



**Horowhenua**  
DISTRICT COUNCIL



# Combined Foxton Reserves Management Plan

October 2017

## *Executive Summary*

Foxton is located on the western side of the Horowhenua District, inland of Foxton Beach and has a population of over 2,600 people. The town of Foxton sits between the state highway (SH1) and the Foxton River Loop. The town was built on the edge of the Foxton River Loop, which was previously the main stem of the Manawatu River before the Whirokino Cut occurred and the water was diverted past this part of the river. This section of river was once a significant trading port for the wider region from the 1870s to the 1920s; however, after a number of groundings due to low flow the port was closed.

This Reserve Management Plan covers the reserves centrally located within or on the edge of the town of Foxton, and includes **Easton Park, Flax Mill Reserve, Foxton River Loop Reserve, Ihakara Gardens, Seaview Gardens, Stuart Donnelly Park and Victoria Park**. These reserves are instrumental to the Foxton community's enjoyment of open space. They represent a range of uses and cover land of cultural and historical significance to not only Foxton but the wider Manawatu, from the remains of Foxton's port to the one of the oldest cemeteries in the area.

The process of developing this Plan involved the review of the Reserve Management Plans for Easton Park, Flax Mill Reserve, Foxton River Loop, Ihakara Gardens, Seaview Gardens Recreation Reserve, Stuart Donnelly Park and Victoria Park, all adopted in 2000 (except for Victoria Park which was reviewed in 2005). These Reserve Management Plans were combined into one Reserve Management Plan to recognise the connections between these areas of Foxton.

Informal consultation on the Central Foxton Reserves was undertaken with key stakeholders and the wider community. The feedback received helped to inform the development of the Draft Combined Foxton Reserves Management Plan.

Formal public consultation on the Draft Combined Foxton Reserves Management Plan commenced 3 May 2017 and closed 3 July 2017. Council received 13 submissions on the Draft Plan.

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# 1. Background

## 1.1. What is a Reserve Management Plan?

A reserve management plan is a document prepared under the Reserves Act 1977. It contains objectives, policies and actions relating to the use, management and future development of a reserve.

All reserves that have been gazetted and classified as reserves under the Reserves Act 1977 (the Act), require a reserve management plan in accordance with section 41(1) of the Act. Once prepared and adopted, reserve management plans must be kept under continuous review to address new issues and opportunities as they arise for each reserve (section 41(4)).

Council's reserve management plans act as a guide for Council Officers in making both day-to-day and long-term decisions about how reserves and open spaces under Council's ownership or control are to be used, managed and developed.

## 1.2. Relationship with the Parks and Reserves General Policy Document

The Parks and Reserves General Policy Document (adopted April 2016) applies to all parks and reserves in the Horowhenua District which are owned and/or administered by Council, and managed by Council's Parks and Property Team. The majority these parks and reserves are gazetted as reserve and classified under the Reserves

Act 1977. However, there are also a number of areas of open space, recognised and managed by Council as reserve land, but which currently do not hold formal reserve status under the Act.

The General Policy Document provides objectives, policies and actions for management issues which are common throughout the majority of these Council managed reserves (whether formally gazetted or not). This document allows Council to adopt a consistent approach to the management of all reserves in a cost and time efficient way.

The objectives, policies and actions outlined in this Reserve Management Plan are specific to Easton Park (including Pataka Park), Flax Mill Reserve, Foxton River Loop Reserve, Ihakara Gardens, Seaview Gardens, Stuart Donnelly Park and Victoria Park. These objectives, policies and actions are tailored to the specific issues or opportunities for these reserves.

It should be noted that the site specific management provisions outlined in this Reserve Management Plan take precedence over the General Policy Document's provisions where they relate to the same issue. Where this Reserve Management Plan is silent on an issue then the provisions of the General Policy Document apply. The General Policy Document includes a decision making process which should be followed when a request is made and it is not covered by either the site specific Reserve Management Plan or the General Policy Document.

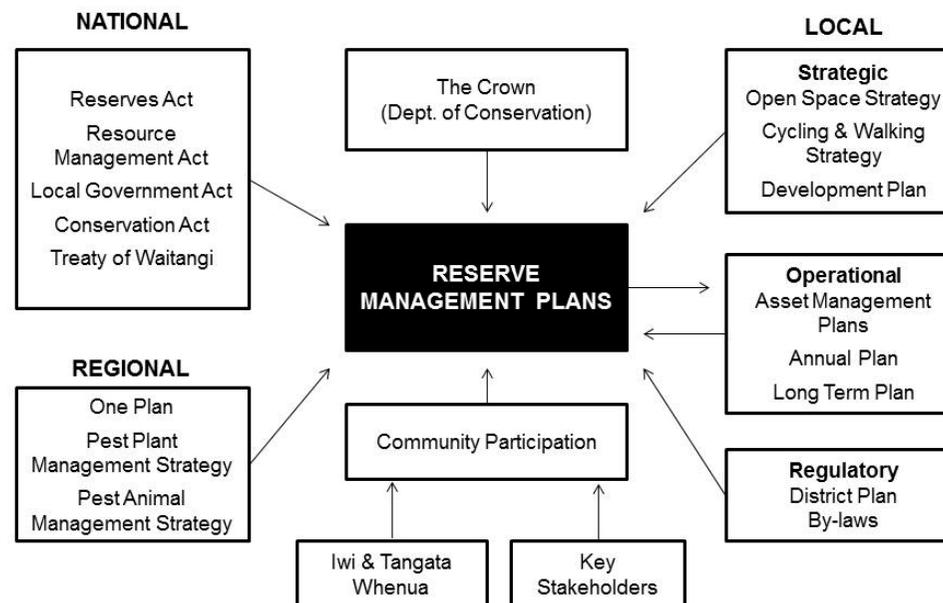
### 1.3. Overview of Statutory Context

Reserve management plans are prepared and reviewed in accordance with the requirements of the Reserves Act 1977. However, there are a number of other pieces of national legislation as well as plans, strategies and regulations at the regional and local level that need to be considered when preparing reserve management plans.

The below diagram identifies the key statutes, plans, strategies and regulations that Council should also consider when preparing or reviewing its reserve management plans. Further explanation about the key statutes, plans, strategies and regulations and how they are

relevant to reserve management plans is provided in Council's Parks and Reserves General Policy Document.

It is important to note that the statutes, plans, strategies and regulations identified in the below diagram are not an exhaustive list, for instance there are other statutes that may also be relevant (e.g. Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga Act 2014). Also highlighted by this diagram are the different roles and functions that Council has in relation to the management of parks, reserves and open space.



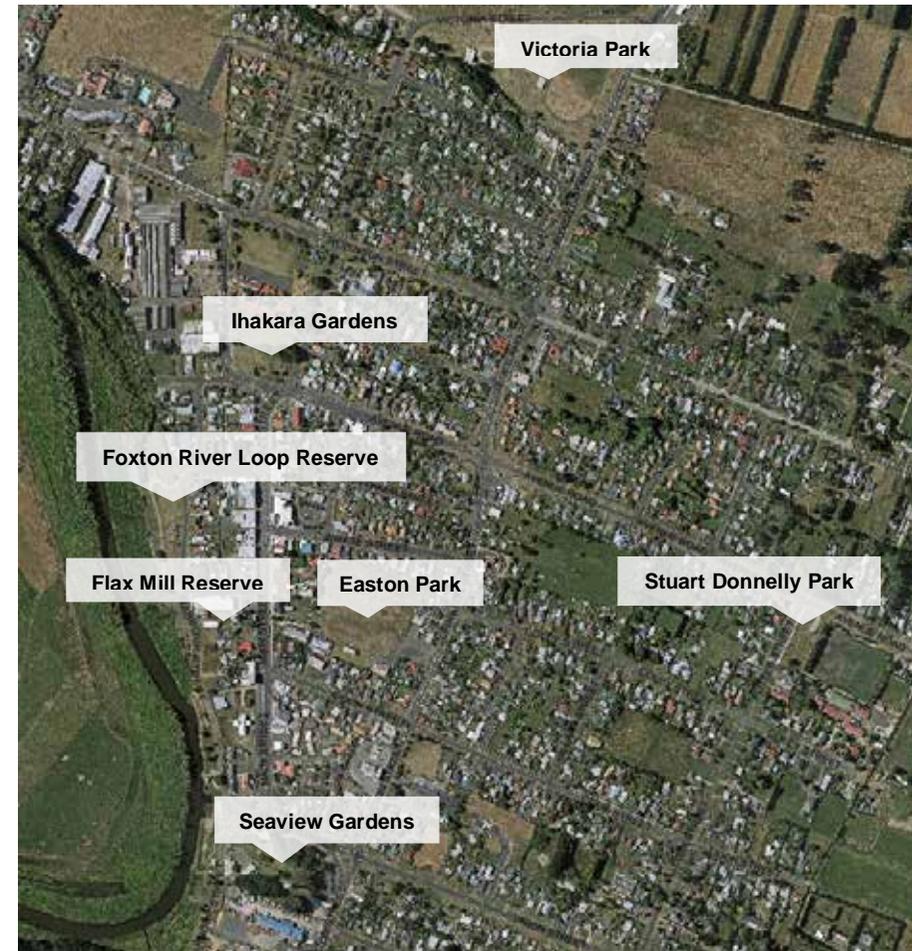
**Diagram 1** Key statutes, plans, strategies and regulations and their relationship with Reserve Management Plans

## 2. Central Foxton Reserves

Foxton is located inland of Foxton Beach and has State Highway 1 located through it. The town was built on along what is now the Foxton River Loop, or Piriharakeke, after the river was diverted as part of the Whirokino Cut. The population of Foxton was measured at 2,600 people in the 2013 census and there are 1,116 occupied dwellings and 123 unoccupied dwellings (Statistics New Zealand, 2013).

