

SECTION 2 Introduction

2.1 What is open space?

Open Space in Gisborne City is characterised by areas such as the urban and civic centre area, the harbour, Kaiti Hill, the beaches and rivers. These together with Councils many and varied sports fields and reserves, be they for active recreation, passive leisure, amenity or ecological purposes, form an integral part of what we know and identify as Gisborne.

It is important to recognise that the Gisborne District's Council's Open Space Strategy is being developed in two stages. The first stage covering the City and environs and the second stage to be the whole of the rural sector including rural townships. The rural strategy will be developed as the City Strategy is being implemented.

2.2 What is an Open Space Strategy?

The Strategy identifies a vision for future open spaces. It provides an implementation plan over the next 20 years of how to achieve the desired outcomes or vision. The Strategy provides an insight of what is achievable over the long term.

2.3 Why do we need an Open Space Strategy?

One of Gisborne District Council's core functions is to provide open space and adequate recreation opportunities. The Strategy sets out goals and strategies from reports and studies previously approved by Council that will provide, develop and maintain a network of high quality open spaces to meet the needs of the City in the future.

The Strategy looks at what open spaces we have now. It also begins to put into words the community's future vision for open spaces in Gisborne and considers how best this can be achieved. In the process of defining current and future demands for open space it will provide criteria to allow Council to prioritise and allocate limited resources. The future of land not identified in the vision may then be considered against the identified criteria.

2.4 Council's role

Council is responsible to protect valued open space and to provide appropriate recreation facilities and opportunities to meet the needs of the community. In managing its open spaces, Council takes its direction from legal statutes, adopted council documents, strategic documents and processes of public consultation to ascertain what the recreational and leisure needs of the community are.

The open space vision is based on the council's two main responsibilities for open space management – protection of the environment and provision of recreational opportunities, both passive and active.

Implementation of this document should ensure that the needs of future generations are adequately and appropriately provided for.

2.5 The Open Space Vision

Provision of well managed and appropriate Open Space areas within Gisborne City to enable present and future generations of the District to participate in a diverse range of recreational and leisure activities, enhance conservation and amenity values, incorporate scenic, historical and archaeological values and promote Gisborne City as a pleasant place to visit and reside.

2.6 Implementation of the Open Space Strategy

The open space Strategy has to work within a limited budget. Strengths and opportunities have been identified concentrating mostly on land already owned by Council. Future projects include:

- ◆ Undertake tree planting along the main road links that require further street enhancement identified and prioritised in the Strategy.
- ◆ Further develop the entrances into Gisborne.
- ◆ Undertake a landscaping plan to develop the city beach areas over the long term building on existing plantings and connections to the City areas.
- ◆ Street enhancement of the main road links between the beach and City.
- ◆ Undertake a management plan for the Civic Centre area
- ◆ Undertake a management plan for the Inner Harbour
- ◆ Maintain and enhance Titirangi/Kaiti Hill.
- ◆ Create steps from Kaiti Beach Road that connects to Memorial Drive.
- ◆ Referring to the City Walkways and concept areas map to locate art works and undertake street enhancement on roads most travelled by tourists.
- ◆ Creating a link from the beginning of Aberdeen Road and Stafford Street footbridge to Grey street. An esplanade reserve/strip may possibly be created or a boardwalk installed. This will create a network of links from the existing CBD Walkway to the Botanical Gardens, across Stafford Street bridge to the Civic Centre Area, and Grey Street to the beach.
- ◆ Establishing a footbridge at the mouth of Waikanae Stream as part of the harbour promenade development which should connect with the proposed outdoor open space area of the ex-Bulmer Harvest site linking through to the beach area.
- ◆ In the long term create three walkways that branch out from the CBD walkway and return to the city. The first links up with the Inner Harbour and Titirangi and back along Kaiti Beach. The second is along the harbour promenade to the beach and back up Grey Street and the third is connecting the Botanical Gardens to the Civic Centre Area. A theme consistent with the existing CBD walkway is recommended with the occasional sun logo periodically placed in the concrete and further street enhancements such as trees, seating and drinking fountains.

The foundation of the Strategy has already been established with the CBD and River Walkway developed. Council will take its lead from the community and will focus on the highest priorities over the next five years.

2.7 Monitoring the Process

Council will annually review its performance in open space matters. The Reserves Section will report on what it has achieved in the annual plan report and compare this to the Strategy blueprint, to demonstrate how the Strategy is being implemented.

2.8 What do the Words Mean?

Active Recreation: Traditionally synonymous with physical activity and sports activity which requires an amount of physical exertion by the participant. Can be carried individually or in social circumstances (i.e., sports team participation)

Civic Centre Area: The common green areas of Kelvin and Marina Park, the surrounding riverbanks, Lawson Field and the Museum. It also includes the the Wi Pere monument and the War memorial monument.

Enhancement: Essentially upgrading a particular area through the planting of trees that provide shade, shelter and amenity. In relation to the upgrading of streets enhancement means using the guidelines attached and Street Trees Policy manual. It can also include locating services underground, improved street furniture such as lighting, seating, drinking fountains, and historical storyboards information signs at relevant linkage points.

Esplanade Reserves/Strips: a local purpose reserve or strip of and adjacent to a waterbody providing conservation and/or recreational values

Frangible: something that is able to be broken and absorbs enough impact energy to reduce the severity of a vehicle collision (ie. Trees and shrubs which have slender stems which break or bend).

Guiding Principle: is the overall objective of each area which together forms the vision of the Strategy.

Infrastructure: Buildings and services that support and enhance open space values

Linkages: are essentially a walkway and cycle way from one open space to another. Linkages can also be recreational opportunities in their own right and can include roads, paths or reserve strips.

