

5.0 AIM, OBJECTIVES AND POLICIES

Aim

To provide for low impact recreation including viewing areas and enhance Titirangi through further planting of native plant species, while protecting and commemorating its cultural and historical values.

Management Objectives

5.1 Recreation

Objectives

- 1) *To recognise Titirangi as a popular visitor destination primarily for its views and develop and maintain lookout areas appropriately.*
- 2) *To provide for low impact recreational use of Titirangi taking into consideration the location of archaeological sites, and any natural or wildlife values in the area.*
- 3) *To highlight the cultural and historical values of Titirangi.*

► Policy 1)

To maintain Lookout and car park areas, including view shafts to a standard appropriate for a popular visitor destination.

Discussion 1)

Titirangi is the most popular visitor attraction in the City. Council will endeavor to maintain high use areas of Titirangi (the Recreation Zone, including lookouts and car parks) to an appropriate standard. It is important that views from lookouts are maintained, including tree maintenance to provide optimum views. Graffiti, rubbish, and vandalism will be removed as a priority. Lighting lookouts may be provided, where considered necessary.

► Policy 2)

To develop and maintain the summit track from the bottom of the hill (opposite Captain Cook's landing site) to the Poverty Bay Lookout and carpark.

Discussion 2)

The summit track currently extends from below the Waikahua site up to the Cooks Plaza and Statue. There is an informal track that extends to the Poverty Bay Car park area. This needs to be developed to an official track standard which would then provide a walkway from the inner harbour to the summit of Titirangi. The track will be developed and maintained consistent with specifications for a 'Short walk' as defined in 'Tracks and Outdoor Visitor Structures' by Standards New Zealand (SNZ HB 8630:2004) – (see Appendix 3 for specifications). Any development in the vicinity of the Titirangi platform should involve the Tairāwhiti National Heritage Project, which is considering linkages and interpretation in this area.

► **Policy 3)**

To upgrade part of the summit track and nature trail from the bottom of the hill (opposite Cooks Landing site) to the Titirangi Platform as an all ability track.

Discussion 3)

From the Titirangi Platform there are views to Poverty Bay and the site of the iconic Te Toka a Taiiau. Providing an all ability track to this lookout will require some major work, potentially involving switchbacks due to the steepness of the terrain. The provision of nearby car parking should be considered.

► **Policy 4)**

To develop 'nature trails' which connect from the summit track through the Natural Character Zone including Tane Mahuta, and the Plantation and Pasture Zone, crossing Queen's Drive and connecting with the summit track again within the Recreation Zone (Appendix 2 0 – Walking Tracks map). These walking tracks will create a circuit track around the circumference of Titirangi, with the option of descending down to Kaiti Beach Road at the most eastern point of Titirangi

Discussion 4)

Nature trails will create a circuit around Titirangi, including linkages to Cambridge Terrace, Oxford Street and the end of Kaiti Beach Road (see 'walking tracks' map – Appendix 2). These tracks will further enhance recreational use and educational opportunities. Nature trails will be developed and maintained to meet 'Walking track' standards as defined in 'Tracks and Outdoor Visitor Structures' by Standards New Zealand (SNZ HB 8630:2004). Signage will also be used to identify native plants and their uses.

► **Policy 5)**

To encourage recreational users to remain on designated walking tracks and within the vicinity of the fitness trail or play area, through track design, planting and signage.

Discussion 5)

Titirangi is covered by a Waahi Tapu overlay under the Proposed District Plan. Titirangi has many known and unknown archaeological sites. The identified archaeological sites are registered, while the others are not protected. Therefore there must be restrictions on use and earthworks concerning soil stability to safeguard archaeological sites.

Education and signage will be used to encourage the public to remain on walkways/tracks, and to identify the cultural heritage values of Titirangi. The development of walkways has taken into consideration the location of cultural and registered archaeological sites. Recreation is restricted to developed (designated) walking tracks (see 'walking tracks' map – Appendix 2). A sign at the start of the track, (opposite Cooks Landing Site) noting current walking tracks and destination times, should be erected. When the proposed tracks are developed and completed, an upgraded sign will be required. These have been located to minimise any adverse effects. Leaving designated tracks could result in the degradation of these highly valued and protected archaeological sites and potentially harm the integrity of Titirangi.

There are other high quality and more appropriate reserves for these recreational pursuits such as mountain biking, orienteering, absailing etc.

▶ **Policy 6)**

Play equipment will be provided at the existing Playground site only. Play equipment will be maintained to comply with national safety standards for play equipment and the play area will be enhanced through seating, tables and walking tracks to provide a visitor friendly area.

Discussion 6)

This play area is popular with young children. It is not considered necessary to provide any further play areas. Play equipment will be maintained to New Zealand Playground Equipment and Surfaces Standard (NZS5828:2004).