This Reserve Management Plan covers the reserves at the centre of Foxton; these include:

- Easton Park (including Pataka Park);
- Flax Mill Reserve;
- Foxton River Loop Reserve;
- Ihakara Gardens;
- Seaview Gardens;
- Stuart Donnelly Park; and
- Victoria Park.



**Image 1** Aerial Photo taken 2016 showing the Central Foxton Reserves

## 2.1. Scope

This combined Reserve Management Plan covers the more centrally located reserves listed on the previous page. Some reserves are not covered as it is not appropriate or they are not considered publicly accessible open space.

Target Reserve is not covered under this Reserve Management Plan as it is considered appropriate to complete a separate plan for this reserve due to its size and regional significance. Herrington Street and Barber's Bush Reserves are also not included as they are too dissimilar in use. Herrington Street Reserve is not physically accessible to the public and is designated as a Waterworks Reserve and Barber's Bush Reserve is located further out of Foxton.

There are pieces of land zoned Open Space that are not considered public reserve and are therefore not covered in this Plan. One of the properties (being Lot 3 DP 65830) is located on the rear of 43A Ladys Mile, on the edge of the Foxton River Loop, and is owned by Horowhenua District Council. The property is not physically accessible to the public and is not managed as public reserve.

The other properties are at 10 Ladys Mile (Lot 1 DP 466282), owned by Foxton Area Community Medical Trust, and 2 Ladys Mile (Lot 2 DP 466282), owned by Horowhenua District Council. 10 Ladys Mile is the site of Te Wairoa Community Health Services and 2 Ladys Mile is designated for a water bore.

The Foxton Cemetery is also zoned Open Space, however, is not covered under this Reserve Management Plan as it is not a reserve.

## 2.2. Reserve Type

The reserves covered by this management plan provide an interesting snapshot of open space typology. Typology describes a range of 'types', as a concept of multiple types placed upon a spectrum from one extreme to another. When considering open space typologies, terms such as neighbourhood park, sports field and native reserve are familiar names often given to public reserves within our urban settlements.

For the purpose of this Reserve Management Plan, the open space typology presented on the following section has been used to help explore the public space offered at Foxton. It helps Council to better understand the different types of reserves (and their associated facilities) available in Foxton, and whether additional or a different type of open space may be required to meet the needs of this town.

The typology framework used here has been sourced from design guidance produced by the Parks and Recreation Team at Auckland Council.

2.3. Open Space Typology



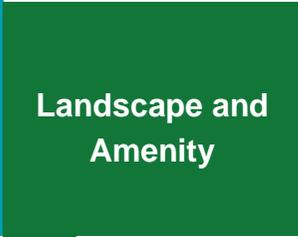
**Ecological**



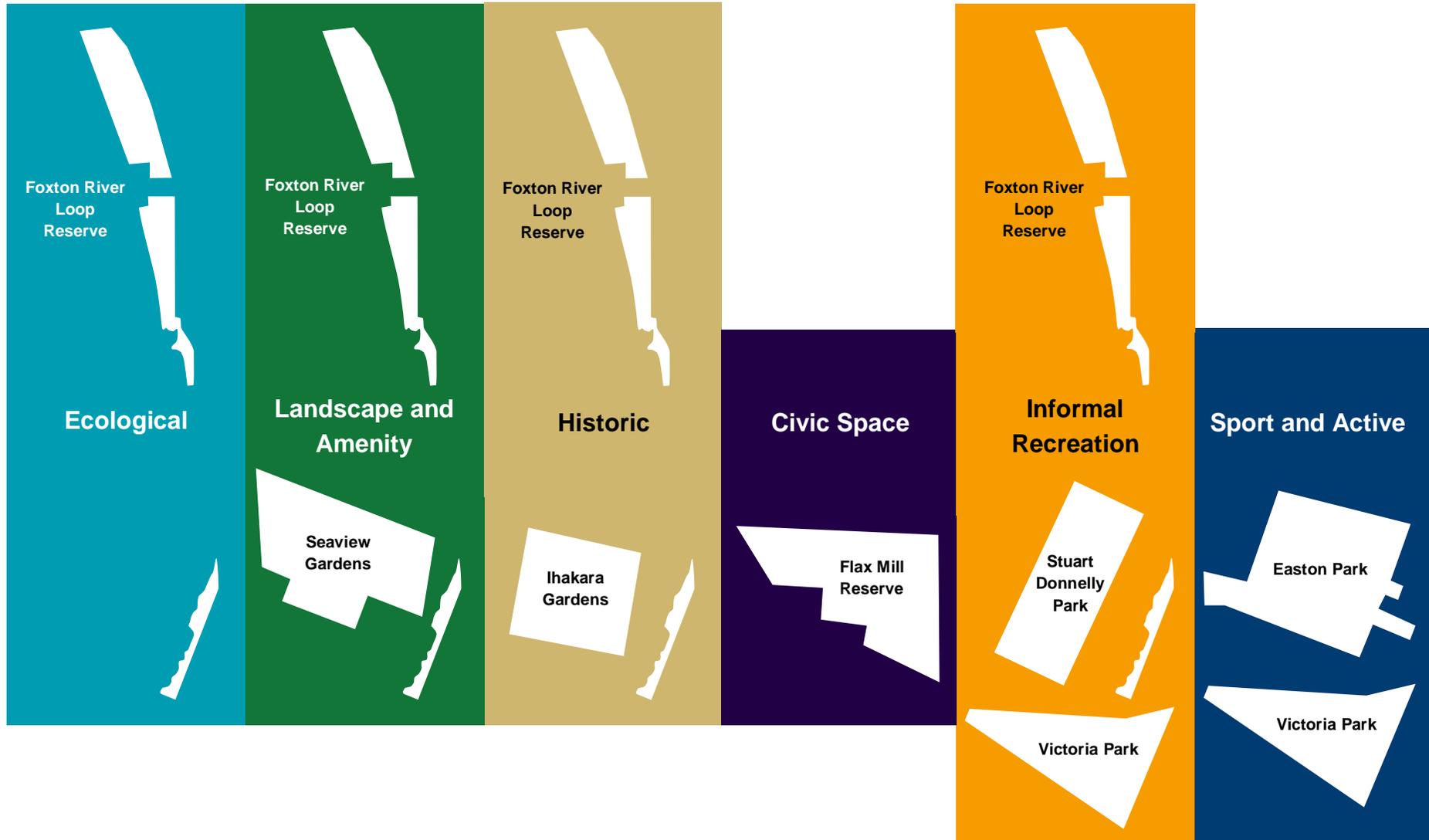
**Historic**



**Informal  
Recreation**



## 2.4. Central Foxton- Types of Open Space



## 2.5. People and Access to Reserves

### 2.5.1. Ped Sheds- A Tool for Analysing Open Space

While the value of public open space begins simply with provision, its true value is defined by many other factors. A highly valuable public reserve is one that is in the right location, of the right size, containing the right infrastructure, accessible to all and appropriate to its location and setting. This can be further enhanced when, as described previously, it contributes to a wider provision of open spaces that together provide a collective offer of open space.

A useful factor to analyse when looking at the value of public open space is to consider the proximity of the location of the open space to the population it is intended to serve. To do this, a concept known as a 'ped shed' can be used. A ped shed describes a standard walking distance from a point of interest, measured as a radius from there out across the ped shed area.

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

### 2.5.2. Foxton Township- Ped Shed Analysis

The maps on the following pages show two ped sheds of the Foxton reserves. The first ped shed map (see page 9) shows a five minute (400m ped shed) from each of the Foxton reserves.

The ped sheds show that there is a substantial amount of Foxton residents that are not located within five minutes' walk of a public reserve. These pockets of houses are located mostly on the eastern side of Foxton township. This is reflective of the fact that only Stuart Donnelly Park is the source of public reserve for those located on the eastern side of the State Highway. Any further development of the eastern side of Foxton will need to include the identification and provision of open space.

