
Horowhenua District Open Space Strategy

Adopted 5 September 2012



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Introduction

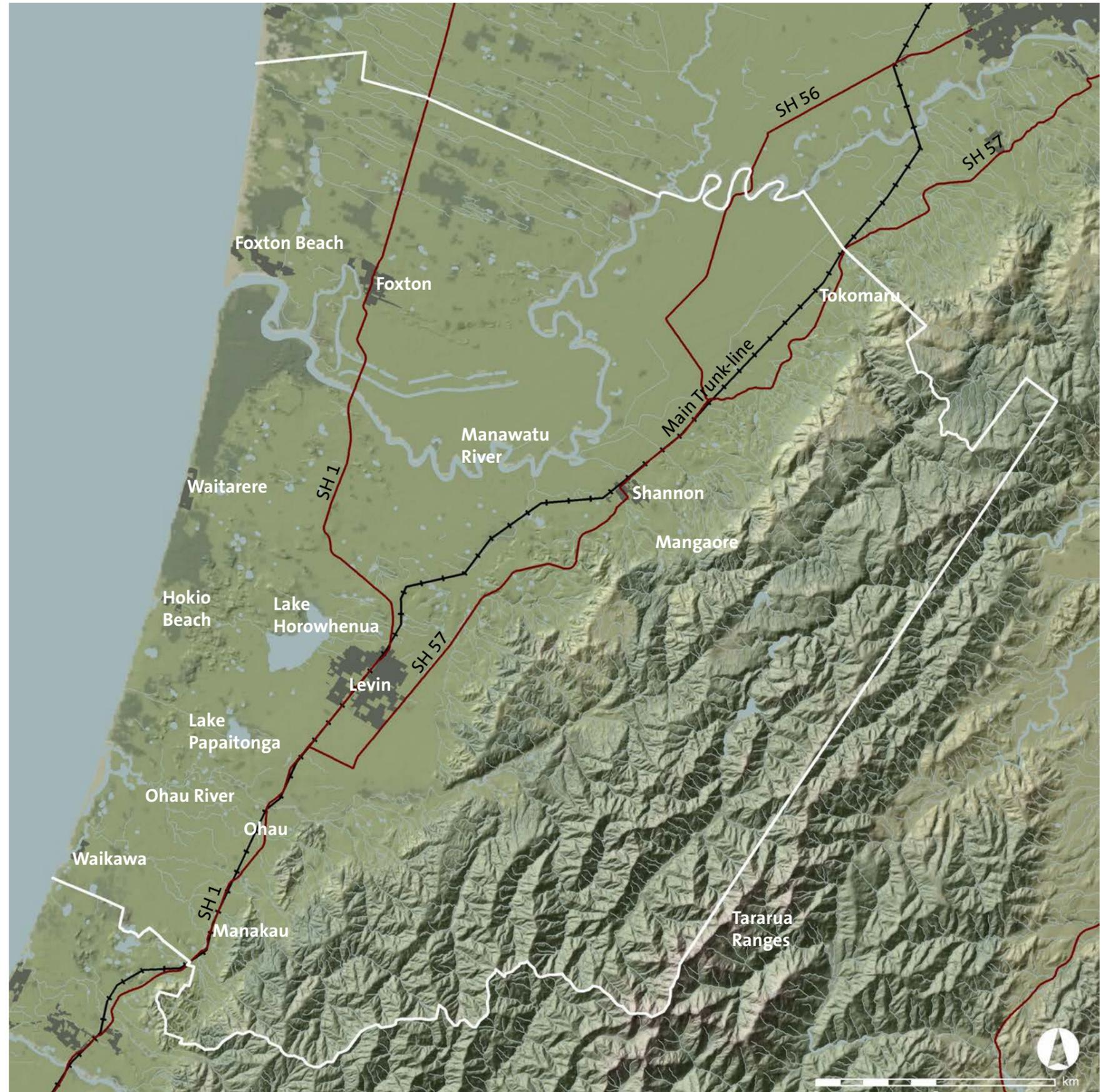


The Horowhenua District

The Horowhenua District is bestowed with a diversity of natural features and open spaces, giving local residents and visitors the option of enjoying the ranges, the plains and the coast, and many natural and cultural features in between. The urban areas of the district are distributed along the coast and along main transport networks, such as State Highway 1, State Highway 57 and the main trunk-line rail corridor. Each settlement has unique characteristics and open space requirements.

There are a number of significant freshwater bodies in the district which contribute to the open space. There are a number of coastal dune lakes which provide opportunity for ecology and recreation to coexist side by side, with Lake Horowhenua and Lake Papaitonga the two largest lakes. Similarly, the rivers and streams which stretch from the Tararua Ranges to the coast have important open space values, with the Manawatu and Ohau Rivers the largest rivers.

Defining the west and east boundaries of the district is the coast (to the west) and the Tararua Ranges (to the east). These distinctive areas of open space reinforce the characteristics of the district's open spaces and recreational opportunities.



Horowhenua District (boundary shown as a white line)

Acknowledgement:
The Horowhenua District Council formally acknowledge the financial assistance that has been provided by the Department of Conservation (Te Papa Atawhai) through the Biodiversity Advice Fund. This funding has helped with the preparation of this Strategy and in particular those matters specifically relating to the coastal dune lakes and wetlands.

What is Open Space?

Open spaces are generally the outdoor places around us that have:

- ecological values and provide habitats for local plants and animals;
- recreational values that we appreciate and enjoy including formal and informal sport, and active and passive activities;
- landscape values including patterns of landform, scenic beauty and sense of place;
- natural heritage values inherent in places with cultural or historic significance.

Generally Council-owned parks and reserves provide for passive and active recreation for the Horowhenua's community and visitors. The Conservation Estate managed by the Department of Conservation is accessible to the public and represented at a number of levels within the Horowhenua District. The Manawatu-Wanganui Regional Council (Horizons Regional Council) does not currently have any regional parks within the Horowhenua District, but is a key organisation to work alongside with, to understand the broader regional context.

While this Horowhenua District Council (HDC) strategy is a stock-take of the different types of Council reserves and parks. It also recognises the wider regional context beyond the boundaries of the district and that collaboration on projects with agencies such as Department of Conservation (DoC), Horizons Regional Council, neighbouring district councils, schools, landowners and local iwi, will be necessary to achieve an effective open space network over the district.

What is open space in this context:

This strategy defines open space as:

Areas of land or water that the public has a level of free physical or visual access to

It is important to note that the definition of open space in the strategy is very broad and ranges from areas that facilitate certain activities such as sports and recreation reserves, to areas that facilitate passive enjoyment of open space such as river corridors, beaches and the Tararua Ranges, some of which may only be visually accessible.

It should be noted that the open space classification in this strategy does not include agricultural land, which is prevalent across the District.

While it is recognised that the value of open space is not determined by ownership, this strategy has a predominant focus on open space that is either under the control of the Horowhenua District Council or where it has the ability to partner, champion or influence outcomes.

This Strategy includes components where the ecological values are a key element of the open space (e.g. coastal dune lakes and wetlands). The majority of these ecologically significant areas are held in private ownership.



Muaupoko Park, Levin

What does this strategy do?

The purpose of this strategy:

Open space is integral to the District’s performance and to its social, cultural, economic and environmental wellbeing. There are several purposes for this Open Space Strategy. The Long Term Plan (2012 – 2022) identified separate visions for economic, social, cultural, and environmental wellbeing.

A key linkage to all four wellbeings is the reliance on a quality Open Space network that can provide:

- adequate amenities for residents recognising changing demands and community expectations;
- opportunities for a balanced, healthy, stress free lifestyle with an abundance of outside recreational features;
- preservation and enjoyment of the district’s natural features;
- an increase in visitor numbers and spending; and
- maintain and enhance ecological values.

The Council currently lacks an overall vision for the future of open space within the Horowhenua District and this has made it difficult for Council to strategically acquire land or esplanade strips and reserves to add and improve the Open Space network. Acquisition opportunities present themselves through reserve and development contributions in new subdivisions, historic financial contributions to offset adverse environmental effects from developments, occasionally land gifted to the Council, or when key land parcels are on the market for purchase.

This Open Space Strategy will provide strategic direction to open space asset planning that the Council can manage through the Long Term Plan (LTP) and annual plan process, and through the development and update of Reserve Management Plans under the Reserves Act.

In addition the Council has embarked on a rolling-review of the District Plan. A key resource management topic to be traversed in the district plan review is the way in which parks and reserves are appropriately protected, developed, maintained and enhanced. This Open Space Strategy will identify key issues and potential options for the efficient and effective management of open space.

The Council also committed to the preparation of a Coastal Dune Lakes and Wetlands Strategy which was being prepared at the same time as the Open Space Strategy. During the preparation of these two Strategies, it was determined there were a number of overlapping issues, therefore, the Coastal Dune Lakes and Wetland Strategy has been incorporated into this Open Space Strategy.

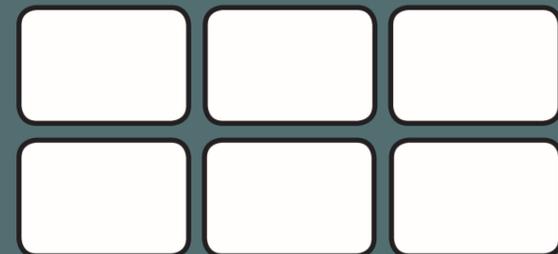
A glossary for the terms used in this document is provided in an appendix at the end of the document.

What does this strategy do?

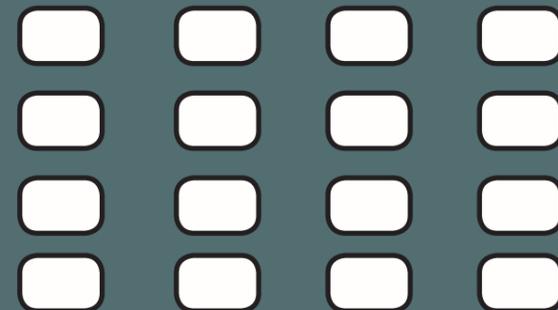
Provides broad overarching principles that relate to open space across the entire Horowhenua District



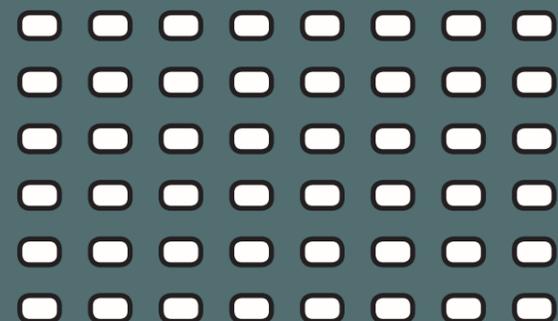
Provides 6 broad District wide strategies



Provides 16 local strategies, action plans and ecological network plans



Provides multiple actions that relate to Council owned reserves



What this strategy does not do

Open space is a broad subject and encompasses a number of different value sets. This Open Space Strategy is not a recreation, landscape, biodiversity, cultural or heritage strategy. Instead, this strategy is aimed at bringing together information the Council already holds on those value sets along with Council GIS property information, and community aspirations as outlined in existing Council survey and strategies.

The Strategy itself does not introduce rules or financial commitments on Council. The Strategy provides the vision, which is then implemented by Council adopting such communities in other Council documents such as Reserve Management Plans and the District Plan.

What else needs to be done

This strategy is based on reviewing existing documentation, GIS (geographic information systems) mapping, site observations and workshops with Council staff, Councillors and key stakeholders / partners during the first half of 2011.

The next stage for this strategy is to confirm the aspirations and principles with the Horowhenua communities and Council’s partners. Following this, the action plan can be implemented with the help of the communities and partners.

Further study into the recreational needs of the Horowhenua District should be considered and reviewed against this Open Space Strategy.

A stormwater management / hydrology plan should be progressed and integrated into this Open Space Strategy

Master plans, concept plans and development and landscape plans should be developed for individual open spaces to provide a robust and cohesive approach to implementation.

The future review of Reserve management plans shall have regard to this Open Space Strategy.

Any subdivision or structure plan for future growth area should refer to this Strategy and demonstrate how it aligns with the Principles and Community Aspirations .

Where does this strategy fit



The process

This Open Space Strategy has been produced by Horowhenua District Council and Boffa Miskell Ltd. The process of its preparation has consisted of extensive research and analysis of existing Council documentation, GIS data and included site visits, workshop and briefings with representatives from DoC, Horizons Regional Council and elected councillors and officers of Horowhenua District Council.

Limited consultation with landowners of identified dune lakes and wetlands has been undertaken during the preparation of this Strategy. This document outlines guiding principles for effective open space

development and management and demonstrates their application at a district level and across the 11 settlements within the Horowhenua. This document identifies a list of actions which will be subject to consultation with the communities of interest through related implementation tools prior to implementation.

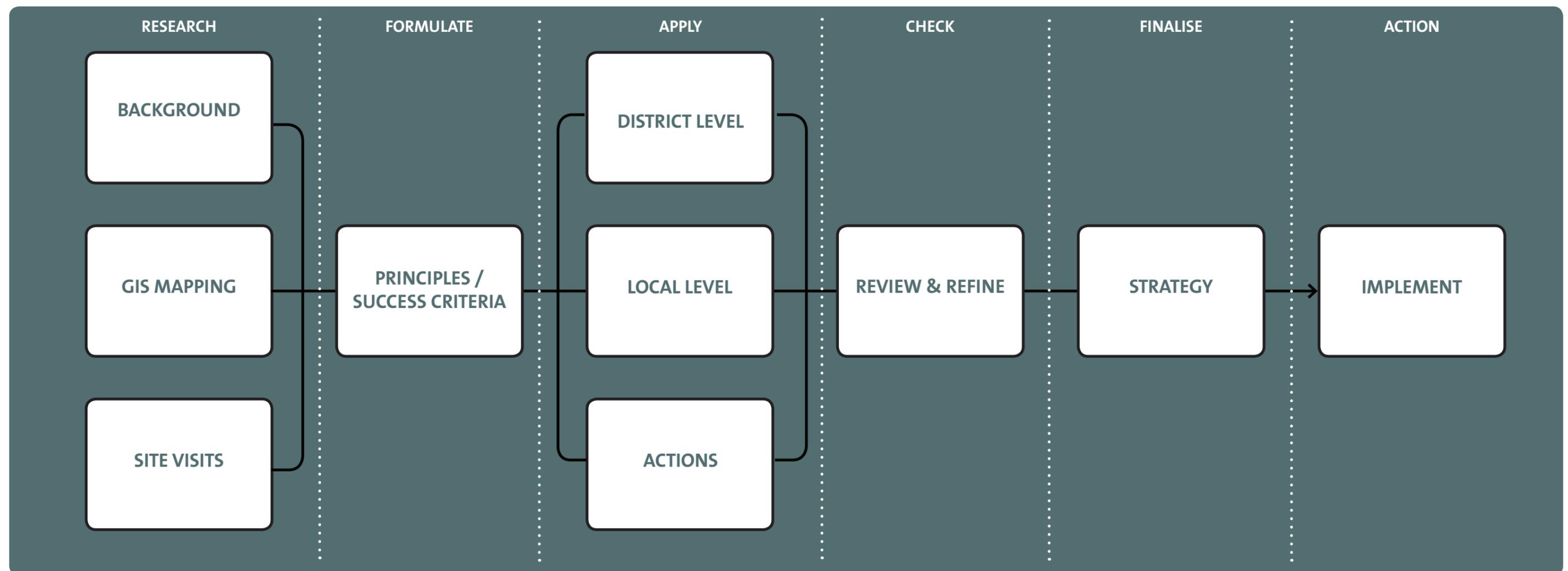


Diagram illustrating the process of the Open Space Strategy

The Principles



Community Aspirations

To ensure that the Horowhenua Open Space Strategy accurately reflects the aspirations of the Horowhenua community, the following documents were considered:

- Shaping Horowhenua (Survey 2010);
- Horowhenua Community Needs Analysis (2005);
- Horowhenua Youth Strategy and Implementation Plan (2010);
- Horowhenua Positive Ageing Strategy and Implementation Plan 2010-2013);
- The Walking and Cycling Strategy (2009);
- Long Term Community Plan (2009-2019)
- Long Term Plan (2012 - 2022)

The key aspirations that related to open space were extracted from these documents and can be summarised into eight categories.

Healthy lifestyles: To encourage all sectors of the community to increase physical activity, and where necessary improve the access, coordination and range of activities for people with disabilities, the elderly and the young.

Heritage: To celebrate, acknowledge and know our history.

Economy & Education: To take advantage of the opportunity for developing outdoor recreation for tourism and education opportunities and for increasing tourism numbers and spending.

Coast: To ensure access is maintained, whilst protecting the coastal environment.

Infrastructure: To provide walkways and bike tracks, improved camping facilities and toilets.

Outdoor Recreation: to recognise a range of recreation opportunities, develop outdoor recreation opportunities to attract the 20 – 30s demographic that is largely missing from the district.

Facilities: To increasingly consolidate, coordinate, co-locate recreation facilities, and pursue the provision of arts and sports together in a mixed facility.

Natural Values: To protect and enhance natural features, identifying Lake Horowhenua and the Ohau River as specific examples for restoration.



The Principles

From these community aspirations eight guiding principles have been derived. These principles drive the Open Space Strategy at both a district-wide and settlement level.

Provide for healthy and active lifestyles for all sectors of the community

Utilise natural corridors for recreation and ecological benefits

Enhance open space experiences by providing a variety of open spaces and routes for a range of abilities, functions & needs

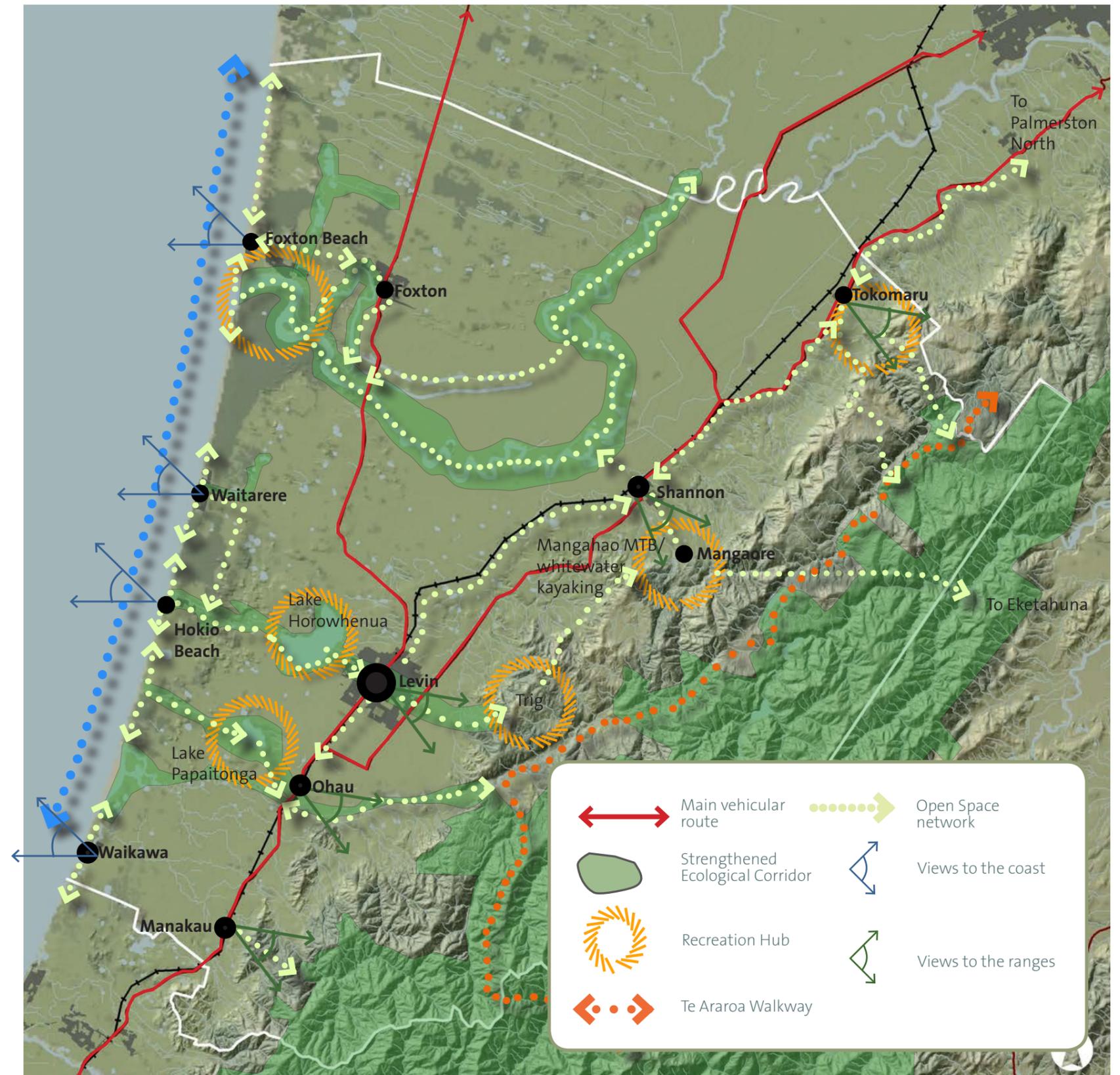
Create continuous walkways/cycleways that are safe, legible and accessible

Create & enhance activity focal points as well as protecting & enhancing local spaces

Enhance people's enjoyment of the Horowhenua landscape

Create multiple-use/function facilities and open spaces

Enhance and strengthen partnerships



Principles applied across the Horowhenua District

The Strategy



Applying the Principles across the District

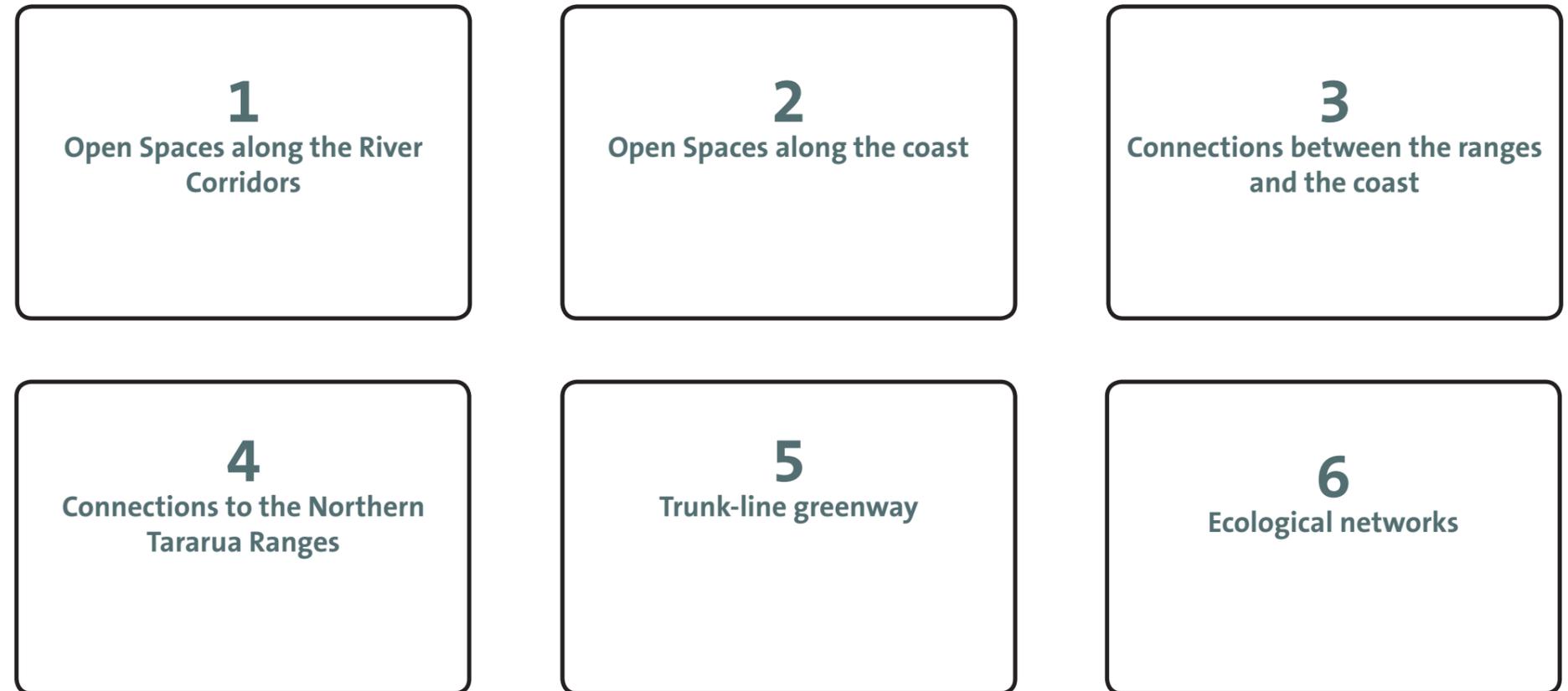
District wide strategies

The following section of the Strategy applies the principles at a district wide level.

These district wide strategies have a strong focus on creating a safe, clearly understandable and well regarded Open Space network across the district. They also indicate opportunities for improving / strengthening ecological corridors, identifying locations for resting spots and establishing or reinforcing specific areas that focus on sports and recreation (recreation hub).

Each strategy can be implemented individually or in combination with other initiatives. Due to the scale and complexity of some of these strategies, it is important to note that outcomes may not be realised and appreciated for many years. However, this Open Space Strategy provides a framework and guide to which all the community can work toward. The drawings, plans and images are intended to provide a starting point. Further investigation and consultation will occur where necessary as these strategies are implemented.

The district wide strategies are:



1: Open Spaces along river corridors

The river corridors provide a significant opportunity to create a recreational and ecological network spine that connects the Tararua Ranges to the coast.

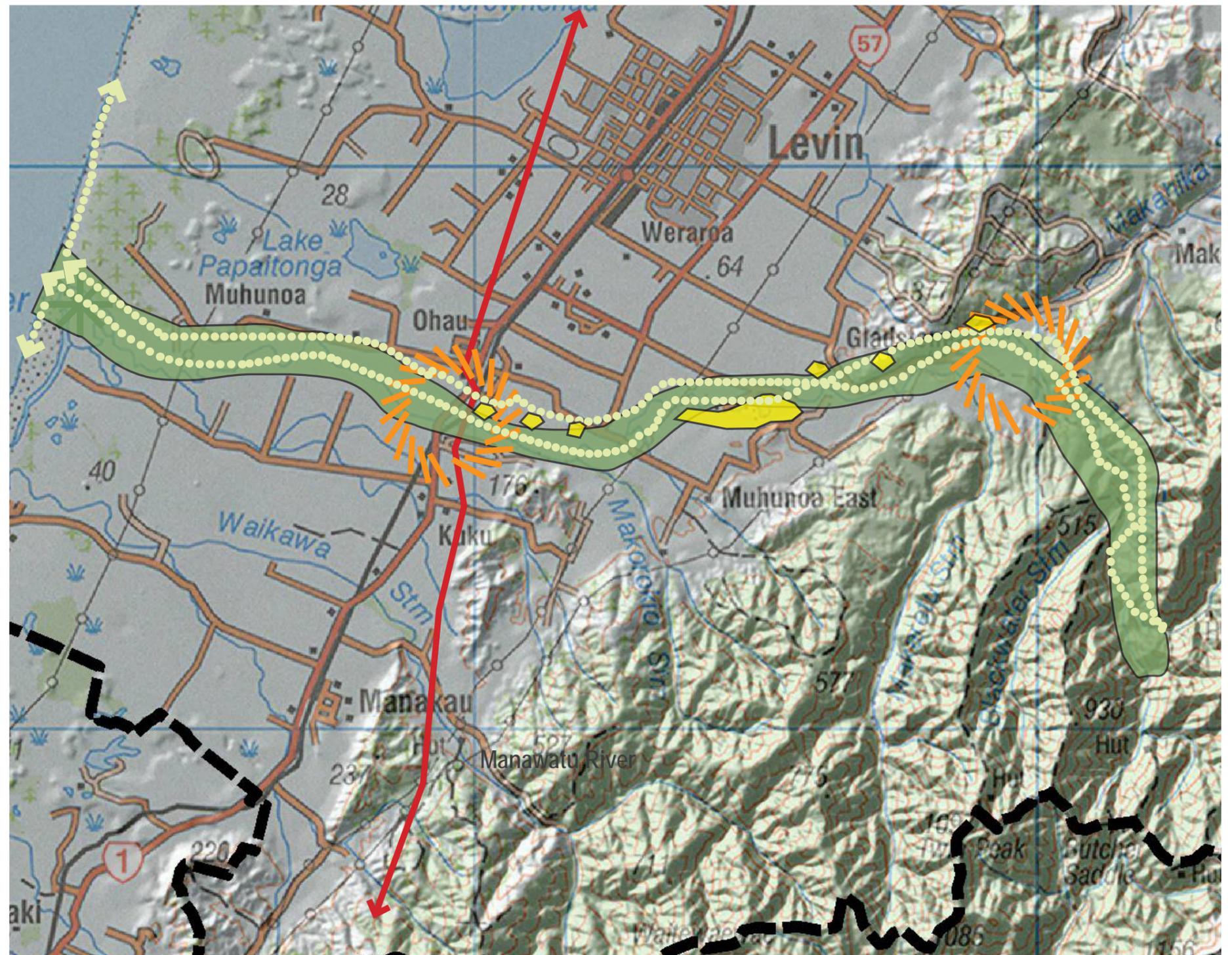
The rivers form natural corridors across the district and are currently valued for their ecological, recreational, cultural and amenity value. The Open Space Strategy proposed to enhance these values of the river corridors so that they are made attractive destinations and places for walking, cycling, swimming, fishing and boating. Enhancements could include walkways and cycleways extending along the full length or particular sections to connect with the road network and local community facilities. A number of picnic areas could be provided where people can stop, which could be accessible by car, walking/cycling and/or boat.

