

HOROWHENUA DISTRICT COUNCIL

HYDE PLAY PARK

MANAGEMENT PLAN

July 2000

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PREFACE

Hyde Play Park is a valuable community asset enabling the public to benefit from the recreational opportunities and aesthetic values available within the park, especially the childrens play equipment.

The park is administered by the Operations Department of the Horowhenua District Council with maintenance responsibilities coming under Council's Contractors.

This Draft Management Plan was prepared during the latter part of 1999 and early 2000 in accordance with the requirements of the Reserves Act 1977. It sets out the basis of the parks management. Future management options and public comment from public meetings, community liaison and through the invitation of initial submissions is included, enabling the document to reflect community interest in the park and concern for its management.

This is very much a "draft" document. The purpose of issuing it for further public comment is to enable you to contribute to the development of the management objectives and policies for the park, and ensure that the information presented on the reserve's history/background and resources is correct.

Following consideration of public submissions on the Draft Management Plan by the Reserve Management Team and Parks Manager, the document will be amended accordingly and presented to the Development Committee of the Horowhenua District Council for approval as the Operative Management Plan for the park.

Chairperson

Development Committee

Horowhenua District Council

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

During preparation of this Draft Reserve Management Plan the public were asked for suggestions and comments relating to Hyde Play Park by way of public notice, a public meeting and letters to or contact with interested parties including:

1. Iwi
2. The Resident
1 Engles Road
Shannon
3. Cr Scott
4. Shannon Tourism Group
5. Shannon Progressive Association
6. Works Civil Construction
Levin
7. Horowhenua District Council staff

The author would like to thank those who attended the Shannon public meeting for their interest and input.

NOTE: Further public comment, suggestions and/or written submissions are now sought. The closing date for these is 28 April 2000.

1.0 AIM

1.1 Aim

The aim of this management plan is to manage and enhance the playground and surrounding area of Hyde Play Park by:

1. Providing a safe and user friendly playground and surrounding area.
2. Providing facilities and amenities that benefit the local community.
3. Enhancing the playground as a reflection of its use.

2.0 HISTORY/BACKGROUND

The land was originally called the Grey Street Play Area and was “adopted” in the late 1960’s by the Shannon Jaycees, as a long term project. In 1968, they applied for financial assistance to provide a fence on the western boundary, and soon after, a corrugated iron fence was erected, with Council to pay \$230.10, and Mr & Mrs CE Avery, who shared the boundary, kindly donating \$30.00.

In April 1970, the Jaycees replaced the seesaw seats with more substantial material. On the 18th of September, a Wednesday, at approximately 5pm, a 7 year old child suffered concussion when the swinging gate snapped off near the ground and collapsed. He was sent to Palmerston North Hospital for observation. In November 1970 Mr CE Avery was appointed Honorary Park Custodian. In late 1970, the Jaycees placed an old tractor in the park, and on the Council’s wishes, set it in concrete.

In 1971, the Jaycees installed two “Kiddies Giddies”. In 1973 the Jaycees proposed naming the land “Rau Peni Park” after a local soldier killed in Vietnam. Council declined. In April that year, they proposed “Tamaiti” as a suitable name. Again Council declined. In 1974, the Jaycees erected an “Adams Playground Ship” in concrete at the park. Then the swings were altered for young children. In 1975, the Council erected a light, midway along the southern boundary, 6 feet out from the fence at a cost of \$200. In 1976 the Jaycees formally handed over to Council the battleship, newly erected in the park. Also in July, the Jaycees erected seats, and were graciously thanked by Council. In 1973, Council proposed naming the area “Hyde Park” after the long established Hyde family. In August 1978, it was resolved to name the area “Hyde Play Park” and to erect a sign to that effect, also noting the Jaycees efforts in creating the park.

In June 1989 a large public group called for Hyde Park to be drastically renovated, as all the concrete settings and some equipment was dangerous to children. The concerned citizens called for the installation of rubber matting, along with a list of other changes. The Council originally decided to carry out the \$9,750 repairs between 1989 and 1991 spreading the cost, but in August 1989, it was decided to do it all that year.