Some of the residentially zoned land that falls outside of the five minute walk is yet to be subdivided and/or built on, which illustrates the importance of the design of future subdivision in ensuring that public open spaces are considered, planned for and incorporated.

The second ped shed map (see page 10) provides a typology based assessment of the Foxton reserve provision. Simply as an illustration, this analysis looks at the provision/location of children's playgrounds which are a primary element of an 'informal recreation' open space typology.

For this analysis, both five and ten minute ped sheds have been used, with the 800m ped shed being drawn around the location of playgrounds. This recognises that people are typically more likely to walk further for a valued attraction/asset such as a children's playground. For the purpose of this analysis, the existence and

location of the playground equipment at Foxton Primary School, St Mary's Catholic School and Coley Street School have been included, recognising these are assets enjoyed by the wider community.

Unlike the first ped shed map, the playground analysis provides a positive result, illustrating that essentially all residential properties in Foxton are within a ten minute walk of a children's playground.



**Image 2** Play equipment at Stuart Donnelly Park



**Image 3** Play equipment at Victoria Park

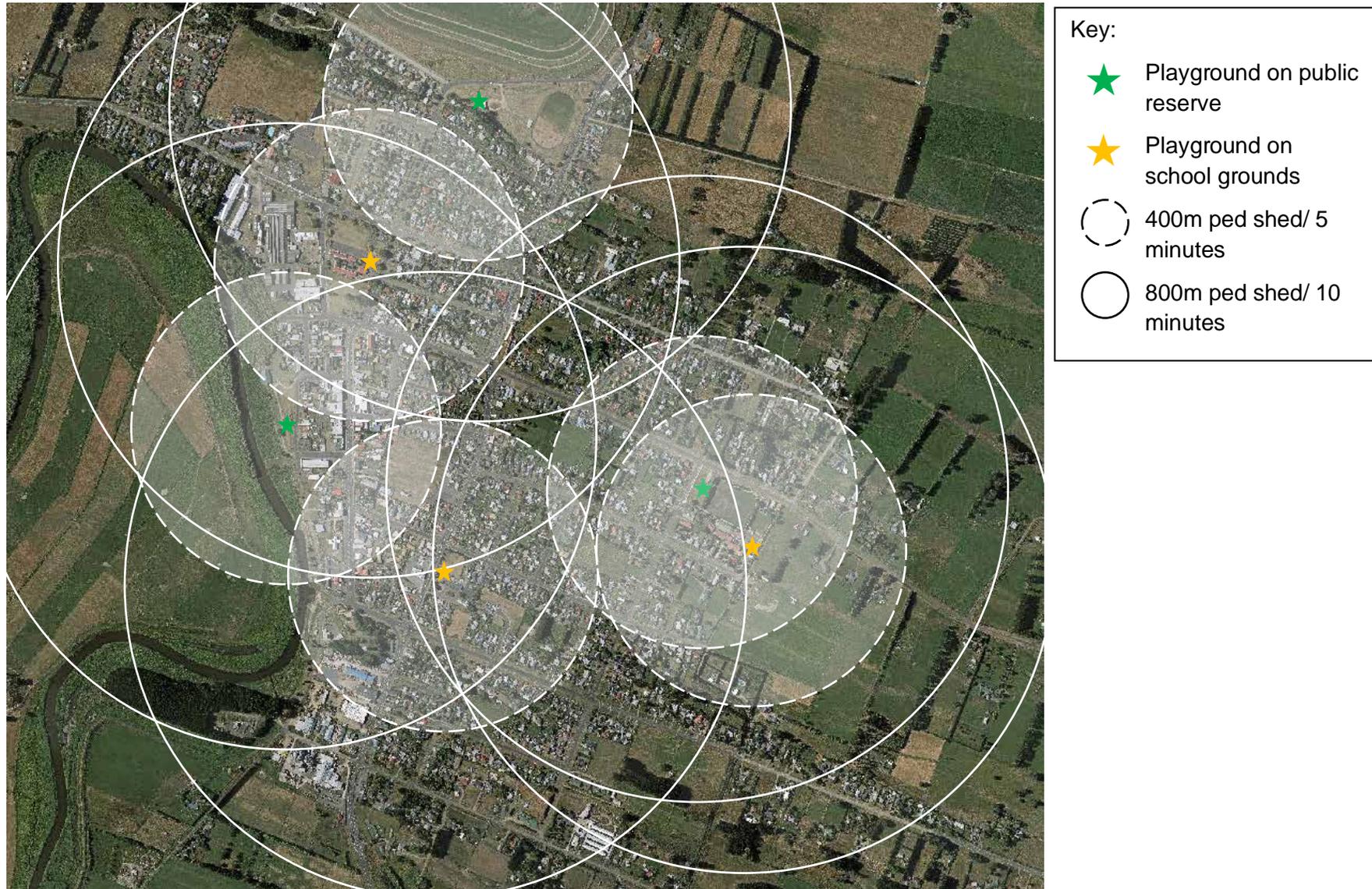


**Image 4** Play equipment at Foxton River Loop Reserve

2.5.3. Aerial Map of Foxton showing 400m Ped Sheds for reserves (5 minute walking distance)



2.5.4 Aerial Map of Foxton showing 400m & 800m Ped Sheds for playgrounds (5/10 minute walking distance)



## 2.6. Reserves Snapshot- Central Foxton

Before exploring the reserves individually, the table below provides a snapshot of the seven Foxton reserves and their comparative attributes.

Presented in the table are the reserves' typologies as based on upon the open space typology spectrum and analysis presented previously. The analysis shows that Foxton reserves cover the whole spectrum of typologies and as such, there is excellent provision of reserve types in Foxton.

This Plan contains reserves that are made up of parcels of land that are not classified as reserve under the Reserves Act 1977. Only the parcels that are classified as a reserve are subject to the Act. For reserves where no parcels are classified as reserve, the Reserve Management Plan for that reserve is not a Reserve Management Plan under the Act instead a plan that outlines how Council will manage and develop the land. For reserves where only some of the parcels that make up the reserve are classified as reserve and some aren't, the Reserve Management Plan is considered to be a Reserve Management Plan under the Act only for those parcels which are classified as reserve.

Reserve	Typology	Size	Infrastructure
<b>Easton Park</b>	Sport & Active	3.32 ha (excluding road reserve)	Sports fields (and a floodlight on the northern field) Grandstand and amenities Clubrooms ( <i>privately owned</i> ) Foxton Swimming Pool Picnic area (outside front of pool) On-site car parking
<b>Flax Mill Reserve</b>	Civic space	0.5 ha	De Molen ( <i>privately owned</i> ) Flax Stripper Museum ( <i>privately owned</i> ) Whare Maanaki ( <i>privately owned</i> ) Foxton Tram Station building, public toilets and tram station museum Parks furniture
<b>Foxton River Loop Reserve</b>	Ecological	3.33 ha	Parks furniture Play equipment Boardwalk
	Landscape & Amenity		
	Historic		
	Informal Recreation		
<b>Ihakara Gardens</b>	Historic	0.26 ha	Parks furniture

Reserve	Typology	Size	Infrastructure
<b>Seaview Gardens</b>	Landscape & Amenity	1.39 ha	Parks furniture Lookout area Water tower Water treatment plant Depot building
<b>Stuart Donnelly Park</b>	Informal Recreation	0.4 ha	Skatepark Play equipment Parks furniture
<b>Victoria Park</b>	Informal Recreation	4.09 ha	Sports field Running track Amenities block Squash hall ( <i>privately owned</i> )
	Sport & Active		Play equipment Parks furniture Dump station (for waste disposal from recreational vehicles)



*Easton Park (including Pataka Park)*

*Photo: Sports fields on Easton Park*

## 3. *Easton Park (including Pataka Park)*

### 3.1. Reserve Overview

Easton Park is a sports park located off Main Street in Foxton, and is primarily made up of two sports (rugby) fields with a grandstand, swimming pools and clubrooms at the southern end. The park has existed since 1919 when the land was donated by Mr Augustus Spencer Easton, in order to commemorate the ending of World War One. The land was intended by Mr Easton to be developed into a local beauty spot but has since been used for sporting and recreational activities (see **Appendix 1** for a map of the reserve). The gates at the entrance to Easton Park via Main Street commemorate the gifting of the land from Mr Easton to the public (see below).



**Image 5** Gates at entrance to Easton Park via Main Street

There is vehicle access off Johnston Street (State Highway 1); with car parking located inside this entrance. Vehicular access is restricted through the park and onto the fields. Pedestrians can use the park as a thoroughfare between Main Street and State Highway 1 (SH1). Easton Park is surrounded by residential and commercial properties, with boundary fences made of a range of materials and heights (vary between one and two metres high).