Long Term: Ideally to be completed within 20 years time.

Main Road Linkages are roads, which form the framework of linkages of the road accesses into Gisborne and between the beaches and the City.

Networks: are multiple linkages between various open spaces offering choice of direction to the user. For example walkways connecting from the beach, harbour, esplanade reserves/strips, and use of roads, which are interconnected providing different choice of directions and circuits (see explanation under Linkages).

Open Space Strategy: establishes a vision for how the open spaces in Gisborne City are to be managed in the future. It provides guidelines and criteria to assess whether open space is a valuable asset or is surplus to the communities needs.

Passive Recreation: Recreation requiring little exertion but an activity from which the individual can emotionally establish a feeling of well being and satisfaction. Includes for example socialisation, children's play, walking, and enjoyment of nature, gardening and reading.

Poupou: Large symbolic carved posts usually representing ancestors.

Secondary Linkages: are roads that form a network of linkages throughout the city that make logical road connections between various reserves and open space.

Trails: Pathways to visit existing features in and around the City. To date they include the Arts and Crafts Trail, the Mural Trail which includes stained glass windows and the Historic Walk.

2.9 Relating the Open Space Strategy to other Council Documents

2.9.1 Towards 2020

This strategic plan (1993-2020) for the whole district assists Council to look ahead so that it can plan for projects and costs with some certainty. The directions relevant to the Strategy are:

- ◆ Provide recreational areas that reflect the changing demand for recreation and determine options.
- ◆ Ensure additional walkways and trails will be developed which includes a network of walkways and cycleways within the City. Provide cycle lanes and cycle ways on urban arterial and collector roads.
- ◆ Develop a concept plan for the Central urban area that further develops and enhances the recreational, cultural and civic amenities of that environment.
- ◆ Develop a high quality, large capacity multi-purpose auditorium as a staged enhancement to the Lawson field Theatre.
- ◆ Actively pursue a programme of amenity planting within urban areas and along major arterial routes, with a preference for native species.

2.9.2 Proposed Gisborne District Combined Regional Land and District Plan (Plan)

The purpose of the Plan is “*to promote the sustainable management of natural and physical resources*”. (Section 5(1), RMA 1991) The Plan, made under the RMA 1991, seeks to manage activities on the basis of their effects on the environment.

The Plan is prepared and amended under a statutory process that allows the public to make submissions about the content of the document. This Strategy is not a statutory document. It is broadly consistent with and has been prepared to be read in conjunction with the Plan. Where the Strategy proposes new initiatives more appropriately addressed through the Plan, council will consider amending the Plan. This process is open to public scrutiny.

2.9.3 Asset Management Plan and Preliminary Long-Term Financial Strategy for Reserves and Conveniences

The Asset Management Plan for Reserves and Conveniences details the current condition of each asset and the expected level of service for improvements now and for the future. It communicates to Council funding requirements to efficiently manage Council's assets and justifies these requirements, while complying with regulatory/legislative requirements.

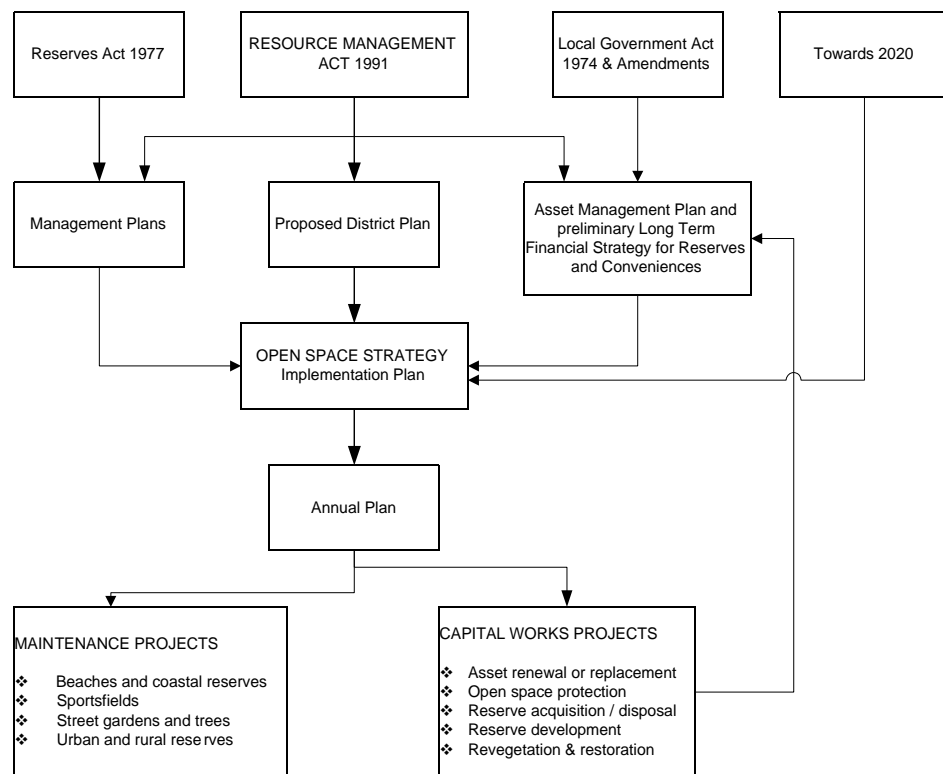
The plan will continue to be interactive with the Strategy, informing the Strategy, while the Strategy shapes the framework of the Asset Management Plan.

2.9.4 Reserve Management Plans

Reserve Management Plans provide specific policies for the management of each park, or group of parks. When management plans are being prepared, affected parties including Iwi, neighbours and the wider community are encouraged to make submissions to Council. The approved plans are used as a guide and reference for future funding allocations and management decisions. Such Plans are a method to implement the broad objectives of the Strategy.