In March 1992 a children’s swing was stolen from the park. In May 1994 general maintenance repairs to the park included holes in the fence graffiti, peeling paint and tangled swings. It was indicated that safety was of most importance, and local children were asked to help plant trees and paint some of the play equipment. In July 1994 the Parks Manager assisted local children in planting trees at the park.

In March 1995 a petition was received from Mrs Dianna Karamaena for additional equipment and facilities for the park.

In February 1999 the Board of Trustees of Shannon Primary School suggested that the playground was in an inappropriate location and too old, and suggested Shannon Domain as a more logical site for a second playground. In March 1999 Mrs Dianna Karamaena requested the Hyde Park play facilities be improved.

3.0 PHYSICAL LOCATION IN DISTRICT

Hyde Play Park is located at the intersection of Grey and Whittaker Streets, Shannon.

4.0 AREA

The area of Hyde Play Park is 0.4048 ha.

5.0 LEGAL DESCRIPTION

Lots 7, 8, 9, 10 DP 368

6.0 CLASSIFICATION

Hyde Play Park is shown as a Recreation Reserve and Playground in the Horowhenua District Plan but is not designated a such. Pursuant to the Reserves Act 1977, the park should be gazetted for its primary purpose, that being recreational.

The underlying zone is Residential 1.

7.0 USE

Many different groups within the community use the park for various purposes. The use of the park is dominated by children, who utilise the existing facilities provided such as the playground equipment. It is seen as a place where children congregate after school during the week, and is utilised by many local children during the weekends. It provides a safe and open area where children are able to play.

8.0 FACILITIES

- Playground equipment
- Willow trees
- Fence
- Sign

9.0 PUBLIC COMMENTS

There is strong local community opinion that playground equipment has been left to degrade and has not been maintained properly, which has caused it to be removed due to safety concerns for repair. It has been perceived that the playground equipment removed for repair has also not been replaced.

There is large public desire amongst the local community to have additional features returned and added to the park, instead of relocating or establishing another playground at an alternative site in Shannon. Local residents prefer the site of Hyde Play Park for a playground, because it is located near the centre of town, and is easily accessible by foot for many local residents. There is concern

over rumours that Council wishes to sell the park. The willow trees are a nice feature of the park and should be retained. A toilet could be moved from Moynihan Park to Hyde Play Park and seats and picnic tables provided. Drainage can be a problem in the park at times and this would possibly need to be addressed before additional equipment was added. Lottery funding was not forthcoming and perhaps the community could apply to the Progressive Association for funds for more equipment.

Generally the park is well used as an after school congregating area by young children due to its residential setting. Grandparents also take children to the park. The park could benefit from a sign post at the main road and opened up a little for better security, though neighbours are pretty good at keeping an eye on the park. A light on the corner of Grey and Whittaker Streets would be useful, and provision for car-parking would help visitors to the park.