Foxton Swimming Pool is situated on the western side of the park facing Main Street. Outside the pool is a picnic area and mature palm trees. Of the two original outdoor pools, the one at the front, facing Main Street, has been covered and made an indoor pool. The children's playground that was sited between the pools and the road has been removed.

Easton Park is a popular venue for the Easter Fair and other local events. Its main use, however, is as a sports ground by the local sports clubs and the use of the swimming pools.

#### *Pataka Park*

Lot 5 Block VIII Awahou Block is Māori Land and is owned by the Easton-Pataka Park Trust. This piece of land is named Pataka Park (referred to as Potaka Park in the previous Reserve Management Plan) and comprises the northern section of the park, including part of the northern most rugby field. This property is currently being maintained as part of the whole reserve.

### *Whyte Street Pedestrian Access*

During the consultation period when the previous Reserve Management Plan was written, the issue regarding a Whyte Street section not being used as a pedestrian entrance to the park surfaced. The Whyte Street section, currently leased to the Order of St John, was gifted to Foxton Borough Council by Mr F S Easton, son of Mr A S Easton who gifted Easton Park. Whereas the title of the land gifted as Easton Park in 1919 clearly states that the land is for public park and recreation grounds, the title for the Whyte Street section is unencumbered freehold land, and was gifted in 1950.

The former Foxton Borough Council consented a publicly advertised planning application to allow the Order of St John to erect a building on the Whyte Street section to be used for St John purposes. Siting of the St John building is such that pedestrian access from Whyte Street to Pataka Park, if desired, can be made available along the west side of the section. Prior to this taking place it is understood that the section on Whyte Street was used as access to Pataka Park, in the earlier days, but subsequently closed for such use when sporting organisations felt it created too many accesses to the park and therefore problems with control of entry.

### **Issues and Opportunities**

The management of Pataka Park is an ongoing issue. Horowhenua District Council does not own the property, however, does maintain it as part of the overall park. As part of initial consultation on this Reserve Management Plan, Council has been in contact with Easton-Pataka Park Trust representatives.

There are potential encroachment issues along the southern boundary of Easton Park where for one particular property either the Foxton Pool boundary is encroaching on their property or their

backyard boundary is encroaching onto Easton Park. There is also the possibility of unauthorised pedestrian access to the Park via neighbouring properties.

An ongoing issue at Easton Park is vandalism of facilities. The grandstand has been subject to vandalism since it was built in the 1950s. However, vandalism has reduced due to the restriction of access to the grandstand.

None of the parcels of land that make up Easton Park are gazetted as reserve and therefore their use as a reserve is not legally protected (the Park is designated as reserve under the Horowhenua District Plan).

Easton Park is not well signposted at the SH1 entrance. The sports fields are also not well lit for use in the evening/early morning.

## 3.2. Legal Description

Legal Description	Title Reference No.	Land Area (ha)
Lot 2 DP 24498 (not gazetted)	WN5B/338	0.15
Lot 4 DP 14725 (not gazetted)	WN652/14	0.04
Lots 1-15 DP 219 (not gazetted)	WN5B/340	0.003 to 0.11
Lot 16 DP 219 (not gazetted)	WN465/111	0.06
Lots 17-23 DP 219 (not gazetted)	WN5B/340	0.04 to 0.17
Lot 2 DP 66970 (not gazetted)	WN35B/894	0.04

Section 556 TOWN OF Foxton (not gazetted)	WN685/31	0.10
Pt Awahou 1 to 3 (not gazetted)	n/a	2.02
AWAHOU 5 BLOCK (Pataka Park & not gazetted)	490462	0.81
<b>Total Area</b>		<b>3.32 ha</b>

This total figure does not include the road reserve (Grey Street) that partly makes up the car park off SH1.

It appears that the parcels of land that make up Easton Park were actually subdivided for potentially residential use with a road (Pt Awahou 1 to 3) going through the park linking up Main and SH1. It is not known why the properties did not get developed for residential purposes.

### 3.3. Council Classification

Easton Park is located in the Open Space Zone (not including the road reserve). Lot 2 DP 24498 and Lot 4 DP 14725, where the Foxton Swimming Pool is sited, are also located within the Foxton Tourism Area under the Horowhenua District Plan. The Park is also designated as Recreation Reserve (Easton Park and Pataka Park) under the District Plan.

### 3.4. Leases

There are no current leases for Easton Park.

### 3.5. Vision

*The vision for Easton Park is to retain it as the **central sports hub** for local residents and visitors to Foxton. There are opportunities to further develop the site as a local events space.*

### 3.6. Management Principles

Allow for the continued use of the reserve as a sports hub without adversely affecting neighbours.

Provide the appropriate facilities for the park as a sports ground.

Greater sharing between clubs and sports organisations of the facilities to gain the maximum use of the park.

Allow for informal recreation activities that do not detract from the park as a sports facility.

Explore opportunities to create a stronger connection between SH1 and Main Street.

Explore opportunities to extend the value of the site as a local events space for Foxton.

Look to develop the site of the old outdoor pool into a recreational facility potentially as a public private partnership or Council development aligned with the existing aquatic facilities.

### 3.7. Objectives and Policies

#### 3.7.1. Sport & Recreation

*To enable the public to use and enjoy Easton Park for a wide range of compatible sports and recreational activities.*

#### 3.7.1.1. Policy

Encourage and allow the use of Easton Park for informal sport and recreation activities where these are consistent with the Park's primary purpose as a sports ground and where they do not conflict with the safety, use and enjoyment of other reserve users.

#### 3.7.1.2. Policy

Provide for sports clubs and the appropriate organisations to use the park by prior agreement with Council.

#### 3.7.1.3. Policy

Ensure that only service and emergency vehicles have access to the grass areas of the Park.

#### 3.7.1.4. Policy

Recognise the close alignment of the aquatics centre to the reserve and consider opportunities to improve the recreational experience for the community and visitors.

### 3.7.2. Objective- Events

*To recognise the Park's use as an outdoor event arena and undertake development of the site to facilitate that purpose.*

#### 3.7.2.1. Policy

Encourage and allow the use of Easton Park for events where these are consistent with the Park's primary purpose as a sports ground.

#### 3.7.2.2. Policy

Explore options to increase provision for outdoor events.

### 3.7.3. Objective- Management & Development

*Manage and develop Easton Park in a way that recognises and enhances its role as a significant local sports hub, and recreation and events space.*

#### 3.7.3.1. Policy

Work with the community to identify ideas for the future development of Easton Park.

#### 3.7.3.2. Policy

Ensure the reserve is maintained at an appropriate level to allow its continued use.

#### 3.7.3.3. Policy

Work with stakeholders to identify improvements that could be made to the entrances to Easton Park.

#### 3.7.3.4. Policy

Provide and maintain the appropriate facilities on the reserve which encourage the responsible use of the reserve by the public.

#### 3.7.3.5. Policy

Explore opportunities for signage or alternative options to communicate information about the reserve.

### 3.8. Actions

Actions	Priority
Continue engagement with the Easton-Pataka Park Trust on the future management of Pataka Park	High
Identify existing encroachments and develop a strategy on how to deal with them on a case by case basis.	High
Actively promote the use of Easton Park to organisations, clubs and team.	Medium
Work with the appropriate stakeholders to identify how the entrance to Easton Park off SH1 can be improved.	Low

**Note:** *The level of importance assigned to each action above is based on the context of this reserve and has not been considered in relation to levels of importance assigned to other reserves in the District.*



## *Flax Mill Reserve*

*Photo: De Molen*

## 4. *Flax Mill Reserve*

### 4.1. Reserve Overview

The Flax Mill Reserve can be accessed off Main and Harbour Street. The reserve is more visually prominent off the Main Street entrance (see **Appendix 2** for a map of the reserve). At its Harbour Street entrance the Flax Mill Reserve faces the Foxton River Loop Reserve. At the eastern entrance to the site is the Foxton Tram Station building which currently houses the Dutch Oven Café, a tram museum and public toilets, which can be accessed from the outside. In front of the café are picnic tables on a grassed area and vehicular access located off Main Street. The driveway forms a semi- circle that leads to and from Main Street.

Within the grassed area of the semi- circle is a 20 year time capsule inserted by the Foxton Tourist and Development Association and the Foxton community in 1989 to commemorate the opening of the station. Adjacent to the capsule is a Foxton Citizens Centennial Memorial which opened in 1940. Next to the Dutch Oven Café are a small garden and a memorial for Thomas Uppadine Cook, known as “The Father of Foxton”, and his wife Meretini Te Akau Cook.

A Stellingmollen style, operating Dutch windmill, ‘De Molen’, is located on this reserve facing Main Street. The proposal to build the windmill originated with Dutch immigrant, Dirk van Til, who had purchased the land with a view to grow tulip bulbs in partnership with another Dutch immigrant, John Langen. Due to the tulip venture not being successful, Dirk van Til moved to Australia. However, John Langen stayed in Foxton and was determined for the windmill to be built.