2.9.5 Annual Plan

Council is required under the Local Government Act 1974 to produce an Annual Plan, subject to community consultation, to include work that Council plans to undertake in that year, along with approved budgets. Each year projects are identified from council's strategies, Asset Management Plan and Reserve Management Plans, and approved through the annual plan. New projects and maintenance projects are part of the annual plan process to obtain funding, according to council's highest priorities to achieve its strategies and objectives.



Open Space Strategy Flow Chart

2.9.6 Turbott Lanscaping Report

In the 1960's the Turbott Landscape and Recreational Plan was presented to the Gisborne City Council. Many aspects of this report are still relevant today. One of the main themes of the Turbott Report is the development of road linkages between the beach and the city. The following recommendations within the Turbott report have been completed.

The sea walls and grassed areas along Waikanae Beach, foreshore earthworks along Centennial Marine Drive, upgrading of the Kaiti Memorial Reserve, and inclusion of small boating ponds have been completed (although in a different location). Two beachside sections along Salisbury Road have been purchased to be later developed for carparking, as the

demand requires it. Other works such as the formal promenade along the beach, beautification of Awapuni Road, Grey Street and car parking along Waikanae is still being completed. The other main linkages of Customhouse Street, Stanley Road and Lytton Road still require attention and should be given priority as finances and opportunities permit.

2.9.7 Gisborne District Council Recreation Plan 1998-2003

The Recreation Plan identifies community needs and preferences for recreation provision with identified goals and objectives for achieving community expectations. This Plan was developed following extensive consultation with groups involved in providing recreational opportunities, and a public survey. This document has been referred to throughout the Strategy.

The Recreational Plan identifies an 'Arts and Cultural Mission Statement' which states that Council is *To assist in maintaining the existing art and cultural facilities and to develop future facilities (page 101)*

2.10 Open Spaces Today

Within the Gisborne urban area Council administers the following parks and reserves. Refer to also to Map No. 7 in the appendices.

Asset List

PARKS AND RESERVES	district plan zone	park size	suburb	classification
Abbott Street Reserve	Neighbourhood	0.74	G/Central	Recreation Reserve
Adventure Playground, Awapuni Rd	Recreation	3.75	G/Airport	Recreation Reserve
Alfred Cox Park, Grey St	Recreation	6.55	G/Central	Recreation Reserve
A.M.L., Awapuni Road	Amenity	4.51	G/Central	—
Anzac Park, Score Road	Recreation	3.57	Kaiti/Nth	Recreation Reserve
Atkinson Park, Atkinson Street	Neighbourhood	1.99	Mangapapa	Recreation Reserve
Awapuni Stadium, Cent. Marine Drive	Recreation	2.63	G/Airport	Reserve
Ayton Park, Aberdeen Rd	Recreation	1.44	Te Harpara	Recreation Reserve
Barry Park, Stanley Rd	Recreation	4.35	G/Central	Recreation Reserve
Beach Frontage - Waikanae	Recreation	4.75	G/Central	Recreation Reserve
Beach Frontage To City Boundary	Amenity	18.59	G/Central	Recreation Reserve
Blackpool Reserve, Munro Street	Neighbourhood	1.31	G/Airport	Recreation Reserve
Boardriders, Grey Street	Recreation	2.19	G/Central	Recreation Reserve
Botanical Gardens, Aberdeen Rd	Amenity	4.62	G/Central	Local Purpose
Centennial Crescent Reserve	Neighbourhood	0.58	G/Central	Recreation Reserve
Childer's Road Reserve	Recreation	4.1	G/Central	Reserve
Churchill Park And Olympic Pool	Recreation	7.45	G/Central	Recreation Reserve
Cleary Street Reserve	Recreation	0	Wainui	Recreation Reserve
Coldstream Road Reserve	Neighbourhood	0.23	Kaiti	Recreation Reserve
Emily Street Reserve	Neighbourhood	0.40	Mangapapa	Recreation Reserve
Endeavour Park (Heipipi) Customhouse St	Heritage	0.17	G/Central	Amenity
Esplanade River Bank	Amenity	1.37	Kaiti	—
Esplanade War Memorial Reserve	Heritage	1.37	Kaiti	—