10.0 CURRENT MANAGEMENT PROBLEMS

1. Vandalism and hooliganism.
2. Faulty and out-dated playground equipment.

11.0 FUTURE MANAGEMENT OPTIONS AND POLICIES

11.1 Management Options

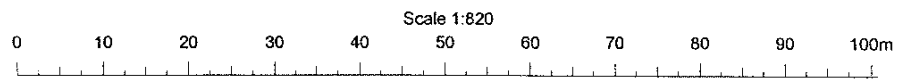
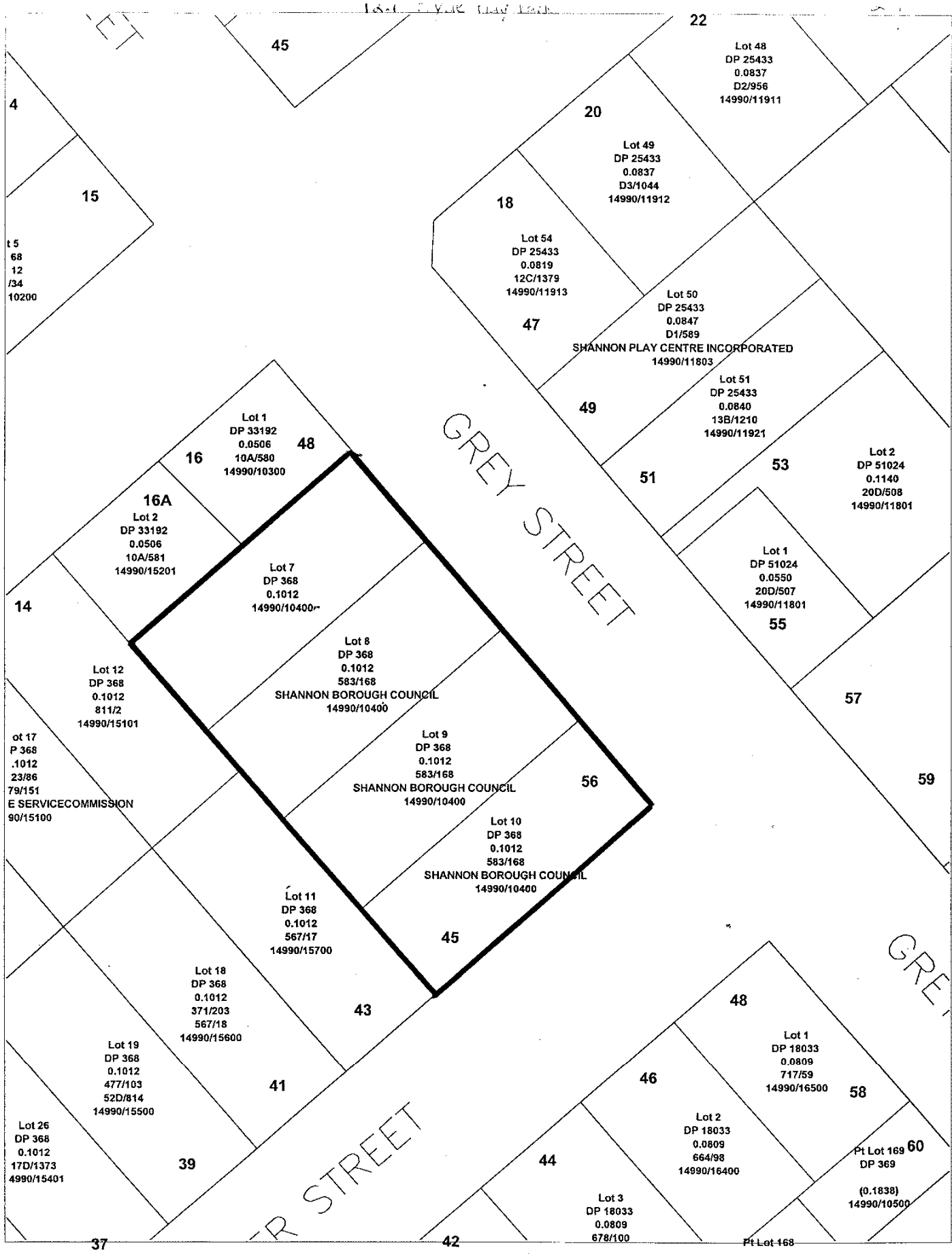
1. To provide a wider range of facilities and playground equipment.
2. To maintain and enhance the current condition and appearance of the park.

11.2 Policies

Refer to Reserves Management Policy Document.

11.3 Action Points

1. Improve and modernise the play equipment.
2. Provide an additional light on the corner of Grey and Whittaker Streets.
3. To facilitate the assistance of the Bunker Club with regard to any development of the park.



Community Response

Toilets and showers/changing rooms need upgrading.

Council Response

Have there been any water problems with the showers; do they still run out?

Community Response

No problems recently; about two years ago - plumber put in a new line - no problems since then.

Hyde ParkCommunity Query

Rumours circulating the community that Council are getting rid of the park - due to removal of equipment by the Bunker Club. Kohanga and Play Centre often use the area.

Council Response

Council has no plans to sell Hyde Park. Picnic table and chairs were removed by Bunker Club to repair. Council were not notified, but the Club is very good at providing and fixing these fixtures.