Riparian planting along the river corridor using native species can help to create ecological corridors between larger patches of native vegetation.

The Manawatu and Ohau Rivers have the greatest opportunity where the river corridors can be enhanced due to their nature, size and existing reserves and facilities. On the Manawatu River these opportunities include forming a cycle trail along the stopbank connecting Foxton Beach>Foxton>Moutoa>Shannon. On the Ohau River, opportunities included forming a continuous network of Parikawau Reserve land from Tararua Forest park, Poas Road, Gladstone Reserve, Levin WTP, Kimberley Reserve, Muhunoo East Reserve, Water Treatment Plant and Parikawau Reserve, with recreational (predominately walking) and ecological opportunities.



Example of a recreational and ecological river network in Foxton Beach.



Open Spaces along the Ohau River

2: Open Spaces along the coast

The Horowhenua coast provides a significant area of open space. However, in places connections from the wider district to the coast are unclear. The proposed Open Space Strategy intends to strengthen these physical and visual connections along the coast.

Pedestrian and cycle connections along the Manawatu River corridor between Foxton Beach and the coast will be enhanced, as will the walkway/cycleway along the Foxton River loop which provides a relatively easy loop track opportunity for residents and visitors to Foxton.

Extending north of Foxton Beach is the opportunity for a pedestrian walkway through private farmland. This follows along the edge of a small stream towards the dune lakes and out to the beach creating a loop walkway.

Without means of getting across the mouth of the Manawatu River (such as a boat, ferry or a new bridge) pedestrians and cyclists will follow the banks of the Manawatu until reaching the State Highway 1 bridge.

Main vehicular routes to the four coastal settlements (Waikawa Beach, Hokio Beach, Waitarere and Foxton Beach) are clearly and sympathetically enhanced at key points so that it becomes obvious that they are access points onto the Horowhenua Coast. In addition to strengthening these road connections pedestrian/cycle connections are also enhanced.

Along the edge of Hokio Stream which leads from Lake Horowhenua a walkway/cycleway leads to the beach. This walkway extends beyond Lake Horowhenua, through Levin to the Tararua Ranges, thus creating a walkway from the ranges to the coast.

A choice of connections are maintained between Ohau and the coast. One route takes pedestrians via Lake Papaitonga, Waiwiri Stream. The other follows the Ohau River from the coast.

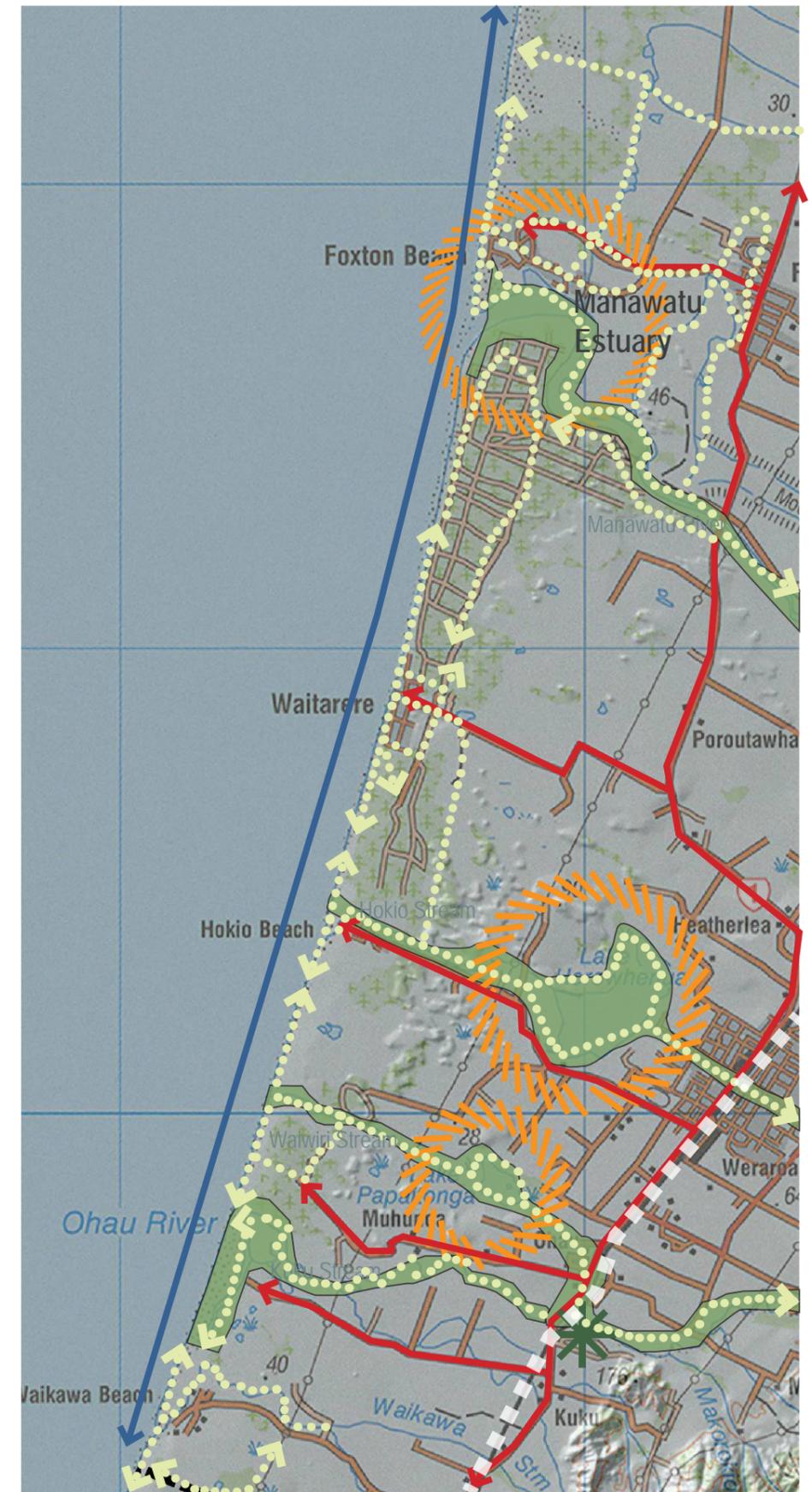
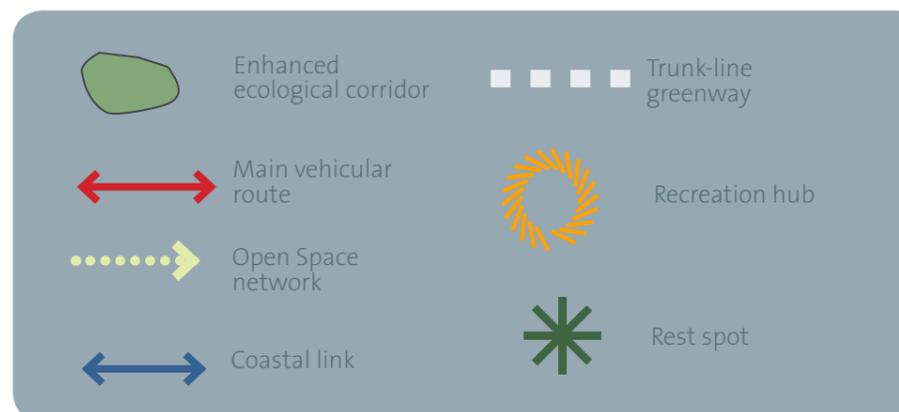
A linkage between Waitarere and Hokio Beach is created through farmland and exotic pine plantation that strengthens the connections between these two settlements. It also creates an opportunity for tracks for more ambitious walkers or mountain bikers.



Strong connections to the coast at Waitarere Beach settlement.



Image of Moors Valley Country Park, Hampshire, UK. Example of a recreation hub set with a pine forest.



Open Spaces along the Coast

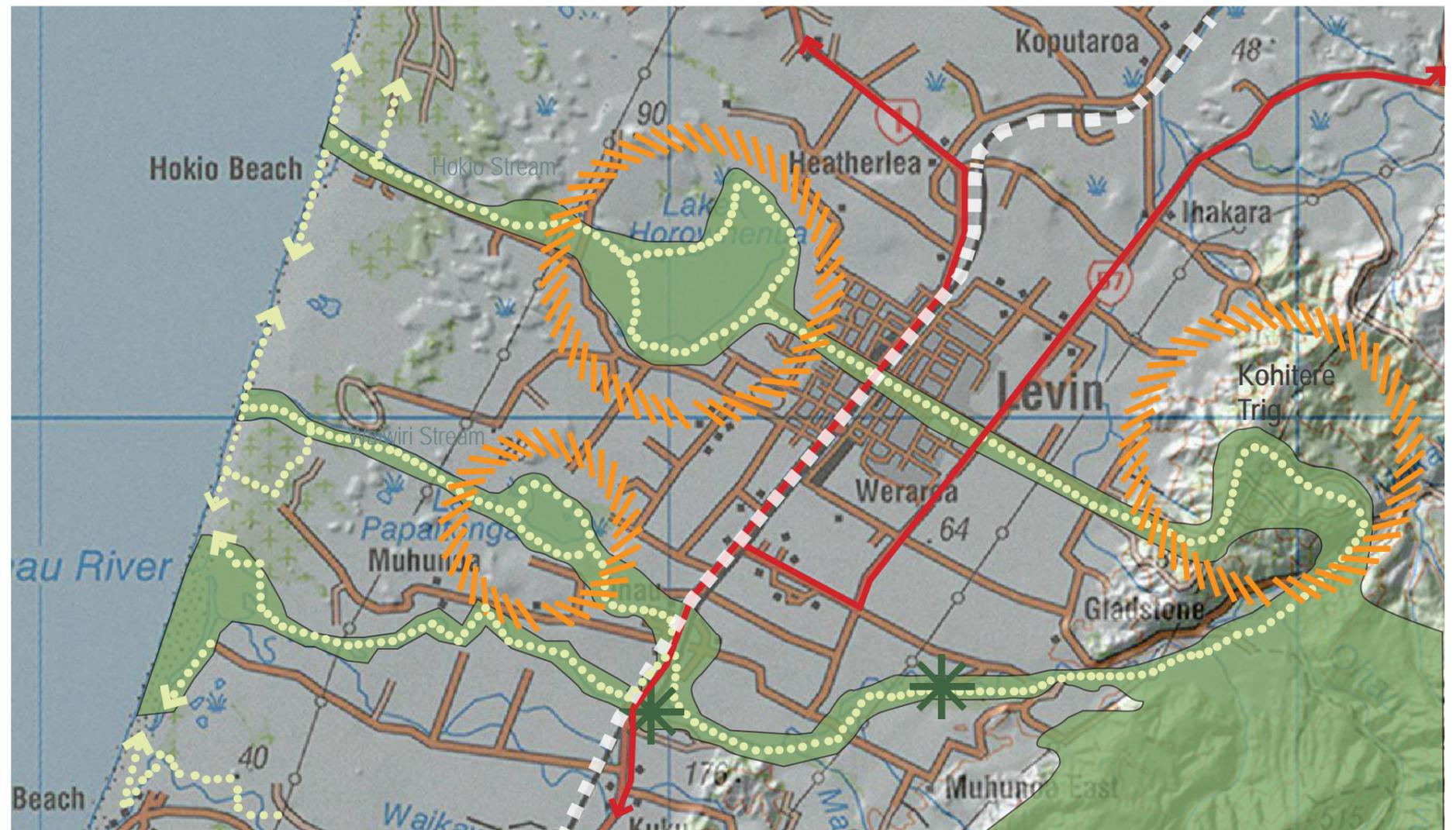
3: Connections between the ranges and the coast

The Tararua Ranges and the Horowhenua Coast are areas of open space that provide local residents and visitors with an opportunity to enjoy two very different landscapes within close proximity to each other.

Other than the existing road network, there is no accessible and continuous connection of open space between the ranges and the coast. While there are patches of open space along the Ohau River and around Lake Papaitonga and Lake Horowhenua these are poorly connected to each other. A network of open space that connects the ranges to the coast would allow for recreational and ecological opportunities and broadens accessibility to these two fundamental assets that inform the broader landscape characteristics of the Horowhenua. These recreational and ecological corridors are accessed and intersected at key locations along the route such as settlements and recreation hubs.

A pedestrian/cycle connection linking Kohitere (Trig) and the Tararua Ranges to Levin along Queen Street is a key part of this strategy. Queen Street will become a significant 'spine' connecting the lake to the ranges. This spine continues beyond Lake Horowhenua and along Hokio Stream to Hokio Beach. Loop tracks are created around Lake Horowhenua to provide shorter day walks for residents and visitors of Levin.

Rest spots along the Ohau River provide for places to stop or starting / finishing locations for shorter trips. A walking track around Lake Papaitonga would be of a length that can be walked by families and those wanting a loop walk of several hours.



Connections between the ranges and the coast



Ohau River at Kimberley Reserve
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Example of an estuary walkway at Waikawa beach.



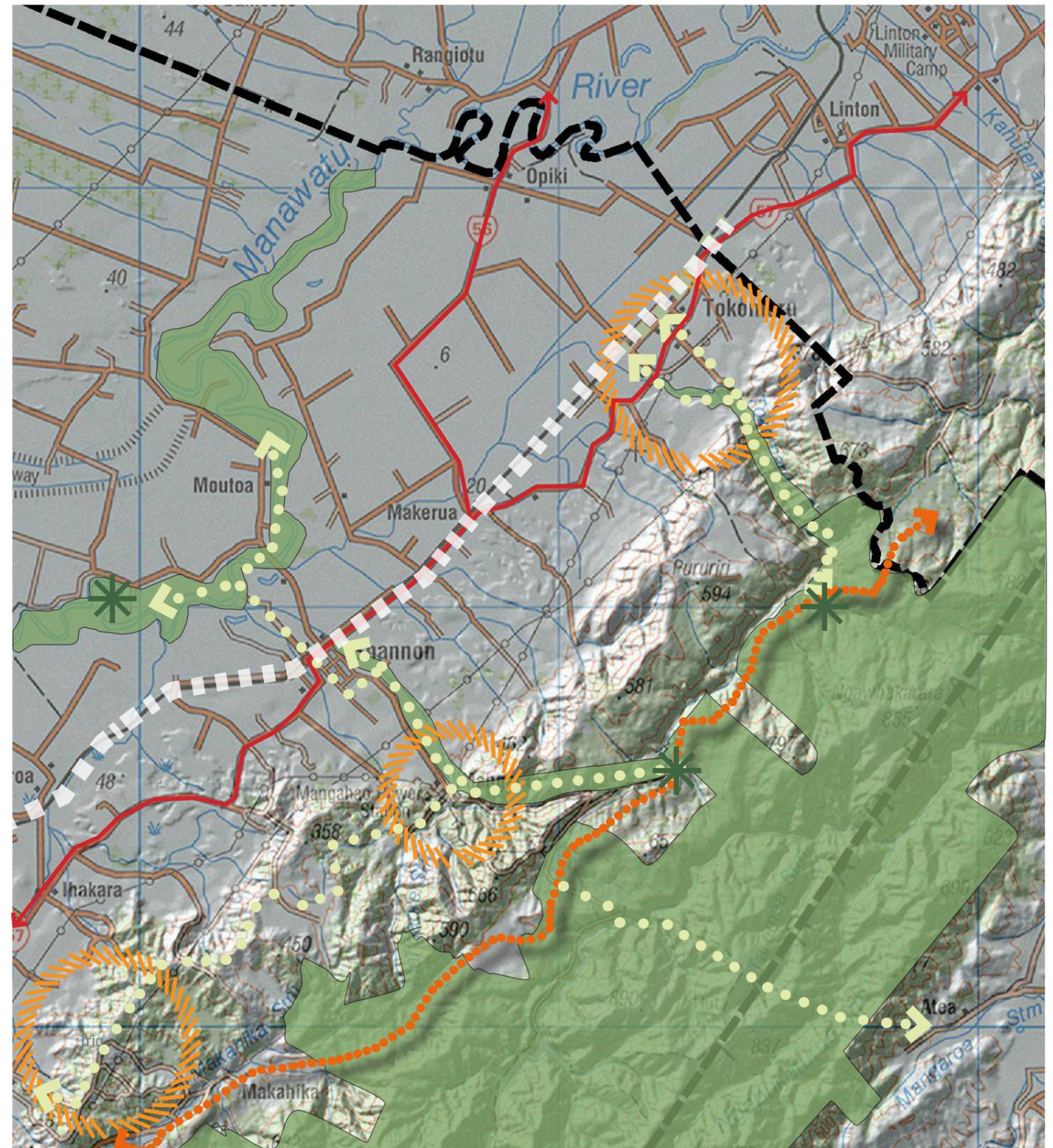
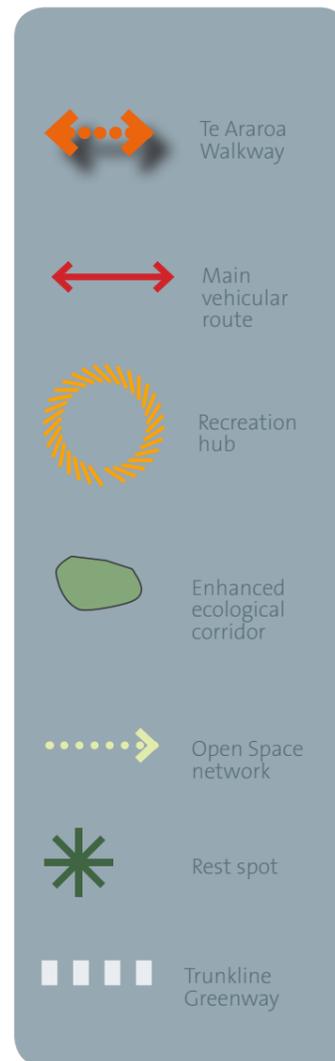
4: Connections to the Northern Tararua Ranges

There are several significant open spaces around the north-eastern corner of the district. The most significant of these are the Tararua Ranges which provide a visual backdrop to the entire district and is a popular place to visit for walkers and trampers from within the district and further afield. Te Araroa walkway, a walking track which links Bluff to Cape Reinga, spans the length of the Tararuas and there are various points within the district where this trail can be accessed, allowing shorter walks from within the district.

In addition to the Tararua Ranges there are several other notable open spaces, including Horseshoe Bend, which is a popular swimming hole in the summer, the white water kayaking facility at Mangahao and Kohitere Trig. The Open Space Strategy proposes to better connect these areas to each other via a series of cycleways, walkways and ecological corridors.

The ecological corridor along Tokomaru River will be enhanced creating a stronger connection between Horseshoe Bend and Tokomaru township, which provides ecological benefits as well as a pleasant walking or cycling route for local people to access the swimming hole. A walkway will be developed to connect Horseshoe Bend to Te Araroa walkway and the Tararua Ranges allowing local people access to the forest park.

A cycleway along the road corridor from Shannon towards Mangaore will be enhanced. This will provide and encourage easier access to mountain biking areas in and around Mangaore. From the power station at Mangaore, walkways will be developed connecting to the Te Araroa Walkway. A key route has been proposed that would cross the Tararuas and connect to Eketahuna in the Wairarapa. This walkway and cycleway has the potential to be developed and operated in collaboration with local businesses including those in Wairarapa.



The Tararua Ranges: Image source: www.findability.org

5: Trunk-line Greenway

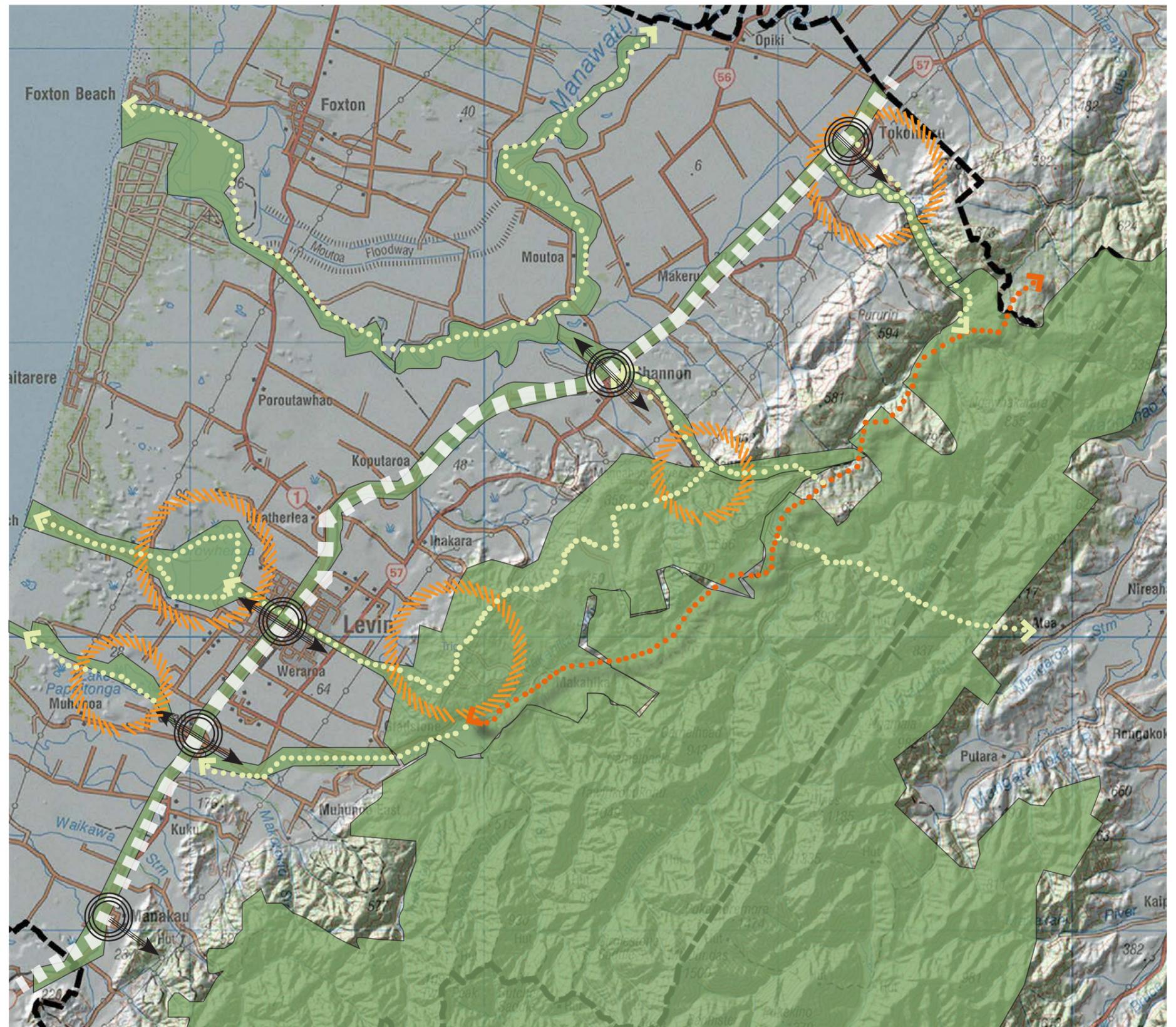
The main railway line between Wellington and Auckland runs the length of the Horowhenua District. Manakau, Ohau, Levin, Shannon and Tokomaru are positioned along this route with the trunk-line generally bisecting these settlements.

Typically the trunk-line corridor is 10 metres wide from edge to edge, creating a significant physical and visual barrier through the settlements. However this corridor provides an opportunity to create a cycling and walking corridor through the district that is separate from the main road and connects the settlements to each other. This type of approach can already be seen in Levin with cycleways being installed next to the railway lines.

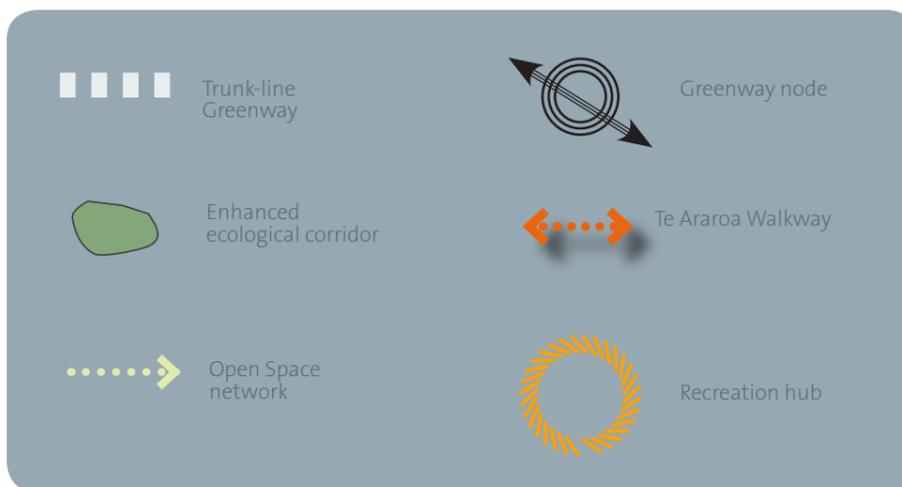
Nodes along the Greenway appear where there are key intersections within the open space network and are generally close to elements such as activities hubs (e.g. Lake Horowhenua), settlements (e.g. Ohau) and other corridors (e.g. Manawatu River).

This corridor can be planted with a continuous length of native vegetation, creating an ecological corridor that will encourage birds and other wildlife along the plains.

The challenges will be adhering to safety requirements and looking at intersections and junctions with other vehicles. However the strategy is that the trunk-line corridor is utilised to provide a multi-purpose corridor stretching the full length of the district.



Trunk-line Greenway



6: Ecological networks

In addition to the other district wide strategies, areas with important ecological values have the potential to make a positive contribution to maintaining and enhancing the open space within the district. In particular, the coastal dune lakes and wetlands are recognised as an important contributor to open space in the coastal environment, with opportunities to network these areas for ecological reasons, as well as for other purposes (e.g. recreation) outlined in the other district wide strategies.

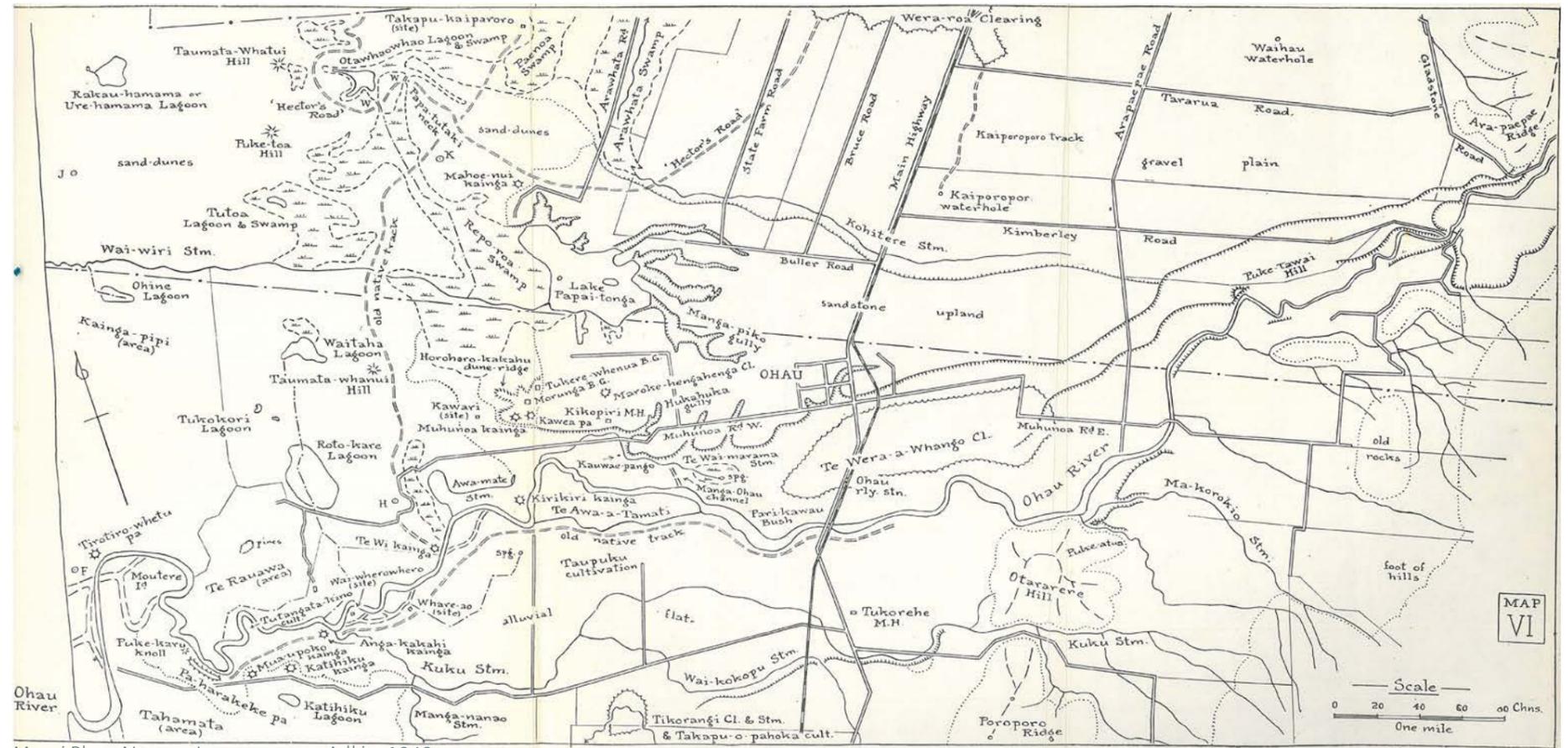
As outlined earlier, a specific Coastal Dune Lakes and Wetlands Strategy was to be prepared (jointly funded by the Department of Conservation ‘Biodiversity Advice Fund’ and Horowhenua District Council), which has now been incorporated into the Open Space Strategy (OSS). This section of the OSS contains much of the background information and context that would have been contained in the separate Strategy, including information and management options for landowners of these sites.

