

Foxton Futures

Manawatū River Loop Rejuvenation

Issue 3 - December 2020

Final plans for new-look River Loop Reserve unveiled

The new-look River Loop Reserve is beginning to take shape as contractors enter the final few months of the project.

The Horowhenua Alliance began work on the project in spring, soon after the Government made a \$3.86 million investment in the project, which is managed by the Provincial Development Unit. The team have removed thousands of cubic metres of silt and weed from the River Loop.

Horowhenua District Council Mayor Bernie Wanden said, "the speed at which the project has progressed has been impressive."

"It's hard to believe, but back in March, few people thought the project would happen for a long time but here we are. We've excavated a large section of silt and weed and freed up the Loop so that next year waka ama, canoe and kayaking clubs can use it."

Project Manager Daniel Haigh said the concept design for the reserve is now complete, however it will be implemented in stages.

The new-look reserve will feature a large open public space, viewing platforms and a natural playground with a slide.

Mr Haigh said contractors are currently installing new car parks, kerb and channel on the reserve side of Harbour Street. They are also contouring the park and will soon sow grass seed.

"We'll be using a bore water source if required over summer to irrigate the reserve so the grass can grow."

Lighting, drinking water fountains and BBQ areas will also be constructed alongside pathways and viewing platforms. Some aspects of the park will be installed at a later date, including plantings that need autumn rains and a new gateway entrance. And

there is a long-term aspiration to connect the Reserve to Paretao Gardens and the Te Awahou Cultural Park.

SAVE THE DATE

To mark the reopening of the Loop to the community, we will host a celebration:

Manawatū River Improvement Festival – Te Oranga o te Awa

10-3pm, 27 February 2021

River Loop Reserve & Te Awahou Riverside Cultural Park

Harbour St, Foxton / Te Awahou

Live bands, kapahaka, water sports, exhibits, food trucks, games and more.

This is a free event.



This project is supported by Te Rūnanga o Raukawa, the hapū of Te Awahou and the Save Our River Trust

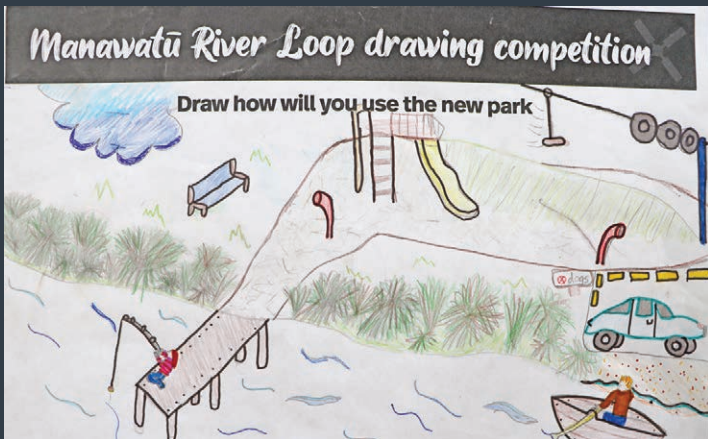
Primary School colouring competition

Thank you to all the children who entered our competition. We asked them to draw how they might use the Loop Reserve when it opens to the public in February. The response was fantastic and

12 students received family pool passes while the mayor of Horowhenua Bernie Warden selected two overall winners. They will help us open the Loop Reserve on 27 February 2020.

Congratulations to Savahna-Lee from Coley Street School and Bree from St Mary's Primary School.

