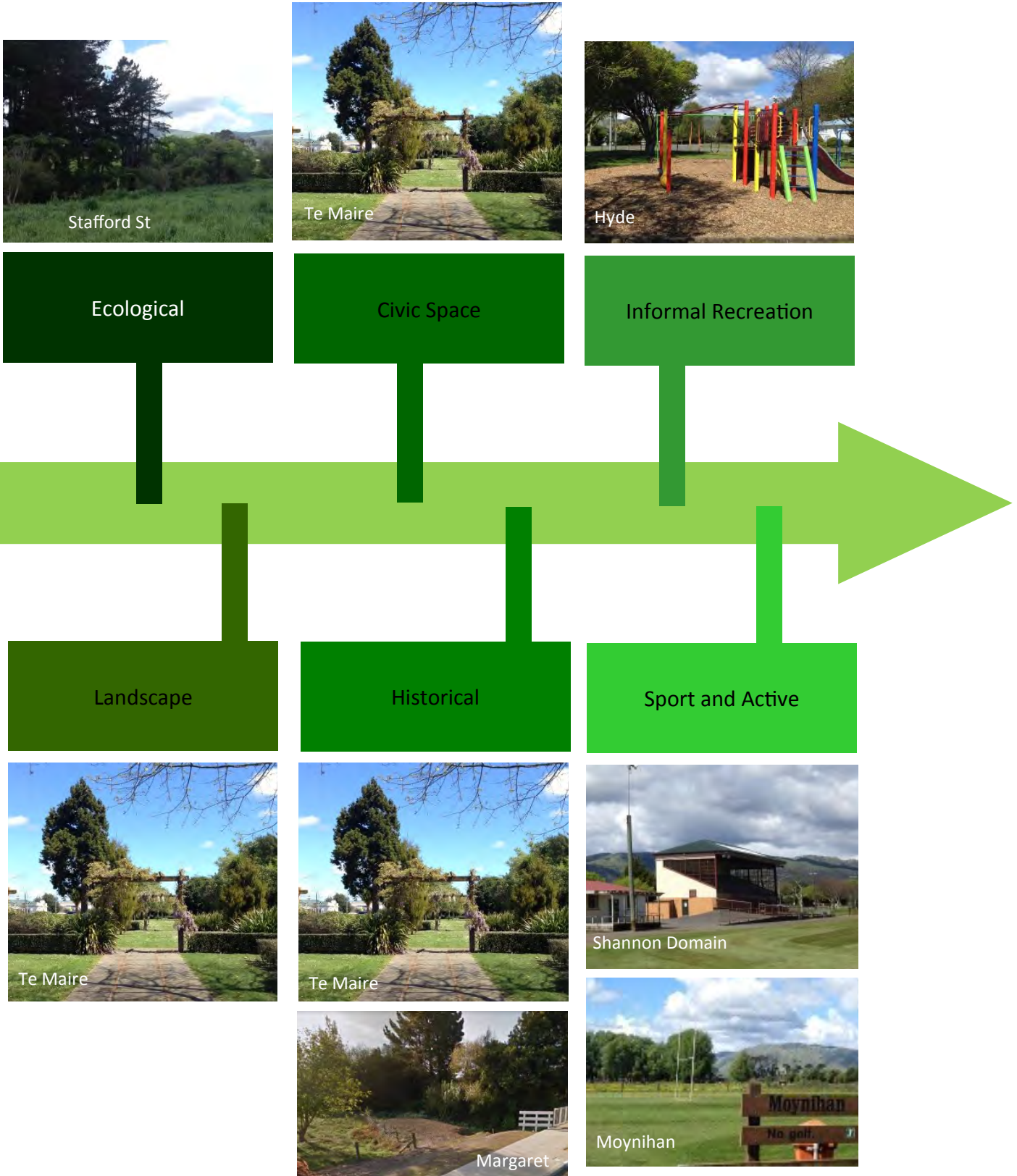
Historical



Sport and Active



**OPEN SPACE TYPOLOGY: SHANNON**





## RESERVES CLASSIFICATIONS

The Reserves Act 1977 applies to all public land that has been vested or gazetted under the Act. If a reserve is vested under the Reserves Act 1977 it must be classified based on its primary purpose and each reserve be managed in accordance with this purpose. Section 16 of the Reserves Act 1977 identifies that it is mandatory for reserves to be classified and gazetted based on their primary purpose. The Reserves Act 1977 provides for the following seven different reserve classifications, as defined in sections 17 to 23:

- Recreation Reserve
- Historic Reserve
- Scenic Reserve
- Nature Reserve
- Scientific Reserve
- Government Purpose Reserve
- Local Purpose Reserve

Reserves may be vested under the Reserves Act with more than one classification, particularly if the values requiring protection vary from one part of the reserve to another. To achieve a dual classification the land area needs to have been surveyed to define the boundary and provide separate land parcels between the lands requiring different classifications.



## PEOPLE AND ACCESS TO PARKS

**Ped Sheds – A Tool for Analysing Open Space:** While the value of public open space begins simply with provision, its true value is defined by many other factors. A highly valuable reserve is one that is in the right location, is the right size, contains the right infrastructure and is accessible to all. This can be enhanced when it contributes to a wider provision of open spaces within a town, district or region, which together provide a collective offer of open space. A useful factor to analyse when looking at the value of public open space is to consider the proximity of the location of the reserve to the population it is intended to serve. To do this, a concept known as a ‘ped shed’ can be

used. A ped shed describes the standard walking distance from a point of interest (e.g. a reserve), measured as a radius from this point, out across the ped shed area. Ped sheds typically use a five minute or ten minute walking radius (for a standard able bodied pedestrian, with minimal impingements from geography or delays such as crossing busy roads etc). These five and ten minute walking times commonly convert to a 400m or 800m radius respectively. Therefore, a ped shed can be drawn around a point of interest to identify what area and as an extension of this, what population, is captured within the five or 10 minute walking distance radius.



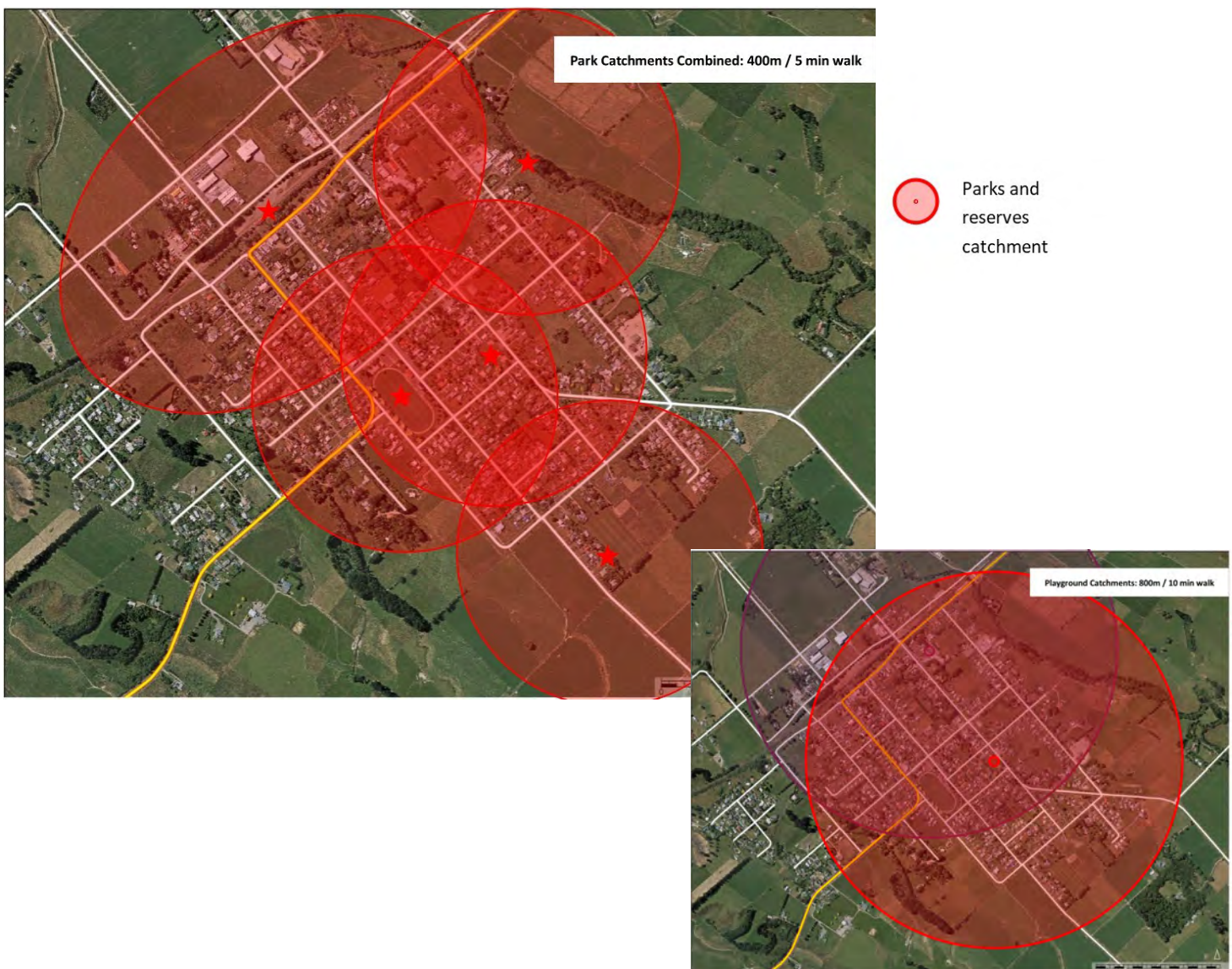
*Note: The focus of ped-shed maps is the relationship between the location of people and their access to outdoor space. The Margaret Street Reserve has not been included in these maps as it does not provide public access.*