The ecological significance of the Horowhenua Dune Lakes and Wetlands

The long strip of Holocene sand dune country that makes up the Foxton Ecological District with its associated wetlands, lagoons and estuaries form the most extensive sand dune system in New Zealand (McEwen, 1987).

Prior to human occupation, the Foxton ecological district would have mostly been forested, with shrubs and trees dominating inland of the coast. A great part of the ecological district would have had swamp forest dominated by kahikatea and pukatea with plentiful rimu and swamp maire (Ravine, 1992). There were also a number of coastal dune lakes and wetlands with connections to rivers and streams (Refer to image on this page, Adkin 1948, showing Maori place names) These original forests and wetlands are now reduced to several small remnants, of which the remaining Horowhenua dune lakes and wetlands form an important part. According to the Foxton Protected Natural Areas report (Ravine, 1992), less than 5% of the surface area now has predominantly indigenous vegetation (Ravine, 1992). In the Manawatu-Wanganui region around 97% of the original wetland habitat has been lost since human settlement, predominantly through the development of farmland (Maseyk 2007)

Large-scale historical drainage works carried out as part of land clearance for farming and land development have had a major effect on these lakes, particularly the shallower basin lakes (Ravine,



Maori Place Names: Image source: Adkin, 1948

1992). Even where lakes have not been directly drained, the effects of surrounding land drainage has in many cases lowered lake levels, and the dune lakes and wetlands present today account for only a small part of what would have been predominantly dune lakes and peat swamps. Lake levels vary considerably (up to 1.5m) from season to season and from year to year.

Under the Government’s National Priorities for Protecting Rare and Threatened Indigenous Biodiversity Strategy, National Priority 1 is: “To protect indigenous vegetation associated with land environments (defined by Land Environments of New Zealand at Level IV), that have 20% or less remaining in indigenous cover”. Nearly all of the Foxton Ecological District is considered to be Acutely Threatened because there is less than 10% of indigenous cover remaining within the Land Environments (LENZ) that occur in these Ecological Districts (Leathwick et al. 2003a; Leathwick et al. 2003b). Therefore, the entire land area surrounding the Horowhenua dune lakes and wetlands are the most threatened environments in the Ecological District and the environments that are critically under protected. These are the areas that were first settled and which are now the most intensively farmed and drained and heavily urbanised.

The ecological values of the remaining Horowhenua coastal dune lakes and wetlands have been studied on numerous occasions and there have been a number of ecological inventories prepared outlining the ecological values of each. Most recently, Horizons Regional Council has mapped the vegetation classes of each area and provided detailed habitat descriptions of flora and fauna, key threats and land use information. Horizons Regional Council has also ranked the wetlands based on this ecological information. This background ecological information has formed the basis for this part of the OSS and has allowed the characterisation of wetlands.

Hydrological connections and condition is an important consideration with the networking of these areas. James and Joy (2008) have undertaken an inventory of a number of the Horowhenua dune lakes and wetlands and associated outlet streams which can inform the opportunities to network these areas and waterbodies. James and Joy noted that the quality of the source lake or wetland was a better determinant for restoration than the stream outlet and that there is limited value to improve the condition of an outlet stream in terms

of water quality and fish diversity if the source lake or wetland is in poor ecological condition. In addition, riparian fencing and planting may have limited impact on water quality where there are significant inputs from tributaries and linkages with groundwater.

Future development within each of these Networks will need to ensure current water levels are maintained or improved and that the seasonal fluctuations which may provide seasonal habitat for rare plant and bird species are taken into consideration.

Networking of the Coastal Dune lakes, wetlands, waterbodies and valued habitat

There is potential to maintain and enhance the ecological, hydrological and open space values of the existing coastal dune lakes and wetlands of the District through networking these areas. Across the district, the opportunities and constraints to networking these areas varies, depending on specific ecological, hydrological and open spaces of each area, their proximity to other areas, surrounding land uses, landownership and a range of other factors. Therefore, priority areas were identified where the potential for networks were considered to offer the greatest benefits.

In consultation with officers from Horizons Regional Council and Department of Conservation, a range of potential ecological networks were developed based on the underlying ecological values, including wetlands, dune lakes, indigenous vegetation and waterbodies (streams, drains and rivers). Information on existing environmental initiatives being undertaken formed part of this process (e.g. riparian planting, fencing or wetland restoration projects). This process identified the following five priority ecological networks of dune lakes, wetlands, remnants and waterbodies:

1. Ohau River Dune Lakes and Ohau Estuary Network
2. Lake Papaitonga – Waiwiri Stream Network
3. Lake Horowhenua – Hokio Beach Network
4. Waitarere Beach – Wairarawa Stream Network
5. Manawatu River Estuary – Koputara Lakes Network

A description and opportunities for these five priority ecological networks of dune lakes, wetlands, remnants and waterbodies are contained in the next section of the OSS in relation to their closest settlement (i.e. the 'Ohau River Dune Lakes and Ohau Estuary Network' forms part of the Ohau Settlement section).

In addition to having good ecological potential, these networks would also contribute to the other district wide open space strategies,

and overlap in many places (e.g. Lake Horowhenua – Hokio Beach Network overlaps with part of the 'Connections between the Ranges and the Coast' district-wide strategy). Outside of these five areas, the remaining dune lakes and wetlands in the District are considered to be isolated, with limited potential for ecological or hydrological linkages. However, each of these wetlands and dune lakes still have some high ecological values in their own right.

Once these priority networks were identified, each of the landowners of the larger dune lakes and wetlands within each of these networks was contacted to discuss their future aspirations for the area as well as the aspirations of the OSS. Overall, the majority landowners recognised the importance of the ecological features on their properties and most supported the aspirations of the OSS consistent with their long-term desire to maintain and protect these areas. Most landowners supported Council's objective to recognise the ecological values of these areas and the potential for them to be networked in some form. However, this support was subject to the OSS not constraining the ongoing operation of their properties and not leading to open public access through their properties.

In the long-term, networking each of these ecological areas is expected to lead to improvements in ecological health. Actions such as fencing, riparian planting and ensuring greater consideration of the impacts of groundwater changes, drainage, stock access and land conversion on the areas of ecological value within each Network should maintain and enhance the current ecological values.

In line with the ecological values and role of each of the Networks in maintaining and enhancing wider habitat connections (e.g. fish spawning, seasonal habitat for wildlife etc.), a number of the coastal dune lakes and wetlands have been the subject of joint restoration initiatives between landowners and other agencies (Department of Conservation, Horizons Regional Council, Horowhenua District Council, QEII Trust and Nga Whenua Rahui). Some of these initiatives have been ongoing for a number of years.

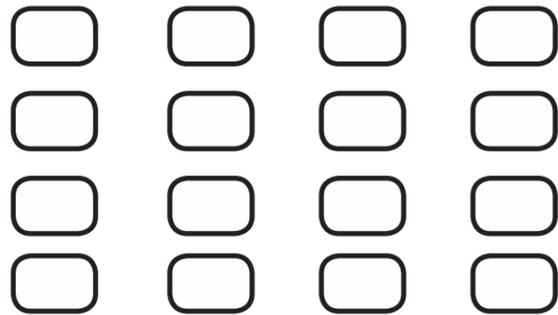
This section of the Strategy will be used to inform Horowhenua District Council of the opportunities and to guide the preparation of District Plan provisions and decisions on consent applications. Given landowner cooperation and/or participation is crucial to the success of any riparian restoration efforts and the long term success of each of these Networks, this OSS also provides information and management options for landowners of these sites to assist in achieving desired ecological outcomes (refer to Appendix).

In addition, this Strategy will assist in providing direction on if and when land is subdivided that contains or adjacent to the coastal dune lakes or wetland, and whether the coastal dune lakes or wetland should become a Council reserve or some other form of public ownership and/or management. This question would be assessed on a case-by-case basis for each subdivision through the resource consent process, using the criteria in the HDC Parks and Reserves Management Plans - General Policy document, as well as the Development Contributions policy. There would be higher priority for vesting as reserve with Council or another public body and networking the coastal dune lakes or wetlands within the five priority ecological networks, compared to lakes and wetlands outside these priority areas. Alternatively, other mechanisms for protecting (e.g. covenants and fencing/planting) and networking with public access (e.g. rights of way easement) could be used, with the coastal dune lakes and wetlands being retained in private ownership.

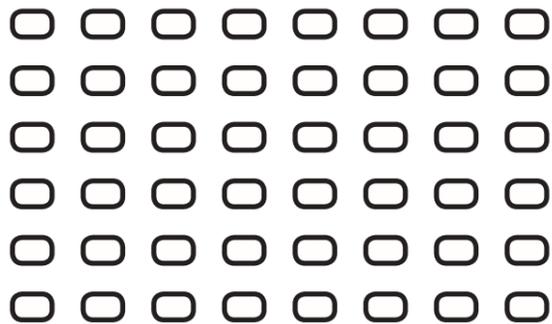
Applying the Principles Locally

Local strategies and actions

In addition to applying the principles at a district wide level, this strategy aims to describe how to apply them to individual settlement areas across the Horowhenua District.



There are 16 local strategies



With multiple actions that specifically relate to Council owned reserves

How to use the actions

The actions are guided by the principles and help explain how to deliver the strategy to meet community aspirations.

These actions can be prioritised and / or updated to fit Council wide programmes and objectives. They should also be reviewed with involvement from the various partners and communities. Any new / additional actions that relate to open space are considered outside of this strategy should be assessed against these principles.

The actions list includes actions that specifically relate to Council owned reserves. These should be prioritised / measured against the Council asset management plan, and considered against existing and future individual reserves management plans.

The actions should be reviewed on an annual basis and integrated into Council's annual allocation of spend. This should consider developers contributions toward open space improvements.

What makes open space successful?

Using a Success Criteria

Understanding the successfulness of existing open space within each settlement helps inform how we can apply the principles and formulate the strategy.

For the purpose of this strategy, a criteria has been established to assess the successfulness of existing open spaces.

This criteria has utilised information established in Horowhenua District Council's Asset Management Plan. However, note that assessments made in this process do not supersede the Council Asset Management Plan, but aims to provide a strategic recommendation on the qualitative value to each Council owned reserve within each of the settlements.

Existing Council owned reserves have been assessed based on four key categories to measure the successfulness of open space. These are:

- Accessibility
- Features
- Function
- Safety

For the purpose of this strategy, the assessment criteria is directed at assessing things that are intrinsic to the site, such as the location of the reserve in relation to the settlement.

It is also important to note that although this assessment considers the condition of various elements within the reserves, such as fences, gates, footpaths or vegetation, it does not rely on these to inform the overall value / grade of the particular open space.

The adjacent page illustrates some of the questions and observations made when using this criteria to assess Council owned reserves in the Horowhenua. A spreadsheet example of the success criteria can be found in Appendix, page 101.

The example shown on page 28 demonstrates how using this assessment technique across a settlement can provide a useful and legible snap shot of the successfulness of existing open space and in doing so provided a useful gap analysis of where on existing open space maybe under delivering.

This criteria can also be applied to potential or proposed open space in future growth areas / subdivisions.

Strategy Actions Evaluation Methodology

The eight guiding principles for the developing the Open Space Strategy have been used to evaluate each of the identified Strategy actions. While all actions would make a helpful contribution towards the Open Space of the District it is neither, practical or feasible to undertake all actions immediately or at the same time. To help provide a context for prioritising between actions, each action has been assigned a value of High, Medium or Low based on the degree to which the action would help deliver the Open Space Principles. Where there is strong or direct relationship between an action and the principle, this scored higher than those actions which failed to relate to a principle or only had an indirect connection.

A scoring system of 2, 1, 0 was used to evaluate the actions against each principle – 2 points where there was a strong or direct relationship, 1 point where there was some form of relationship direct or indirect, but not a strong relationship, and 0 points where there was no relationship or a very limited one between the action and the principle. It needs to be stressed that this scoring system is not a measurement of the projects’ total value, but rather the project’s open space value.

An action of High value would be one that scored highly across multiple principles (generally 9 points and above). A project or action with a very narrow focus would therefore have a Low value (generally 4 points or less). This does not mean that the project or action is not important or worth undertaking; instead it provides a basis to assist in deciding between multiple actions or projects. Actions or projects with a Low or Medium value may have potential to be expanded or tweaked to respond to opportunities to deliver on more of the Open Space Principles. For actions that refer to an assessment process (e.g. Assess recreational needs for Manakau Settlement) these have been scored in terms of what Open Space Principles the assessment would be looking to address.

Example:

ACTION		Establish a walkway along the edge of Manawatu River and improve river corridor to provide a continuous area of natural habitat between Foxton and Manawatu Estuary	
Open Space Principles	Value Questions	Value	
Create multi use/function facilities and open spaces	Does the facility provide for a range of different uses or purposes such as a variety of recreation opportunities, different active or passive open spaces, spaces which can provide an infrastructural function (stormwater retention) as well as an amenity or recreation function?	1	
Enhance and Strengthen partnerships	Does the action provide opportunities to enhance or strengthen partnerships between Council local groups, Government agencies, Iwi, schools or sports groups?	2	
Enhance peoples enjoyment of the Horowhenua landscape	Does the open space/action provide opportunities to enhance people’s enjoyment of the Horowhenua landscape? Does it provide additional opportunities or open up opportunities for people to enjoy?	2	
Create continuous walkways/cycleways that are safe, legible and accessible	Does it create walkways/cycleways that link between open spaces, link open spaces to natural features, points of interest?	2	
Create and enhance activity focal points as well as protecting and enhancing local spaces	Does the open space create and enhance a focal point for activities? Does the action protect and/or enhance a local space?	2	
Enhance open space experiences by providing a variety of open spaces and routes for a range of abilities, functions and needs	Do the open spaces provide for a range of different abilities (young, old, mobile, disabled), functions (active or passive recreation, ecological, stormwater disposal) and needs (active, passive, amenity, conservation)? Are the routes suitable for a range of different abilities (young, old, mobile, disabled) and needs (recreation, leisure, access, amenity)?	1	
Utilise natural corridors for recreation and ecological benefits	Does the open space utilise natural corridors for recreation and ecological benefits?	2	
Provide for healthy and active lifestyles for all sectors of the community	Does the open space provide for a range of different sectors of the community (young, families, old, different ethnicities)?	1	

Using the criteria on settlements

Open Space within settlements

The criteria has been used on existing Open Spaces within each of the settlements. Together with the principles, this understanding of the successfulness of existing Open Space has informed each settlement's Open Space Strategy.

The following pages illustrate how the principles can be applied at a settlement level and provides a list of actions that help deliver the Open Space Strategy. The list includes actions that directly relate to existing council owned reserves within each of the settlements.

The settlements that have been included in this strategy are:

1. Foxton
2. Foxton Beach
3. Hokio Beach
4. Levin
5. Ohau
6. Mangaore
7. Manakau
8. Shannon
9. Tokomaru
10. Waikawa Beach
11. Waitarere

They have been arranged alphabetically from page 30.

Existing types of council owned reserves

For the purposes of taking stock of existing reserves, parks and other Open spaces owned and managed by Horowhenua District Council, this strategy categorises these into four different types:



Amenity space

Typically these are spaces that serve multiple use for local communities and visitors. Amenity spaces are usually found close to a commercial centre of a settlement and add to local sense of place.



Sports and Recreation parks

Typically these consist of large 'flat' green spaces for formal active sports and recreation. These are sometimes defined as domains, sports grounds or sports parks.



Neighbourhood parks

Typically these are small areas of land that serve as a local community park, playground and / or gathering space. These tend to be used by communities that live within a walkable distance of the park.



Natural habitats

Typically these are areas of land that have an ecological value and / or are connected to a natural feature such as a stream corridor, significant vegetation or a coastal landscape. Sometimes these spaces lack public access but remain valued through ecological benefit and visual access / importance.

Other types of open spaces within settlements

In addition to Council owned reserves, settlements also consist of other areas of land that could be considered to function or potentially function as important 'open space'.

This strategy includes consideration of these other types of open spaces within each of the settlement. These include DoC sites, school grounds, cemeteries, public carparks and privately managed outdoor recreation facilities such as golf courses, racecourses and API Showgrounds.

It is important to note that most of these types of open spaces generally fall outside of council control. However, this strategy seeks to instigate partnerships with private landowners / agencies to help deliver the strategy and actions.

Foxton - Existing Open Space

Key characteristics

Foxton is a small rural town in the west of the Horowhenua. The settlement straddles State Highway 1 and is adjacent to the Manawatu River (although most of the water from the river has been diverted through the Whirokino Cut at this point). Foxton was once a major port but eventually, following a number of groundings the port was closed down. The main flow of the river now no longer flows past Foxton as it has been diverted to take a more direct route. Flax production and harvesting which benefited from the peaty soils of the area, was a successful early industry around Foxton and was integral in its early economic growth. The town is now known for its murals, which depict many aspects of life in and around Foxton, and for its full size replica of a Dutch windmill known as De Molen.

Foxton is located about 6 km from the beach where there is a coastal settlement known as Foxton Beach. Foxton has one high school and three primary schools.

Successfulness of the existing open space

Foxton is well serviced in terms of the amount of open spaces it has. In general these Open Spaces function very well although in some places these Open Spaces are not well integrated with the town.

Easton Park is a playing field centrally located tucked in behind the central shopping area and surrounded by residential dwellings on the other sides. Unfortunately most of these dwellings have tall fences or hedges backing onto the park which creates a sense of seclusion. A second sports ground, Victoria Park, is located on the northern side of Foxton.

River Loop Playground is a linear park located on the edge of the Manawatu River loop/backwater. This park functions well and includes a children's playground, a number of interpretation panels and connections to the Foxton River loop walkway.

Flaxmill Reserve on the main street of Foxton serves as a well used space for picnicking and visitor information. De Molen windmill is located on Flaxmill Reserve.

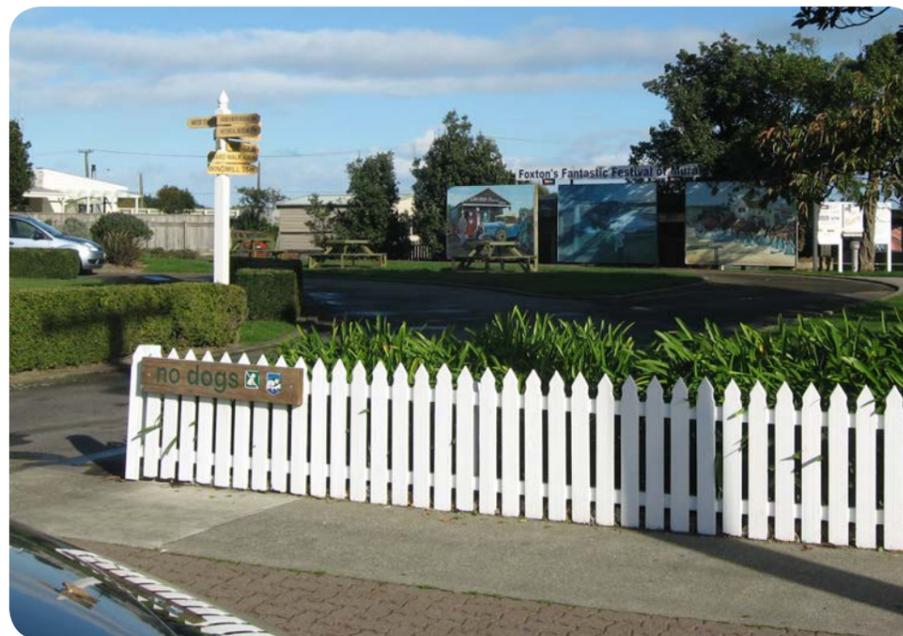
The elevated Seaview Gardens is located at the south end of the main street in Foxton. With walkways up the landmark working water tower and views of the sea, Seaview Gardens is an important historic open space within the settlement and the district.



River Loop Playground, Foxton.



Easton Park, Foxton.



Flaxmill Reserve, Foxton.



Te Awahou, Foxton.



Foxton - Open Space Strategy

The Foxton Open Space Strategy and its actions seeks to illustrate the future vision for a well connected and celebrated open space network that reflects existing community aspirations and future growth and tourism opportunities for Foxton.

Key outcomes

- » The Open Space Strategy aligns with the Foxton Town Plan.
- » An open space and recreational needs assessment influences the future use of individual reserves within Foxton.
- » Target Reserve becomes a 'hub' for outdoor sports and recreation.
- » The River Loop walkway provides recreation opportunities for both the local community and visitors.
- » An upgraded cycleway between Foxton and Foxton Beach provides a cycle connection from Foxton to Foxton Beach and Shannon.
- » Access to the Manawatu River provides recreational opportunities for walkers, cyclists and boaties.
- » Revegetation of the river corridors provides for an enhanced ecological corridor for native species.
- » Safe, accessible and legible routes through existing and proposed open space (green-links) provide pedestrian shortcuts through the settlements.
- » Pedestrian footpaths / streetscapes are enhanced along key routes throughout the settlement. These routes focus on pedestrian needs to provide for and promote walking and cycling.
- » Key gateway, thresholds and focus points are enhanced to provide and help to reinforce Foxton's identity and character within the Horowhenua District.
- » Views towards the wider landscape are retained and celebrated to help orientation and to provide a sense of place.
- » Low impact stormwater management practices (such swales and rain gardens) are developed within open spaces, reserves and road berms to provide options for managing localised stormwater.



Walkways through a flax environment. Image of loop walkway on Waiheke Island, Auckland.



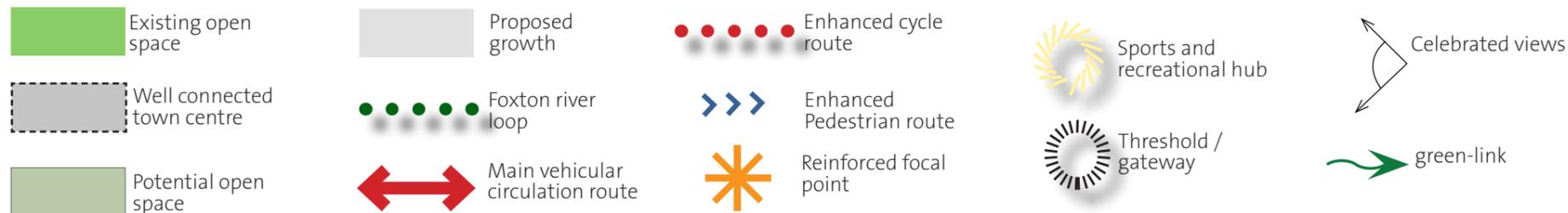
Image illustrating walking/cycleway boardwalk. Image source: <http://wellingtoncycleways.wordpress.com/2010/12/29/hawkes-bay-coastal-ride/>



Target Reserve could become a hub for sporting activities in a similar way to Levin Domain.



Target Reserve could provide a hub for outdoor sports and recreational activities such as walking, running, archery, Gun Clubs, pony treks, farm visits, orienteering, cross country, assault challenge courses, paint ball and golf. Image above of Manly Dam, Sydney.



STRATEGY ACTION	
ACTION	VALUE
Upgrade cycleway between Foxton and Foxton Beach that follows main vehicular circulation route.	H
Establish a walkway along the edge of Manawatu River and improve river corridor to provide a continuous area of natural habitat between Foxton and the Manawatu Estuary.	H
Create a sports and recreational hub at Target Reserve.	H
Protect and enhance views towards the Tararua Ranges and the coast from the settlement.	H
Implement Foxton River loop walkway.	H
Identify opportunities and develop low impact stormwater management practices (such as water retention basins, swales and rain gardens) within reserves and open spaces where they can help manage localised stormwater and add to the overall open space amenity value.	M
Investigate wider recreational, ecological and amenity open space opportunities to secure open space that serves the local community.	M
Encourage community involvement of river improvement/ revegetation and ecological or amenity improvements to river open soace areas.	M
Instigate opportunities for green-links that serve as pedestrian shortcuts within the settlement.	M
Enhance key gateways and thresholds into and out of Foxton.	L
Investigate developing cycle route to Shannon.	L

ACTIONS FOR COUNCIL RESERVES	
ACTION	VALUE
A. Establish vision, master plan and management plan for Target Reserve. Consider racecourse, golf course and Victoria Park as part of this process.	H
B. Assess recreational and open space value of Victoria Park.	H
C. Assess recreational value/function considering future use of Easton Park. Consider access through and into open space/public swimming pool.	H
D. Increase pedestrian connections to River Loop.	M
In reviewing and developing the management plans and concept plans for reserves identify areas where a reserve may be 'under-delivering' in terms of its open space contribution to the Strategy principles.	M
E. Review Seaview Gardens Management Plan and seek to implement actions in relation to the Town Centre Plan.	L

Foxton Beach - Existing Open Space

Key characteristics

Foxton Beach is a small coastal settlement located about 6km from Foxton at the mouth of the Manawatu River. The town is a popular holiday destination due mainly to its proximity to the beach, the bird sanctuary and the Manawatu Estuary which was given RAMSAR status in 2005.

Foxton Beach has one primary school but high school students must travel to Foxton for their education.

Successfulness of the existing open space

For the size of its population Foxton Beach has ample open space. The successfulness of the existing open space could be greatly enhanced by strong connections between open space areas.

In the centre of Foxton Beach township is Holben Reserve (Te Wharangi) which is a dominating feature of the settlement. This reserve is a multi-function open space and includes a children's play area, sports facilities and picnic areas. However access points into the reserve can be unclear and the reserve would benefit from having clearly identified routes through.

Flagstaff Reserve is a much smaller area of open space and is located adjacent to the main road. It contains a small children's play area and acts as a small neighbourhood park for much of the eastern side of Foxton Beach settlement.

A series of walkways surrounding the estuary provide significant recreation opportunities for Foxton Beach and communities across the district. As the estuary is an internationally significant habitat for migratory seabirds, these walkways draw visitors from further afield.

The beach itself also contributes significantly to the quantity of open space in Foxton Beach, however despite its proximity to the township, the two are poorly connected as a consequence of the sand dunes that are situated between the beach and the township. A large carpark, which is cut into the dunes, provides access to the beach and is adjacent to the surf-lifesaving club.

There are additional areas along the edges of the roads and streets in the settlement that could resemble openspace. These tend to be large grass berms or irregular areas at road junctions.



Flagstaff Reserve is located on the edge of the main road through Foxton Beach settlement.



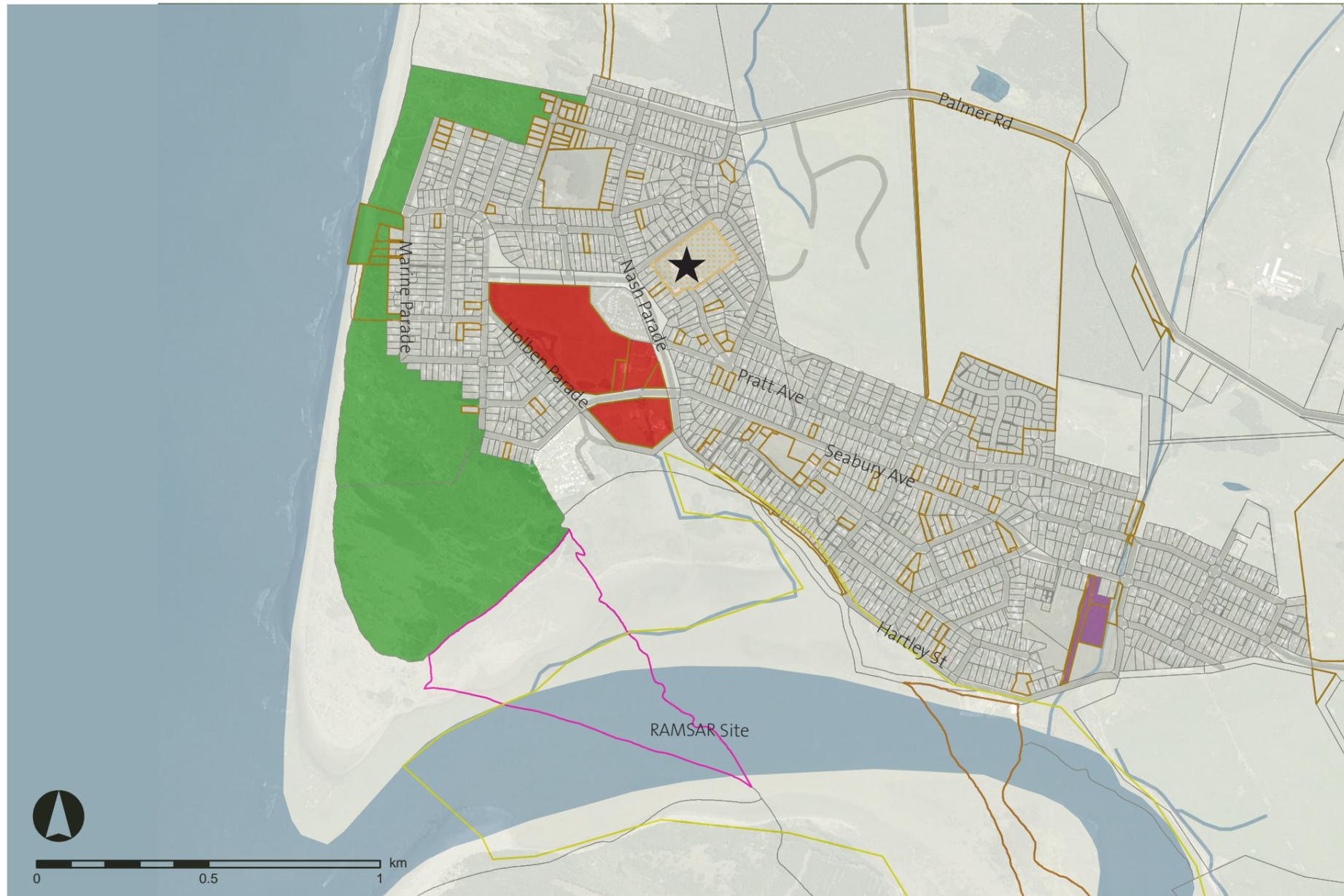
The Manawatu Estuary and RAMSAR site is located adjacent to the settlement at Foxton Beach.