Community Response

General approval of Willow trees, which provide good shade. General disagreement to moving the play equipment to the Domain. Needs updated equipment. Old equipment taken out but nothing replaced it. Tractor, why did it get taken away?

Council Response

Council represents ratepayers and has an obligation to remove unsafe equipment under the OSH requirements. We need to remove dangerous equipment or replace it. From other experiences the tractor was too dangerous to risk leaving in the park

Community Response

Equipment appears to have been moved out of area altogether. Hyde Park is donated land and is well used. We don't consider there is much cost of upkeep.

Council Response

So there is a clear message that people want to see play equipment on Hyde Park.

Community Response

Strong agreement to retain Hyde Park and it's play equipment. Safety bark and wood chips - kids take it away and scatter it everywhere on their way to school.

Council Query

Are there any other facilities you feel you need?

Community Response

Upgrade play equipment, toilet a must, seats and picnic tables. Two toilets in Moynihan Park hardly ever used. Want it properly landscaped, like Te Maire Park. Drainage - needs to be dealt with. Needs more equipment at Hyde Park.

Council Query

Would you want traditional equipment or new modular equipment?

Community Response

Why not both. Applied to lottery for funding for play equipment but didn't get it. If landscaped, the park could accommodate both types. Perhaps we could apply to Progressive Association for funding. Country fair raised money for community projects. Needs draining first before putting new equipment in. Concern with the height of slide off ground.

Park is an after school congregating area. Ages tend to be younger. Grandparents also take grandkids down there. Used a lot as it is right amongst the residential area. Should be sign posted off the main road. Also open it up for security purposes.

Council Response

Security concerns came from a letter in file with the willows becoming a stranger danger concern.

Community Response

General disagreement. Wide open, and neighbours keep watch. Lighting on corner for night would be useful. Don't want to encourage nighttime use, especially if you put a WC there. Maybe two lights – one for the park and one for the street. Parking area required for visitors to the area especially.

Moynihan ParkCommunity/Council Suggestion

One of the WCs should be relocated to Hyde Park. General agreement to move unisex WC to Hyde Park.

Community Response

Moynihan Park and St Joseph's were both used as soccer grounds when the club was running.

Council Comment

The Park is currently a dog walking area with a doggie bin provided. Should dogs be permitted on this park?

Community Response

Don't like the idea of sports/dogs mixing. Park is needed as a reserve park. Entrance not sealed and needs sealing. Only one vehicle access - from Engles Road. Rough grass on either side of the park is probably why it is not used so much as a dog park.

Community Query

Do we need to keep as a reserve field?

Council Response

Should we contribute to keeping one of the school fields upgraded (if full size)?

Community Suggestion

100kph sign in Engles Road - danger to children, needs moved past the turnoff to the park.

Council Response

Transit responsible for setting speeds, but Council can get signs moved.

Community Response

Road outside park needs to be 50 kph.

Shannon Meeting 7 December 1999.doc

Hyde Park Significant Dates/Events

23 October 1968	Shannon Jaycees ask Council for financial assistance to provide a fence on western boundary of play area. Council decides to provide materials if Jaycees erect a corrugated iron fence.
5 December 1968	Mr & Mrs CE Avery, 57 Riverside Drive, Lower Hutt agree to the fence being erected on their boundary with Hyde Park, and will pay \$30.00 towards it. JW Fox, Builder, Shannon phone 762 is accepted as builder and he charges \$338.10. Council pays \$230.10 and notes that Fox has charged \$100 more than his original quote.
20 March 1970	Jaycees request permission to replace seesaw seats with more substantial material.
24 April 1970	Council grants permission.
16 September 1970	Accident 5pm Wednesday, the swinging gate collapsed, giving a 7 year old child concussion. He was sent to Palmerston North Hospital for observation.
9 November 1970	Mr CE Avery (now living next to park) is appointed honorary custodian of the park.
9 November 1970	Jaycees request permission to place a recently acquired tractor at the park.
20 November 1970	Council agrees, pending inspection and advises that it should be set in a concrete slab.
21 September 1971	Jaycees request permission to install the "kiddie giddies" manufactured by a reputable firm in Wanganui.
28 September 1971	Council agrees.
16 May 1973	Jaycees request Council to consider naming the "Grey Street Play Area" "Rau Peni Park" after a well known local soldier killed in Vietnam.
30 April 1973	Same group request "Tamaiti" as a suitable name - Council declines.
29 June 1974	Jaycees request permission to erect "Adams Playground Ship" in the park.
18 July 1974	Council approves and suggests it be mounted in concrete.
18 October 1973	Jaycee request permission to alter swings for small children and to install a triple slide. Council agree to the swings but not the slide.