**Shannon Ped Shed Analysis:** The images below show two ped shed studies of the Shannon reserves. The first image shows a five minute (400m ped shed) from each of the parks / reserves. This quickly illustrates that the majority of Shannon’s town residents (acknowledging that the town has a large hinterland) are within a five minute walk of a reserve. While each reserve provides a different offer in terms of the type and usability of public open space, the ped shed mapping provides an immediate summary showing that the location of public open space is primarily appropriate to the location of the majority of the town’s population. However, the ped shed also shows that housing development in the south-west of the town is undersupplied regarding proximity to public open space.

This observation provides an important reminder that the provision of public open space must remain consistent with housing development as Shannon continues to expand.

The second (insert) ped shed map provides a typology based assessment of the Shannon reserve provision. As an example, this analysis looks at the provision/location of children's playgrounds, as a primary element of an ‘informal recreation’ open space typology. For this analysis, the ten minute / 800m ped shed has been drawn around the location of playgrounds, both at Hyde Park and at Shannon School (recognising that the playground is publicly accessible). This ped shed shows a clear weighting to the east for active play—providing useful base information for any potential future research or investment.





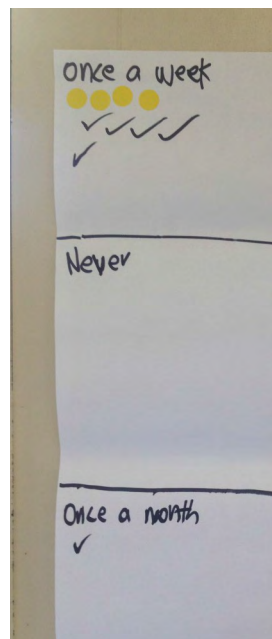
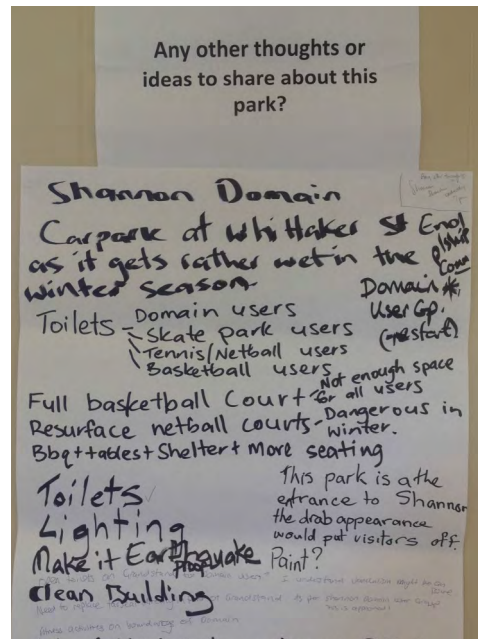
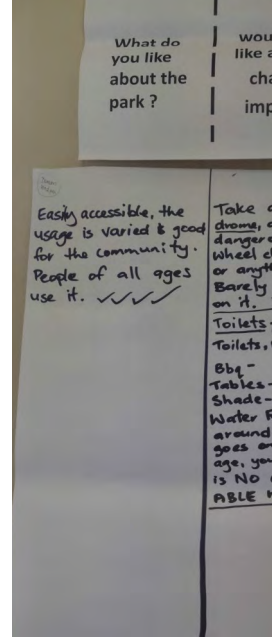
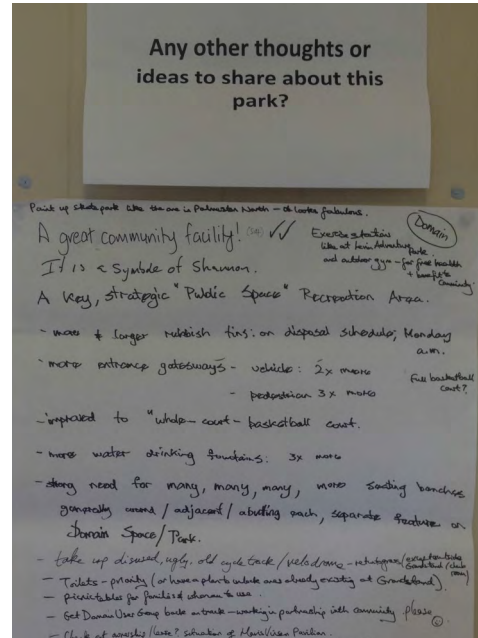
## PREPARING THIS RMP

This Reserve Management Plan (RMP) for six reserves in Shannon has been prepared via the input, ideas and opinions of members of Shannon's community.

Three community drop-in sessions were held, where anyone interested in the future of Shannon's reserves were welcome to attend. The events were promoted via social media, local newspapers and posters placed around the town. An additional session was also held, specifically for people who live near the parks and community groups with interest in the parks. This session was very similar to the drop-in sessions but residents and organisations were formally invited to attend so to ensure they were aware of the project and their opportunity to input.