Informal open space adjacent to Seabury Ave acting as a focal point / information stop. (Source: http://maps.google.co.nz/maps?rlz=1T4ADFA_enNZ492NZ493&q=75%20Seabury%20Gardens%20Ave%2C%20Foxton%20Beach&safe=vss&um=1&ie=UTF-8&hl=en&sa=N&tab=wl)



The carpark and surf-lifesaving club at Foxton Beach.



Foxton Beach - Open Space Strategy

The Foxton Beach Open Space Strategy and its actions seeks to illustrate a future vision for a well connected and celebrated open space network that reflects existing community aspirations and future growth/ tourism opportunities for Foxton Beach.

Key outcomes

- » Access to the beach is enhanced for pedestrians. The beach becomes open space by default.
- » An upgraded cycleway between Foxton and Foxton Beach, that is separate from the main vehicular carriageway provides safe cycle connection from Foxton Beach to Foxton.
- » Physical and visual access to the Manawatu Estuary is protected, enhanced and celebrated.
- » Safe, accessible and legible routes through existing and proposed open space (green-links) provides pedestrian shortcuts through the settlements.
- » Existing and proposed pedestrian footpaths / streetscapes will be enhanced along key routes throughout the settlement. These routes focus on pedestrian needs to provide for and promote walking and cycling.
- » Key gateway, thresholds and focus points are enhanced to provide and help toward reinforcing Foxton Beach’s identity and character within the Horowhenua.
- » Views towards the wider landscape are retained and celebrated to help orientation and to provide a sense of place.
- » Formal access to mountain bike tracks are explored in partnership with landowners.
- » Low impact stormwater management practices (such swales and rain gardens) are developed within open spaces, reserves and road berms to provide options for managing localised stormwater.
- » An open space and recreational needs assessment influences the future use of individual reserves within Foxton Beach.

» Water retention basins are developed in Forbes Rd subdivision and Flagstaff Reserve. In addition to providing a practical solution for stormwater build up these have amenity, aesthetic, ecological and conservation benefits.

» Where possible hard surfaces are avoided to allow water to drain naturally into the ground.

» Enhance connections between existing open space areas to establish a well connected open space network.



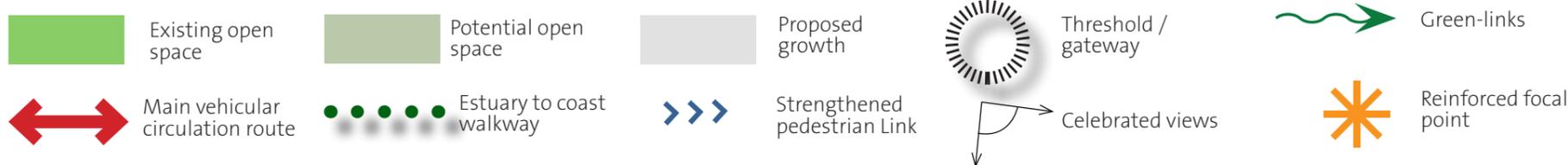
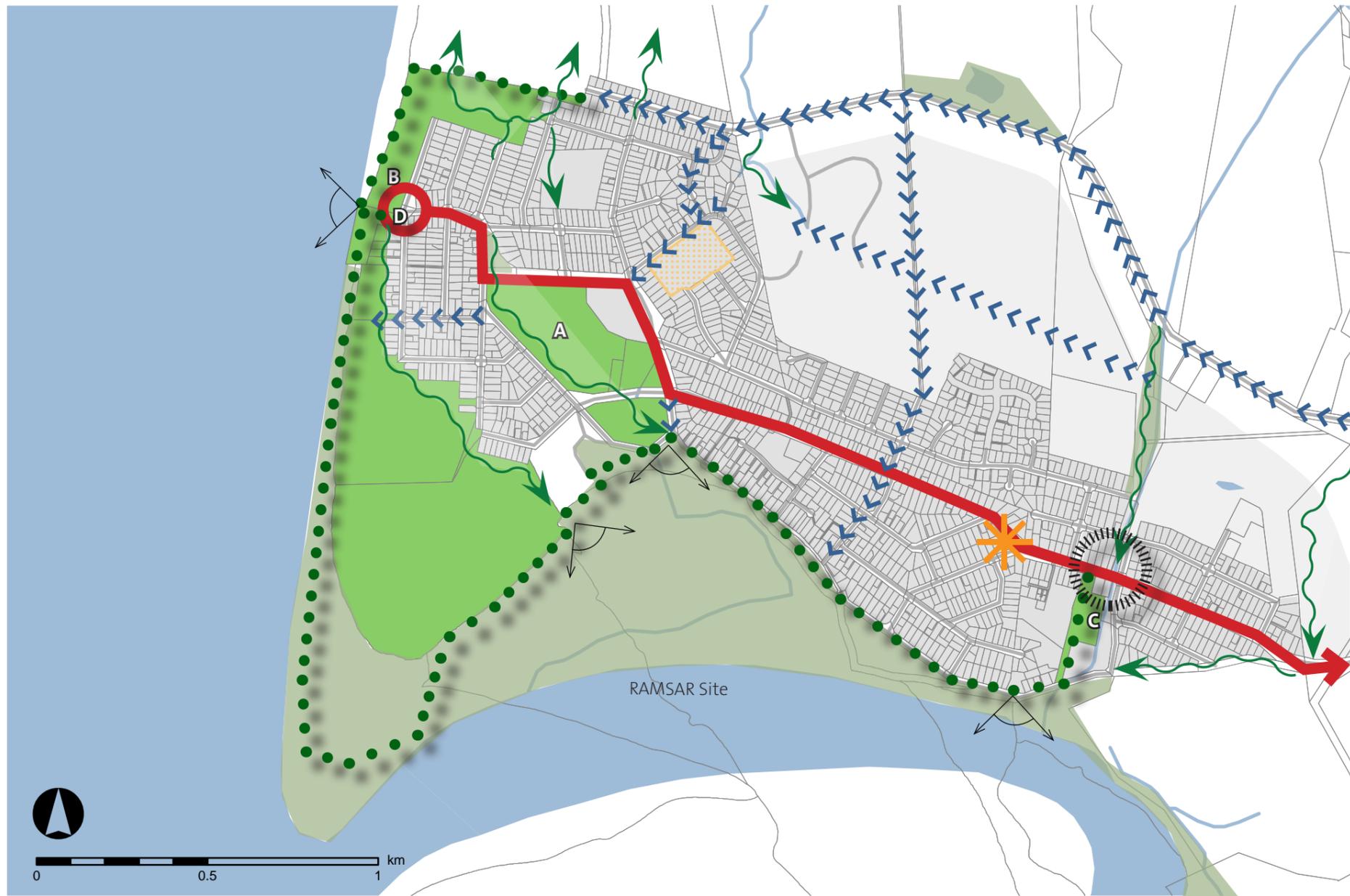
Example of green-link which serves as a pedestrian shortcut within the settlement.



Clearly defined routes across the dunes to help identify access to the beach whilst protecting the dune landscape.



Mountain bike opportunities. Image source: <http://www.bikeradar.com/news/article/300k-mountain-biking-plan-for-sherwood-pines-12491/>



STRATEGY ACTION	
ACTION	VALUE
Promote continuous local walking/cycling loops that include access to viewing the RAMSAR site and across the estuary.	H
Upgrade cycleway/walkways between Foxtton and Foxtton Beach along main vehicular circulation route.	H
Investigate benefits of multi-organisational management (Co-operative) for all the HDC and DoC Reserves, including the parabolic dune fields, lower river reserves and publically managed conservation or recreation land.	H
Develop swales along Whitebait Creak, Soo Subdivision and Short St.	H
Develop water retention basins where multi use opportunities for recreation and stormwater functions exist.	H
Instigate opportunities for green-links that serve as pedestrian shortcuts within the settlement.	M
Access points into coastal park environment to the north.	M
Investigate potential to establish and enhance connections to the dune lake environment to the north.	M
Seek to provide accessible mountain bike tracks/horse riding tracks.	L
Protect and enhance views towards the estuary from key view points within the settlement.	L

ACTIONS FOR COUNCIL RESERVES	
ACTION	VALUE
A. Enhance physical and visual connections between and through reserves and open space.	H
B. Improve pedestrian access to the beach and waterways, whilst protecting the natural environment.	H
C. Identify opportunities and develop low impact stormwater management practices (such as water retention basins, swales and rain gardens) within reserves and open spaces where they can help manage localised stormwater and add to the overall open space amenity value.	M
D. Investigate ways to soften car park area with appropriate planting and design works and increase multiuse and functionality of car parks.	L

Manawatu River Estuary – Koputara Lakes Ecological Network

This Network comprises the Manawatu River Estuary extending north through to Round Bush Scenic Reserve along Whitebait Creek. A number of coastal dune lakes and wetlands are within this Network, including Lake Omanu, Orouakaitawa Lagoon, Koputara Lake 3, Koputara Lake 2 and Koputara Lake 1. These large dune lakes and wetlands have a range of ecological values in terms of providing largely connected habitat for indigenous flora and fauna, including a number of nationally threatened species such as spotless crake and bittern. Round Bush Scenic Reserve is considered to be one of the only remaining examples of coastal swamp forest of this size in the District. Lake Omanu is owned by Fish and Game and is maintained for recreational shooting. Orouakaitawa Lagoon consists of a medium-sized wetland which includes a shallow lagoon, reedland, flaxland & mixed shrubland. Koputara Lake 3 comprises a large pond with extensive raupo and reedland and areas of ephemeral wetland. Koputara Lake 2 is a large, more modified coastal dune lake with identified water quality issues. Koputara Lake 1 comprises dense indigenous vegetation and provides good habitat for indigenous wildlife. All of these lakes have good hydrological connections with Whitebait Creek

Most of these lakes and wetlands have been fenced from stock access and there are a number of restoration initiatives underway to enhance these areas and the ecological connections between.

Whitebait Creek is a small tributary of the Manawatu River and passes through the urban area of Foxton Beach and into farmland further north. Whitebait Creek is the subject of a Horizons Regional Council-funded community restoration project to improve native fish populations along the waterbody and including the dune lakes to the north. This has resulted in some fencing and restoration initiatives in the area and public access agreements with landowners to facilitate access within this Network.

The Manawatu River Estuary is a RAMSAR wildlife site and is considered internationally important due to habitat for migratory bird species.

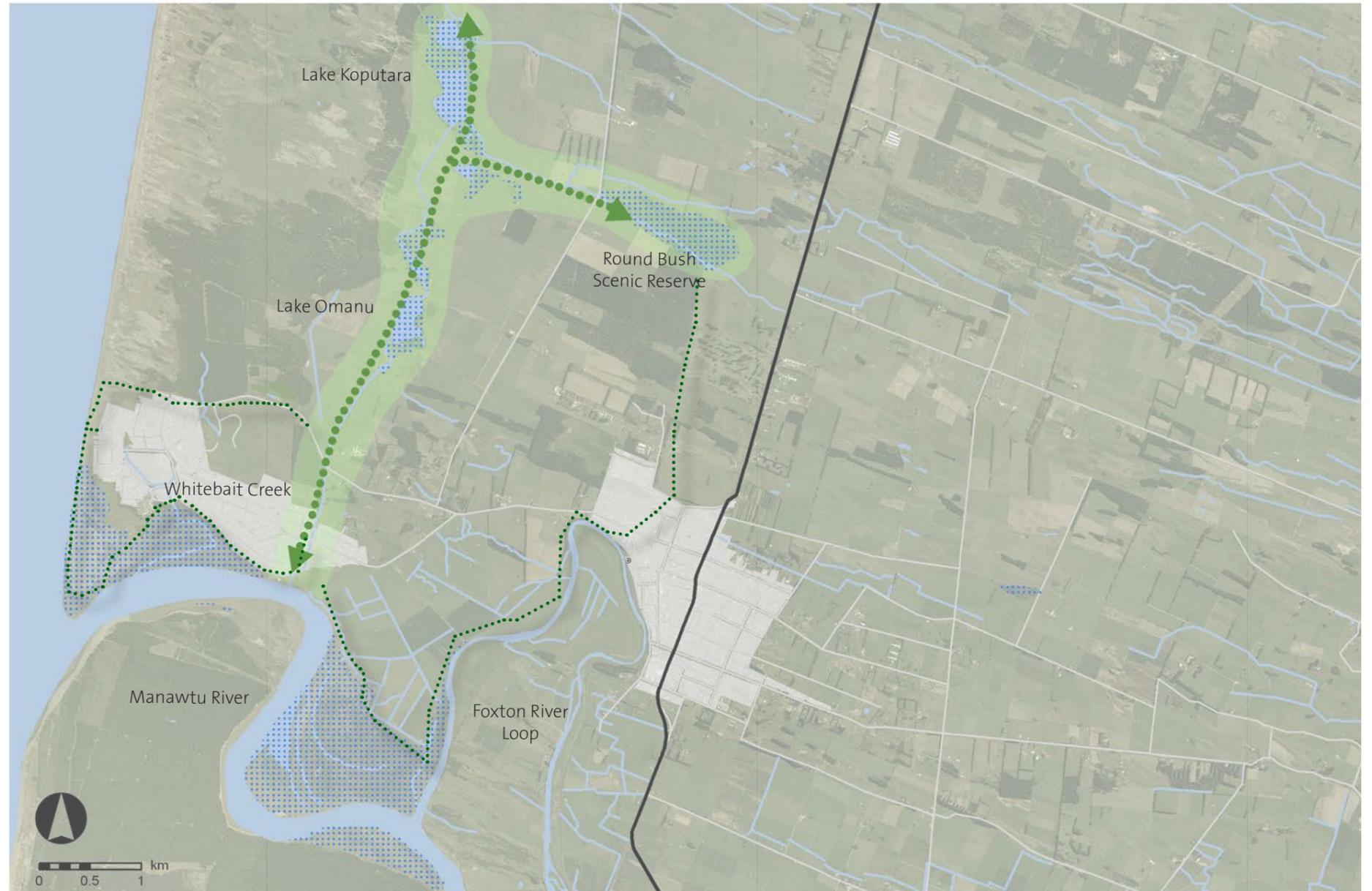


Koputara Lakes and wetlands

Manawatu River Estuary – Koputara Lakes Ecological Network

Ongoing and future threats within this Network include aquatic weeds, dairy conversion, drainage and waterbody maintenance, poaching and recreational shooting. Sambar deer are an ongoing issue in the wetland areas and potentially invasive exotic plants such as willow are also a problem.

The long-term outcome for this network is to manage water quality of the Koputara Lakes, including run-off and lake water levels, and to provide a continuous ecological and recreation connection by building on the existing riparian fencing and planting initiatives between the Koputara Lakes and the Manawatu Estuary, including Whitebait Creek and the Foxton Loop.



This plan shows the potential Koputara Lakes Ecological Network

Identified ecological network

Hokio Beach - Existing Open Space

Key characteristics

Hokio Beach is a small coastal settlement about 7km west of Levin and Lake Horowhenua. The settlement is defined by its coastal setting and has distinctive characteristics that appear quite different from Levin. The settlement consists of a number of holiday baches and residential accommodation.

On the approach to the settlement, the windy and narrow Hokio Beach Road consists of flax, wetlands and native wildlife such as pukeko on either side. The road takes you through the settlement towards the beach. Once on the beach, the expansive views north and south can be spectacular. Kapiti Island is a feature to the south, and you can see Mount Taranaki's snow-capped peak to the north on clear days. Driving or walking along the coast will take you past Waitarere Beach to Manawatu River mouth north, and to Waikawa Beach south.

Successfulness of the existing Open Space

At present Hokio Beach settlement consists of one area of land that is considered 'reserve' and managed accordingly. This area of local amenity space consists of a small playground, flat grass areas with council rubbish bins, signage, BBQs and seating.

Although relatively small and possibly not that adaptable, this open space scores highly using the success criteria. It is well connected to the settlement and coastal environment, it is highly visible from the street, has a good distinctive character with a natural and interesting backdrop. The open space also functions as a gateway to the beach from the settlement.

Hokio Beach settlement does not currently have a designated area for formal sports and recreation, however it has easy access to the beach, dunes and Hokio Stream corridor. These natural assets provide for a range of different experiences and recreation opportunities.



Estuary at Hokio Beach.



Hokio Reserve Playground , Hokio Beach.



Hokio Beach - Open Space Strategy

The Hokio Beach Open Space Strategy and its actions seeks to illustrate the future vision for a protected, enhanced and celebrated coastal landscape.

Key outcomes

- » Access to the beach is enhanced for pedestrians. The beach becomes open space by default.
- » A new publicly accessible walkway that follows Hokio Stream is created.
- » Physical and visual access to the coast is protected, enhanced and celebrated.
- » Safe, accessible and legible routes through existing and proposed open space (green-links) provide pedestrian shortcuts through the settlements.
- » Existing and proposed pedestrian footpaths / streetscapes are enhanced along key routes throughout the settlement. These routes focus on pedestrian needs to provide for and promote walking and cycling.
- » A key gateway is enhanced to provide and help toward reinforcing Hokio Beach's identity and character within the Horowhenua.
- » Low impact stormwater management practices (such swales and rain gardens) are developed within open spaces, reserves and road berms to provide options for managing localised stormwater.
- » An open space and recreational needs assessment influences the future use of individual reserves within Hokio Beach.



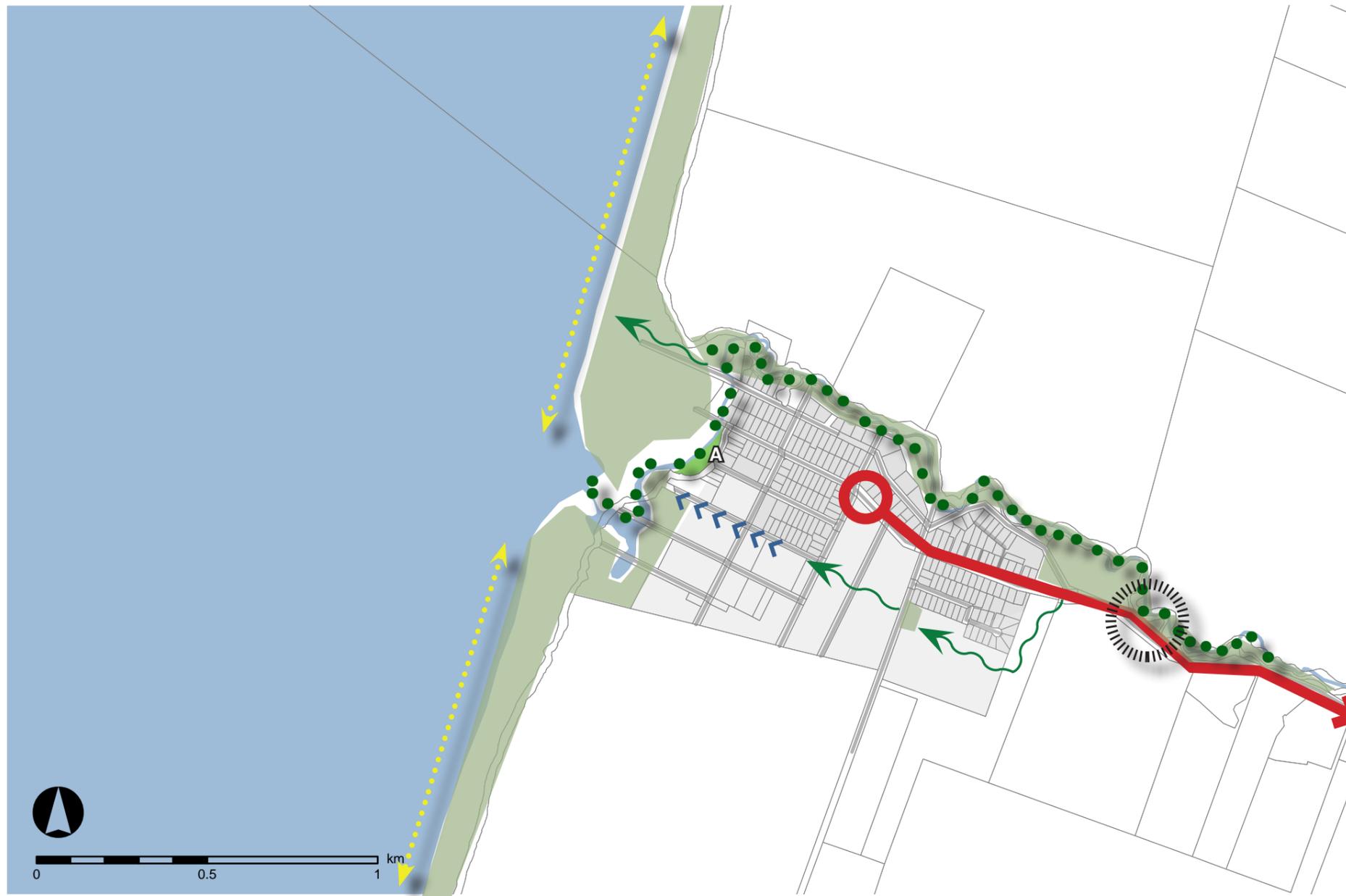
Example of a publicly accessible walkway along a stream. Image source: <http://www.flickr.com/photos/mojohealy/>



Example of an enhanced gateway that helps to reinforce the identity and character of the town.



Hokio Beach is a valuable area of open space.



STRATEGY ACTIONS	
ACTION	VALUE
Improve access to the beach from within the settlement, whilst protecting the dune landscape.	H
Identify opportunities and develop low impact stormwater management practices (such as water retention basins, swales and rain gardens) within reserves and open spaces where they can help manage localised stormwater and add to the overall open space amenity value.	M
Improve cycling opportunities along the main vehicular route (Hokio Beach Road).	M
Provide walking tracks along Hokio Stream that are well connected to beach and create loop walkways that can be easily accessed from the settlement.	M
Enhance and protect views towards the coast.	L
Develop pedestrian green-links which provide pedestrian short cuts between streets.	L
Enhance key gateways and threshold into and out of Hokio Beach settlement.	L

ACTION FOR COUNCIL RESERVES	
ACTION	VALUE
A. Work with local community to improve facilities and open spare recreational opportunities at Hokio Beach. Identify land for acquisition and development that would add value in terms of open space and recreation values.	M



Levin - Existing Open Space

Key characteristics

Levin is located in the centre of the Horowhenua District between Lake Horowhenua and the Tararua Ranges. State Highway 1 runs through Levin, as does the main railway trunk-line between Auckland and Wellington.

With a population of around 15000 inhabitants Levin is the largest settlement in the district and acts as a service centre for the surrounding rural area. An estimated 20% of Levin's population is over the age of 65, which is considerably higher than the national average.

Successfulness of the existing Open Space

Levin has a range of open space types providing a broad variety of experiences and uses across the settlement. Smaller neighbourhood parks tend to be located in south east and north east quadrants, whilst large amenity, sports / recreational and natural environment open spaces are reasonably spread.

Maire Street Reserve is an example of an appropriately sized neighbourhood park that functions well and provides a variety of experiences including children's play, a paddling pool and informal passive recreation opportunities.

Iona Park, Argyle Avenue Reserve and Kennedy Park generally function extremely well as neighbourhood parks. Iona Park provides one of the few areas for walking dogs in Levin.

Other neighbourhood parks provide a good allocation of space for local communities, however some of these are poorly positioned within their surrounding context and consist of back fences facing onto the open spaces making these spaces appear neglected and unsafe.

The north-west corner of Levin is particularly poorly served in terms of its access to open space especially given that this is an area that is zoned for potential growth. The main area of open space in this corner are Western Park, Levin North School and Argyle Avenue Reserve.

Levin is well-served well for sports and recreation parks. As the largest settlement within the district these facilities also typically serve users outside of Levin. It is unclear if there is an over or under supply of sports facilities at this stage. This should be looked at in a recreational needs study across the district.

Donnelly Park is the prime sports facility in Levin. Its proximity to both Levin and Lake Horowhenua provides an opportunity for a sports and recreational hub that serves the district.

Playford Park has huge potential as a regional sports park, when looked at with Waiopahu College. There is potential for it to be utilised more as a green-link between local roads.

The natural environments of Prouse Bush Reserve, Kowhai Park and Waiopahu Scenic Reserve provide important ecological and recreational sites within and on the edges of the settlement.

Lake Horowhenua Domain / Muaupoko Park is a multi-functional open space boasting access to the lake and large areas of open ground for formal and informal activities. Although some of the structures could benefit from an upgrade, the open space generally works well as a local and regional destination / facility.

In addition to the identified council owned reserves, there are a number of other areas of land that could be considered open space within Levin. These include school grounds, cemeteries, the adventure park on Oxford Street, the showgrounds and the racecourse.

Edges of Oxford Street, Queen Street and the trunk-line also serve as areas of land where people enjoy passive activities. These could also be considered important parts of the open space network.



Muaupoko Park and Lake Horowhenua



Donnelly Park, Levin.



-  Neighbourhood parks
-  Amenity space
-  Sports and recreation parks
-  Natural environment
-  School
-  Council owned land
-  Adventure playground

Levin - Open Space Strategy

The Levin Open Space Strategy and its actions seeks to demonstrate Levin’s potential for a diverse, multi-functional and well connected open space network that meets the community aspirations for this large settlement within the Horowhenua.

Key outcomes

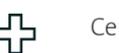
- » Levin’s open space network is well connected and provides a range of different activities and experiences.
- » Accessible walkways loop around Lake Horowhenua.
- » Levin is reinforced as the hub for structured sports and recreation in the Horowhenua District.
- » Safe, accessible and legible routes through existing and proposed open space, school grounds and private open space (green-links) provide important pedestrian shortcuts through the settlement.
- » Existing and proposed pedestrian footpaths / streetscapes are enhanced along key routes throughout the settlement. These routes focus on pedestrian needs to provide for and promote walking and cycling.
- » Key gateways are enhanced to provide and help toward reinforcing Levin’s identity and character within the Horowhenua.
- » Low impact stormwater management practices (such swales and rain gardens) are developed within open spaces, reserves and road berms to provide options for managing localised stormwater.
- » An open space and recreational needs assessment influences the future use of individual reserves within Levin.

STRATEGY ACTIONS	VALUE
Create an interpretation route along the Queen Street spine recognising this as an important connection and gateway to the settlement.	H
Emphasise Queen Street as a key spine/link between Lake and Ranges.	H
Promote Levin as the sports and recreational hub to the Horowhenua district.	H
Investigate improving connections between Levin Domain open spaces, schools and Lake Horowhenua.	H
Secure adequate open space to accommodate the needs for a large park for passive recreation and conservation reasons in Levin, and to provide an opportunity to re-establish Levin's rapidly diminishing ("MacArthur Street") Podocarp Forest. Assess these open spaces based on success criteria.	H
Investigate natural flow paths in the Levin urban area to allow for enhanced drainage into Lake Horowhenua.	M
Protect and secure adequate open space to accommodate future growth areas in Levin. Assess these open spaces based on success criteria.	M
Facilitate regional walking and cycling activities.	M
Identify opportunities and develop low impact stormwater management practices (such as water retention basins, swales and rain gardens) within reserves and open spaces where they can help manage localised stormwater and add to the overall open space amenity value.	M
Investigate wider recreational, ecological and amenity open space opportunities to secure open space that serves the local community.	M
Consider using the train station as a focal hub for open space cycling and walking opportunities.	L
Enhance key gateways and threshold into and out of Levin.	L

ACTIONS FOR COUNCIL OWNED RESERVES	
ACTION	VALUE
A. Develop concept plan considering potential green-links through Kennedy Drive, linking Kennedy Park to Roslyn Road, and multi use of the space.	H
B. Investigate opportunities to improve connections through Kowhai Park and to encourage active edges and visibility through the site.	H
C. Reinforce the central position of the Village Green within the Town Centre and its connection to the Queen Street Spine. Develop a community Concept Plan that demonstrates its potential for a multi-functional civic space in the heart of the town centre.	H
D. Review recreational opportunities at Western Park. Seek to connect reserve to Lake Horowhenua via a green-link.	H

E. Develop a landscape/planting plan for Muaupoko Park that develops it, and focuses on Iwi goals for enhancing/restoring the Lake.	H
F. Develop Concept Plan of Vincent Drive Reserve with local community for environmental and recreation facility improvements.	H
G. Investigate ways to connect parks and or neighbourhood reserves to adjacent drainage/stream corridors, and link to Lake Horowhenua.	H
H. Develop Playford Park in a manner that maintains the amenity of the wide open frontage onto Bartholomew Road and the strong visual connection to the Tararua Ranges. Work in partnership with community/sports groups and local schools to recognise the potential of this site as a multi-functional open space.	H
I. Develop Donnelly Park in a manner that recognises the role that this site has as a regional recreational hub and multi-purpose Open Space. Work in partnership with community groups and local schools to maximise the potential Open Space connections to Lake Horowhenua, nearby schools and other open spaces.	H
J. Review management plans for neighbourhood reserves and develop concept plans that integrate environmental, aesthetic, ecological and recreational opportunities.	H
K. Improve access and legibility of space in Levin Domain. Incorporate open spaces into any future town plan.	M
L. Review existing management plan of Public Gardens/ Remembrance Park. Assess interest in developing gardens of regional significance within Public Gardens. Seek to improve connections between Art Society, gardens and Queen Street spine.	M
M. Investigate ways to enhance connections between Donnelly Park and Lake Horowhenua.	M
N. In reviewing and developing the management plans and concept plans for reserves identify areas where a reserve may be 'under-delivering' in terms of its open space contribution to the Strategy principles.	M
O. Consider recreational needs for Weraroa Domain. Look to provide threshold/gateway at this location which enhances people's impression and driving experience of Levin.	L



- | | | | | | |
|---|---|--|--|---|--|
|  Existing open space |  Strengthened pedestrian link |  Green-links |  Private recreation space |  Ranges walkway |  Reinforced focal point |
|  Potential open space |  Lake Horowhenua walkway |  Queen Street spine |  Private open space |  Threshold / gateway | |
|  Well connected town centre |  Potential trunk-line greenway |  Main vehicular circulation route |  Cemetery | | |

Lake Horowhenua – Hokio Beach Ecological Network

This Network builds on the hydrological and ecological connections along the Hokio Stream between Lake Horowhenua and Hokio Beach. Lake Horowhenua is the largest lake in the District and has a number of associated forest and swamp remnants, including the Whitiki Bush and Swamp and Lake Horowhenua West Bush. The Pakipaki Dune Forest north of Hokio Stream and Otawhaki Lagoon also form part of this Network. The swamp forest with kahikatea and a number of other vegetation associations within this Network are considered to be rare in the district.

