

Reserve Management Plans Review

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Reserve Management Plans act as a guide for Council Officers in making both day-to-day decisions as well as long term decisions about how Council's reserves are used, managed or developed.

Reserve Management Plans contain Council's overall vision for a reserve (or set of reserves) as well as identifying the objectives, policies, and actions needed.

Why are Reserve Management Plans prepared?

Most importantly the plans ensure we are using the reserves effectively! Also Council is required to prepare and review Reserve Management Plans for reserves that it manages or controls under the Reserves Act 1977. This Act also outlines the process for reviewing these plans.

Reserve Management Plans provide for the enjoyment, maintenance, protection, preservation and development (as appropriate) of our local reserves.

What is Council currently doing about its Reserve Management Plans?

Council has begun a review of all of its existing Reserve Management Plans and it will also be preparing management plans for some reserves that do not currently have them.

There are a substantial number of Reserve Management Plans to review. To ensure that the review of these plans is undertaken with care and to allow for meaningful consultation the plans will be reviewed gradually over several years.

Why is Council reviewing its Reserve Management Plans?

Once a Reserve Management Plan is adopted, it is required to be subject to 'continuous review' to address new issues and opportunities for each reserve.

The Council owns or manages more than 60 reserves and areas of open space. Many of these reserves have a Reserve Management Plan and the majority of these plans have not been reviewed since 2000. Since that time the reserves may have experienced substantial change. As such it is important that these plans are reviewed to reflect the current issues or opportunities and future aspirations for each reserve.

Why should you get involved?

Reserve Management Plans tell us how the community wishes to see the District's parks and reserves managed, developed and used, currently and in the future.

Community input into the review and preparation process of these plans is essential. We want to hear your views on the plans that are currently being reviewed.

Through this process you can influence how these reserves are used, managed and developed. Make sure you have your say!

How can you get involved?

There are generally two phases of public consultation in the review and preparation of Reserve Management Plans.

Phase One:

The first phase in preparing a Reserve Management Plan is 'informal' consultation. This consultation focuses on reserve users or owners of surrounding properties. The comments and feedback received during this phase of the process influences what is included in the Draft Reserve Management Plan.

Phase Two:

The second phase is the formal consultation phase. This is where Council calls for public submissions to be made in relation to the contents of the Draft Reserve Management Plan. The submissions will be considered as part of a formal hearing and will inform the final Plan.

Public notices signal the start of each of these two phases. The important thing is to make sure that your comments have been provided to the Council Officers by specified dates and times to ensure that they are included in the process.

How do you use the reserve?

What do you like or value about it?

We want to know:

How should it look in the future?

Overview of Process

The review process is set out in full the Reserves Act 1977 but essentially Council will follow these steps:

- 1 Publicly notify its intent to develop/review a Reserve Management Plan
- 2 Allow for feedback from stakeholders on the use, management and development of a reserve(s)
- 3 Prepare Draft Reserve Management Plan
- 4 Publicly notify the Draft Reserve Management Plan and call for submissions
- 5 Analyse submissions
- 6 Hold a hearing of submissions
- 7 Implement approved Reserve Management Plans

For more information

Contact Tiffany Williams or Caitlin O'Shea at Horowhenua District Council

☎ 06 366 0999

🌐 www.horowhenua.govt.nz/rmp

@ reservemanagementplans@horowhenua.govt.nz