All four sessions invited people to input their knowledge and ideas for each of the six parks. People were asked how often they visit the park, why do they go there / what do they do there, what works well at the park and what ideas do they have for what could be fixed, improved or added. People contributed their own opinions and conversations with others helped share knowledge and ideas.

The questions used at the sessions described above were also posted online, so people who were unable to attend could also input.



# SHANNON'S PARKS AND RESERVES

Before exploring the reserves individually, the table on the following pages provides a useful snapshot of the six parks and reserves contained within this management plan and their comparative attributes. Presented in the table are the varying sizes of the reserves, their tenure (ownership) and the built infrastructure they contain. In addition, the table records the reserves type/typology, based on the open space typology presented previously.

Then, each park / reserve is presented. The current status of the park is summarised and a vision statement and management objectives and policies are provided. A reminder; all objectives and policies contained here are in addition to those in Council's *Parks and Reserves General Document*. Therefore the objectives and policies in this RMP are focused on additional or special characteristics of the parks that

need extra guidance.

Next a list of actions is provided for each park. This is the Council and community's collective action plan for each park—identifying projects and initiatives to be undertaken when funding for each park is available and signalling priorities amongst the varying ideas.

Not all ideas raised at the community sessions and online have been included in this draft RMP. Some ideas didn't fit with what an RMP covers and instead related to other Council roles and services; and some ideas were more suited to community projects, rather than Council activities.