Winners of the competition

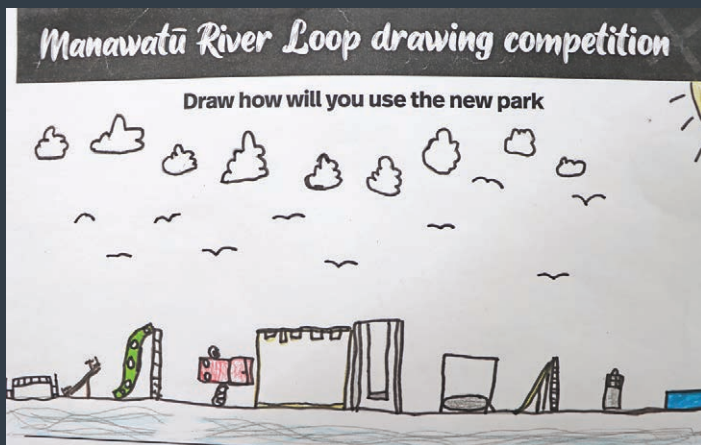


Bree Leadetter

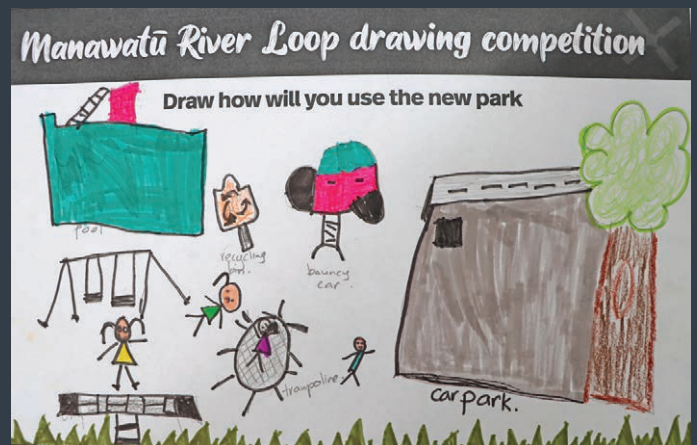


Savahna-Lee - Coley Street School

Some more submissions



AHTauta - St Mary's Primary School



Aliyah Briones - St Mary's Primary School



Boston - Coley Street School



Danny Tatad - St Mary's Primary School



Kate - Coley Street School



Lily - Coley Street School



Skyla - Coley Street School



Matt Tatad - St Mary's Primary School



Tatum - Coley Street School



Timoti - Coley Street School

The Two Stages

Stage One: The current project: Remove eels and fish from the site then dig out silt from the Loop. Create a new riverbank and build up the reserve before putting in pathways, parking and visitor amenities like drinking water fountains, viewing platforms and BBQ areas. Later a carved gateway will be installed.

Stage Two: The Aspiration: Further enhancements to River Loop Reserve include a boat ramp and boardwalk, improved connectivity to Te Awahou Cultural Park and further investment in Paretao Gardens. No funding has been secured for Stage Two, however consideration of the Paretao

Gardens upgrade will occur through Council's Long Term Plan process.

A Governance Group made up of Save Our River Trust, Ngāti Raukawa, the Horizons Regional Council, Muaupoko, Foxton Community Board and the Council oversees the project.

Meet some of the team



Justin Tamihana

Manager Te Runanga o Raukawa Kaitiaki Team

Where are you from?

Local lad, Foxton- Levin Ngā hapū o Himatangi, Ngāti Huia, Ngāti Raukawa ki te Tonga

How did you get involved with the project?

First as a local hapū and iwi member that watched many of our elders participate in SORT, Manawātū River issues and other associated kaupapa, I then started attending many hui about our river and joined the Governance group with the support and mandate of my hapū and Iwi. When the project became a reality, I was able to ensure cultural monitors/kaitiaki were able to participate in the works and encourage local employment and local contractors.

What were you doing before?

Working on the Whirokino Bridge Project and the Te Ahu a Turanga

Project (Manawātū Gorge Replacement Highway).

Hobbies:

Fishing, diving and anything to support my whanau/hapū and Iwi, especially our Marae.

What do you like about the project?

I love the fact that all those folks, many whom have passed on, fought so hard over the years to restore our Awa and Riverloop. It's because of them that we are here making a start. It has also been great to work in an alliance of wonderful local people and businesses with the common goal of restoring our Awa to as pristine an environment as we can and maintain it for future generations. I am privileged and humbled to be part of this journey and proud that Iwi are seen, heard and active in our community projects.

Kaitlin Hubbard

Project Coordinator

Where are you from?

Palmerston North

How did you get involved with the project?

I recently joined the Infrastructure Development Group to help the team deliver the project.

What were you doing before?

I was previously working for the Horowhenua District Council's Customer and Strategy Group in

the Consents team. Before that, I was studying down in Wellington at Victoria University and received a degree in Building Science and majored in Project Management.

Hobbies:

Swimming, photography and going to the beach.

What do you like about the project?

That it will bring the community together for future enjoyment.



Want to
know
more?



Follow us @TeAwahouNieuweStroom on Facebook.



Visit our project page at: <https://www.horowhenua.govt.nz/riverloop>



Or email enquiries@horowhenua.govt.nz

This project is supported by Te Rūnanga o Raukawa and the hapū of Te Awahou and the Save Our River Trust