The proposal to build the windmill was first put to Horowhenua District Council in 1990 and then Foxton Windmill Trust was incorporated. Test drilling at the proposed site took place in 1995, and eight ten-metre-long piles were sunk in 1996. The octagonal ring foundation was then laid, with concrete tilt-panels placed on the foundations in 2000. De Molen was officially opened in 2003 and a new office room and toilet facilities were added to the building.

Nearer to Harbour Street, is the Whare Manaaki building used for Maori carving classes and adjacent, the Flax Stripper Museum. The Flax Stripper Museum resides in the only remaining flax mill in Foxton, an area once renowned for this industry.



**Image 6** Whare Manaaki, Flax Stripper Museum and Mitre 10 building (currently under construction)

A grassed area in the south western area in front of Whare Manaaki has a chessboard built into the ground, bordered by murals. There appears to be pedestrian access to the reserve via the neighbouring residential properties.

### *Te Awahou Nieuwe Stroom*

The property adjacent to the reserve is the future site of the Te Awahou Nieuwe Stroom building, a multi-purpose community facility and includes a visitor centre, a Maori arts and crafts centre, a Dutch museum and cultural centre, café, meeting rooms and library (see below illustration). As such, extensive landscaping work is set for the Flax Mill Reserve to complement the design and intention of the facility.



**Image 7** Illustration of Te Awahou Nieuwe Stroom

At the time this Reserve Management Plan was written the following key changes were proposed for the Flax Mill Reserve and surrounding properties:

- Mitre 10 building in the property adjacent to the reserve redeveloped into a multi-purpose community facility;
- Vehicle 'turning bay' off Main Street removed and vehicle access restricted;
- Pedestrian access and walkways increased through the reserve;

- Extension of the Mitre 10 building footprint onto the area in front of the Flax Stripper Museum for a shared gallery; and
- Landscaping on the Flax Mill Reserve.

Works are already underway and so far it has involved the municipal chambers and art gallery buildings being removed, the north-eastern corner of the site being opened up and the commencing the redevelopment of the Mitre 10 building.

### **Issues and Opportunities**

The Te Awahou Nieuwe Stroom project means the Flax Mill Reserve will look very different to what it looks like now. Indicative drawings have been provided (see **Appendix 8** for a Landscape Master Plan for Te Awahou Nieuwe Stroom).

The Flax Mill Reserve is located in a central and therefore ideal space for people to congregate. As such, there is an opportunity to further build on the space as a civic area.

None of the parcels of land that make up the Flax Mill Reserve are gazetted as reserve and therefore their use as a reserve is not legally protected (part of the Flax Mill Reserve is designated as reserve under the Horowhenua District Plan).

## 4.2. Legal Description

Legal Description	Title Reference No.	Land Area (ha)
Part Section 598 Town of Foxton (not gazetted)	WN50A/28	0.27
Part Lot 2 DP 69076 (not gazetted or zoned Open Space)	WN43B/301	0.05
Lot 1 DP 20930 (not gazetted)	WN50A/26	0.03
Lot 2 DP 20930 (not gazetted)	WN50A/27	0.15
<b>Total Area</b>		<b>0.5 ha</b>

## 4.3. Council Classification

The properties that make up the Flax Mill Reserve are zoned Open Space under the Horowhenua District Plan, except for Part Lot 2 DP 69076. There are two designations for the reserve under the District Plan: Designation 101 for Council Offices (the former municipal chambers building has since been demolished); and Designation 102 Proposed Local Purpose Reserve (Park, Heritage). The reserve is also located within the Foxton Tourism Overlay.

## 4.4. Leases

There are a number of leases on site including one for the Dutch Oven Café. These are indicated below:

- Pt Flaxmill Reserve leased by Flaxstrip on a month by month basis
- Harbour Street (area round Whare Manaaki) leased by Te Roopu Whanui (Inc) from 1 July 2002 to 30 June 2017
- Main Street (area around De Molen), leased by Foxton Windmill Trust from 1 October 2000 to 30 September 2040
- Foxton Tram Station (specifically Dutch Oven Café), leased by the Foxton Windmill Trust from 1 October 2014 to 31 September 2023

## 4.5. Vision

*The vision for the Flax Mill Reserve is to develop the reserve as a **community hub** for Foxton and the wider District and in so doing increase its **visual and civic amenity**.*

## 4.6. Management Principles

Maintain and enhance the Flax Mill Reserve as a community hub.

Enhance the connection through to the Foxton River Loop Reserve.

Allow for appropriate activities to occur that enhance the reserve as a civic space.

## 4.7. Objectives and Policies

### 4.7.1. Objective- Reserve Use

*To enable the use of the Flax Mill Reserve as the primary civic space for Foxton.*

#### 4.7.1.1. Policy

Provide for a diverse range of activities to occur on the reserve that enhances the reserve as a civic space.

### 4.7.2. Objective- Management & Development

*Allow for the development of the reserve as a civic space.*

#### 4.7.2.1. Policy

Work closely with the Te Awahou Nieuwe Stroom Trust to identify changes to the Flax Mill Reserve.

#### 4.7.2.2. Policy

Work with local community groups or event organisers to identify appropriate events that could occur on Flax Mill Reserve.

#### 4.7.2.3. Policy

Provide and maintain the appropriate facilities on the reserve which encourage the responsible use of the reserve by the public.

#### 4.7.2.4. Policy

Explore opportunities for signage or alternative options to communicate information about the reserve.

## 4.8. Actions

Actions	Priority
Work with Te Awahou Nieuwe Stroom Trust to identify how the reserve will change as a result of the development	Medium
Consult with community and local event organisers to identify the appropriate kinds of events to occur on the reserve	Low

**Note:** *The level of importance assigned to each action above is based on the context of this reserve and has not been considered in relation to levels of importance assigned to other reserves in the District.*



## *Foxton River Loop Reserve*

*Photo: Awahou Bush Boardwalk*

## 5. *Foxton River Loop Reserve*

### 5.1. Reserve Overview

Foxton River Loop Reserve is accessed off Harbour Street and borders the true right of the Foxton River Loop, otherwise known as Piriharakeke (see **Appendix 3** for a map of the reserve). The 'loop' was once the main stem of the Manawatu River and the site of Foxton's port. Following the creation of the Whirokino Cut the loop has accumulated a lot of silt and weed material due to the low flow and being at the end of the Moutoa Floodway. The water has become highly nutrient enriched and has limited recreational use of the loop. The bank of the river is covered by weed species that make the area visually unattractive.

A gravel road and parking area provides access and parking for vehicles off Harbour Street. The playground located along the river contains playground equipment with the ship/sea theme (see '**Image 4**' on Page 8). On either side of the playground are low tables. Opposite to the playground, on the other side of Harbour Street are residential properties. The reserve is also adjacent to the Flax Mill Reserve in its central area.

The Te Awahou Indoor Bowls Hall is sited on a parcel of land that is not owned by Horowhenua District Council. However, the grassed area outside this building is maintained as part of the reserve. The hall is one of the two remaining structures of the old Foxton port and wharf along the river. The other is what is referred to as the 'Dolphin', which isn't located within the parcels of land that make up the Foxton River Loop Reserve but is considered an important feature to this reserve. This dolphin is understood to have been one of two installed

in the river to guide passing objects away from where vessels were docked at the wharf. The structures were also used to help departing vessels to manoeuvre around so that they pointed downstream.

Other historical structures that are partially located within the reserve are the structural remains of flax mills that were once sited along the river. The only fully standing flax mill building that remains is sited on the Flax Mill Reserve.

The old railway yards are at the northern most part of the reserve. This area is designated for a water bore and is fenced off from the rest of the reserve. The Awahou Bush Boardwalk is located in this part of the reserve and extends out along the Foxton River Loop riverbank. The other end of the reserve leads to the Piriharakeke Walkway, which starts at the corner of Purcell Street and Harbour Street. This walkway extends right along the loop to the main stem of the Manawatu River.

#### *Save Our River Trust's consent*

Resource consent for Save Our River Trust (SORT) was granted by Horizons Regional Council in October 2016 to undertake works associated with the enhancement of the Foxton River Loop. The works involves the removal of sediment and weeds from the river channel and the building of wetlands. These works will have an effect on the reserve both physically in terms of works and in enhancing the reserve.

The work will be completed by SORT in consultation with Council with a view of improving the environment and ecological value of the site. Attempts to improve the ecology of the area will need to be counterbalanced by a desire to improve recreation and amenity of the reserve. Use of the reserve by the community will continue through these works.

## Issues and Opportunities

It is anticipated the recent resource consent obtained by SORT will result in better leisure and recreational opportunities at the reserve though any improvements in this area will need to be counterbalanced by improvements to the natural environment.