## RESERVES SNAPSHOT

	Shannon Domain	Hyde Play Park	Moynihan Park
<b>Open Space Typology</b>	Sport & Active	Informal Recreation	Sport & Active
<b>Reserve Classification</b>	Recreation Reserve	Recreation Reserve	Recreation Reserve (Not gazetted, as per previous RMP)
<b>Location</b>	Bound by Balance, Whittaker, Stout and Vogel Streets	Corner of Grey and Whittaker Streets	Accessed via property between 27 and 29 Stafford Street
<b>Size</b>	2.5 hectares	0.4 hectares	1.2 hectares
<b>Infrastructure</b>	Grandstand, rugby club rooms, shared club rooms (netball, tennis, touch rugby, athletics), netball / tennis courts (with flood lights), skate park, rubbish bins, seats, mature trees	Playground equipment (multiple items, for range of ages), seats, rubbish bin, water fountain, established trees, boundary fence	Rugby goal posts, toilet cubicles, car park
<b>Leases</b>	Mavis Vincent Pavilion Building (Shannon Rugby Football Club)	N/A	N/A
<b>Title</b>	Sec 706 SO 23696 (CT D4/167) and Lot 703 DP 368 (CT 807/100)	Lots 7, 8, 9, 10 DP 368	Lot 9 DP 48849 Certificate of Title 19D/728
<b>District Plan Zone</b>	Open Space	Open Space	Open Space
<b>Notes from 2000 RMP</b>	<p><i>Action Points:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>Prohibit vehicles from the oval by erecting a low post and bollard fence in location where access is gained [Complete]</i></li> <li><i>Remove the cycle track and the concrete ticket box</i></li> <li><i>Commission a Landscape Development Plan for the Domain</i></li> </ol>	<p><i>Hyde Play Park is shown as a Recreation Reserve and Playground in the Horowhenua District Plan but is not designated a such. Pursuant to the Reserves Act 1977, the park should be gazetted for its primary purpose, that being recreational.</i></p> <p>---</p> <p><i>Action Points:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>Improve and modernise the play equipment.</i></li> <li><i>Provide an additional light on the corner of Grey and Whittaker Streets.</i></li> <li><i>To facilitate the assistance of the Bunker Club with regard to any development of the park.</i></li> </ol>	<p><i>Moynihan Park is classified as a recreation reserve in the Horowhenua District Plan 1999, though not officially gazetted as such. Pursuant to the Reserves Act 1977, the park should be gazetted as a recreation reserve as that is its primary purpose.</i></p>



## RESERVE SNAPSHOT CONT.

	Te Maire Park	Stafford Street Esplanade	35 Margaret Street
<b>Open Space Typology</b>	Historical, Landscape and Civic	Landscape	N/A
<b>Reserve Classification</b>	Recreation Reserve	Not Gazetted (as per previous RMP)	Not Gazetted
<b>Location</b>	Plimmer Terrace	Accessway between 27 and 29 Stafford Street	35 Margaret Street
<b>Size</b>	1 hectare	1.1 hectares	0.1 hectares
<b>Infrastructure</b>	Train line (national line), historic train station building (occupied by information centre and museum), formal gardens, war memorials, flag post, open lawns, mature trees and established garden beds, seats and tables, rubbish bins, bus stop shelter, car park	N/A	N/A
<b>Leases</b>	Shannon Railway Station Building (Shannon Progressive Association)	N/A	N/A
<b>Title</b>	Lot 1 DP 71514	Lot 6 DP 30227 and Lot 28 DP 45248	Lot 2 DP 362338
<b>District Plan Zone</b>	Open Space	Open Space	Open Space
<b>Notes from 2000 RMP</b>		<p><i>Future management options could be:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <i>Develop as a recreational area</i></li> <li>2. <i>Pine plantation / recreation area</i></li> <li>3. <i>Plant in natives and use as recreation area</i></li> <li>4. <i>Gazette as a recreation reserve</i></li> </ol>	



## SHANNON DOMAIN

*Vogel, Stout, Whittaker and Ballance Streets*

Shannon Domain is the primary active recreation facility within Shannon. With the heritage grandstand building proudly displaying the town’s name, the Domain is seen by all who travel through the town on State Highway One. Home to Shannon’s rugby, touch, tennis, netball and athletics clubs, when combined with the informal recreation at the skate ramps and the half-court, the Domain is a central point for sport, active recreation and community groups within Shannon.

While well used, the Domain is currently overdue investment decisions regarding two of its distinguishing elements—the historic grandstand building and the cycle track bounding the outer edge of the field. The grandstand building is identified as being earthquake-prone and the cycle track is underutilised and in disrepair.

The Domain is owned and maintained by Horowhenua District Council, with input on management decisions from the Shannon Domain Users Group—a group of representatives from sports groups associated with the Domain formed to provide community input.

### **Vision Statement—Shannon Domain:**

To be Shannon’s premiere active recreation facility, providing high quality sport and recreation facilities for formal and informal use; contributing to the health and wellbeing of the Shannon community.