▶ **Policy 7)**

To maintain the existing fitness trail equipment consistent with Council safety standards, but if equipment requires more than day-to-day maintenance work they will be removed without replacement.

Discussion 7)

The fitness trail equipment is used to some extent and equipment will be maintained to an appropriate standard to accommodate safe use. However, it seems the cost involved in replacing this equipment would far exceed its use value. It is expected that this equipment may last up to another ten years before removal may be necessary. There may be a more appropriate location within Council's recreation reserves for fitness trail equipment, if the community demonstrates a need for such equipment.

▶ **Policy 8)**

Dogs may be exercised on Titirangi only when restrained on a lead or harness. Owners must remove dog waste.

Discussion 8)

Titirangi Reserves is a designated Dog Exercise Area, where dogs may be exercised only when on a lead or harness. The dog owner must remove dog waste. Adequate provision of rubbish bins will be provided to encourage appropriate disposal of dog waste.

▶ **Policy 9)**

To consider the potential for mountain biking opportunities on Titirangi, subject to protection of other users of the area and ecological and archaeological values.

Discussion 9)

Mountain biking is an increasingly popular recreational activity for local people and visitors to the area. Titirangi is regularly used by mountain bikers despite there being no approved trails for their use. For the safety of all recreational users, as well as for Titirangi to meet its full potential as a recreational resource, mountain biking opportunities should be considered in the future. Interested parties, including local mountain biking interests should be consulted during the trail concept and design phase.

5.2 Kaitiaki

Objective

To enable Tangata whenua to exercise their role as Kaitiaki within the existing legislative framework.

► Policy 1)

To manage Titirangi in a spirit of partnership with tangata whenua and the wider community.

Discussion 1)

Consultation has been undertaken to enable tangata whenua to discuss and address those matters of particular importance to them in a timeframe, a process and an environment that meets their requirements to exercise kaitiaki over Titirangi. The preparation of this management plan should not be seen as an end to this partnership. Through the preparation of this document a relationship has been formed between tangata whenua and Council, which should be on-going through the implementation of the management plan consistent with the Titirangi Accord and Titirangi Protocol. (See Appendix 4 - 'Protocol' with Ngati Oneone).

► Policy 2)

To provide a suitable site on Titirangi to be dedicated for re-interment, as appropriate, of cultural artefacts exposed by developments on surrounding lands.

Discussion 2)

Earthworks associated with reserve management on the reserve and surrounding land may disturb koiwi tangata. It is appropriate that a suitable site on Titirangi be made available for re-interment, away from any further threat of disturbance.

5.3 Environmental

To enhance Titirangi through the planting of native plant species and removal of plant pests consistent with Titirangi's Planting Programme and Weed Management Strategy.

► **Policy 1)**

To remove plant pests and weed infestations, currently dominating large areas of Titirangi consistent with Titirangi's Planting Programme and Weed Management Strategy.

Discussion 1)

Titirangi's Planting Programme and Weed Control Strategy identifies invasive weed species and includes maps of remnant or regenerating indigenous forest tracts, and makes recommendations to control weed threats and restore indigenous biodiversity values of Titirangi. Weeds and exotics, including self-seeding pines have become well established in places.

► **Policy 2)**

To manage animal pests within the reserve as resources allow.

Discussion 2

Rabbits, possums and feral cats are the main animal pests within the reserve. They are managed as outlined in the Regional Pest Management Strategy 2009.

Areas available for native planting cover a considerable extent of Titirangi, their planting with native plant species will be approached as a long-term commitment consistent with Titirangi's Planting Programme and Weed Control Strategy. Implementation of this Strategy will initially focus on high use areas (the Recreation Zone).

► **Policy 3)**

Areas currently dominated by exotic species will be progressively replaced with planting consistent with Titirangi's Planting Programme and Weed Control Strategy, starting in high use areas (recreation zone).

Discussion 3)

Titirangi has considerable potential as a native bush area. Removal of exotic plant species will be undertaken in a manner consistent with Titirangi's Planting Programme and Weed Control Strategy.

► **Policy 4)**

Any tree or weed removal must take into consideration any land stability issues.

Discussion 4)

The upper part of the hill is comprised of young and permeable Mangatuna Formation estuarine and, silts and tempura, the remainder is of mudstone geology with poor drainage and deep-seated instability. Large slumps have occurred on Titirangi. Therefore, any earthworks, clearance, planting and track maintenance has to be carefully considered due to land stability issues.

The southern face is especially steep and unstable. The District Plan places a Site Caution over Titirangi to recognise potential hazards due to land instability.

Prior to any landscaping/earthworks the Soil Conservation Section of Council must be consulted to determine stability issues. Vegetation removal will depend on whether the erosion control effect of those trees is maintained by adjacent intact trees (growing their roots to fully occupy the bare soil area). Where the removal of exotics is considered desirable, these shall not be removed until the under-storey native trees are well established. The stumps of some of the exotic trees to be felled shall be left to re-grow coppicing shoots keeping the root system alive until such time as the replacement trees have reached at least 60% canopy coverage.