The development of Te Awahou Nieuwe Stroom may encourage more users of the reserve. If the use of the reserve increases there may be a need to look at current playground provision and determine whether this will be upgraded.

Further development of the Awahou Bush Boardwalk and Piriharakeke Walkway, and a connection between these walkways will improve leisure and recreation on the site and promote connectivity between and across wider Horowhenua.

There is significant accretion at the site particularly around the Awahou Bush Boardwalk. The natural environment of the accreted land is facing a number of challenges in relation to the adjacent industrial site.

The parcels of land that make up the Foxton River Loop Reserve are not all adjoining, meaning some are physically separated by road reserve or land not owned by Horowhenua District Council. As such, the connection between these parcels could potentially become an issue in the future.

Section 1 SO 18592 is designated for a pumping station under the Horowhenua District Plan. The use of this property needs to be explored before it is further developed as a reserve.

## 5.2. Legal Description

Legal Description	Title Reference No.	Land Area (ha)
Lot 1 Deposited Plan 457778 (gazetted as Recreation Reserve)	604003	0.79
Lot 2 Deposited Plan 457778 (gazetted as Local Purpose (Community Building and Amenity) Reserve)	604004	0.14
Lot 3 Deposited Plan 457778 (gazetted as Recreation Reserve)	604005	0.17
Section 4 SO 31290 (gazetted as Recreation Reserve)	n/a	1.76
Section 1 SO 18592 (not gazetted)	WN39D/153	0.48
<b>Total Area</b>		<b>3.33 ha</b>

The Bowling Hall is located on Lot 1 DP 47692 which is privately owned and is not gazetted as reserve.

## 5.3. Council Classification

The Foxton River Loop Reserve is zoned Open Space under the Horowhenua District Plan. The property (Section 1 SO 18592) managed as part of the Reserve has a designation (Designation 98) for a pumping station.

## 5.4. Leases

There are no current leases for Foxton River Loop Reserve

## 5.5. Vision

*To enhance the **ecological, historic and scenic character** of the Foxton River Loop Reserve while also providing for appropriate **informal recreational activities**.*

## 5.6. Management Principles

Protect and enhance the ecological, historic and scenic values of the Foxton River Loop Reserve.

Provide for the informal recreational opportunities without compromising the ecological value of the reserve.

Build on the connection along to Foxton River Loop and from the reserve to the Flax Mill Reserve.

## 5.7. Objectives and Policies

### 5.7.1. Objective- Reserve Use

*To enable the users of the Foxton River Loop Reserve to enjoy the recreational opportunities without compromising the ecological, historic and scenic values of the Foxton River Loop Reserve.*

#### 5.7.1.1. Policy

Provide for informal recreation activities that work in balance with the ecological value of the Foxton River Loop and surrounding area.

#### 5.7.1.2. Policy

Prohibit use of Foxton River Loop Reserve that would adversely affect the ecological, historic and scenic values of the Reserve.

### 5.7.2. Objective- Management & Development

*Manage and develop the Foxton River Loop Reserve in a way that recognises and maintains its informal recreation, ecological, historic and scenic values.*

#### 5.7.2.1. Policy

Work with the appropriate community individuals and groups to identify future development ideas for the reserve, including for the Awahou Bush Boardwalk.

#### 5.7.2.2. Policy

Maintain the visual corridors of the Foxton River Loop from the reserve.

#### 5.7.2.3. Policy

Provide and maintain the appropriate facilities on the reserve which encourage the responsible use of the reserve by the public.

#### 5.7.2.4. Policy

Encourage projects that promote the recreational and scenic value of the reserve and overall regeneration of Foxton.

#### 5.7.2.5. Policy

Engage with the land owners of Lot 1 DP 47692 to identify appropriate management of the area outside the Te Awahou Bowls Hall.

#### 5.7.2.6. Policy

Improve the connection between the Awahou Bush Boardwalk and Piriharakeke Walkway.

#### 5.7.2.7. Policy

Explore opportunities for signage or alternative options to communicate information about the reserve.

#### 5.7.2.8. Policy

Ensure that the future management and development of the Foxton River Loop Reserve recognises and maintains the reserve's informal recreation, ecological, historic and scenic values.

## 5.8. Actions

Explore opportunities to improve the leisure and recreational offering at the site.	Low
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**Note:** The level of importance assigned to each action above is based on the context of this reserve and has not been considered in relation to levels of importance assigned to other reserves in the District.

Actions	Priority
Work with Save Our River Trust and Horizons Regional Council on the works programme engendered by the Resource Consent.	High
Ensure the reserve remains open during course of planned works under SORT's resource consent.	High
Explore the future use of Section 1 SO 18592.	Medium
Engage with the land owners of Lot 1 DP 47692 to identify appropriate management of the area outside the Te Awahou Bowls Hall.	Medium
Link up Piriharakeke Walkway with Te Awahou Bush Boardwalk	Medium
Review the design previously completed for Foxton River Loop Reserve.	Low



IAKARA GARDENS  
PANGAHI HEI HEI  
KAWAIAKI HEI HEI  
BY  
THE WATA WATA  
KAWAIAKI HEI HEI  
JULY 1988

THE  
OF TE AWAMOHU WAIKARE THE GRAVE MARKED BY  
UNMARKED ARE THOSE OF NOTEWORTHY MAORI AND  
EUROPEANS. THE GARDENS ARE SYMBOLIC OF THE  
PEACEFUL RELATIONS THAT HAVE EXISTED BETWEEN  
MAORI AND PANGAHI IN THE PAST. BOTH RACES  
BURIED IN GROUND GIVEN TO THE CITIZENS OF  
WATAKI BY THE WATAKI PEOPLE.

# *Ihakara Gardens*

*Photo: Entrance to Ihakara Gardens*

## 6. Ihakara Gardens

### 6.1. Reserve Overview

Ihakara Gardens is sited on the corner of Ravensworth Place and Park Street. There is no vehicular access to the gardens. There is a pedestrian entrance on the south eastern corner where a path starts and runs along the northern boundary. Marked and unmarked graves are located at the front of the Gardens. As the site is elevated near the northern boundary, it provides a lookout over Main Street from the opposite end to Seaview Gardens.

Ihakara Gardens shares its northern boundary with Foxton Primary School's sports fields. Along this boundary are a number of notable trees located on the school site. The western boundary is shared with a vacant lot that is included in the designation for Foxton Primary School (see **Appendix 4** for a map of the reserve).

Ihakara Gardens is the site of Foxton's oldest cemetery; it is one of the earliest commemorated places where Maori and Pakeha are buried together. Its oldest marked grave, that of John Maitland Best, is dated 1850, but the cemetery possibly dates to the 1830s. Ihakara Tukumara was buried there in 1881 despite the Foxton Burial Prevention Act 1871, which prevented any further burials on this land. By 1900, the cemetery had fallen into disuse and its long grass, dilapidated fences and straggly pines presented an untidy appearance to the northern end of the town's commercial centre.

After several years of negotiations the Maori landowners agreed in 1919 to gift the eastern portion of the site (Section 97b) to the Foxton Borough Council, while the western (97A) portion was sold to the

Wanganui Education Board in 1927 as a site for the Foxton District High School. The western portion appears to have never been used for burials and was occupied by a house for several years. Three women gifted the land to the Foxton Borough Council: Te Aputa Ihakara (Mrs Uruoteao Eparaima – Foxton), Karaitiana Te Ahu also known as Ngaret (Mrs Hone McMillan Koputaroa) and Rangiahuta (Mrs Pateka Winiata) of Otaki who were all related to Ihakara Tukumara. The plaque at the entrance to the gardens acknowledges this gift.

#### Issues and Opportunities

Ihakara Gardens is culturally significant to local iwi and hapu and the wider Foxton community. The protection of the grave sites is of the up most importance.

The property that makes up the Ihakara Gardens is not gazetted as reserve and therefore its use as a reserve is not legally protected (the gardens are designated as a Cemetery under the Horowhenua District Plan).

### 6.2. Legal Description

Legal Description	Title Reference No.	Land Area (ha)
Awahou 97B (not gazetted)	WN70/69	0.26

### 6.3. Council Classification

Ihakara Gardens is designated as a Cemetery and is zoned Open Space under the Horowhenua District Plan.

## 6.4. Leases

There are no current leases for Ihakara Gardens.

## 6.5. Vision

*The vision for Ihakara Gardens is to allow for passive use of the gardens without compromising the **cultural significance** of the site.*

## 6.6. Management Principles

Recognise and protect the cultural significance of Ihakara Gardens.

Maintain the passive recreational value of the reserve.

## 6.7. Objectives and Policies

### 6.7.1. Objective- Reserve Use

*To enable the public to use and enjoy Ihakara Gardens without compromising the cultural significance of the reserve.*

#### 6.7.1.1. Policy

Provide for passive activities to occur on the reserve only if they are considered culturally appropriate.