### **Policies**

*(To be read in addition to the HDC Parks and Reserves General Policy)*

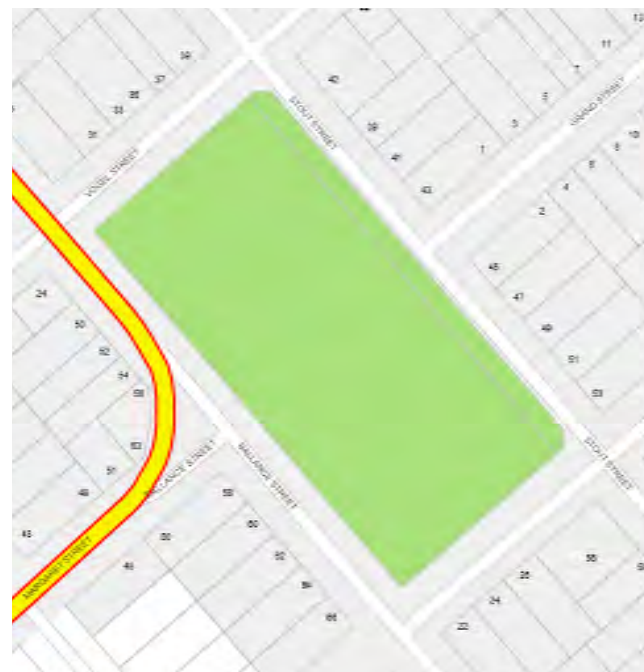
*Policy SD1—To maintain Shannon Domain as the pre-eminent recreational facility in Shannon*

*Policy SD2—Consider appropriate infrastructure that responds to community needs and interests, via stakeholders including Shannon Domain User Group*

Objective SD1.1: To provide sports and recreation physical infrastructure that supports community health and wellbeing

Objective SD1.2—Provide and maintain surfaces, structures and permanent equipment for exercise and recreation

Objective SD2.1: An active recreation facility that caters for the local community



Actions: Shannon Domain

Actions	Priority
Consider options to develop a full basketball court using existing infrastructure	Medium
Consider installing permanent freestanding exercise/gym equipment in line with the reserve policies	Medium
Consider removal of cycle track	Medium
Consider vehicle and pedestrian access to Shannon Domain	Medium
Consider opportunities to repair/upgrade skatepark	Medium
Consider options for grandstand building	Long





## HYDE PARK

*Corner of Grey and Whittaker Streets*

Hyde Park provides for the children of Shannon and its visitors. Dedicated to children’s play, Hyde Park is home to a variety of play equipment that caters for a range of ages. As the only public play space in the town, Hyde Park is also used for children and family-focused social activity, such as picnics and birthday parties.

While well used and highly valued, Hyde Park provides opportunities to improve its offering as a play park.. Adding additional seating, tables and shade structures and additional play equipment would support more and varied use of this important community facility.

Through the Horowhenua Long Term Plan 2018-2038 process, budget has been allocated to install a toilet, shade provision and a BBQ at Hyde Park in year one.

### **Vision Statement—Hyde Park:**

### **Policies**

*(To be read in addition to the HDC Parks and Reserves General Policy)*

*Policy HP1: To provide a place for play for children and families of Shannon*

*Policy HP2: To be the primary active play park for the children of Shannon*

### **Objectives**

*Objective HP1.1: To support family /whanau and caregivers in active play with their children*

*Objective HP2.1—To provide support infrastructure (e.g. shade structures) that encourages people to visit Hyde Park for longer and to use the park for social events*

*Objective HP2.2—To consider investment in public play equipment within Shannon at Hyde Park*

*Objective HP2.3— To add, enhance and improve user experience in Hyde Park over time*



## Actions: Hyde Park

Actions	Priority
Assess park for seating, bins, shade, bike stands and bbq provision	Short
Install public toilets (which are locked at night for safety)	Short
Review play equipment to ensure all ages (exception teenagers) are catered for	Medium
Consider accessibility in future play provision	Long



*Engles Road*

Moynihan Park is a publicly -owned and maintained field located behind properties fronting Engles Road and Clapham Street in the south-east of Shannon. The park’s current use is as a reserve rugby field, used when the town’s primary field at the Domain is either in use or unavailable. For many Shannon residents who are not associated with local rugby, Moynihan Park is an unknown or unused public facility. The park is regularly maintained and sits in an attractive setting with views out over surrounding farmland. The value of the park to the community versus the cost of land ownership and maintenance is a pertinent question.