PARKS AND RESERVES	district plan zone	park size	suburb	classification
Gaddums Hill Reserve, Gaddums Hill Rd	Recreation	2.9	Kaiti	Recreation Reserve
Gisborne Park Golf Club, Cochrane St	Recreation	41.38	Te Hapara	Recreation Reserve
Grant Street Road Reserve	Neighbourhood	0.4	Mangapapa	Recreation Reserve
Harry Barker Reserve, Gladstone Rd	Recreation	9.32	Te Harpara	Recreation Reserve
Heath Johnston Reserve, Wainui Rd	Recreation	7.67	Tamarau	Recreation Reserve
Hirini Street Cemetery	Heritage	0.16	Kaiti	—
Hospital Hill Reserve, Hillview Terrace	Neighbourhood	0.51	Mangapapa	Recreation Reserve
Ida Road Reserve	Neighbourhood	1.58	Kaiti	Recreation Reserve
Innes Street Reserve	Neighbourhood	0.34	G/Central	Recreation Reserve
Kaiti Beach Road Reserves	Heritage	0.60	Kaiti	Esplanade Reserve
Kaiti Hill (Inc. Titirangi Park), Queens Dr	Heritage	43.66	Kaiti South	Recreation Reserve
Kaiti Memorial Park, Wainui Road	Recreation	1.37	Kaiti/South	
Karamu Street Reserve	Neighbourhood	0.12	G/Central	—
Kelvin Park And Museum, Stout St	Amenity	0.99	Whataupoko	—
Langford Fallon Reserve, Seddon Cr	Amenity	22.4	Whataupoko	—
Library Park, Bright Street	Library	0.07	G/Central	—
London Street Reserve	Neighbourhood	0.14	Kaiti	Recreation Reserve
Lysnar Reserve, Moana Road	Amenity	34.38	Wainui	Recreation Reserve
Lytton Road Esplanade	Amenity	0.41	Mangapapa	Esplanade Reserve
Mangapapa Park, Hospital Road	Neighbourhood	1.87	Mangapapa	Recreation Reserve
Marina Park, Vogel Street	Amenity	1.21	Whataupoko	—
Martin Road Reserve	Neighbourhood	1.01	Kaiti	Public Reserve
Mary Street Reserve	Neighbourhood	0.50	Mangapapa	Recreation Reserve
Mason Street Road End	Neighbourhood	1.69	Mangapapa	Recreation/Esplanade
Nelson Park, Nelson Rd	Recreation	14.84	Riverdale	Public Reserve
Open Air Theatre, Cent. Marine Drive	Recreation	1.09	G/Airport	General Utility Reserve
The Oval, Stanley Road	Recreation	4.91	G/Central	Recreation Reserve
Oxford Street Reserve	Neighbourhood	0.33	Kaiti	Recreation Reserve
Railway Station Reserve, Peel Street	Amenity	1.25	G/Central	—
Reynolds Creek Reserve, Childers	Neighbourhood	0.69	G/Central	Recreation Reserve
River Banks, Roebuck Road	Amenity	2.03	G/Central	Esplanade Reserve
Riverbank Behind Watties, Customhouse	Amenity	1.25		Foreshore Endowment
Rugby Park, Childers Rd	Recreation	48.38	G/Airport	Recreation Reserve
Rutene Road Reserve	Recreation	0.18		—
Shelley Road Reserve	Neighbourhood	0.44	Mangapapa	Recreation Reserve
Victoria Domain, Childers Rd	Recreation	1.15	G/Central	Recreation Reserve
Vivian Street Reserve	Neighbourhood	0.20	Kaiti	Recreation Reserve
Waikanae Beach, Grey St	Amenity	4.66	G/Central	Recreation Reserve
Waikirikiri Reserve, Tyndall Rd	Recreation	9.28	Kaiti Nth	Recreation Reserve

PARKS AND RESERVES	district plan zone	park size	suburb	classification
Waikirikiri Stream Banks, De Lautour Rd	Urban Floodway	0.36	Kaiti	Local Purpose Reserve
Wainui Reserve, Wairere Rd	Recreation	1.77	Wainui	Recreation Reserve
Waiteata Park, Russell St	Neighbourhood	1.48	Whataupoko	Recreation Reserve
Wallis Road Recreation Reserve	Neighbourhood	0.42	Kaiti	Recreation Reserve
Watson Park, Awapuni Rd	Recreation	14.78	G/Airport	General Utility Reserve
West End Reserve, Potae Avenue	Neighbourhood	0.40	Mangapapa	Reserve
Williams Cottage Site, Kaiti Beach Road	Heritage	0.04	Kaiti	—
TOTAL FOR CITY RESERVES		363.38		

In addition Council administers approximately 14.37 Hectares in esplanade reserves and 1.314 Hectares in road ends throughout the Gisborne urban area.

2.10.1 How Much is this Open Space Worth

A figure for the value of the open space land which council owns cannot be taken at face value. A valuation takes into account the number of restrictions put on alternative uses of the land. Many of the open spaces are protected under the Reserves Act or by district plan rules, so they are generally valued at a lower rate, which may be as low as 50% of similar land that is not encumbered. The final figure is not replacement value.

<i>Activity</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Land</i>	<i>Improvements</i>
All Property Assets	\$59,500,000	\$25,000,000	\$34,500,000
Toilets	\$ 634,500	\$ 240,500	\$ 394,000
Reserves	\$19,102,500	\$ 7,618,900	\$11,483,600
Quarry	\$ 870,500	\$ 670,500	\$ 20,000
Plantation	\$ 391,500	\$ 293,000	\$ 98,500

2.10.2 How Much does it Cost to Maintain

The direct cost is the actual cost of delivering the service. Most of these works are competitively tendered. The Other Asset Costs are the costs of managing the asset and include costs such as depreciation, corporate overheads, preparation of planning documents, including the Annual Plan, Asset Management Plan, and Strategic Plan, and the administration required for the implementation of the Asset Management System.

Reserves and Open Spaces

<i>Activity</i>	<i>Direct Costs</i>	<i>Other Asset Costs</i>	<i>Revenue</i>	<i>Net Costs</i>
Rubbish Collection	\$102,000	\$ 44,500	\$0	\$547,000
Beaches and Coastal Areas	\$202,000	\$ 88,200	\$0	\$290,200
Botanical Gardens	\$ 77,000	\$ 33,600	\$0	\$110,600
Sports Fields	\$314,000	\$137,100	\$20,000	\$451,100
Street Trees and Gardens	\$104,000	\$ 45,400	\$0	\$149,400
Open Spaces, Parks & Gardens	\$392,000	\$171,200	\$10,000	\$684,500
Totals	\$1,191,000	\$520,000	\$30,000	\$1,711,000

Comparison with some other Council Functions

<i>Activity</i>	<i>Operating Costs</i>
	<i>Direct & Indirect</i>
Roading	\$18,149,400
Sewage and Waste Water	\$ 2,548,800
Stormwater and Drainage	\$ 1,457,600
Water Supply	\$2,826,800
Solid Waste Disposal	\$4,801,000
Rivers and Drainage	\$1,445,700
Reserves	\$1,711,000
Olympic Pool	\$ 636,500
Public Conveniences	\$ 539,300
Cemeteries	\$ 167,700
Theatre and Halls	\$ 167,700
Library	\$1,100,000

2.10.3 Sports Facilities and Recreation

Gisborne District Council is committed to providing quality open space facilities for the pursuit of outdoor recreation within the Gisborne District. The principal measure of quality in terms of recreational participation is determined in large by user satisfaction.