The Hokio Stream has been identified as a site where riparian restoration would be most advantageous and there are a number of planting and stream restoration initiatives underway along this waterbody by Horizons Regional Council and the Lake Trustees, including willow removal, fencing and riparian planting. The Hokio Stream also has a number of other areas of existing riparian vegetation that will add to the values of this Network. Increased restoration planting along the Hokio Stream will improve existing ecological connections between areas of ecological value within the Network and will have long-term benefits.

Ongoing threats to this Network are largely in relation to the degraded water quality of Lake Horowhenua and the Hokio Stream. Ongoing land drainage and waterbody maintenance and changing land uses continue to threaten the long-term survival of the dune lakes and wetlands within this Network and there are also associated issues with plant and animal pests along the Hokio Stream and areas of indigenous vegetation. Both Lake Horowhenua and Hokio Stream have perch present which may predate and compete with native fish species.

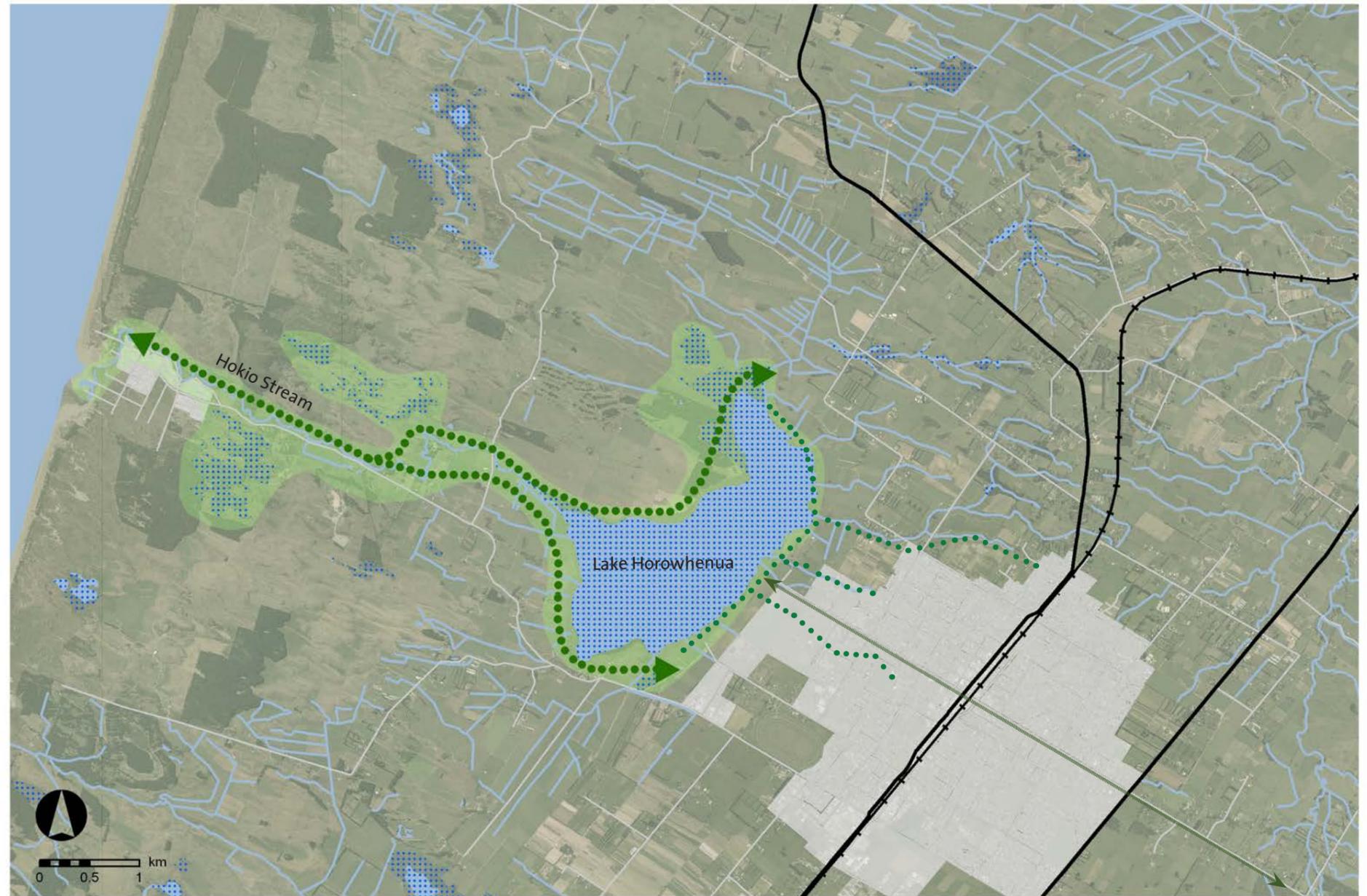


Lake Horowhenua

Lake Horowhenua – Hokio Beach Ecological Network

Although outside of this Network, the Moutere and Nga Kawau Lagoon complex north of the Hokio Stream (comprising the Ohourangi, Ratahi, Wai Ewe, Ohita, Nga Kawau, Nga Kawau-iti and Kuku Lagoons) are also known for their high ecological values as habitat for indigenous flora and fauna.

The long-term outcome for this network is to manage water quality, including run-off and lake water levels, and to provide a continuous ecological and recreational connection through building on the existing riparian fencing and planting initiatives between Lake Horowhenua and the estuary at Hokio Beach.



This plan shows the potential Lake Horowhenua - Hokia Beach Ecological Network

Identified ecological network

Manakau - Existing Open Space

Key characteristics

Manakau is a small rural settlement located in the south of the Horowhenua District on the edge of State Highway 1 with the majority of the settlement on the east side of the road.

Manakau has one primary school, the nearest high schools are located in Levin and Otaki.

Successfulness of the existing open space

Manakau has two main areas of open space. Driscoll Gardens which acts as a gateway into the settlement and forms a buffer between the township, the State Highway and the railway.

Manakau Domain functions poorly as community open space mainly because its location on the west side of State Highway 1 makes it inaccessible and disjointed from the village itself.

In addition to these designated areas of council owned reserve, Manakau boasts distinctive characteristics, with wide grass verges and tree lined streets. These streets provide for an important part of the open space character and amenity to this settlement and could be considered part of the open space network.



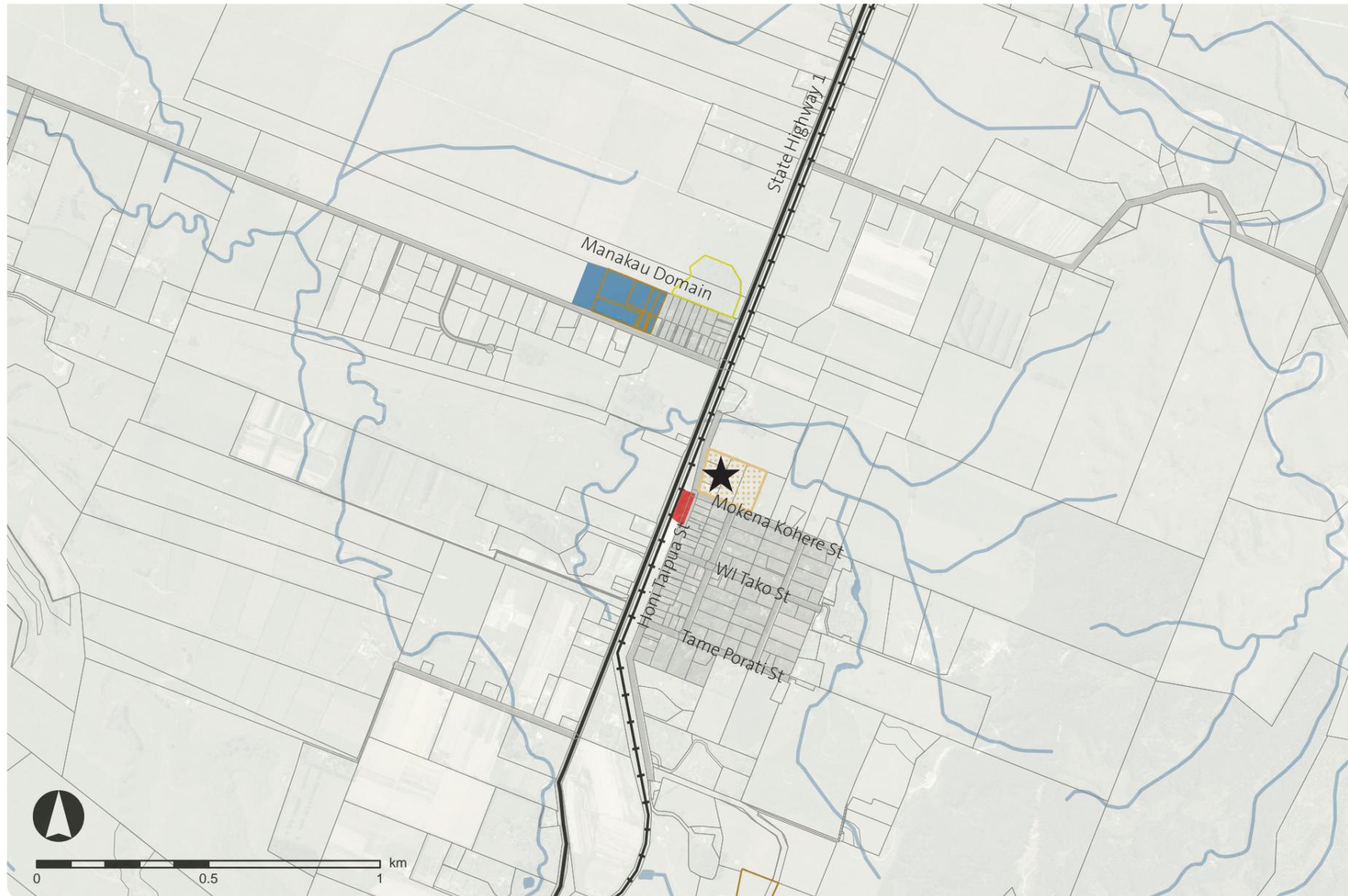
Driscoll Gardens



Manakau Domain.



Wide grass verge adjacent to village streets in Manakau.



- Amenity space
- Sports and recreation parks
- ★ School
- Council owned land
- Natural habitat designation

Manakau - Open Space Strategy

The Manakau Open Space Strategy and its actions draws from the open space principles and indicates a future vision for a well connected, appropriately enhanced series of open spaces that reinforce Manakau’s unique character / sense of place.

Key outcomes

- » Local streets are a key feature that add to local character and richness of the open space in the settlement.
- » The trunk-line greenway becomes a key north / south walking and cycling corridor on the edge of the settlement.
- » A green-link that follows one of the existing ephemeral streams enables walking connections to the east of the settlement.
- » Further assessment enables greater understanding of the open space and recreational needs and demands of the Manakau Community.
- » New open space that is well connected to the existing settlement and proposed growth area provides a shared sports and recreational facility with the local school and community.



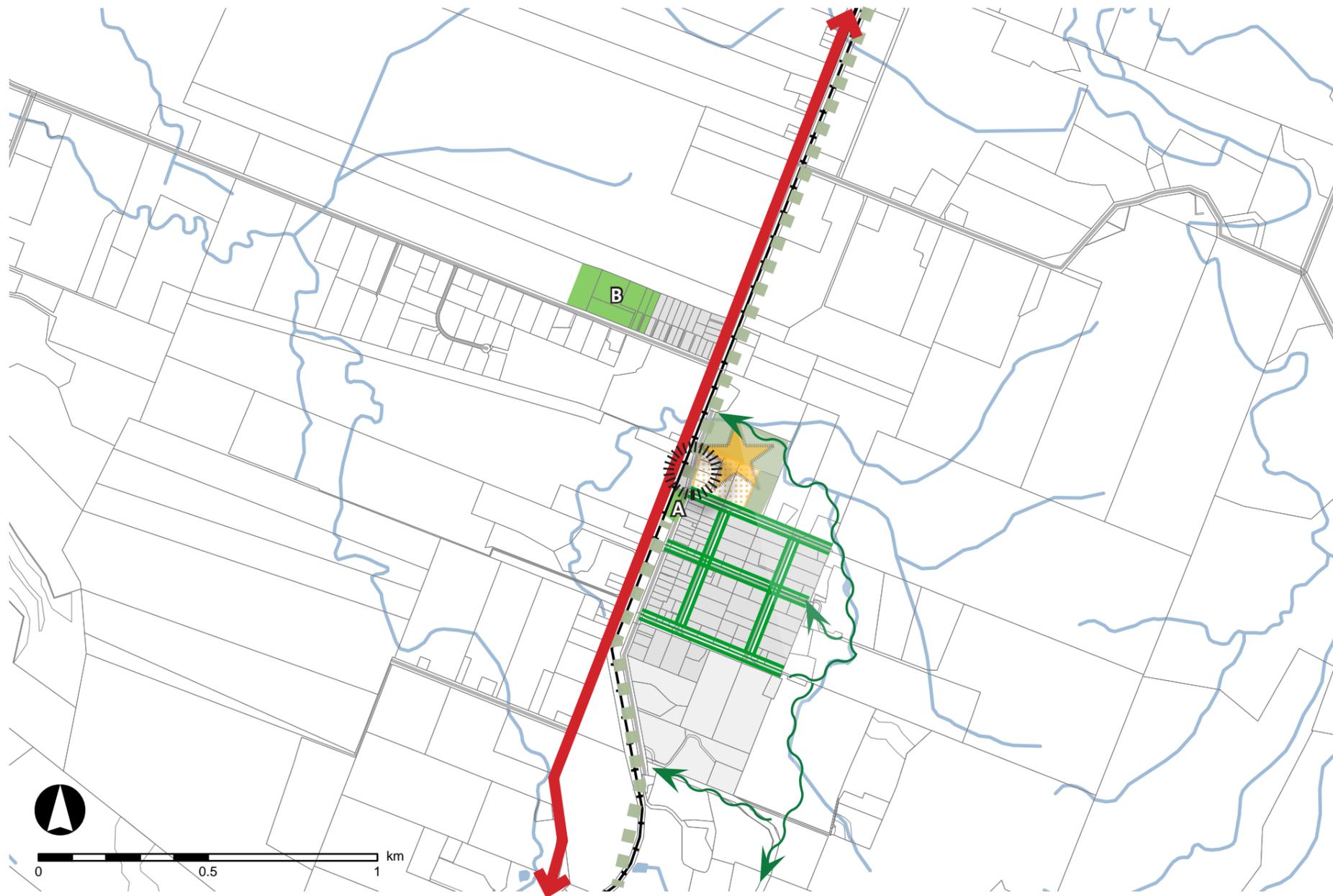
A sports facility could be developed in Manakau in connection with the local school in a similar way to the Playford Park - Waiopahu College model.



A walkway along the edge of the settlement could be incorporated in a similar way to this walkway in Foxton Beach.



Protect scale and character of existing street network within Manakau.



STRATEGY ACTIONS	
ACTION	VALUE
Promote cycling opportunities along or adjacent to SH1.	H
Consider opportunities to provide further open space on east side of SH1. This could be in partnership with school.	H
Ensure that open space treatment and landscaping maintains the village character of the settlement.	M
Enhance connections between Manakau and the Tararua Ranges.	M
Investigate wider recreational, ecological and amenity open space opportunities to secure open space that serves the local community.	M
Work with the local school to provide a range of complimentary open space and recreation opportunities.	M
Develop pedestrian green-links which provide short cuts between streets.	L
Enhance key gateways and threshold into and out of Manakau by incorporating the character of the village.	L

ACTIONS FOR COUNCIL OWNED RESERVES	
ACTION	VALUE
A. Integrate amenity space with trunk-line greenway. Consider opportunities for extending Driscoll Reserve.	H
B. Review the need and future of Manakau Domain including the option of relocating this open space closer to the village settlement.	M

Mangahao - Existing Open Space

Key characteristics

Mangahao is a small settlement located in the north of the Horowhenua District at the base of the Tararua Ranges about 3.5 km east of Shannon.

The settlement is located on a terrace above the Mangahao Stream and was originally built as a settlement to house the staff working on the power station which was built in 1924 and is one of New Zealand's oldest power stations.

There is a distinctive separation between the settlement and the power station / Mangahao Reserve because of the changes in level and existing vegetation. Both the settlement and reserve retain a character of being nestled within the foothills of the Tararua Ranges.

Successfulness of the existing open space

Mangahao Reserve is one of main areas of open space at Mangahao. It contains a white water canoe park that is considered to be of world class quality. The reserve scores high on natural and man made features and feels like a New Zealand tourist destination as well as a local provision for extreme sports.

The area located below the power station, has been developed into a picnic area and small nature park. However, the extreme changes in water level that result from the adjacent hydro scheme make this area unsuitable for swimming.

Within the village itself there is an open space area that includes a tennis court.



Whitewater kayaking facility at Mangahao.



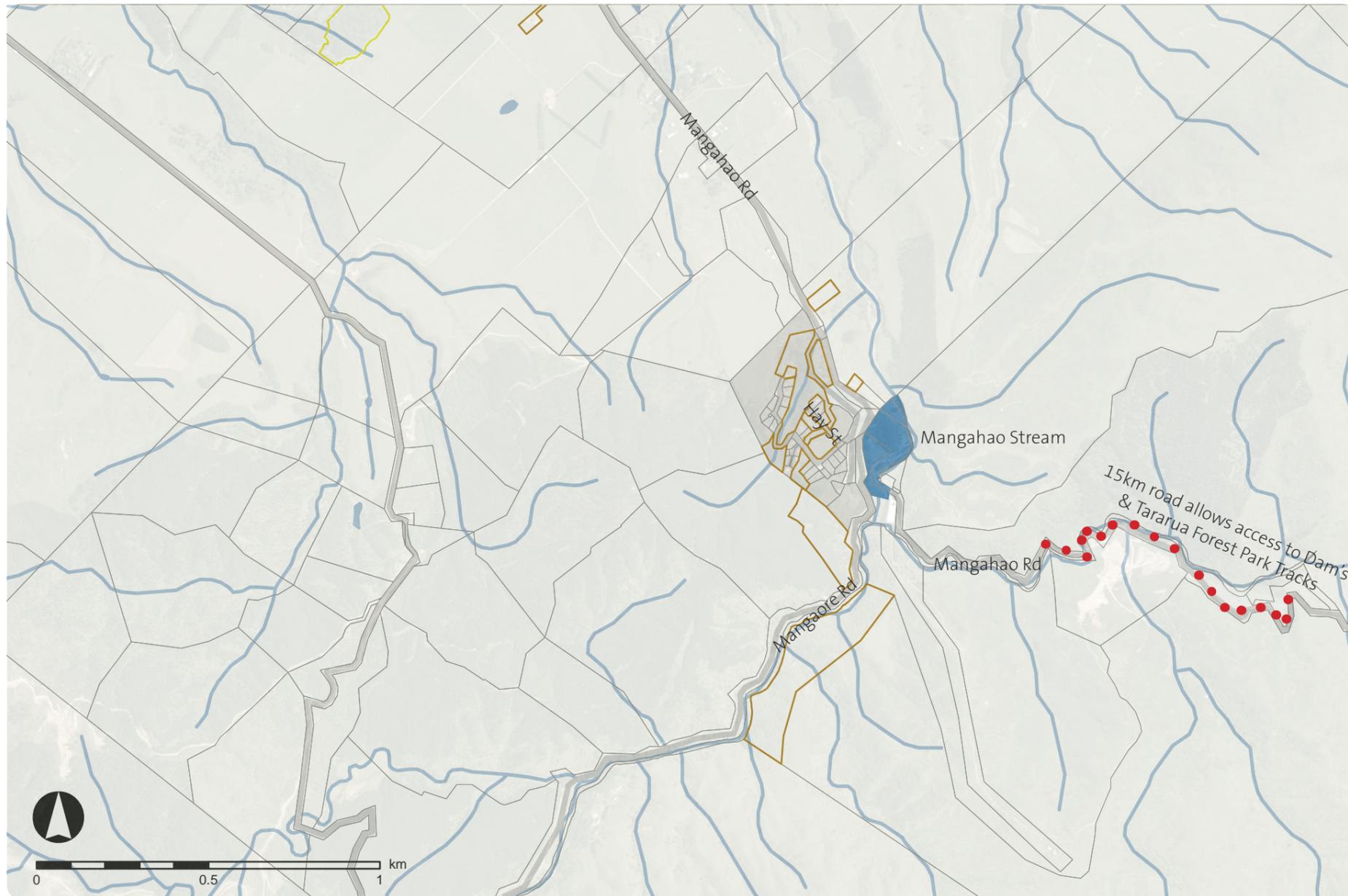
Picnic area adjacent to power station and whitewater kayaking facility.



Whitewater kayaking facility at Mangahao.



Whitewater kayaking facility at Mangahao.



Mangahao - Open Space Strategy

The Mangahao Open Space Strategy and its actions seeks to indicate a future vision for enhancing Mangahao as a significant recreational hub and gateway to the Tararua Ranges.

Key outcomes

- » A walkway follows Mangahao Road with views across to the Mangahao River.
- » Mangahao White Water Facility is known as a hub for white water kayaking.
- » Mangahao is known as a gateway to the Tararua Ranges and access to the Te Araroa walkway.
- » Safe, accessible and legible routes (green-links) provide access from the settlement to the Mangahao White Water facility.
- » Existing gullies and flow paths within open spaces and reserves are used to create swales allowing natural treatment of stormwater.
- » An open space and recreational needs assessment influences the future use of individual reserves within Mangahao.



Mountain biking facilities at Mangahao are further developed. Image source: <http://www.lakewanaka.co.nz/new-zealand/TradeGalleryPopup/index.cfm?categoryID=1&photographID=9>.



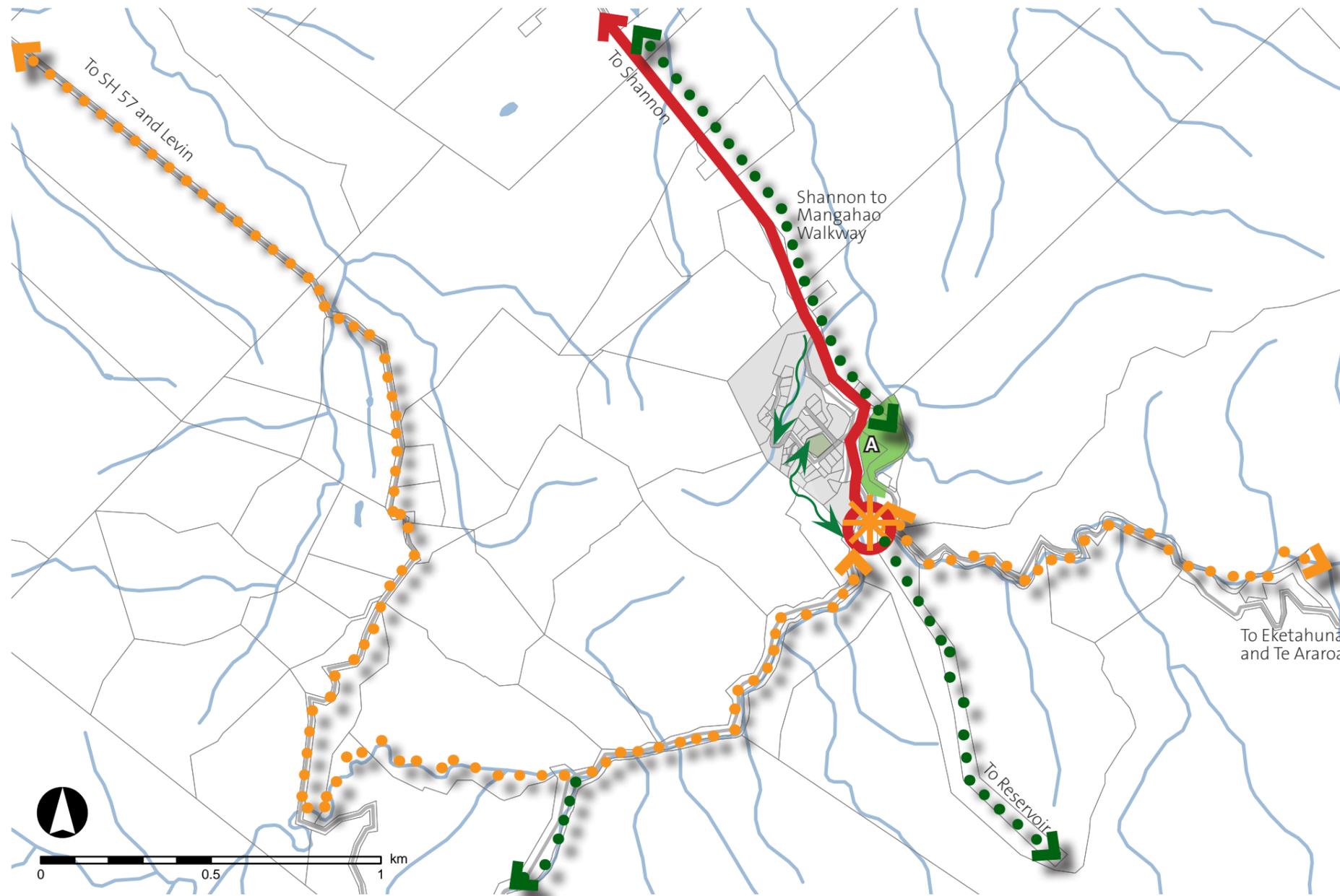
Te Araroa walkway, Tararua Ranges. Image source: www.teararoa.org.nz



Short local walkways provide opportunities for passive recreation.



White water kayaking facilities at Mangahao are further developed. Image source: <http://www.photosot.com/kayaking/>.



STRATEGY ACTION	
ACTION	VALUE
Investigate opportunities for local short walkways and passive recreation areas.	H
Improve cycling and walking connections between Mangahao and Shannon.	H
Enhance connections between Mangahao and Te Araroa walkway.	H
Investigate developing further outdoor recreation opportunities at Mangahao.	M
Ensure that Mangahao remains a focal point for a range of outdoor activities.	M
Investigate wider recreational, ecological and amenity open space opportunities to secure open space that serves the local community.	M
Develop pedestrian green-links which provide short cuts between the settlement and the reserve/river.	L
Investigate opportunities to use existing gullies and flow paths within reserves and open spaces to promote natural treatment of stormwater.	L

ACTIONS FOR COUNCIL OWNED RESERVES	
ACTION	VALUE
A. Investigate the recreation and tourism opportunities of developing Mangahao to be a recreation and open space focal point.	M

Ohau - Existing Open Space

Key characteristics

Ohau is a small rural settlement that straddles State Highway 1 to the south of Levin. The settlement is spread-out with many of the dwellings built on large sections and interspersed with paddocks. More recently the Ohau settlement has been extended to the south with the introduction of vineyards on both sides of the State Highway.

Ohau has a primary school with the nearest high schools located in Levin.

The large areas of farmland and lack of built up areas enables Ohau to enjoy relatively uninterrupted views of the Tararua Ranges.

The Horowhenua Development Plan demonstrates significant proposed growth all the way around the existing Ohau settlement. Some of these future growth areas consist of existing natural areas that are recognised natural habitats.



Ohau Domain with Tararua Ranges in background.

Successfulness of the existing open space

Ohau's primary area of open space is Ohau Domain which is located on the east side of State Highway 1. This is comprised of a sports field and associated buildings. The Domain is well connected to the settlement and forms a key gateway into the settlement from State Highway 1.

South of the settlement where State Highway 1, trunk-line and Ohau River intersect is a small informal council owned reserve with access to the Ohau River. Pedestrian and cycling access to this reserve from the settlement is unclear other than along State Highway 1.

Lake Papaitonga is just 2km north west of the settlement. However access to and from this significant open space is unclear.



Parikawau Reserve, Ohau.



Lake Papaitonga, just 2km northwest from the centre of Ohau settlement.



Ohau - Open Space Strategy

The Ohau Open Space Strategy and its actions indicates a future vision for Ohau and how this settlement and its growth connects to the Ohau River and Lake Papaitonga.