#### 6.7.1.2. Policy

Ensure the gravesites (both marked and unmarked) within Ihakara Gardens are protected from damage.

### 6.7.2. Objective- Management & Development

*Manage and develop Ihakara Gardens in a way that does not compromise the cultural significance of the reserve.*

#### 6.7.2.1. Policy

Work with the relevant iwi and hapu to identify how the cultural significance of Ihakara Gardens can be protected or enhanced.

#### 6.7.2.2. Policy

Work with the community on to identify ideas for how Ihakara Gardens can be managed and developed.

#### 6.7.2.3. Policy

Provide and maintain the appropriate facilities on the reserve which encourage the responsible use of the reserve by the public.

#### 6.7.2.4. Policy

Explore opportunities for signage or alternative options to communicate information about the reserve.

## 6.8. Actions

Actions	Priority
Gain a better understanding of the cultural significance of Ihakara Gardens	High
Consult with the relevant iwi and hapu on the appropriate use and development of the reserve	Medium
Review the design previously completed for Ihakara Gardens.	Low

**Note:** *The level of importance assigned to each action above is based on the context of this reserve and has not been considered in relation to levels of importance assigned to other reserves in the District.*



## *Seaview Gardens*

*Photo: Water tower on Seaview Gardens*

## 7. Seaview Gardens

### 7.1. Reserve Overview

Seaview Gardens is located on the intersection of Union and Johnston Street (SH1). Pedestrian access to the Gardens is off Union Street and vehicular access to the water treatment plant on the reserve is via Harbour Street. Seaview Gardens shares its eastern boundary with residential housing and southern with industrial activities (see **Appendix 5** for a map of the reserve).

Seaview Gardens provides a lookout over Main Street, which extends down to the other end of Main Street where Ihakara Gardens is sited, and a lookout over the Foxton River Loop.



**Image 8** Lookout onto Foxton River Loop

The lookout area over Main Street contains a picnic area with tables and benches. A sign on the side of the hill facing Main Street reads 'Foxton' (cover photo of the Combined Foxton Reserves Management Plan). The signage is composed of painted block pavements.

Council's Foxton water treatment facility is located in the western part of the section. The facility is accessible from the reserve as it has no fence. A bridge is stored on the reserve near the water treatment facility which was once intended to be installed over the loop.

The reserve was originally named Ferry Hill as the ferry once crossed the Manawatu River at this point. The use of Seaview Gardens was historically horticultural. The planting of trees occurred in 1881 with a vision to turn it into 'an ornament of the town'.

#### *Foxton's water tower*

A water tower is located in the south east, raised area of the Gardens and due to its visual prominence is considered a symbol of Foxton. The water tower sits at approximately 28 metres in height. The tower was constructed on the hill in the early 1920s, when gardens were identified as an ideal site for a water storage facility. Concern with shedding concrete led to an engineer's report in 1960 suggesting alternatives to the tower, should it have to be taken out of service at some time in the future. An engineering report in 1987 again referred to shedding concrete. The report itself did, however, find the tower itself to be in reasonably good condition and that undertaking remedial work would be justified, which was undertaken.

Antennae have been installed on the water tower by multiple cell phone companies. The water tower still operates and provides pressurised water distribution to Foxton. Lights were installed in 2016 to light up the water tower in different colours and sequences.

## Issues and Opportunities

Having a water treatment facility and reserve located on the same area creates potential incompatibility issues. The use of the reserve for water treatment and future development of this facility potentially detracts from the recreational value of the reserve if not managed appropriately.

## 7.2. Legal Description

Legal Description	Title Reference No.	Land Area (ha)
Part Section 169 Town of Foxton (gazetted as Borough Depot)	n/a	0.24
Part Section 169 Town of Foxton (gazetted as Recreation Reserve)	n/a	0.68
Part Lot 1 DP 15523	WN46A/521	0.31
Lot 14 DP 54494 (vested as Local Purpose Reserve (Recreation))	n/a	0.15
<b>Total Area</b>		<b>1.39 ha</b>

Part of Lot 1 DP 54494, which is adjacent to the reserve in the south eastern corner, is maintained as part of the reserve. This property is not owned by Horowhenua District Council.

## 7.3. Council Classification

Seaview Gardens is zoned Open Space under the Horowhenua District Plan. The Gardens are also covered by two designations:

Designation 97 for Water Treatment and Council Depot; and Designation 146 for Water Treatment Plant.

## 7.4. Leases

Vodafone, Spark and 2 Degrees have leases for the aerials on and around the water tower.

## 7.5. Vision

*The vision for Seaview Gardens is to retain the reserve as a space for **informal recreation**, improve its function as a viewpoint for Foxton and increase its **civic amenity**. There is also the need to continue to allow for the **operation of a water treatment facility**.*

## 7.6. Management Principles

The Parks and Property Team and the Infrastructure Services Team will work collaboratively to ensure that the recreational use, and the water treatment and storage use of the reserve are each managed and developed in a way that can effectively meet the community's needs.

Maintain the reserve for informal recreational and civic activities.

Recognise Seaview Gardens as an important viewpoint of the town of Foxton and the Foxton River Loop.

## 7.7. Objectives and Policies

### 7.7.1. Objective- Reserve Use

*To enable the public to use and enjoy Seaview Gardens for informal recreation and improve its appeal as feature of the Foxton townscape.*

#### 7.7.1.1. Policy

Provide for the appropriate informal recreational and civic activities to occur on the reserve.

#### 7.7.1.2. Policy

Ensure the reserve can continue to function as a destination site for Foxton.

### 7.7.2. Objective- Management & Development

*Manage and develop Seaview Gardens in a way that recognises the Reserve's dual purpose and which maintains and enhances its recreational use while also preserving its function as location for water storage/treatment facilities.*

#### 7.7.2.1. Policy

Ensure that Seaview Gardens is managed and developed in a way that both the Foxton Water Supply Activity and recreational activities located on the Reserve can continue to effectively meet the community's needs.

#### 7.7.2.2. Policy

Work with the community to identify how Seaview Gardens can be developed in the future.

#### 7.7.2.3. Policy

Provide and maintain the appropriate facilities on the reserve which encourage the responsible use of the reserve by the public.

## 7.8. Actions

Actions	Priority
Liaise with Infrastructure Services to determine the use of the water tower in future fresh water provision at Foxton	High
Investigate options to improve the site as a destination and part of the overall development/regeneration of Foxton.	Medium
Review the design previously completed for Seaview Gardens.	Low
Look at options to install interpretation signs on the story of Seaview Gardens	Low

**Note:** The level of importance assigned to each action above is based on the context of this reserve and has not been considered in relation to levels of importance assigned to other reserves in the District.



# *Stuart Donnelly Park*

*Photo: From south western corner of Stuart Donnelly Park*

## 8. Stuart Donnelly Park

### 8.1. Reserve Overview

Stuart Donnelly Park is located on the eastern side of SH1, on the corner of Futter Street and Avenue Road and is separated from Coley Street School by a row of pine trees and bollards. There is no vehicle access to the park; Coley Street School can be accessed by pedestrians via the park. The park neighbours residential properties on the southern boundary (see **Appendix 6** for a map of the reserve).

A skate park is located in the northern part of the Park and a swing set (see **'Image 2'** on Page 8) and picnic area sits south of this. The remainder of the Park is grassed and flat. Complaints about people undertaking golf practice at the park prompted the erection of two 'No Golf' signs.

#### Issues and Opportunities

Stuart Donnelly Park is the only public reserve located on the east of SH1 in Foxton. This reserve plays an important role in access to open space for those who live on this side of Foxton. As such, there is a need to provide better facilities to cater for the surrounding neighbourhood. This may include a partnership approach with the adjacent Coley Street Primary School.

Being located next to a school also means the park is frequented by children on their way to and from school. Any future development will need to take into account the existing facilities on the school grounds as not to duplicate any unnecessarily.

### 8.2. Legal Description

Legal Description	Title Reference No.	Land Area (ha)
Sec 488 TOWN OF Foxton (gazetted as Recreation Reserve)	n/a	0.4

### 8.3. Council Classification

Stuart Donnelly Park is zoned Open Space under the Horowhenua District Plan.

### 8.4. Leases

There are no current leases on Stuart Donnelly Park.

### 8.5. Vision

*The vision for Stuart Donnelly Park is to maximise the function of the reserve as the only **neighbourhood park** for the community residing on the east of the Foxton township.*

### 8.6. Management Principles

Enhance the park as open space for the surrounding neighbourhood.

Maintain and further develop the playground equipment and associated facilities.

## 8.7. Objectives and Policies

### 8.7.1. Objective- Reserve Use

*To maintain and enhance the use of Stuart Donnelly Park as a neighbourhood reserve.*

#### 8.7.1.1. Policy

Provide for the appropriate informal recreational activities to occur on the reserve.