Voluntary participation in recreation both active and passive is physically, socially, spiritually and morally rewarding for both the individual and for society as a whole. This is due to the assumption and general acceptance that recreation produces feelings of well being, personal growth and development, creativity, physical conditioning, socialisation, escape and a sense of achievement. Sport, recreation and leisure all contribute significantly to our cultural make up as a community.

Unique Characteristics

The surrounding natural open space areas of the rivers, beach and sea provide a range of recreation opportunities within close proximity to the City. Recreation is carried out in these natural landscapes by an active multi-cultural population, with a high proportion of youth, a high number of sunshine hours, accessible rivers, good quality beaches and an abundance of regional open space.

Gisborne City is sufficiently small that facilities provided are only a small travelling distance for all city users. The equitable distribution of formal recreational facilities must be balanced against the efficient use of resources and investment and the need to provide facilities at the highest standard possible to attract regional/national events.

Some of the key points from the Recreation Plan 1998-2003 in relation to recreation are:

- ◆ Gisborne district has the highest proportion of Maori within the local population compared to the national average. This appears to be increasing.
- ◆ 70% of people live within the urban environment.
- ◆ The population is younger than the national average.

- ◆ There are more elderly within the city limits than the national average.
- ◆ Lower than national average incomes are experienced by Gisborne district communities.
- ◆ Reserves are considered by the community to be very important in the urban environment.
- ◆ A wide range of reserve types are available for recreational use in the district.
- ◆ Many sporting groups in the City feel that Council could play a greater role in the promotion of the region both as an excellent training opportunity and in the marketing of elite players and recreation participants.
- ◆ There is a trend of Gisborne youth shifting away from organised traditional sport and recreation.
- ◆ Many recreational opportunities that are non-sporting, outside of the jurisdiction of Council, rely on the use of the natural environment or on club membership.
- ◆ Requests from the elderly reflect mobility limitations.
- ◆ People often change the types of recreational activities they are undertaking. The influence of children, time availability, interest and financial status act to direct these changes.
- ◆ Natural environments, in particular beaches, were perceived to be a very important recreational context.
- ◆ The community desire a high level of input by the Council in the support and provision of leisure and recreation opportunities.

Other considerations:

- ◆ There is a major difficulty experienced by many organised clubs in retaining players in the 15-19 year age bracket.
- ◆ Sports such as touch rugby, waka ama, surfing and basketball have enjoyed a resurgence in participation over recent years.

Active Recreation

Clubs represent an important social and recreational opportunity for many people in the community. Approximately 26% of the total reserve budget is spent on reserves for traditional sport. This comprises rugby 11%, cricket 7%, soccer 6% and hockey 2%. However sports preferences change over time and Council needs to be flexible in the provision of sports grounds.

The provision of new facilities and the upgrade of existing facilities, due to recreational demands and changing sporting trends has increased standards in terms of facility provision within the district. This has included sports such as cricket, rugby and skateboarding. Activities which require further improvements include athletics, soccer and disabled access and activities.

Sports Reserves

The larger sports fields are generally the centres for organised recreational activity and are intended to meet the needs of the community.

Gisborne is sufficiently small that geographical distribution of formal recreation facilities is not a priority. All such facilities are located within a short travelling distance for all city users. Resources can be more efficiently utilised by upgrading existing facilities in order to attract regional/national events.

Combining sports where possible will mean sports fields are utilised more regularly. Sports clubs may also benefit by pooling resources and sharing facilities.

Passive recreation in some instances may be combined effectively with sports grounds. Areas of shade and enjoyment for spectators as well as opportunities for informal recreation and even spaces for quiet contemplation could be provided at more locations.

Non-Organised Sports

The Recreation Plan identifies that participation in touch rugby, waka ama, surfing, basketball and skate boarding in the 15-19 year age bracket has experienced real growth although some of these currently suffer from a lack of facilities.

Waikirikiri Reserve and Watson Park has alleviated the provision for touch (rugby) to some extent, however better use of organised club rooms and facilities are still required.

Waka groups experience problems due to the lack of formal on-site shelter for their craft. However issues associated with inadequate launching and storage sites have been significantly addressed with designated sites established at both Anzac Park and the Marina Reserve. Both these sites provide ramped access to the Waimata River. Anzac Park now has wash down facilities for participants and Waka equipment.

Gisborne is established as a quality surfing destination and often referred to as the Surfing Capital of New Zealand. Gisborne surfers are consistently achieving at a national and international level. Promotion of Gisborne open spaces as quality surfing breaks could be developed further. Support to establish a clubroom in a compatible beach environment for contests could also be undertaken.

2.10.4 Neighbourhood Reserves

To date Neighbourhood Reserves have been randomly provided throughout the city. Although smaller in size they provide relief from the built urban form. To meet the communities' needs emphasis is placed on providing children's play equipment, seating and landscaping. The Strategy should seek to ensure such reserves are evenly distributed and not acquired where they are not needed.

2.10.5 Titirangi/Kaiti Hill

Titirangi/Kaiti Hill is situated south east of the City and is a visually significant landmark. It is the most visited and used reserve area. Mostly in terms of visitor viewing and recreational running and walking. Titirangi was extensively occupied by maori in the past and there are significant archaeological and historic sites located on the hill. The Proposed District Plan identifies a waahi tapu layer that covers the full extent of Titirangi.