Key outcomes

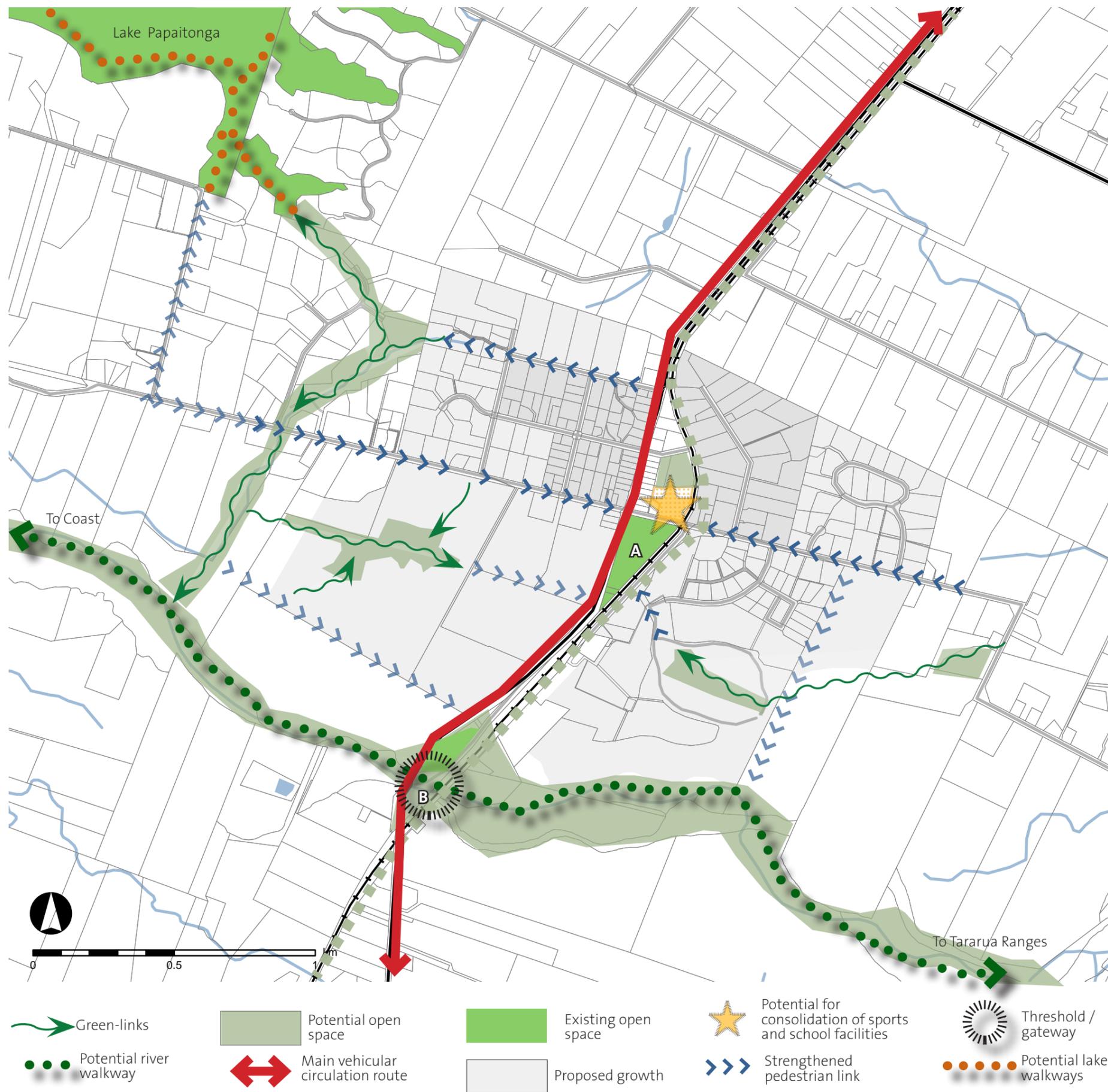
- » Sports and recreational open space within the centre of Ohau is shared between the local school and community.
- » Ohau River walkway provides passive recreation for the settlements residents and visitors and provides a key connection between the coast and the ranges.
- » Safe, accessible and legible routes (green-links) provides pedestrian shortcuts throughout the existing settlement and proposed growth area.
- » Access between the Ohau and Lake Papaitonga is enhanced encouraging pedestrian and cycling connections between lake and settlement.
- » The trunk-line greenway provides a north / south pedestrian and cycle connection through the settlement.
- » Low impact stormwater management practices (such swales and rain gardens) are developed within open spaces, reserves and road berms to provide options for managing localised stormwater.
- » An open space and recreational needs assessment influences the future use of individual reserves within Ohau.



Connections to Lake Papaitonga will be enhanced.



Example of green-link / connection.



STRATEGY ACTION	
ACTION	VALUE
Seek to create a continuous walkway along the Ohau River connecting the Tararuas to the coast and that builds on the existing reserves and open spaces located along the Ohau River.	H
Investigate opportunities for a greenway cycle/walking route along the main trunk-line corridor.	H
Improve access to and from Papaitonga Lake Reserve.	H
Work with local school to provide a range of complimentary open space and recreation opportunities.	H
Identify opportunities and develop low impact stormwater management practices (such as water retention basins, swales and rain gardens) within reserves and open spaces where they can help manage localised stormwater and add to the overall open space amenity value.	M
Integrate and connect new subdivisions/growth areas into a well connected and legible open space network.	M
Instigate opportunities for green-links that serve as pedestrian short cuts within the settlement.	L
Enhance gateways and threshold into and out of Ohau.	L

ACTIONS FOR COUNCIL OWNED RESERVES	
ACTION	VALUE
A. Work in partnership with the school and community groups to maximise functionality of domain to provide a mixed use/multi-functional open space.	M
B. Create key gateway to Ohau where the river, the state highway and the trunk-line meet.	L

Lake Papaitonga – Waiwiri Stream Ecological Network

This network comprises Lake Papaitonga and the Waiwiri Stream and associated tributaries and builds on a number of existing ecological initiatives in this area. Lake Papaitonga is recognised as one of the best remaining lowland wetlands in the North Island and recent land acquisitions by the Department of Conservation have aimed at ensuring the long-term hydrological health of this coastal dune lake. Large portions of the Waiwiri Stream downstream of Lake Papaitonga have also been restored through fencing and riparian planting work undertaken by Horizons Regional Council and landowners and the stream has been identified as a site where riparian restoration would be most advantageous.

The Muhunua Coastal Swamp, part of a recent coastal subdivision, is also included within the network given its close proximity to the Waiwiri Stream.

Future linkages to this network could include Lake Waitaha and the Footprint Wetland, remnants of much larger dune lake and wetland systems in the area. Both these wetlands have been the subject of fencing and planting initiatives undertaken by Horizons Regional Council and the landowners. Although located just outside of this Network, a number of other ecological features are nearby, including the Okotore Lagoon/Rakauhama Wetland within the sand dunes just south of Hokio Beach settlement, the mixed broadleaf, Podocarps forest of the Hokio Sand Road remnants, the kanuka scrub on sand ridge of the Levin Sewage Plant Scrub, the titoki pukatea treeland of the Muhunua West Road Remnant.



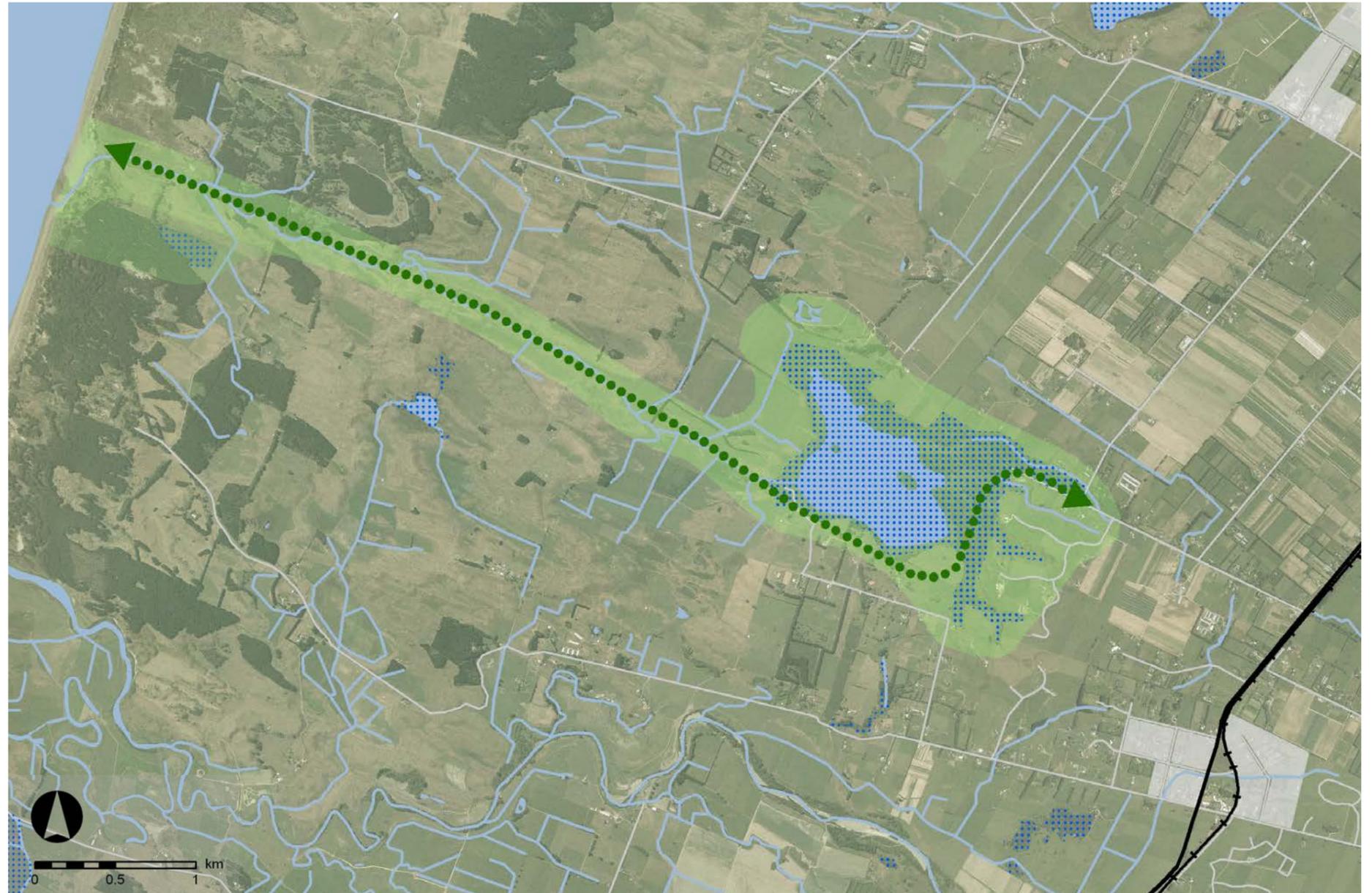
Lake Papaitonga

- council_property
- natural_habitats
- conservation_units
- Wetlands

Lake Papaitonga – Waiwiri Stream Ecological Network

Ongoing threats in this network include the impaired water quality of the Waiwiri Stream, ongoing drainage and waterbody maintenance, land conversion and threats from plant pests and stock grazing. There is likely to be further pressure from coastal subdivision which may provide opportunities for ecological enhancements or further degradation along the Waiwiri Stream and around Lake Papaitonga.

The long-term outcome for this network is to manage water quality, including run-off and lake water levels, and to provide a continuous ecological connection by building on the existing riparian fencing and planting initiatives between Lake Papaitonga and the outlet of the Waiwiri Stream.



This plan shows the potential Lake Papaitonga - Waiwiri Stream Ecological Network

Potential ecological network

Ohau River Dune Lakes and Ohau Estuary Ecological Network

This network comprises the series of wetlands and dune lakes south of the mouth of the Ohau River and extends to include the Ohau River oxbow and the Ohau River up to State Highway 1. The Ohau Estuary is a Recommended Area for Protection (RAP) for its indigenous saltmarsh vegetation and the Ohau River Dune Lakes and Te Hakari Wetland are recognised as being of high ecological value and are the subject of a number of ecological restoration initiatives being led by the Tahamata Trustees, including a long research project into water quality issues within and surrounding the wetlands.

The Ohau River is one of a small number of braided rivers in the District and contains large areas of forested riparian margins between State Highway 1 and the Ohau Estuary. The estuary is also identified as providing important freshwater fish spawning habitat.

The Ohau River Dune Lakes are largely fenced with no stock access, restoration planting and plant and animal pest control undertaken. This combination of initiatives continues to improve their ecological values. Ongoing threats remain from hydrological changes through drainage, reduced water quality from surrounding land uses, invasive aquatic plant and animal pests, stock access and the spread of raupo infilling the lakes and out-competing other wetland species.

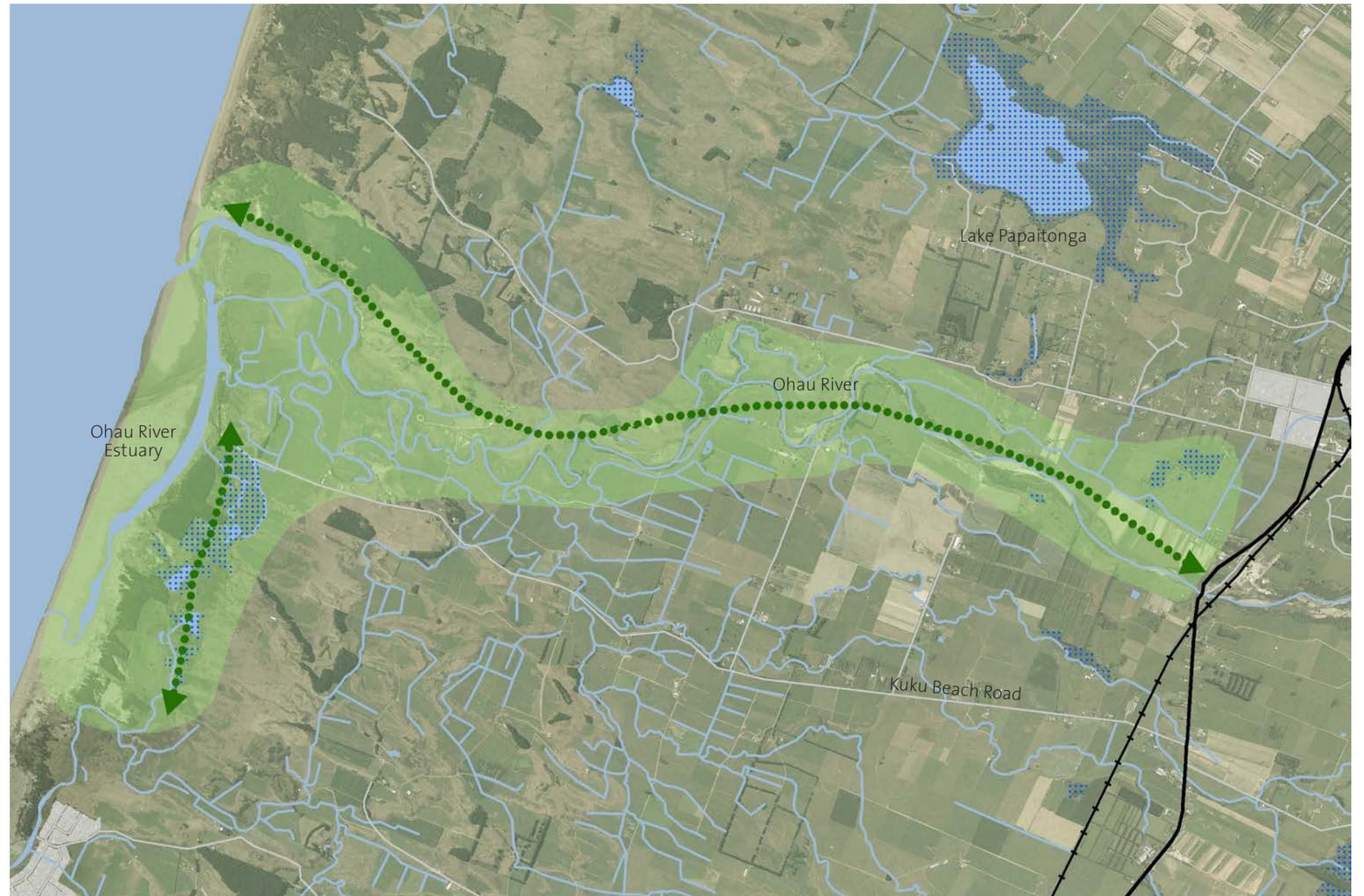
Large parts of the Ohau River Dune Lakes and Estuary Network already provide for public access, with future initiatives underway as part of the restoration of the area by the Tahamata Trust. Public access along the Ohau River at this point is currently restricted.



Ohau River Estuary

Ohau River Dune Lakes and Ohau Estuary Ecological Network

The long-term outcome for this network is to provide a continuous ecological network along both sides of the Ohau River to the coast, including the coastal dune lakes, through building on existing riparian and wetland values and restoration initiatives and new restoration and recreation opportunities.



This plan shows the potential Ohau River Dune Lakes and Ohau Eastuary Ecological Network

Potential ecological network

Shannon - Existing Open Space

Key characteristics

Shannon is a rural service town located in the north-east of the Horowhenua district. Shannon is positioned on the main trunk-line and State Highway 57. These transport links have been significant to the historical and current development of the town. The centre of Shannon is the convergence of the rail and road, where it supports a small commercial and civic area (including a library, service centre and hall).

Successfulness of the existing open space:

Te Maire Park is a linear open space positioned between State Highway 57 and the railway station and supports important cultural and heritage values. There is a primary school located one block from the town centre and the school pool is open for the community to use during the summer months. Year 9 – 13 students travel to either Levin, Foxton or Palmerston North to attend a secondary school.

The Tararua Ranges and Forest Park are to the east of Shannon. The foothills are accessible from Shannon via Mangahao Road; a 4WD drive track which follows the Mangaore Stream and its head waters up to the Mangahao power station, three water dam reservoirs and 6 ha of Council reserve land. The reserve is well known for the White Water Park, picnicking and is an entry for mountain bikers to head up to the dams. In between the township and the foothills there are a number of identified natural habitats, these being Kintail Bush and Timms Gully.

There is considered to be sufficient area of open space within Shannon, to provide for both organised sports and informal recreation. Hyde Park provides an informal reserve space and is situated centrally within the residential area and within walking distance from the school, shops and the dedicated sports fields at the Domain. Moynihan Park is a mixed-use facility and used for formal and informal recreation, but lies on the eastern periphery of the town and is not as central as the other reserves. The future low density residential development is provided for to the north-east of the township and in accordance with Shannon's Structure Plan an open space buffer will need to be provided on the rural interface.



Shannon Domain.



Shannon Domain rugby field.



Te, Maire Park, Shannon.



Hyde Play Park, Shannon.



Shannon - Open Space Strategy

The Shannon Open Space Strategy and its actions demonstrates a future vision for Shannon's open spaces as a multi-functional and well connected network of streets, walkways and reserves.

Key outcomes

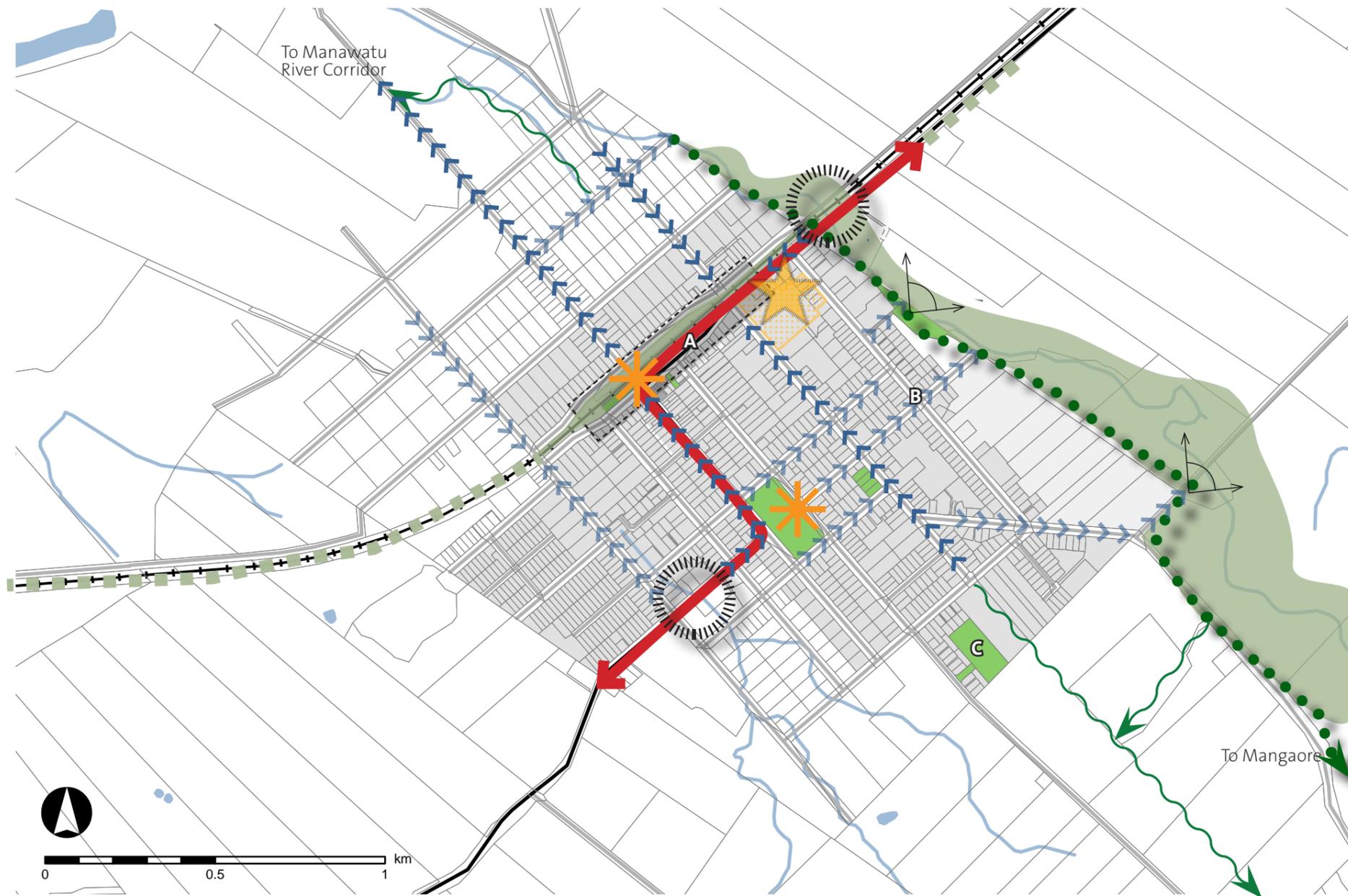
- » Shannon Domain remains a focal point for active recreation.
- » Visual access, rather than physical access, is enhanced along the Mangahao River.
- » A green-link provides an alternative pedestrian route between Shannon and Mangahao. This also provides access through the QEII covenant land to the southeast of the settlement.
- » The trunk-line greenway provides a west / east pedestrian and cycle connection through the settlement.
- » Te Maire Park is better connected to the main commercial activities along State Highway 57 and will become a key transition and threshold between the railway station and the settlement. This also forms part of the trunk-line greenway.
- » Open spaces are redesigned with community involvement and reflect local character / distinctness.
- » Footpaths and streetscapes are improved and enhanced with the emphasis on the pedestrian and cyclist.
- » Low impact stormwater management practices (such swales and rain gardens) are developed within open spaces, reserves and road berms to provide options for managing localised stormwater.
- » An open space and recreational needs assessment influences the future use of individual reserves within Shannon.



Walkways and tracks with clear and integrated directional signage, such as this one at Driscoll Garden in Manakau, help improve peoples understanding of the place and can help improve local character.



Visual access to natural environments can sometimes be as valuable as physically accessing them. Benches or picnic areas can help indicate appropriate places to stop and enjoy the views. Image of informal bench on Waiheke Island.



STRATEGY ACTIONS	
ACTION	VALUE
Seek partnership with local school to encourage access to shared recreational/environmental spaces/initiatives.	H
Identify opportunities and develop low impact stormwater management practices (such as water retention basins, swales and rain gardens) within reserves and open spaces where they can help manage localised stormwater and add to the overall open space amenity value.	M
Take advantage of Shannon's proximity to the Tararuas and events associated with Mangahaos white water kayak/MTB facility.	M
Consider using the train station as a focal hub for open space cycling and walking opportunities.	M
Enhance river corridor around Mangahao River. This would provide ecological habitat but due risk of rapidly changing river levels would be visually accessible only.	M
Investigate opportunities to connect Shannon to Foxton through a cycle/walking path.	M
Investigate wider recreational, ecological and amenity open space opportunities to secure open space that serves the local community.	M
Enhance key gateways and threshold into and out of Shannon.	L

ACTIONS FOR COUNCIL OWNED RESERVES	
ACTION	VALUE
A. Look at opportunities to enhance links between rail station and commercial activity/shops. Utilise Te Maire Park.	M
B. Investigate ways to improve access to views across Mangahao River corridor by Grand/Stafford Street.	M
C. Assess recreational needs/value of Moynihan Park and consider/look into alternative uses.	M
In reviewing and developing the management plans and concept plans for reserves identify areas where a reserve may be 'under-delivering' in terms of its open space contribution to the Strategy principles.	M

Tokomaru - Existing Open Space

Key characteristics

Tokomaru is a small rural settlement located in the north of the district close to the boundary with Palmerston North City Council. The majority of the settlement is positioned between the main trunk-line and the State Highway 57. These transport links have been significant to the historical and current development of the town. The settlement has a small primary school located on State Highway 57.

There is little diversity of public open space within the settlement. The main open spaces are the Tokomaru Domain, the school and Horseshoe Bend Reserve. However, there are a number of small streams that fall within private land identified as future growth areas for the settlement.

Successfulness of the existing open space

Although Tokomaru has a large amount of recreation open space relative to its population, the existing open space scores poorly in terms of its connectedness and visual access.

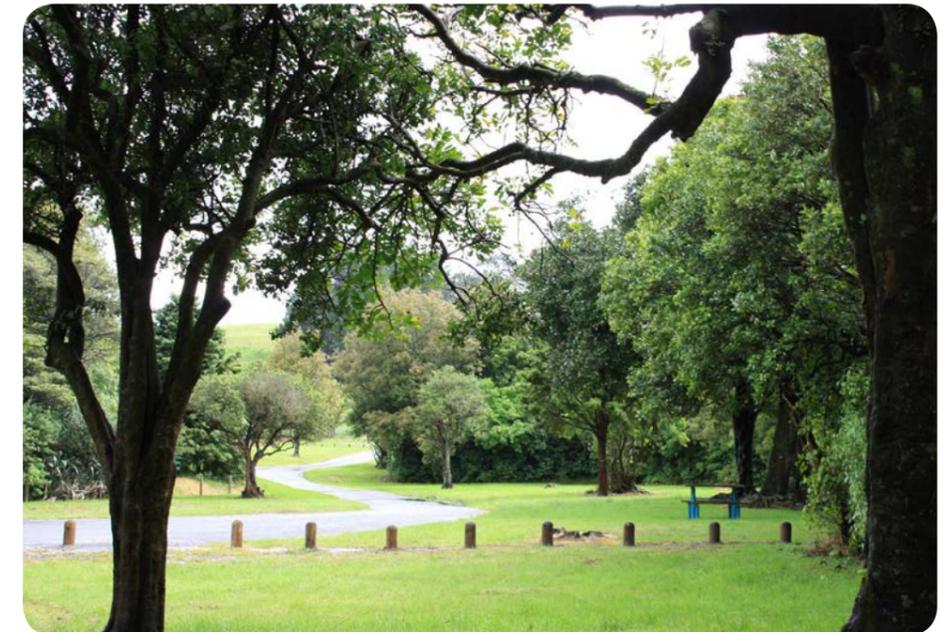
Tokomaru Domain is positioned on State Highway 57 away from the settlement itself. An informal arrangement of buildings, including a community room and public toilet form a physical barrier between State Highway 57 and the large flat informal sports field.

Horseshoe Bend Reserve serves as a good alternative to the domain's active recreational space. It provides for a variety of passive recreation experiences including picnicking and swimming. However, the reserve is located some distance from the settlement and down in a gully and is not visible from the main road.

A cafe is situated on the road above the reserve. Vehicles can access the reserve down a formed track to a small carpark where there are toilets and barbecue facilities.



Entrance to Horseshoe Bend Reserve.



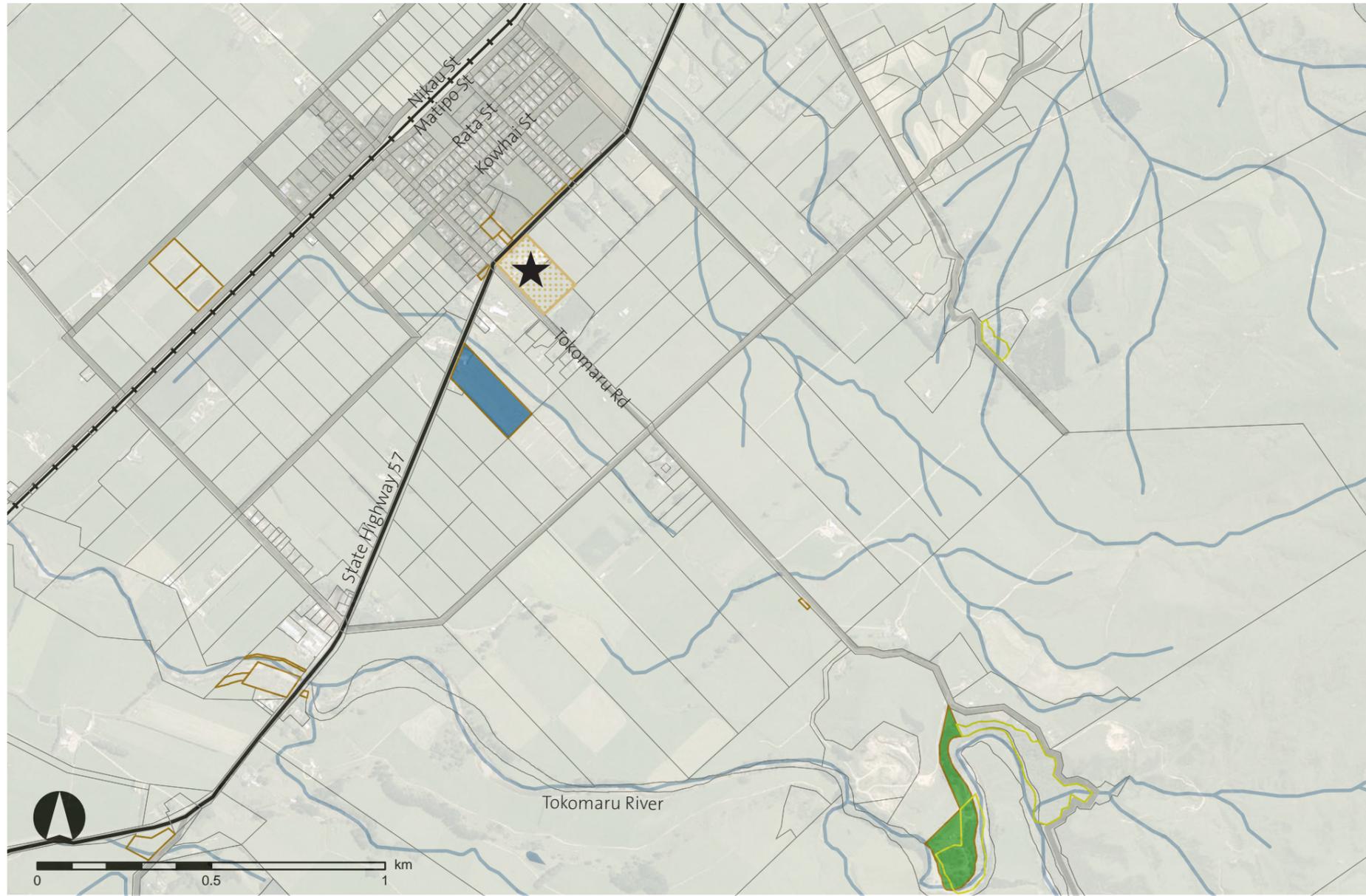
Horseshoe Bend Reserve.