**Vision Statement—Moynihan:**

To be used as a second rugby field to support Shannon Domain, whilst other opportunities are considered that cater for informal recreation.

**Policies**

*(To be read in addition to the HDC Parks and Reserves General Policy)*

*Policy MP3.1—Work with the Shannon community to explore the value of Moynihan Park as a recreation space versus alternate uses of the land and/or in balance with ongoing maintenance costs*

*Policy MP1.1— Ensure regular ground maintenance that enables the park to be used without notice if the Shannon Domain field becomes unusable*

**Objectives**

Objective MP2: To increase community awareness and use of Moynihan Park as an informal recreation facility

Policy MP2.1: Consider Moynihan Park in terms of what it can offer as a complimentary leisure & recreation asset in the future



Actions: Moynihan Park

Actions	Priority
Maintain as a sports ground for interim	Medium
Develop alternative proposals for Moynihan Park use via a separate consultation process	Medium





## TE MAIRE PARK

### *Plimmer Terrace / SH57*

Te Maire Park is home to Shannon’s heritage, visitor and civic activity. The town’s visitor information centre and museum operate from the town’s historic train station building and current day commuters catch the daily train to Wellington from the station’s platform. Towards the southern end of the park, Shannon’s war memorials and gardens provide the community with a place to remember the town’s men and women who went to war. At the northern end public picnic tables and garden benches are regularly used by people travelling through the town on State Highway 57.

The park edges one side of the town’s main road, Plimmer Terrace, with the town’s main row of shops lining the other side. While Te Maire Park provides an attractive rest stop for travellers and an important civic space for residents, aspirations are held for the park to be a catalyst for people who choose to stop in Shannon and visit the shops, cafes and other businesses on the opposite side of the street.

Through the Horowhenua Long Term Plan 2018-2038 process, Council has allocated budget for the installation of signage and benches/picnic tables in Te Maire Park in year one.

### **Vision Statement—Te Maire Park:**

A public space that welcomes visitors to Shannon and encourages them to learn more about the town’s history and explore it’s current offerings.

### **Policies**

*(To be read in addition to the HDC Parks and Reserves General Policy)*

*Policy TMP1— To be a public space that acknowledges and shares information about the towns history.*

*Policy TMP2— Continue to support, via maintenance and investment, Te Maire Park’s focus on civic and cultural heritage*

### **Objectives**

Objective TMP1.1: For Te Maire Park to be Shannon’s premier civic space and primary visitor stop

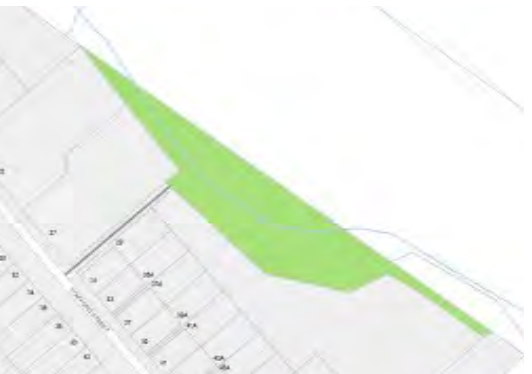
*Objective TMP1.1—To ensure Te Maire Park is an attractive and pleasant public space, recognised as the ‘front room’ of the town*

*Objective TMP2.2—To use the appearance, infrastructure and activity of the park to encourage people to stop in Shannon and visit surrounding hospitality, retail and other businesses*



## Actions: Te Maire Park

Actions	Priority
Introduce information/interpretation boards with history of Te Maire Park, Shannon and its people	High
Develop a visitor refreshment station	Medium
Consider developing as a civic space with use of art and structures	Low