Existing facilities require maintenance and upgrading. A walkway link from Kaiti Beach Road to Memorial Drive could be provided. Maori works of art could represent significant events. Views of the City and Bay from the hills lookout points should be preserved.

2.10.6 Harbour

The harbour has been the traditional location of portside commercial activities. The outer harbour continues to be developed to support the forestry and logging operations. In the last ten years a fishing club, Coastguard Centre and boat ramp facility, which allows quick, safe and unimpeded access to Poverty Bay, have been established. The development and surrounding activities to the historic Cook Landing site reserve has been an ongoing issue and is being addressed and provided for in the District Plan.

The Inner Harbour, currently Port Gisborne land, continues to develop a diverse range of activities including restaurants and bars and the open space areas should be developed to reflect this, building on the history of the area, creating connections with the city and Titirangi.

2.10.7 City Centre

The quality of city life is enhanced by the proximity and amenity of the three rivers. Open space is in close proximity to the City providing places for predominantly passive recreation.

The recent CBD upgrade, which includes a river walkway development, has enhanced the natural environment creating a pleasurable urban experience and a sense of pride and belonging in the community. These green spaces also contribute to positive images of a relaxed lifestyle and the quality of life.

Palms represent the sub tropical nature of the region and its plentiful sunshine hours.

Outdoor performance on the streets and reserves space over summer are a regular feature and as a result the quality of urban life is expected to have improved. This urban space can continue to be developed, building on the river theme and extending the walkways out to the Civic Centre, harbour and beach.

Existing Trails

There are different trails within the City. They include the Arts and Crafts Trail, Mural Trail including stained glass windows and the Historic Walk. These roads are expected to be the most travelled by tourists walking and sightseeing around the City. There is also the Te Kuri walkway which takes one to the top of the hills north of the City.

Gisborne has a number of remarkable murals, sculpture and works of art and it is important to continue to support this art in and around the city's open spaces, often in partnership with artists and sponsors in the community.

The view shaft looking south down Grey Street affords a view of the sea and hills beyond. Pohutakawas are established towards the beach end and are compatible with retaining this view shaft. The view shaft down Customhouse Street towards the Cook Statue and the harbour beyond is also a prized open space and could be further developed.

Council should consider developing this theme further using the existing trails in and around the City to identify a single City Walkway. Emphasis should be to concentrate on the enhancement of these particular streets with street plantings and appropriately placed art or sculptures. With appropriate brochures, maps and signage visitors can orientate themselves to their particular location within the City.

2.10.8 Civic Centre Area

The Civic Centre Area includes the Marina, Kelvin Park, surrounding river bank and other Council owned land. The buildings consist of Council's administrative buildings, Lawson Field Theatre, Marina, Army hall, Museum and the Star of Canada.

The Heart of Gisborne Report recognised the value of developing the river environs and Civic Centre Area as the 'front garden' of the City relating all development to focus on the River.

Kelvin Park is a perfect 'common green', with an oval grassed area partly shaded by large trees and is generally used for small non-profit outdoor community events. Issues dealing with the closeness of the Residential Zone to Kelvin Park has, to some degree already been acknowledged and steps have been taken to address this issue.

The Marina Reserve, Wi Pere Monument, Kelvin Park and the surrounding riverbanks are often used for community events and performances. Buildings such as the Lawson Field and the Museum reflect on the use of these areas for civic purposes.

Large Hall

The Heart of Gisborne Report, submitted to Council in 1979, recommended the need for a small, medium and large theatre/hall. The small theatre now completed is the Lawson Field and has proved a very useful venue as an intimate 200 seated theatre. The medium sized hall is still required although it has been argued that the War Memorial serves this purpose.

Council has in the past given considerable attention to the development of the open space on the Civic Centre Site. To date there is no facility to accommodate more than 500 people comfortably. Ideally an acoustically designed building catering for up to 1,500 people is required. It is expected that there would be considerable community support for a large acoustically designed cultural hall. Consideration for setting aside an area for such a purpose in the civic area should be undertaken. This would ensure that any future site would not be compromised by interim developments. A management plan with a report from a qualified acoustic engineer would clarify future use and development for this area.

2.10.9 Rivers

The river corridors of the Tareheru, Waimata River and Waikanae Stream connect with the Turanganui River entering into Poverty Bay.

The Resource Management Act 1991 states the purpose of esplanade reserves and strips is to:

contribute to conservation purposes by maintaining or enhancing the natural functioning of the adjacent water body, maintaining or enhancing water quality, aquatic habitats, protecting natural values or mitigating natural hazards, and to enable public access or public recreational use where it is compatible with conservation values.

The Proposed District Plan provides the mechanism for Council setting aside esplanade reserves and strips. Council will therefore continue to take esplanade reserves or strips along the coast and rivers when regulated to do so.

It is generally accepted that networks of open space have more value than isolated pieces. Ecological research into biodiversity has indicated that the long-term viability of a natural area is enhanced the larger the area is. In part this is due to there being more plants and animals, which enhances the chances of survival. It is also to do with larger areas having the ability to absorb or buffer adverse effects from surrounding areas without destroying the natural processes, which underlie the natural area and enable it to survive.

Networks between open spaces which involve the joining of esplanade reserves will, providing they are compatible with conservation values, offer a wider range of recreational and access opportunities.

The viability of existing natural areas can be greatly enhanced by linking adjacent areas with 'natural corridors'. The taking of esplanade reserves or strips through the Proposed District Plan with subdivision applications is a good example of this, planting out main road corridors is another.

In essence the protection or creation of an additional small area of 'natural corridor' may significantly increase the ability for animal and plant populations to survive.