Playing fields at Tokomaru Domain.



Toilet block at Tokomaru Domain.



Tokomaru - Open Space Strategy

The Tokomaru Open Space Strategy and its actions indicates a future vision to enhance connections between Tokomaru, the Tararuas and its position on State Highway 57 and the main trunk-line between Levin and Palmerston North.

Key outcomes

- » Tokomaru Domain facility is relocated to where it can act as the centre of the settlement and as a shared facility with local school and community groups.
- » Tokomaru Road is improved with the emphasis on pedestrians and cyclists to encourage cycling and walking between settlement and Horseshoe Reserve.
- » The trunk-line greenway provides a south / north pedestrian and cycle connection on the edge of the settlement.
- » Low impact stormwater management practices (such swales and rain gardens) are developed within open spaces, reserves and road berms to provide options for managing localised stormwater.
- » An open space and recreational needs assessment influences the future use of individual reserves within Tokomaru.



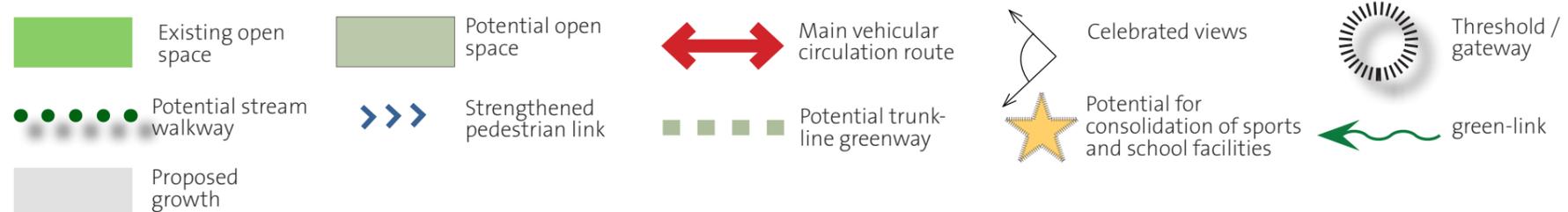
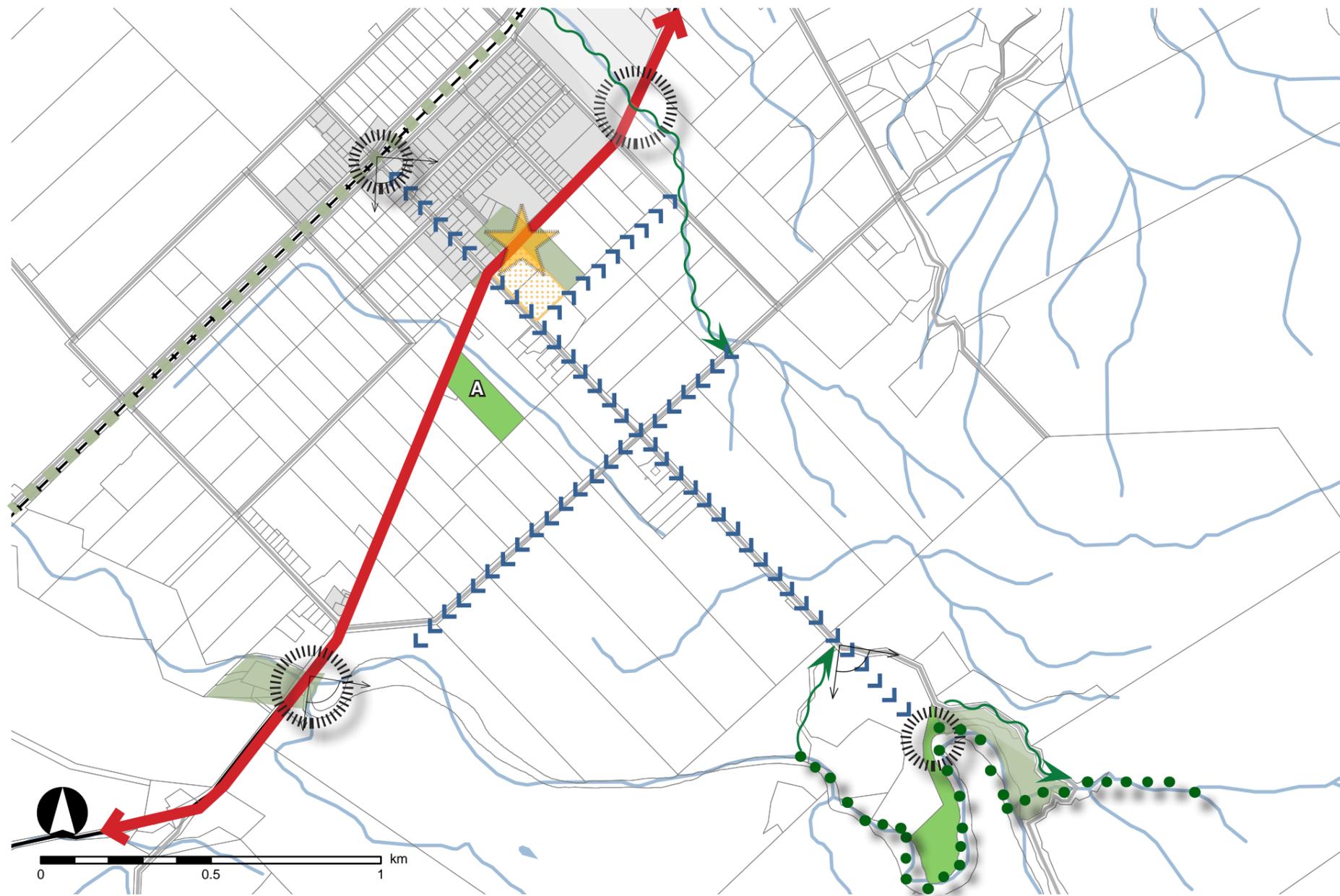
Example of integrating public open space and stormwater retention ponds.



Rural roads improved and enhanced with the emphasis on the pedestrian and cyclist. Image source: http://maps.google.co.nz/maps?rlz=1T4ADFA_enNZ492NZ493&q=75%20Seabury%20Gardens%20Ave%2C%20Foxton%20Beach&safe=vss&um=1&ie=UTF-8&hl=en&sa=N&tab=wl



Tokomaru Domain could be better located closer to the settlement and is a shared facility with the local school. Image source: <http://www.st-georges-stamford.lincs.sch.uk/>



STRATEGY ACTIONS	
STRATEGY	VALUE
Investigate a pedestrian walkway along Tokomaru River which creates a loop track connecting Tokomaru with Horseshoe Bend Reserve.	H
Council acquires ownership of unformed legal roads for stormwater management and development of a walkway strategically located.	H
Investigate feasibility of establishing an accessible greenway that runs along the trunk-line rail corridor.	H
Look to work in partnership with local school on consolidation of active recreational open space provision and programmes.	H
Strengthen pedestrian and cycle connections to Horseshoe Bend Reserve from Tokomaru settlement.	H
Identify opportunities and develop low impact stormwater management practices (such as water retention basins, swales and rain gardens) within reserves and open spaces where they can help manage localised stormwater and add to the overall open space amenity value.	M
Look to work in partnership with local scout group to secure appropriate facility within multi-functional open space	M
Instigate opportunities for green-links that serve as pedestrian shortcuts within the settlement.	M
Investigate opportunities for connecting the Horse Shoe Bend Reserve & Tokomaru River Valley to the Te Araroa walking track which already connects Palmerston North and Shannon with cycle way.	M
Consider using the Tokomaru railway platform as a focal point for open space and walking opportunities.	L
Enhance ecological corridor along Tokomaru River that extends to the Tararua Forest Park.	L

ACTIONS FOR COUNCIL OWNED RESERVES	
STRATEGY	VALUE
A. Assess the recreation requirements for Tokomaru settlement and question suitability of the location and size of the domain.	H

Waikawa - Existing Open Space

Key characteristics

Waikawa is a small coastal settlement situated at the mouth of Waikawa Stream. The settlement has a large number of holiday baches leading to an influx of people during the summer months. Other dwellings consist of rural lifestyle properties.

The settlement characteristics are mainly defined by its relationship to the stream mouth and the coastal dune landscape beyond.

Successfulness of the existing Open Space

The open space that follows the edge of the stream (Hank Edwards Reserve) provides for a multi-functional natural environment, neighbourhood park and general amenity space. The surrounding settings / backdrop provide context and visual delight to this area of open space.

The open space functions well for a variety of activities including picnicking, basketball, swimming, canoeing, boating and also acts as a starting place for day walks along the coast.



Sand dune landscape across from Hanks Edwards Reserve



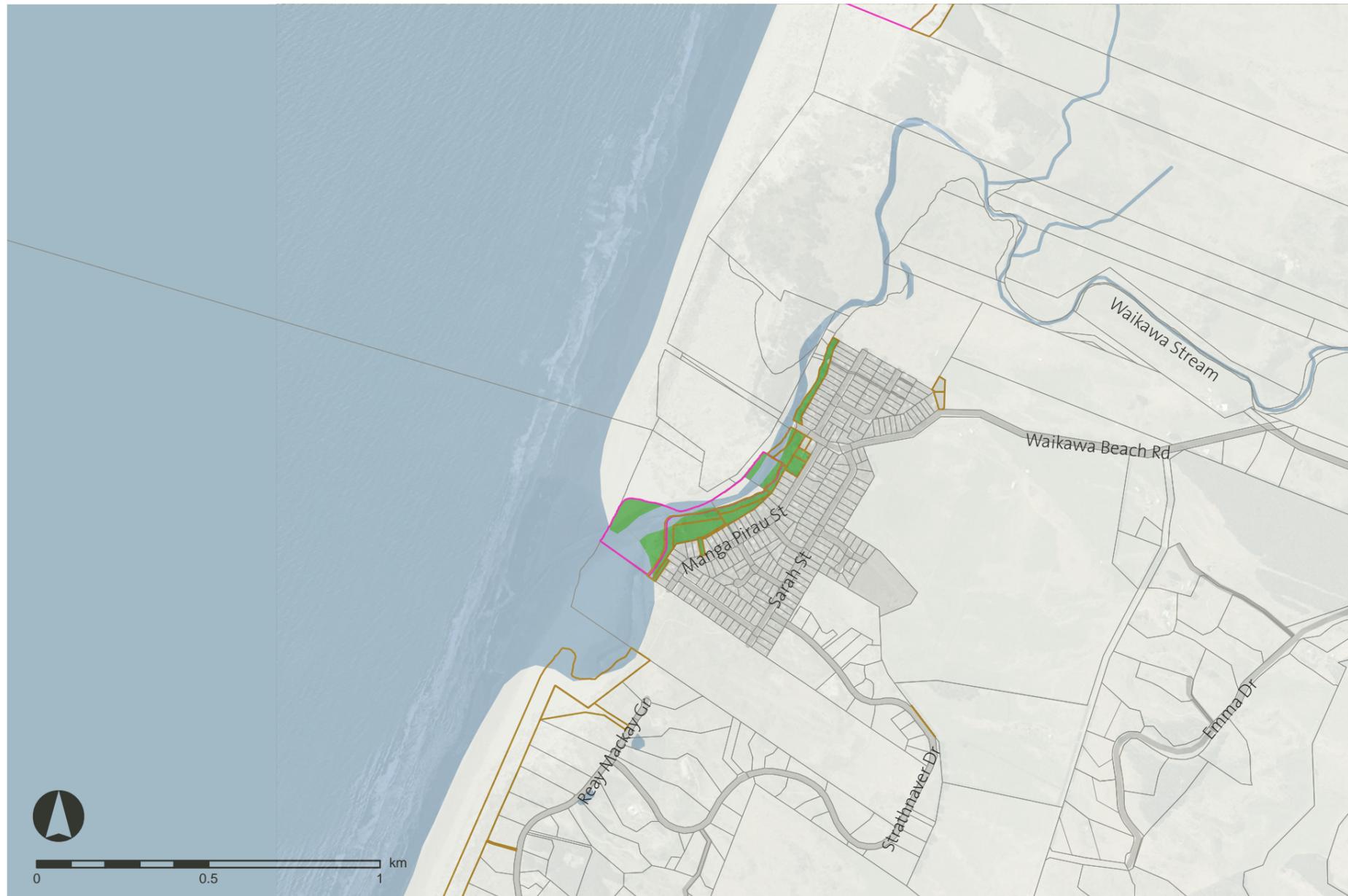
Waikawa Stream north of the footbridge



Existing picnic areas in Hank Edwards Reserve



Local informal basketball and play area at Waikawa



Waikawa - Open Space Strategy

The Waikawa Open Space Strategy and its actions illustrates the principles applied to this particular settlement. The diagram indicates a future vision for the settlement that protects its intrinsic characteristics and celebrates its connection to the coast and the stream.

Key outcomes

- » Key open space characteristics are protected and enhanced.
- » Access to the beach is improved for pedestrians and cyclists. The beach becomes open space by default.
- » A river walkway provides for recreation and ecology.
- » Green-links provide shortcuts through the settlement and proposed growth area.
- » An open space and recreational needs assessment influences the future use of individual reserves within Waikawa.



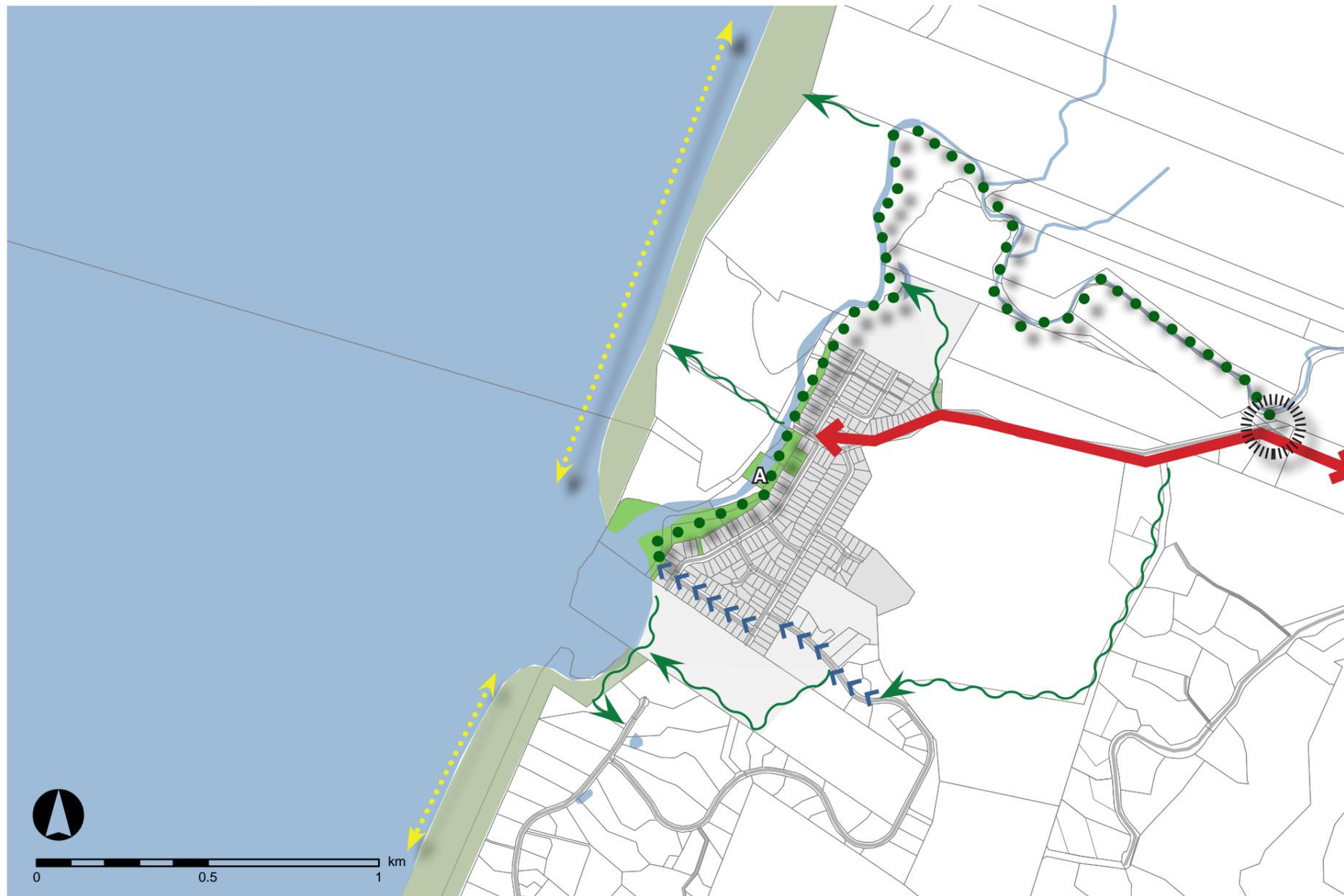
Waikawa Stream Estuary and surrounding dunes



Wide bridge providing improved pedestrian access

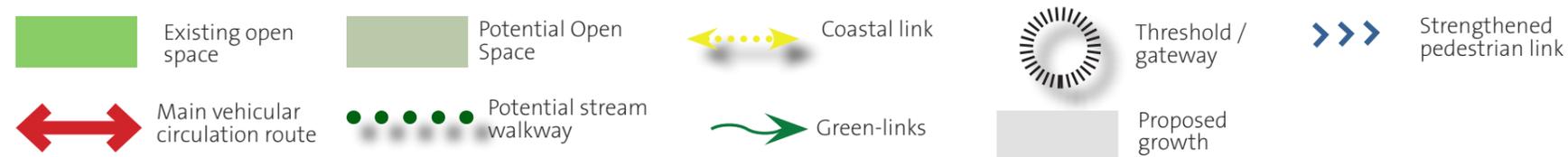


Formed walkways provide improved accessibility for pedestrians and protects ecological values of dunes



STRATEGY ACTIONS	
STRATEGY	VALUE
Enhance and protect views towards the coast from viewpoints within the settlement.	M
Establish a pedestrian walkway along Waikawa Stream which creates a link connecting to the beach.	M
Instigate opportunities for green-links that serve as pedestrian shortcuts within the settlement and future growth area.	L
Enhance gateway into settlement at the start of the 50km zone.	L

STRATEGY FOR COUNCIL OWNED RESERVES	
STRATEGY	VALUE
A. In reviewing and developing the management plans and concept plans for reserves identify areas where a reserve may be 'under-delivering' in terms of its open space contribution to the Strategy principles.	M



Waitarere - Existing Open Space

Key characteristics

Waitarere is a rural settlement located on the coast to the south of the Manawatu Estuary. Its small size and its location at the end of a road contributes to its quiet feel. Levin is located approximately 13km away. Like other townships along the coast, Waitarere tends to receive an influx of holiday-makers over the summer months.

Successfulness of the existing open space

Waitarere has below the recommended average area prescribed for sport, recreation and amenity open space (per population) and this open space is poorly connected to the town centre. However, Waitarere benefits from having access to the expansive coastline. Surfing and fishing are popular activities on the beach. The gentle gradient of the beach makes it a safe spot for swimming.

Unfortunately the vehicular access to the beach detracts from the pedestrian enjoyment of the beach and has in places caused significant damage to the dunes and the vegetation that covers them.

Although privately owned, the surrounding forest hosts several popular annual recreational events including orienteering, mountain biking and running.



Tennis courts at Waitarere Domain.



Holmwood Park



Playground at Waitarere Domain.



Wairarawa Stream Outlet at Waitarere Beach



Waitarere - Open Space Strategy

The Waitarere Open Space Strategy and its actions seeks to maximise connections and permeability between the settlement and the beach whilst protecting and minimising impact of the dune landscape.

Key outcomes

- » Access is improved from the settlement to the beach. The beach becomes an important open space by default.
- » Views of the coast are protected and enhanced from key viewpoints within the settlement.
- » Vehicular access along the coast is restricted.
- » Green-links provide enjoyable pedestrian shortcuts within the settlement.
- » Existing dune lakes are accessible and incorporated into the open space network.
- » Low impact stormwater management practices (such swales and rain gardens) are developed within open spaces, reserves and road berms to provide options for managing localised stormwater.
- » An open space and recreational needs assessment influences the future use of individual reserves within Waitarere.



Waitarere Beach, a fantastic area of open space, that's accessible, flexible and distinctive in character.



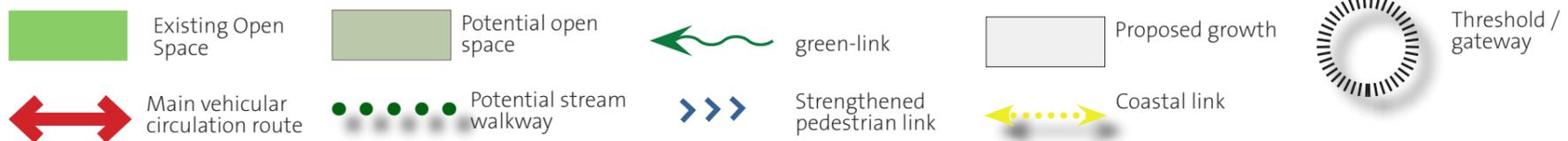
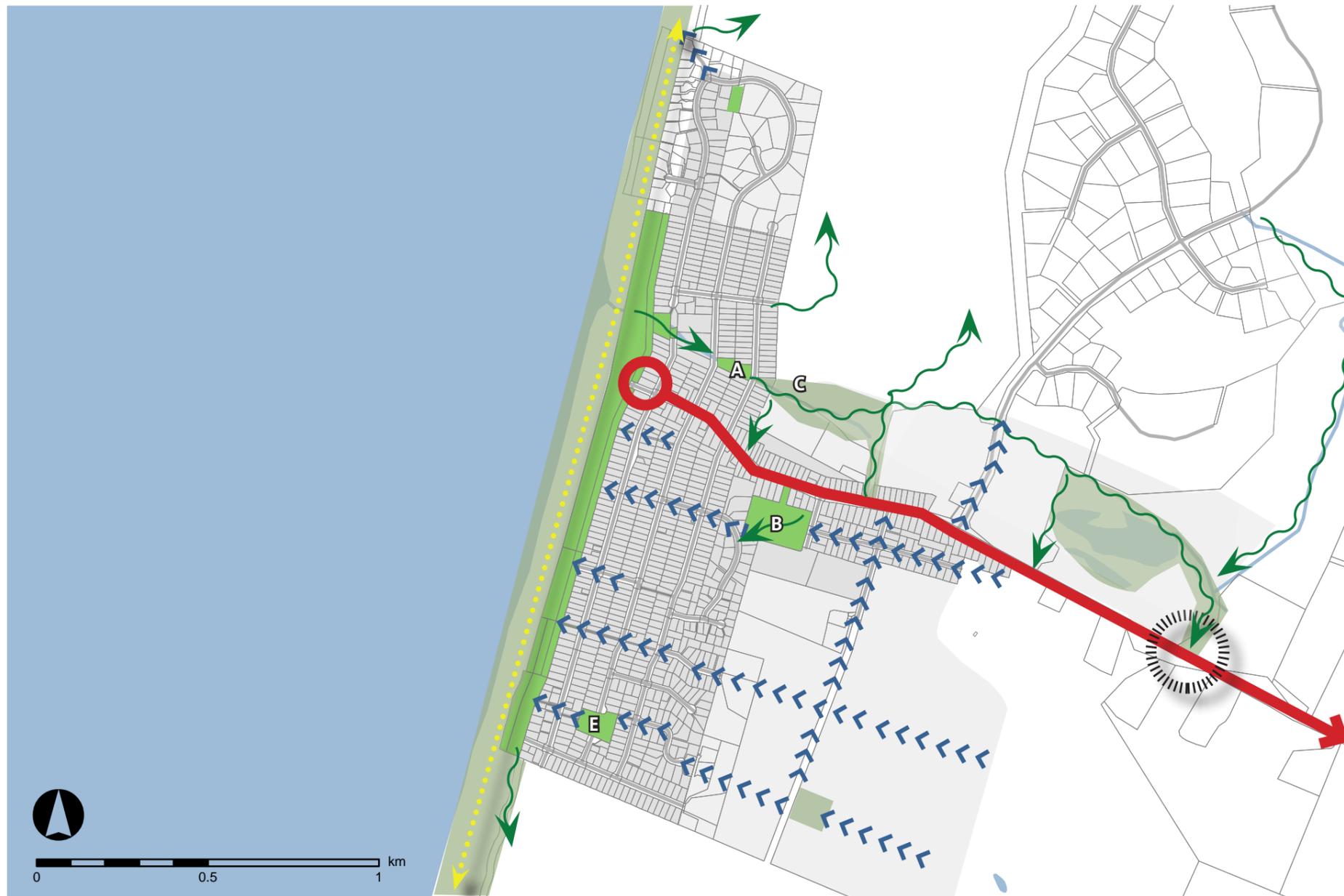
Dual purpose amenity lake and stormwater detention pond



Waitarere Domain. Source: http://maps.google.co.nz/maps?rlz=1T4ADFA_enNZ492NZ493&q=75%20Seabury%20Gardens%20Ave%2C%20Foxton%20Beach&safe=vss&um=1&ie=UTF-8&hl=en&sa=N&tab=wl



Examples of where new and existing bodies of water have been integrated into open space amenity, stormwater management systems and provide recreation opportunities.



STRATEGY ACTIONS	
STRATEGY	VALUE
Investigate the opportunities to work in partnership with forestry companies to utilise the existing plantation forest as part of the open space and recreational network.	H
Land behind or adjacent to residential housing in low lying areas is acquired so that it can be used for natural stormwater management.	H
Investigate wider recreational, ecological and amenity open space opportunities to secure open space that serves the local community.	M
Instigate opportunities for green-links that serve pedestrian shortcuts within the settlement.	M
Identify opportunities and develop low impact stormwater management practices (such as water retention basins, swales and rain gardens) within reserves and open spaces where they can help manage localised stormwater and add to the overall open space amenity value.	M
Enhance and protect views towards the coast from viewpoints within the settlement.	L

ACTIONS FOR COUNCIL OWNED RESERVES	
STRATEGY	VALUE
A. Develop and enhance linkages between Council reserves along or adjacent to the Wairarawa Stream. Develop a walkway system along the stream with linkages to local roads, housing, the forest and beach.	H
B. Develop a concept plan for Waitarere Domain that focuses on improving pedestrian connections to Waitarere Beach Road and Taonui Street.	M
C. Develop a partnership with Matariki Forest to allow Council management of a walkway and associated riparian planting through the lower south area of the forest (along the stream).	M
D. In reviewing and developing the management plans and concept plans for reserves identify areas where a reserve may be 'under-delivering' in terms of its open space contribution to the Strategy principles.	M
E. Improve pedestrian linkages from existing reserves to the beach.	L

Waitarere Beach –Wairarawa Stream Ecological Network

This Network comprises the area between the Wairarawa Stream and the Kai Kai and Oporau Lagoons north and west of Waitarere Beach. The Wairarawa and Otaneko Lagoons also form part of this Network. While the current values are degraded, the Wairarawa Lagoon has good ecological restoration potential, given its close proximity to Waitarere Beach and the Wairarawa Stream. Similarly, the Otaneko Lagoon has high restoration potential given the close proximity to the Kai Kai and Oporau Lagoons to the north, a site of high ecological value as habitat for indigenous flora and fauna. Both lagoons have a high diversity of indigenous birdlife.

The Kaikai and Oporau Lagoons both comprise extensive wetland vegetation with areas of open water. These lagoons have high ecological values as habitat for indigenous flora and fauna, with a number of nationally threatened bird species present. All these lagoons have had some degree of restoration or protection with fencing of the dune lakes largely complete and some planting underway. Pines have recently been removed from the perimeter of these lakes. Plans are underway to establish a planted walkway along the Wairarawa Stream from Waitarere Beach, which will continue to improve ecological connections between the stream and the dune lakes and wetlands within this Network.

Ongoing and future threats to this Network are from ongoing land use changes and conversion to dairy farming, removal of sand dunes and associated land drainage and waterbody maintenance. There are also potential threats from ongoing subdivision and development surrounding these lakes and wetlands, with the further pressures of animal and plant pests. There are also recreational shooting pressures on the bird life associated with the coastal dune lakes and wetlands.



Waitarere Beach - Wairarawa Stream

Waitarere Beach –Wairarawa Stream Ecological Network

A number of coastal dune lakes and wetlands are located north of this Network that have high ecological values, including the Mangawhati Lagoon and Lake Tangimate. While outside of this Network, these areas have important values that need to be recognised to ensure their long-term survival.