#### 8.7.1.2. Policy

Look at opportunities to improve the recreational and leisure opportunities for local residents and consider partnering with Coley Street School to deliver an enhanced leisure and recreation experience.

### 8.7.2. Objective- Management & Development

*Manage and develop Stuart Donnelly Park in a way that recognises and enhances its role as a neighbourhood reserve.*

#### 8.7.2.1. Policy

Ensure appropriate security measures are in place so the park is safe for users.

#### 8.7.2.2. Policy

Explore providing more playground equipment that does not duplicate what is already provided on Coley Street School.

#### 8.7.2.3. Policy

Work with the community to identify ideas for the future development of the reserve.

#### 8.7.2.4. Policy

Provide and maintain the appropriate facilities on the reserve which encourage the responsible use of the reserve by the public.

## 8.8. Actions

Actions	Priority
Work with the community to determine a development plan for the reserve	Medium
Undertake a community engagement process to identify existing use of the reserve	Low

**Note:** *The level of importance assigned to each action above is based on the context of this reserve and has not been considered in relation to levels of importance assigned to other reserves in the District.*



*Victoria Park*

*Photo: Sports field on Victoria Park*

## 9. Victoria Park

### 9.1. Reserve Overview

Victoria Park is located north of the Foxton Township, on the corner of Victoria Street and Russell Street (SH1). The park is accessed off Victoria Street and a 'rest area' is located on the north eastern corner of the reserve accessed off Victoria Street and SH1. The rest area has picnic tables and seating for those looking to rest from travelling on the highway. The park shares its southern boundary, which is mostly lined with pine trees, with residential properties (see **Appendix 7** for a map of the reserve).

A building with squash courts can be accessed off Victoria Street and is sited centrally in the reserve. To the west of this building is a set of swings (see **'Image 3'** on Page 8). A rugby field with a track encircling it makes up the eastern part of the park. An amenities block with clubrooms is sited next to the field.

#### Issues and Opportunities

There are several properties on Jenks and Park Streets that have fences or buildings that encroach onto Victoria Park's legal boundaries.

There is also evidence that the reserve is used as a thoroughfare by vehicles accessing the properties on the southern boundary.

Victoria Park is underutilised and is currently sporadically used by local sports clubs and other users. No organised use of the sports field was recorded from 2013 onwards.

Victoria Park is sited opposite to Target Reserve, a sizable, regionally significant reserve. There is an opportunity to link activities on Victoria Park to Target Reserve.

### 9.2. Legal Description

Legal Description	Title Reference No.	Land Area (ha)
Sec 466 Town of Foxton (gazetted as Plantation and Recreation Reserve)	n/a	4.09

### 9.3. Council Classification

Victoria Park is located in the Open Space Zone under the Horowhenua District Plan.

### 9.4. Leases

There are no current leases for Victoria Park.

### 9.5. Vision

*The vision for Victoria Park is to improve its use for both **formal and informal recreational opportunities** and **increase its usage.***

### 9.6. Management Principles

Consider whether the reserve still useful as a sports ground and undertake an engagement process with stakeholders and the wider

community to determine current use levels and potential development opportunities moving forward.

Determine the role of Victoria Park in the wider regeneration of Foxton and the development of Target Reserve.

Review current encroachment and vehicle access issues.

## 9.7. Objectives and Policies

### 9.7.1. Objective- Reserve Use

*To enable the public to use and enjoy Victoria Park for recreational activities.*

#### 9.7.1.1. Policy

Provide for sports clubs and the appropriate organisations to use the park by prior agreement with Council.

#### 9.7.1.2. Policy

Review the use of Victoria Park for informal sport and recreation activities in the light of declining user figures.

#### 9.7.1.3. Policy

Review issues around vehicle access and encroachment and develop a strategy to manage the issues.

### 9.7.2. Objective- Management & Development

*Manage and develop Victoria Park in a way that recognises and enhances its role as open space in Foxton.*

#### 9.7.2.1. Policy

Work with the community to identify how the park is to be developed in the future.

#### 9.7.2.2. Policy

Provide and maintain the appropriate facilities on the reserve which encourage the responsible use of the reserve by the public.

#### 9.7.2.3. Policy

Explore opportunities for signage or alternative options to communicate information about the reserve.

### 9.7.3. Objective- Destination

*To develop Victoria Park in line with Target Reserve as a destination.*

#### 9.7.3.1. Policy

Recognise the link of Victoria Park to Target Reserve due to its location and the potential benefits that could accrue in developing the site as a destination.

#### 9.7.3.2. Policy

Recognise the potential for the reserve to become the last reserve for travellers from the south and the first for travellers from the north as a recreation/rest site when transiting through Horowhenua.

## 9.8. Actions

Actions	Priority
Review the current use of Victoria Park and any existing plans with a view to proposing a development plan that meets local need and improves use.	High
Explore alternative uses for Victoria Park to increase the use of the park in the short term.	Medium
Explore options for addressing the issue of vehicle access through the Park, identify existing encroachments and develop a strategy on how to deal with them on a case by case basis.	Medium
Consider the role of Victoria Park in the context of the overall development plan for Target Reserve.	Medium

**Note:** *The level of importance assigned to each action above is based on the context of this reserve and has not been considered in relation to levels of importance assigned to other reserves in the District.*

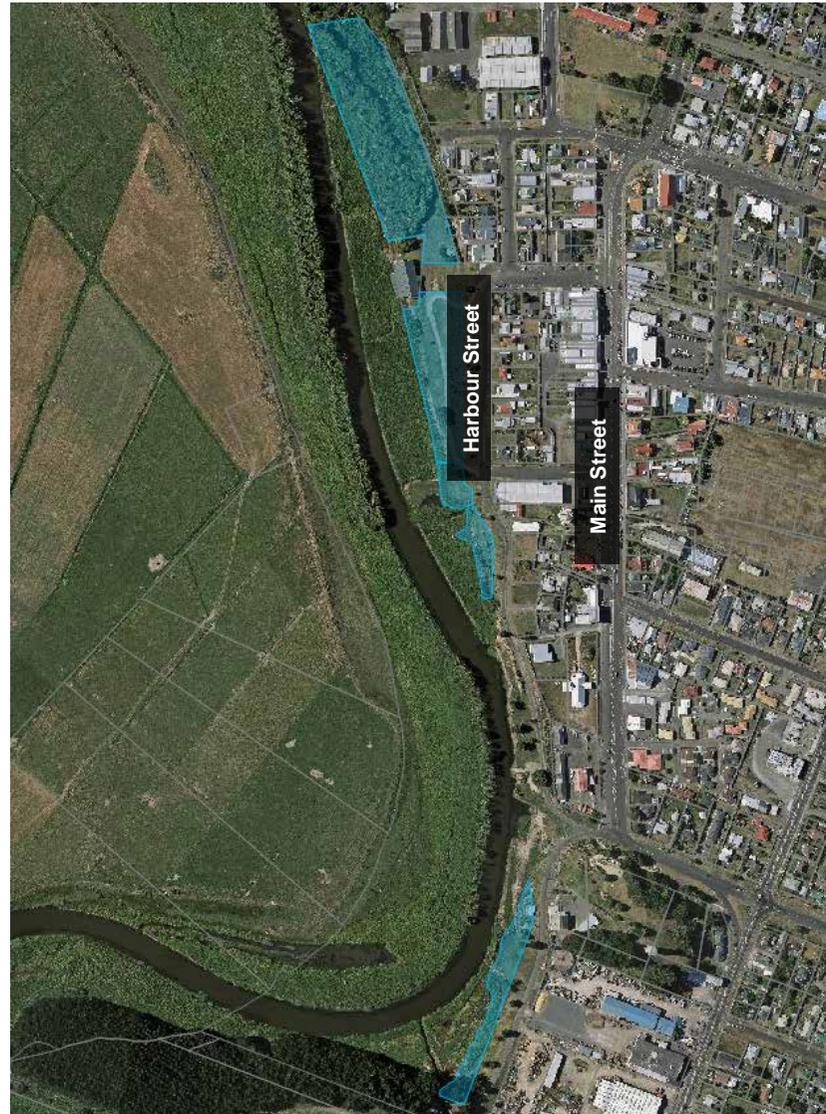
Appendix 1 - Aerial map of Easton Park (including Pataka Park and Road Reserve)



## Appendix 2 - Aerial map of Flax Mill Reserve



## Appendix 3 - Aerial map of Foxton River Loop Reserve



Appendix 4 - Aerial map of Ihakara Gardens



## Appendix 5 - Aerial map of Seaview Gardens



## Appendix 6 - Aerial map of Stuart Donnelly Park



Appendix 7 - Aerial map of Victoria Park



## Appendix 8 - Te Awahou Nieuwe Stroom Landscaping Master Plan