It is Council's policy to acquire through regulation the taking of esplanade reserves or strips on land adjoining the coastal marine area that are on a list of specified rivers in the Proposed District Plan. This is achieved when land is being subdivided or resource consent is applied for. A map of the esplanade reserves/strips that Council can utilise at the date of the Strategy is shown on the map of the City (see Map No. 1). Also refer to the Proposed District Plan.

Acquisition of esplanade reserves is happening faster in areas where larger residential lots are being subdivided. This is most notable along the Waimata River near the City boundary. Esplanade reserves closer to the city on smaller residential sections are therefore acquired over a longer term. The following gives an update of existing reserves and potential development in the future.

Taruheru River

In the early 1980's the Gisborne City Council believed that the south side of the Taruheru River was likely to be the *first chosen for such a system to extend out from the City centre to the north-western boundary* (Pre Review Statement, Gisborne District Council July 1985). Because of smaller residential sections, these esplanade reserves will take time to acquire. However a walkway to the Botanical Gardens is still possible (see Linkages - Implementation Plan).

A discussion document titled Recreational Development in Gisborne - Taruheru Reserve submitted to Council in the early 1980's identified the development of the esplanade walkway on the northern side of the Taruheru River between Champion Road footbridge and Dalrymple Road, which would ensure effective networks are created in this part of the City

This continuous esplanade reserve, a distance of nearly 2 km, is nearly complete along this north bank of the Taruheru River. This could create a link between Nelson Park, Lytton Road Reserve, Atkinson Park, and connect with Stanley Road via Grundy Street.

Waikanae Stream

Comprising a total area of 10.95 Hectares the Waikanae Stream and adjoining areas are managed by both the Department of Conservation as a Conservation Area and by the Reserves Section of Council. A walkway is compatible along the Stream as the habitats are already modified and effected by surrounding activities. Public access to Waikanae Stream is already possible and could be made available from its mouth to the airport, except for a short length of railway land east of Stanley Road. A foot bridge is proposed at this point which will also provide pedestrian access from Roebuck Road to the beach.

Waimata River

Many individual esplanade reserves have been acquired on the northern bank of the Waimata River from the start of Riverside Road to the City boundary. When complete there will be the potential to develop a walking track.

Public access to the south bank of the Waimata River extends from Owen Road continuously through to Darwin Road. Other short lengths of reserves exist along this side of the river. In time these will ultimately be linked up to form continuous reserves along substantial parts of the banks. However, in saying this, Council recognises that safety is an issue for many adjoining residents and extensive consultation would first be required.

2.10.10 City Beaches

Geographically situated to the south of the city, Gisborne beaches have direct links back to the city with Grey Street, Customhouse Street, the harbour, Stanley Road and Lytton Road. The Central Business District is located within 10 minutes walking distance from the Waikanae portion of the beach frontage.

Both the Waikanae Beach Reserve Management Plan 1996 and Midway Beach Reserve Management Plan 1999 discuss the link of the CBD promenade along the river and harbour edge to continue along the beach front. These management plans are comprehensive and deal with most of the issues in this area.

In the Midway Beach management planning process in 1998 the residents of Salisbury Road strongly advocated the retention of the grassed promenade along the beach front.

Over 150 Pohutukawa trees have been established along the Midway beach frontage. This will assist to create shade and linkages to both the Grey Street and Salisbury Road which are also planted in Pohutukawa. In years to come this will be a start to provide avenues of shade along the main beach frontage areas.

While Gisborne is often promoted for its higher than average sunshine hours and beaches, their accessibility and protection from the sun's rays continues to be an issue. A continued long term approach to plant more trees for shade and shelter along the beach front and the main linkages back to the City will enable Council in the future to promote a safe beach environment.

2.10.11 Wainui

Valued for its intrinsic qualities, Wainui beach was once a cluster of seaside batches mostly for holidays, but has now developed towards the top end of the residential market.

Wainui has become one of the most sought after places in Gisborne, with increasing pressure for residential development. The planting of native species to retain amenity could also be encouraged whenever possible. A natural corridor of natives and palms has been started along Wainui Road (SHW 35) at Wainui and should be combined effectively as part of the overall enhancement of the Main Road Linkages.

Wainui could also be connected to the City with a separate walkway and cycleway.

2.10.12 Entrances and Linkages

Main Road Linkages form the backbone of an effective open space system through the city. They are also the roads most travelled by tourists and the public. The green spaces viewed from these roads contribute to Gisborne's image as providing a relaxed lifestyle and high quality of life. They also provide habitats and migrating corridors for both birds and insects. The first impressions of arriving in Gisborne on these main road linkages are also considered vital to enhancing destination appeal as a visitor attraction.

For example the Gisborne Airport has recently been landscaped. Chalmers Road, which is considered one of the main road linkages into Gisborne, is currently an unattractive entranceway. Enhancement of our Main Road linkages and entrances could greatly promote Gisborne.

Linkages that connect different recreational activities will be promoted where possible. This may combine for instance historical walks with active recreation links combining in diverse users, and more importantly, an increased number of users. Provision of playgrounds, jogging and exercise circuits, seating, picnic areas and gardens in sports grounds should be undertaken, where appropriate. This will create multiple users of reserves as centres for recreational activity. Waikirikiri Reserve and some of the sports grounds may be considered suitable for this purpose.

Cycling could further be promoted in and around the City. A cycleway could be established with clearly marked cycle lanes. This would encourage and develop traffic safety. Cycle lanes can be achieved as the City has a number of wide roads, some which are main roads to major destinations between Wainui, the City and the High Schools.

2.10.13 Heritage

The open spaces of Gisborne City contain many significant sites and features of the district's history. Some sites have significance for Maori such as waahi tapu, or archaeological sites, which are protected within the Proposed District Plan. Due to the history of settlement many historical sites are located in and around the harbour and main rivers. Some parks and reserves in the City contain heritage sites that are a record of early European settlement, including gardens, buildings, cemeteries and monuments. These can continue to be developed with plaques and storyboards to further enhance the City.