The long-term outcome for this network is to provide a continuous ecological and recreational connection through building on the existing riparian fencing and planting initiatives between Lagoons, wetlands and the outlet of the Wairarawa Stream at Waitarere Beach.



This plan shows the potential Waitarere Beach - Wairarawa Stream Network

Identified ecological network

Summary



Summary

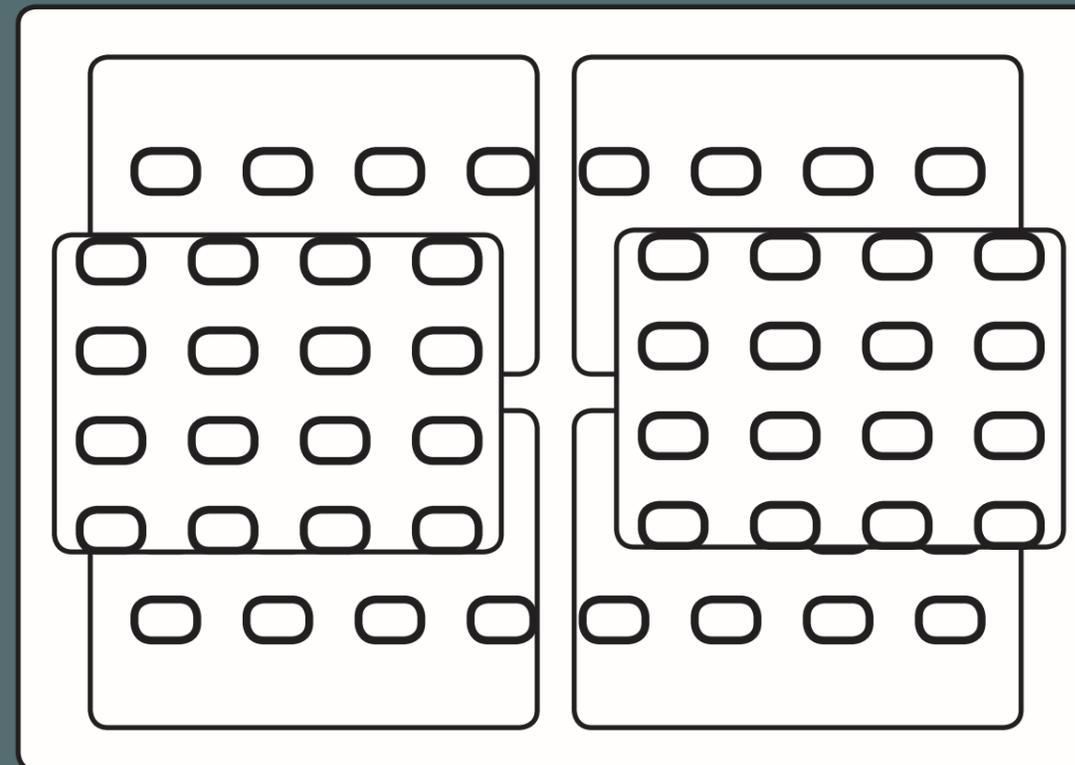
A comprehensive approach to Open Space:

The information within this strategy is intended to provide a broad, yet comprehensive framework for open space planning within the Horowhenua District. It also provides guidance on how to turn the community aspirations into reality.

The information presented in this document is intended to facilitate a dialogue between Council, it's partners and the community about the value of open space within the Horowhenua District. The background information used to develop the principles, strategies and action plans represent a snap shot in time and is based on available material and information during the course of the project. The settlement strategies and actions will need to be revisited as new information, initiatives and opportunities arise from Council or the community. New actions relating to open space should be measured against the intent within this strategy.

Investigation into the feasibility of some of the strategies and actions does require further work. Where appropriate this will involve consultation with stakeholders and the community.

Fundamentally this document pulls together a number of ideas and aspirations that relate to open space and forms a comprehensive direction to work toward. The broad overarching principles relate to all open spaces across the district. The district wide and settlement strategies help explain how to apply these principles. The action plans help prioritise and allocate resources.



- 8 broad overarching principles
- 6 District wide strategies
- 16 settlement strategies and action plans
- Multiple actions that relate to Council owned reserve

Appendix



Glossary

Action plan

A list of items to be actioned / done in order to implement the strategy.

Amenity space

An area of land that serves multiple use for local communities and visitors.

Community

Residents and visitors of the Horowhenua District.

Cycle routes

A defined route that encourages and allows for cyclists use.

District

The Horowhenua District.

Ecological corridors

Existing or potential lengths of continuous open space that serve as corridors for fauna and flora.

Focal Point

An area, feature or structure that stands out from its surroundings.

Gateway

An identified and distinctive entrance / exit to a settlement.

Green-links

A publicly accessible pedestrian route through an area of open space, access way or ecological corridor.

Greenway

A continuous linear corridor consisting of trees and / or vegetation accessible to cyclists and pedestrians.

Legibility

The degree to which a space is understandable, recognisable and / or easy to orientate around.

Multiple / -use

Provision for many alternative uses to occurs at the same time or on a scheduled rotation.

Natural environment

An area of land that has an ecological value and / or is connected to a natural feature such as a stream corridor, significant vegetation or a coastal landscape.

Neighborhood park

An area of land that serves as a local community park, playground and / or gathering space.

Open Space

Areas of land or water that the public has a level of free physical or visual access to.

Partnerships

Horowhenua District Council working together with other agencies, groups or individuals.

Pedestrian link

A clearly defined and accessible route for pedestrians.

Principles

Over arching themes or key points that provide clear direction for the strategy.

Ranges

The Tararua Ranges.

Recreation

An action of leisure typically for enjoyment, amusement or pleasure. This includes formal and informal sporting and outdoor activities.

Reserve

An area of council owned open space that has been gazetted as Reserve.

Settlement

A place where communities live.

Spine

A distinctive street that typically runs through the middle of a settlement, linking one area to another.

Sports and Recreation Park

Area of open space for formal and informal sport and recreation.

Strategy

A cohesive document that provides strategic direction for successful outcomes.

Threshold

An identified transition between one area to another.

Town Centre

The commercial centre of a settlement.

Vehicular Circulation Route

The main route through a settlement for motorised vehicles and cyclists.

Walkway

A route specifically designated to be used by walkers.

Non-Regulatory Tools for Ecological Networks

There are a range of non-regulatory mechanisms and tools that are available to Councils, communities and landowners to assist in creating ecological networks. The table below provides a list of these non-regulatory tools.

Tool Category	Example of Tools
Governance and leadership	Non-statutory governance structures and leadership across all sectors
Strategic planning and policy	Strategies, structure plans, management plans, Integrated Catchment Management Plans,
Matauranga Maori and manawhenua approaches	Traditional planting and cultural harvesting practices
Civil society and community based initiatives	Coast care groups, environmental groups, community conservation groups, NGOs, sector groups (e.g. farmers and fishers)
Research, monitoring and evaluation	Environmental monitoring (including iwi based tools for ecological and cultural assessments as well as community based monitoring), cultural impact assessments, research programmes, technical reports
Environmental protection and restoration	Pest control programmes, planting programmes, dune restoration, wetland restoration
Advice and information	Design guides, best practice guides, technical advice and assistance
Education and awareness raising	Public education, environmental education, school based programmes, community arts initiatives, social marketing and media campaigns
Holistic programmes	Integrated programmes such as sustainable catchment programmes
Economic instruments	Financial incentives (e.g. rates relief), funding programmes, subsidies for conservation
Engagement and collaboration – liaison and consultation, to partnership	Collaborative fora, community engagement, consultation processes, networks, various collaborative models including co-management, memoranda of agreement
Advocacy	Submissions, presentations, media campaigns

A range of organisations can provide funding to help Councils, communities and landowners to develop and implement non-regulatory initiatives and projects maintain and expand ecological networks. The table below summarises the currently available main funding sources or contestable funds. Typically, these types of funds cover costs for practical measures such as costs of covenanting, surveys, fencing, pest control, and revegetation.

Agency	Fund/Grant	Contact details
Agency World Wildlife Fund	New Zealand Habitat Protection Fund	http://www.wwf.org.nz/what_we_do/community_funding/habitat_protection_fund/
	Environmental Education Action Fund	http://www.wwf.org.nz/what_we_do/community_funding/funding_for_schools/
	Conservation Innovation Fund	http://www.wwf.org.nz/what_we_do/community_funding/conservation_innovation_fund/
NZ Government	Biodiversity Condition Fund	http://www.biodiversity.govt.nz/land/nzbs/pvtland/condition.html
	Biodiversity Advice Fund	http://www.biodiversity.govt.nz/land/nzbs/pvtland/condition.html
Department of Conservation	Nature Heritage Fund	http://www.doc.govt.nz/getting-involved/volunteer-join-or-start-a-project/start-or-fund-a-project/funding-for-landowners/nature-heritage-fund/
	Nga Whenua Rahui	http://www.doc.govt.nz/getting-involved/volunteer-join-or-start-a-project/start-or-fund-a-project/funding-for-landowners/nga-whenua-rahui/
	Matauranga Kura Taio Fund	http://www.doc.govt.nz/getting-involved/volunteer-join-or-start-a-project/start-or-fund-a-project/funding-for-landowners/nga-whenua-rahui/matauranga-kura-taio-fund/
Ministry for Primary Industries	Sustainable Farming Fund	http://www.maf.govt.nz/agriculture/funding-programmes/sustainable-farming-fund/
Department of Internal Affairs	Lottery Environment and Heritage Fund	http://www.dia.govt.nz/Services-Lottery-Grants-Environment-and-Heritage
	Community Organisation Grant Scheme	http://www.dia.govt.nz/Services-Community-Funding-Community-Organisation-Grants-Scheme-(COGS)
New Zealand National Parks and Conservation Foundation	Range of funds and grants available	http://www.nationalparks.org.nz/index_files/Page385.htm
Ministry for the Environment	Community Environment Fund	http://www.mfe.govt.nz/withyou/funding/community-environment-fund/

Recreation Analysis

SETTLEMENT	POPULATION	NEIGHBORHOOD		SPORT AND RECREATION		OTHER COUNCIL OPEN SPACE	
		AREA	ha / 1000 population	AREA	ha / 1000 population	AREA	ha / 1000 population
FOXTON	2,715	0.4 ha	0.1 ha/1000 pop	7.17 ha	2.6 ha/1000 pop	5.1 ha	2.6 ha/1000 pop
FOXTON BEACH	1731	1.69 ha	1 ha/1000 pop			Amenity: 12.31 ha	7 ha/1000 pop
						Natural: 53.56 ha	30.9 ha/1000 pop
HOKIO BEACH							
LEVIN	15,507	8.39 ha	0.5 ha/1000 pop	39.82 ha	2.6 ha/1000 pop	Amenity: 10.46 ha	
						Natural: 352.82 ha	
MANAKAU	174			3.4 ha	18.4 ha/1000 pop	Amenity: 12.31 ha	
MANGAHAO	198				2.6 ha/1000 pop		
OHAU				3.34 ha	5.4 ha/1000 pop		
SHANNON	1371	0.4 ha	0.2 ha/1000 pop	4.14 ha	3 ha/1000 pop	Amenity: 1.12 ha	
TOKOMARU	513			2.52 ha	4.9 ha/1000 pop	Natural: 3.32 ha	6.5 ha/1000 pop
WAIKAWA	171					Natural: 7.47 ha	
WAITARERE	588	0.8 ha	1.4 ha/1000 pop	2.29 ha	3.9 ha/1000 pop	Natural: 12.22 ha	

Types of Open Space within Settlements

This tool should only be used to measure Open space and Amenity Characteristics of an Open Space and should not be used to 'value' a site for physical activity (sport) purposes. This tool can be used as SWOT analysis tool to identify aspects of a site that could be improved or addressed.

KEY	
AMENITY	
NATURAL	
SPORTS and REC	
NEIGHBOURHOOD	

Object ID	Council Reserve/Park	Open Space Identifier	Land Status	Primary Use	Area (ha)	ACCESSIBILITY		FEATURES		FUNCTION	SAFETY		
						Location	Connection	Character	Setting quality	Adaptable	Street presence	Visibility	Active Edges
TEST RESERVE													
110	Shannon Library/Service Centre	Amenity	Res - Public Library, Read Room & Other Muni Purposes - Gaz 1926/2829	Shannon Library/Service Centre	0.0766	AV	POOR	AV	AV	GOOD	AV	AV	AV
157	Te Maire Park	Amenity	Shannon Railway Station Reserve	Reserve - LP Shannon Railway Station	1.0347	GOOD	GOOD	GOOD	GOOD	GOOD	GOOD	GOOD	GOOD
423	Grand/Stafford Street, Shannon	Natural / Amenity	Esplanade Res - Gaz 1981/1129	Reserve - Esplanade	0.2087	POOR	POOR	AV	GOOD	AV	POOR	POOR	POOR
250	Moynihan Park & Entrance	Sports	Road Reserve	Reserve - Recreation & Pt Road	1.4617	POOR	POOR	POOR	AV	GOOD	POOR	POOR	POOR
352	Shannon Domain	Sports / Mixed	Public Res for Public Recreation - Gaz 1958/1080	Reserve - Sports ground/Mavis Vinsen Pavilion Pt	0.2284	GOOD	GOOD	GOOD	GOOD	AV	GOOD	GOOD	GOOD
70	Hyde Park	Neighbourhood	Public Reserve	Reserve - Public	0.1012	GOOD	GOOD	AV	AV	GOOD	GOOD	GOOD	GOOD

Strengths and Weaknesses:

Example of how the success criteria quickly informs us of a settlements stock take of open space.

Success Criteria

Success Criteria	Explanation
Accessibility	
Location	Does the site compliment the surrounding area / context. Is the site easy to access for the users / potential users. Is it well located within the settlement or could it be better?
Connection	How does it fit within the strategic network of open spaces? How connected is it to the settlement? How to people assess the site? Does the site have a strong connection or is it remote, hard to access and disconnected?
Features	
Character	Does the site have intrinsic qualities / assets such as trees, native bush, significant buildings? Heritage, cultural or ecological assets?
Setting Quality	Does the site have aesthetic backdrop qualities, e.g. tree cover, stream back drop, bush back drop, can it be seen from a wide perspective? Are there site lines or views (to Tararuas)?
Function	
Adaptable	Is there room for change? Flexible space? Additional use / mixed use? Are there limitations on how you might improve the space? Does the space have good potential for positive change?
Safety	
Street presence	Is the site visible from the street / road? Is it overlooked by passing traffic / pedestrians ?
Visibility	Are the entrances and exits clear / legible for the users? Is it easy to see where the access is or is it hard to work out where to go?
Active edges	Are there other activities on the edges of the open space? eg Residential, commercial, community? Does it feel safe / safer because of this activity?
Notes on Grading:	Poor, Average and Good could be replaced with 1,2, 3 or have a sliding scale.

Success Criteria:

Answering a number of key questions about an area of Open Space can help us understand the approaches of an Open Space or help identify opportunity for how an Open Space may be further improved or enhanced.

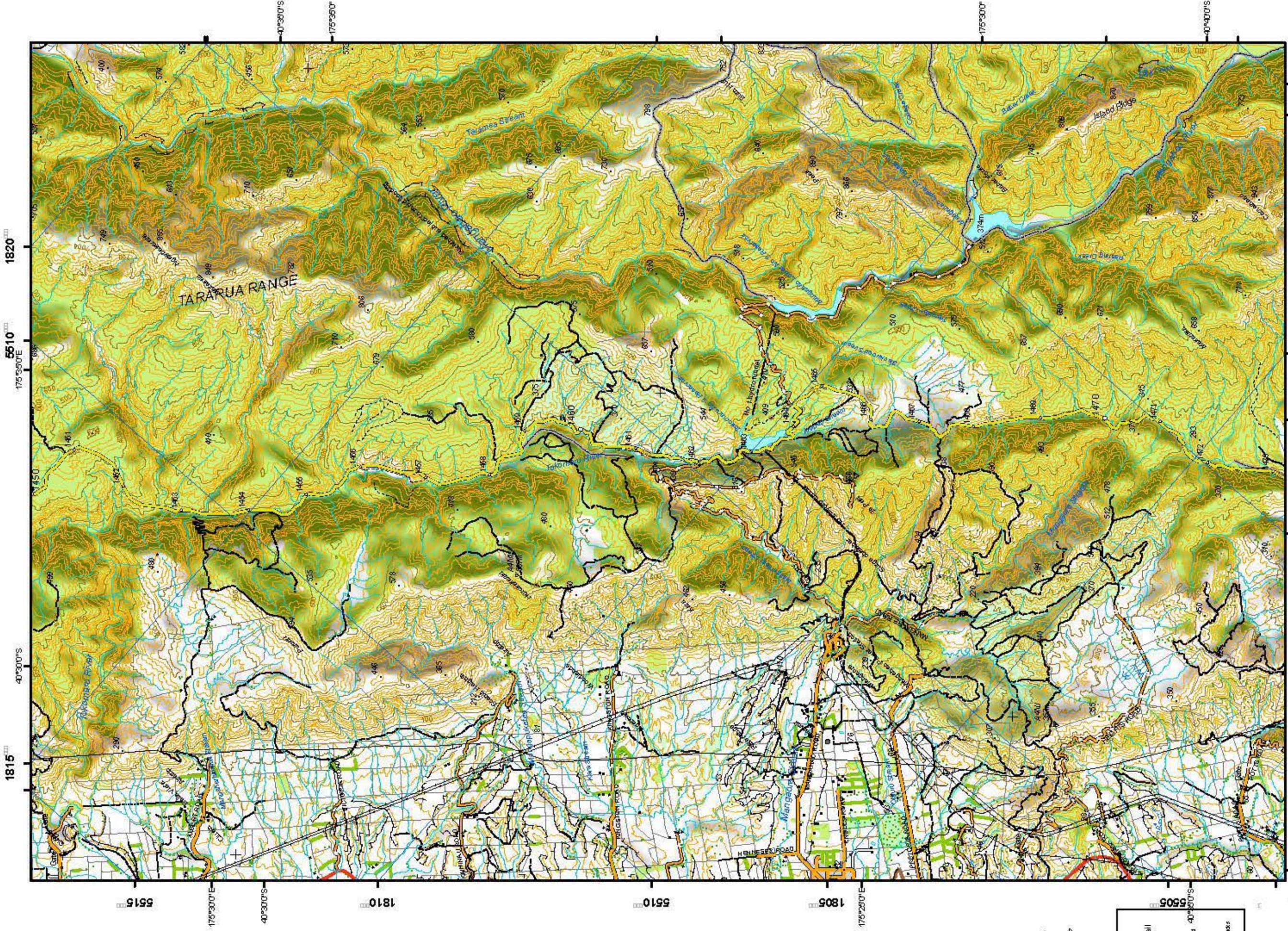
Success Criteria

Success Criteria	Questions to ask	Case Study	Grade
Accessibility			
Holmwood Park, Waitare			
Location	Is the site easy to access for current and potential users? Is it well connected with the settlement?	Holmwood Park is well positioned within a residential area and is easily accessed by foot or bike from all sides.	GOOD
Connection	How does it fit within the existing and proposed open space network?	Considering it's proximity to the beach, its quite hard to know how to access the beach or how this park is connected to other open spaces across the network.	AVERAGE
Features			
Ohau Domain, Ohau			
Character	Does the space have intrinsic qualities, features or assets, such as trees, bush, buildings, heritage,cultural or ecological assets?	Although a large flat area of grass, Ohau Domain is defined by its triangular shape and mature vegetation around the edges.	AVERAGE
Setting Quality	Does the site have aesthetic backdrop qualities, such as tree cover, natural stream, the Tararua Ranges or the coast?	The Tararua Ranges are an important part of the setting quality to Ohau Domain. The open space would feel quite different without these views.	GOOD
Function			
Village Green, Levin			
Adaptable	Is there room / feasibility for change? Could the use change if required or is it too constrained?	Apart from the mature vegetation, this open space is generally adaptable should it require a change/ upgrade or redesign.	GOOD
Safety			
Morgan Crescent Reserve, Levin			
Street presence	Is the open space next to a street / road? Is it clear that this is Open Space?	The shorter side of the reserve has street presence, however the majority of the reserve is edged by property boundaries / fences.	AVERAGE
Visibility	Are entrances and exits clearly marked for users? Is the open space visible from the edges?	The majority of the reserve is visible from outside, however the grass mounds do provide a visual barrier meaning there are areas that are not on show.	AVERAGE
Active edges	Are there any activities on the edges of the open space? Does this make it feel safer?	Backs of rear boundary fences edge the open space making this feel very neglected and inactive.	POOR



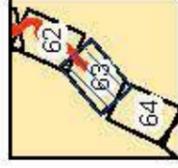
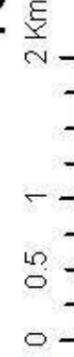
Te Araroa Trail

The following pages illustrate the Te Araroa network.



Te Araroa Trail 63

1:50,000 at A3

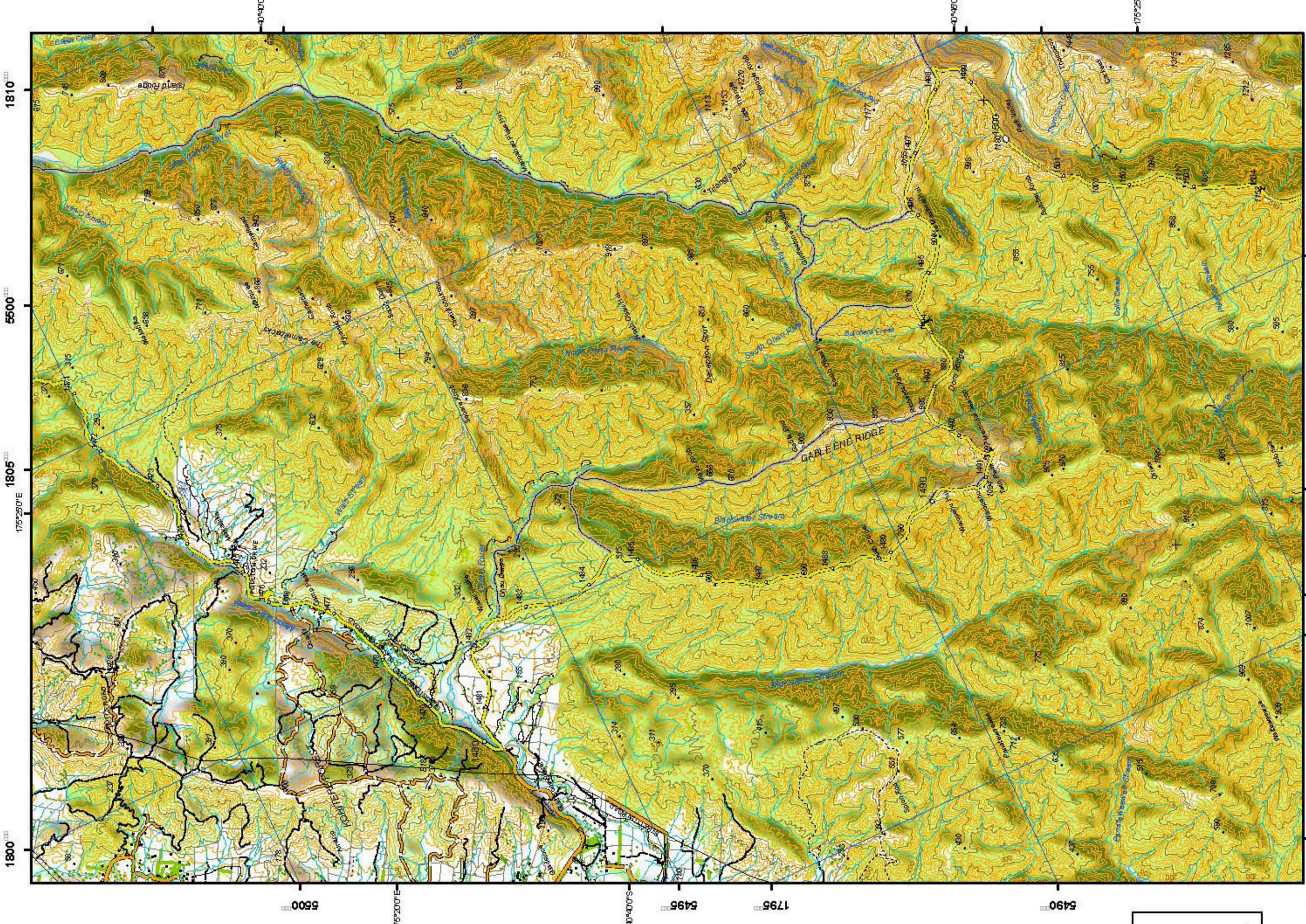


Sources Te Araroa Trust, Corax Topo,
 Dept of Conservation
 Projection NZTM, Datum NZGD 2000
 Trail v26, 13 Dec 2010 by Ollivier & Co

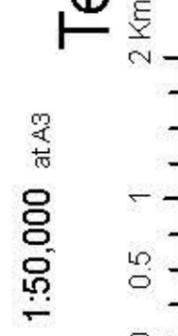
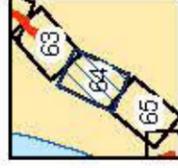


Legend	
Te Araroa Trail	Orange line
STATUS	Green line
open	Yellow line
road	Black line
unmet	Red line
water	Blue line
Bypass	Purple line
DOC Tracks	Black dashed line





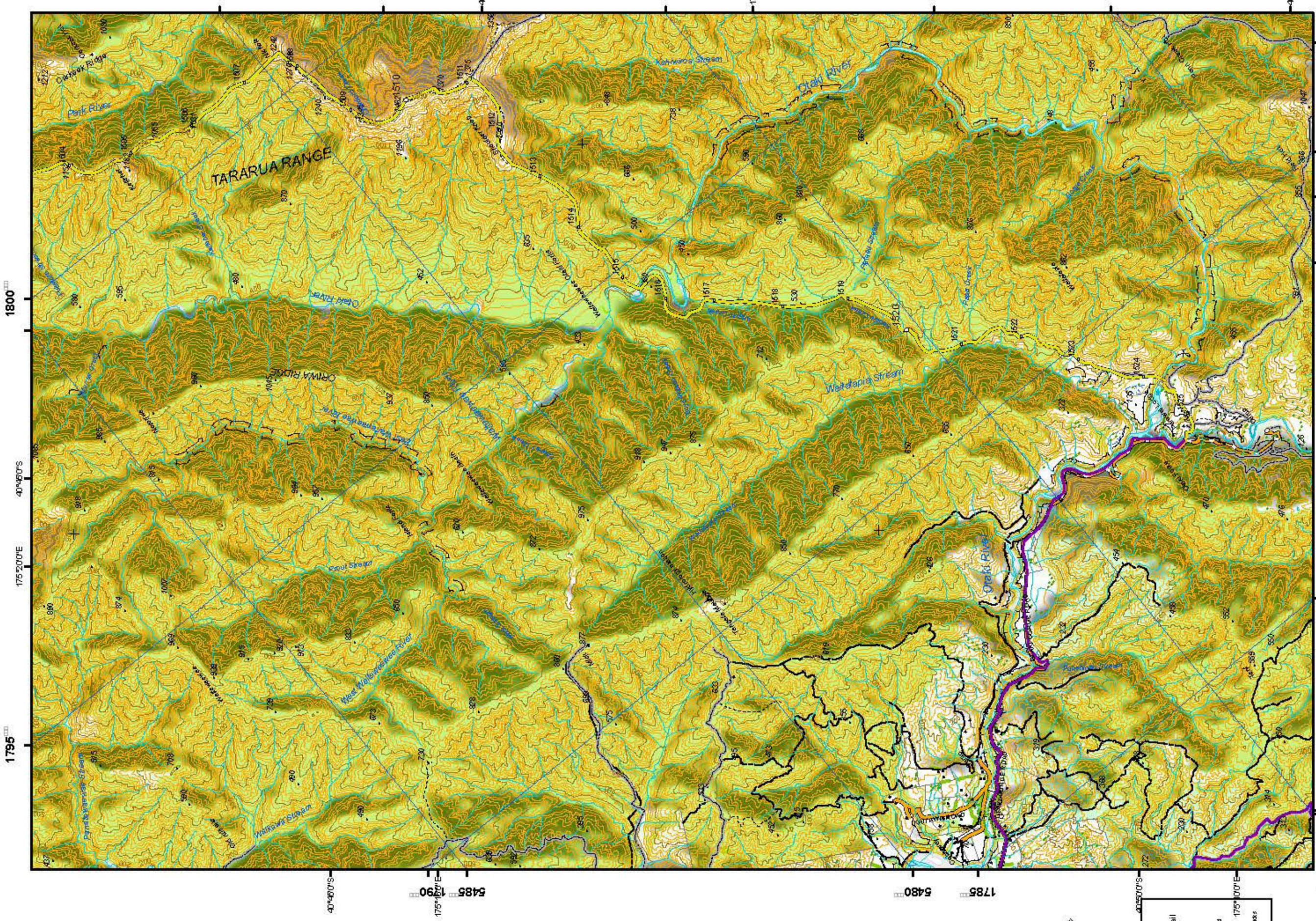
Legend	
Te Araroa Trail	STAIRS
open	road
unmowed	water
bypass	DOC Tracks



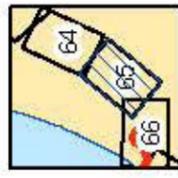
1:50,000 at A3

Sources Te Araroa Trust, Corax Topo, Dept of Conservation
 Projection NZTM, Datum NZGD 2000
 Trail v26, 13 Dec 2010 by Ollivier & Co

Te Araroa Trail 64

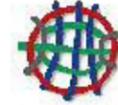


Legend	
Te Araroa Trail	STATUS
	open
	road
	unroad
	water
	Bypass
	DOC Tracks



1:50,000 at A3

0 0.5 1 2 Km



Sources Te Araroa Trust, Corax Topo,
Dept of Conservation
Projection NZTM, Datum NZGD 2000
Trail v26, 13 Dec 2010 by Ollivier & Co



Te Araroa Trail 65