- 22 September 1975 Council decides to install a light, midway along southern boundary, 6 feet out from the fence - cost \$200.
- 6 July 1976 Jaycees wish to formally hand over battleship erected in park. Painting to take place at earliest convenience.
- 20 July 1976 Council thanks Jaycees for installing the seats.
- 20 June 1978 Council proposes "Hyde Park" after said family who were very popular in Shannon.
- 17 August 1978 Resolved to name it "Hyde Play Park" and erect a sign to that effect, also noting the Jaycees efforts in creating the park.
- 11 May 1989 Public complaint about safety standard of play equipment
- 1 June 1989 Large public group call for Hyde Park to be renovated as it is dangerous to children – main concern installation of rubber matting (safatile matting).

List of equipment and repairs

- Swing – rubber matting and chains for seats
- Ship - rubber matting
- Seesaw – rubber tyres
- Slides – Rubber matting
- Monkey bars – rubber matting
- Rowing boat seesaw - new seats
- Raking Horse – rubber matting
- Tractor – new seat, remove loose parts, smooth sharp bits

TOTAL COSTS \$9,750

- 7 August 1989 Council moves to carry out renovations over a 4 year period from 1989 to 1991. Council decided to carry out ALL renovations in 1989 at \$9,750.
- 1 October 1990 Memo from Manager - Operations to the Parks & Recreation Superintendent stating that safety matting beneath the various items of play equipment appears to be non-existent, and that this was allowed for in the HDC 1989/90 budget. Also canvas seats for the swings have been requested, and that the swing hangers be changed from galvanised pipe to a lighter hanger so as to avoid injury to small children.
- 31 March 1992 Article in Chronicle re the theft of a childs swing from Hyde Park. Cr Bob Vinsen asked that he be informed of such incidents asap.

16 May 1994 Manager - Operations responds in a letter of thanks to the above and also highlights items to be repaired as mentioned in their letters.

- * fence - holes require patching
- * play equipment - minor repairs
- * graffiti
- * chipped peeled paint
- * swings tangled

He indicates his limited funds and that safety is of most importance. He also asks for the children help to plant trees and paint some of the play equipment.

24 May 1994 Letters from children of Shannon School offering their help to plant trees and paint the parks fence. Some letters pointed out some maintenance that is required with the park eg graffiti - plus additional structures eg ropes, tyres, toilets, maze, pool

6 July 1994 Photo in paper of Parks Manager planting trees at Hyde Park

3 March 1995 Received an 11 page submission asking for above

22 March 1995 Operations and Services Meeting:
- Mrs Dianna Karamaena submitted a petition requesting additional play equipment, bbq facilities, WCs, toddlers paddling pool and landscaping at Hyde Park.
- Cr Scott questioned whether a management plan was being prepared for this area. Parks Manager explained he had not requested the preparation of a management plan.

10 February 1999 Memo from Parks Manager to Keith Cloughly regarding Peter's meeting with Board of Trustees members of Shannon Primary School. They are looking for a playground to be contracted at their school as they consider Hyde Park too old and inappropriate for such a facility. They agreed that Shannon Domain would probably be a more logical site for a second playground.

19 April 1999 Letter from Peter to Mrs Dianne Karamaena in regards to her letter interested in upgrading playground and installing WCs. Peter Shore offered to meet with her onsite.

FORM 2

ADDENDUM

Hyde Park Reserve Management Plan

3. The Hyde Park Reserve Management Plan was adopted by Council on 19 July 2000 and publicly notified on 12 and 16 August 2000.
4. A copy of the Management Plan was forwarded to the Department of Conservation on 16 August 2000.