*Stafford Street*

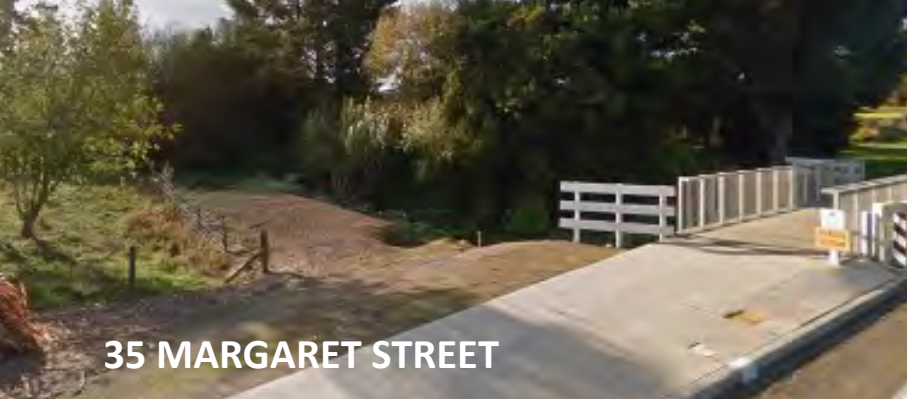
The Stafford Street Esplanade Reserve is an area of publicly owned land that borders the Mangahao River, where it passes the town of Shannon before running under the bridge on SH57. The reserve is located behind the row of properties on the north-west side of Stafford Street and is accessed via an access strip between the properties at 27 and 31 Stafford Street.

The reserve is currently maintained infrequently and therefore is often covered by high grass and vegetation, making access and use difficult. In addition, the reserve is not promoted as a public space and is unknown to the majority of the local community.

In considering this reserve among the other parks and reserves within Shannon, it presents an opportunity as a place to connect with the natural environment, with the potential to provide walks along and access to the river. However, meeting this potential would require investment and ongoing maintenance so to improve awareness, access and recreation infrastructure (such as walking paths and seating). Many comments from members of the community welcomed investment here, stating that if the reserve was promoted and maintained, it would be well used, particularly as a place to enjoy the river from.

**Actions: Stafford Street Esplanade Reserve**

Actions	Priority
Consider improving access to river	Medium
Develop area as a walking/informal recreation space	Medium
Highlight cultural and historical relevance	Medium
Upgrade signage	Medium
Develop communication with King Country Energy (KCE) concerning river flows	Medium



The property at 35 Margaret Street was purchased by the Council at the request of the Shannon community. The land was identified as a location for a proposal to construct an operational water wheel. The new water wheel was to act as a gateway element for travellers arriving in Shannon from the south, as a direct reference to a traditional flour mill and water wheel that previously stood in this approximate location.

To date, the water wheel gateway structure has not been built, yet there is still a large level of support for the idea.

A technical assessment on the viability of the Water Wheel will be developed by officers.

#### Action: 35 Margaret Street

Actions	Priority
Undertake a technical assessment on the viability of the Water Wheel	High

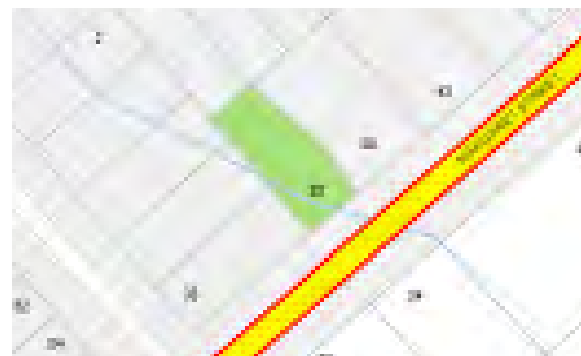




Image Source:

*Page 7: Open Space Typology*

Ecological: <https://www.tcv.org.uk/urbanecology/stave-hill-ecological-park>

Landscape: <http://www.escapehere.com/destination/10-most-beautiful-city-parks-in-the-u-s/>

Civic: <http://isenz.com/study-in-new-zealand/new-zealand-cities/palmerston-north/>

Historical: <https://wishurhere.wordpress.com/2010/09/05/bastion-point-auckland-new-zealand-2/>

Informal Rec: [http://www.britanniacentre.org/facilities/community\\_centre/parks/articles73.php](http://www.britanniacentre.org/facilities/community_centre/parks/articles73.php)

Sport and Active: <https://i.pinimg.com/originals/d6/b6/72/d6b672918d49d3500ce4a49bd9249875.jpg>

All other images, authors own.