► **Policy 5)**

Low flammability plant species will be planted adjacent to residential properties, adjacent to the road and below tracks.

Discussion 5)

'Flammability' is the ease with which part or all of a material is ignited. High flammability plants tend to have characteristics that assist fire to spread and to burn so intensely that other less flammable plants may also be affected. There is significant fire risk during dry periods, especially from adjoining residential properties and the edge of the road around the base of the hill.

A vegetation fire can travel at a very quick rate. Given an average Gisborne summer's day, a fire lit at Kaiti Beach Rd could be expected to reach the top of the hill in a period of about 7-8 minutes. This is insufficient time to warn visitors and evacuate walking tracks. Low flammability species, adjacent to the road and below walking tracks would act as a firebreak reducing the size and impact of an accident. Planting will be consistent with Titirangi's Planting Programme and Weed Control Strategy.

► **Policy 6)**

Undertake staged management through planting and other land stabilising controls to stabilise the large southern gully slip (as discussed in Council's Caltex Culvert Catchment Erosion Control report).

Discussion 6)

An assessment has been made for the Utilities Section of Council to address the problem of the large slip placing debris in the Caltex Culvert at the bottom of Titirangi Hill adjacent to Kaiti Beach Road. This large erosion prone gully to the west of the Telecom repeater station has the potential to cause significant expense to Council, if left in its current state. The erosion is currently affecting Titirangi Drive. The Utilities Section has developed a planting programme for the area to assist in stabilising the erosion prone land.

5.4 Culture and Heritage

Objective

To conserve the historical and cultural integrity of the site.

► **Policy 1)**

To recognise the historical and cultural significance of Titirangi and surrounding area through protection and commemoration of its values.

Discussion 1)

Titirangi and surrounding areas are internationally, nationally and locally significant historic areas. The first Maori settlement at Turanga is thought to be on or near this reserve. This site is zoned Heritage Reserve with a Wahi Tapu heritage overlay in Gisborne's Proposed Combined Regional Land and District Plan. Development (such as new or maintaining existing walkways, erection of interpretive panels at key historic locations, seating, new planting, sculptures or artworks etc) must take into consideration the impact land disturbance may have to this historically significant site.

Concrete slabs that supported the WWII army barracks are visible in the area to the west of the Poverty Bay Lookout and carpark. These should be exposed and identified with an interpretive panel explaining military use of the site. Recognition of surviving features associated with the military activity on Titirangi will be identified.

5.5 Education

Objective

To develop Titirangi as an educational resource recognising its historical and cultural significance.

► **Policy 1)**

To identify key historical sites and provide historical information using interpretive panels. These panels may include artists impressions of how those locations once looked, historical details and descriptions, photos from the museum, carvings etc.

Discussion 1)

Interpretive panels, as seen around Gisborne's CBD and riverfront allow the public to envisage how this area was in earlier times. It is envisaged that similar panels will be used to enhance historical appreciation of the site and contribute towards Titirangi value as an educational resource.

► **Policy 2)**

Unified signs will be developed to create a 'brand' for Titirangi, recognising the reserves unique character. True historical and culturally appropriate names will be used on signs.

Discussion 2)

Titirangi is a large reserve with a number of historical and notable features. A consistent style of signage, unique to Titirangi will be developed to identify key sites, walking tracks/distance/fitness level, location signs, and interpretive panels. Historically accurate and culturally appropriate names will be used to recognise the history and value of this site. Information on interpretive panels relating to the Titirangi platform should be developed in consultation with the Tairāwhiti National Heritage Project.

► **Policy 3)**

To upgrade the Observatory and lease for astronomical purposes. No further leasing of the reserve should occur.

Discussion 3)

The Observatory has been leased by the Astronomical society in the past. The Observatory is available for lease for astronomical purposes. As well as the Astronomical Society, Ngāti Oneone may wish to use the site and equipment to recognise the regionally specific astronomical and heritage celestial. The Observatory and surrounding area should be upgraded. The Observatory is the world's most eastern and Gisborne often has exceptionally clear skies for good viewing. When the Pine trees to the east are removed, relatively low growing vegetation should be planted to permit clear sightlines from the Observatory to the eastern skies. Work needs to be undertaken to improve the safety of the building, including the lighting of steps outside (beside the gun emplacement), fixing the flat roof and the sinking corner of the floor, and resealing the driveway.

► **Policy 4)**

To encourage community groups, local schools and education providers to adopt areas to enhance or maintain.

Discussion 4)

These groups will be encouraged to 'adopt' areas that have not been prioritised for development to assist Council in enhancing and maintaining Titirangi. Any proposed community work should be consistent with this management plan, protocols in place, and approval must be obtained from Council (Reserves Supervisor).