2.10.14 Economy and Tourism

Competition for domestic and overseas visitors is intense. Gisborne's geographical isolation can be an advantage when people consider it as a place to visit or live. It is not connected to any other centre and so has a distinct identity of its own. This isolation also heightens the impact of first impressions. Well-designed entrances and other open spaces will create an attractive environment for the region and produce a good first impression.

An appealing visual environment and open space will be part of the total package that draws visitors and ecotourists to the East Coast. This can be achieved by protecting important open spaces throughout the region.

Open space can increase the quality of life for residents in an area by offering improved social amenities for leisure and recreation. Potential new residents from outside the district will consider the aesthetics of an area as part of their decision making process. Well managed and maintained open space will enhance property values in the surrounding area. It creates an aesthetically pleasing environment for which individuals are prepared to pay a higher premium.

Sports tourism, using the various sporting venues, contributes additional external dollars to the community through the hosting of regional, national and international sporting events.

Gisborne's attractive lifestyle therefore needs to be complemented by an aesthetically attractive open space presentation. This is an essential part of attracting new residents and businesses as well as retaining those already here.

2.10.15 Population Change

The population base of Gisborne has been relatively stable since the 1970's. Demographic profiling can show trends which may assist in determining where open space provision should be prioritised.

Table 1

2001 Census of Population and Dwellings
Census Usually Resident Population Count for
Area Units in the Gisborne District, 1991, 1996 and 2001

Area Unit	1991 Census	1996 Census	2001 Census
543903 Wainui	1,224	1,377	1,410
544200 Mangapapa	4,269	4,299	4,266
544300 Te Hapara	4,128	4,395	4,293
544400 Gisborne Airport	2,835	2,850	2,760
544500 Whataupoko	3,588	3,648	3,654
544600 Gisborne Central	3,108	3,378	3,222
544701 Kaiti North	1,986	2,103	2,064
544702 Outer Kaiti	2,610	2,688	2,427
544801 Kaiti South	3,087	2,997	2,736
544802 Tamarau	2,400	2,427	2,337
544900 Riverdale	1,107	1,185	1,242
Total	30,342	31,347	30,411

In recognising these population trends and population age groups, it is likely that demand for the use of open space from youth will be reflected in these areas. Council will continue to monitor trends in population changes, referring to the Recreation Plan and undertaking public consultation as appropriate to determine and provide for the ever-changing needs of the community.

2.10.16 Methods for Providing Open Space

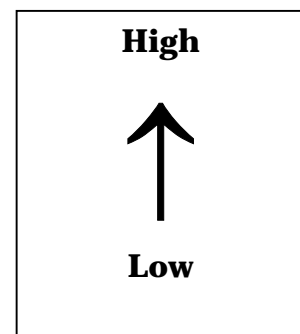
It is acknowledged that with Council's limited resources a long-term vision is required to achieve the Open Space Strategy. Over time Council will need to make choices about what projects to undertake and some of this will be opportunistic. Open Space may become available through donation or taken as esplanade reserves through the process of subdivision. Community groups may approach Council to develop certain areas. This Strategy provides the guidelines to undertake development that will add to the overall vision of the Open Space Strategy. Council can make choices and priorities about surplus open space, purchases, development and operations.

There are a number of methods that Council can use for protecting and acquiring open space when required. Each method has different costs and affords differing levels of protection. They are ranked as follows:

Methods

Land Purchase
Trusts
Covenants
Leases, Easements and Rights of Way
Regulation (Reserve Contributions)
Land Swaps or Exchange
Sponsorships
Incentives
Voluntary Management Agreements
Education

Cost/Protection



Council will need to consider cost effectiveness when choosing the right method for a particular situation in relation to the significance of the open space and the potential threat to open space values. It will need to know what the expectations of landowners and the public are. In general if improvements are intended on the site, ownership of the land by Council is a significant advantage. Development of esplanade reserves/strips can become community driven projects with each individual landowner sharing in the on-going maintenance and enhancement of their adjacent areas. Sponsorship with associated advertising can also be used effectively to develop certain areas. However, the long-term maintenance for the majority of such developments on Council owned or administered land will revert back to Council.

The use of regulation on the private property owner in the short term, for instance to ensure the site is partially screened, will be viewed as an imposition on private development rights. Council can encourage a range of partnership and incentive schemes and with the use of regulation, achieve amenity improvements which will have long term economic benefits for the city and its people.

2.10.17 Community Groups and Sponsorship

Community groups can be an integral part of the development and maintenance of the open space in the area. The enthusiasm, fresh ideas and ability to acquire funding and resources provided by community groups needs to be fostered and encouraged.

Partners and sponsors give value-added effect to the Council's resources and are a real force for achieving the practical open space goals of the Strategy throughout the District. Partnerships need to be supported with time, open lines of communication, trust and respect. While finance is not required to foster this concept it can be most effective.

Partnerships already exist to some degree with sporting associations including Sport Eastland with regard to the usage of sports fields and recreational facilities for youth sports and events. Partnerships will be further encouraged in the long term by involving the community to develop open space areas as appropriate. Community groups will even be encouraged to undertake projects themselves such as creating a walkway along parts of the Waikanae Stream.

Groups such as the Conservation Corps, Rural Studies, Tairāwhiti Polytechnic, Keep Gisborne Beautiful, Iwi and hapu groups, Historic Places Trust, Gisborne Community Arts Council, Forest and Bird, Gisborne Environment Centre, local plant nurseries, sports groups, businesses and individuals are already activity involved in enhancing the City.