

## **3.3 OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION**

### **3.3.1 INTRODUCTION**

#### **Definition of Recreation**

Recreation encompasses those activities freely chosen by an individual, which give that person enjoyment, satisfaction and a sense of well-being. Recreational activities can be described as "active", such as jogging or cycling, or "passive", such as picnicking, nature watching or viewing the landscape.

#### **Recreational Activities within the District**

Central Hawke's Bay District's range of recreational opportunities are derived from the natural environment, resources set aside for public enjoyment, and the efforts of private groups and individuals.

The natural environment provides a range of land and water based recreational activities such as tramping, hunting, camping, picnicking, scenic driving, fishing, jetboating, canoeing, water-skiing, diving, swimming and sailing.

There is a range of public recreational and community facilities, such as libraries, swimming pools, halls, sports fields, playgrounds or domains. Privately owned areas also add to the recreational opportunities available in the District.

#### **Ownership and Management**

Three main statutes relate to the provision and management of public open space and recreation areas - the Resource Management Act, the Reserves Act and the Conservation Act. The Resource Management Act makes the Council responsible for managing land and the surface of waters in a way so that recreational and leisure needs are met without adversely affecting the environment.

The Reserves Act covers scenic, recreation, nature, historic, scientific, government or local purpose reserves and specifies the purpose for each class of reserve.

The Conservation Act is administered by the Department of Conservation and applies to all land held by the Crown for conservation purposes, including conservation parks, wilderness areas, marginal strips and stewardship areas. The Department is required by the Conservation Act to manage the lands held under this Act for the purpose of preserving and protecting natural and historical resources, in order to maintain their intrinsic values, provide for their appreciation and recreational enjoyment by the public, and safeguard the options of future generations.

### **3.3.2 ISSUE - Open Space and Recreational Opportunities**

**Availability, distribution and maintenance of land and facilities, to enable people to meet their recreational needs.**

#### **Explanation**

Facilities for open space and recreation should be available to satisfy the needs of the District's population. Not all of this will be provided by the Council. The Council has traditionally been responsible for the provision of land within settlements for open space and recreation, including small neighbourhood parks, sportsfields; indoor facilities and walkways. Some special areas that need to be in public ownership to protect their particular values, such as the picnic areas adjacent to rivers.

### **3.3.2.1 Objective**

**Recreation areas that are accessible, equitably distributed, appropriately located, and adequately maintained to meet the needs of residents and visitors, while avoiding, remedying or mitigating any adverse effects.**

### **3.3.2.2 Policies**

- 1. To facilitate and maintain the development of a wide variety of open spaces and recreation facilities, ranging from indoor facilities to reserves, in locations that are convenient and accessible for the anticipated users.*
- 2. To enhance public access along the coast and to the margins rivers and lakes identified as having significant recreational values through the taking and maintaining of esplanade reserves and strips, and the creation of esplanade reserves and strips, on subdivision, and the provision of incentives, including in some circumstances the public acquisition of land.*
- 3. To recognise privately owned open spaces and recreational facilities in the District.*
- 4. To recognise and avoid conflicts between different types of recreational activities, whilst at the same time encouraging multiple use of public open space and recreational areas wherever possible and practicable.*
- 5. To take into account public safety where a number of commercial and private recreational activities occurring within close proximity to each other.*
- 6. To ensure that buildings associated with activities on public recreational areas are established in a way that avoids or mitigates adverse effects on neighbouring properties.*
- 7. To ensure that noise and lighting from activities on public recreational areas is appropriate to the level of amenity anticipated in the surrounding environment.*
- 8. To use procedures and management plans under the Reserves Act and to encourage the Department of Conservation to use procedures under their appropriate empowering legislation, to manage the layout, design and allocation of activities on publicly-owned open space and recreation areas.*

### **3.3.2.3 Implementation Methods**

To achieve policies 1-8 through;

1. continuing to provide for a range of appropriate open space and recreational areas and facilities within the District;
2. taking esplanade reserves and strips on subdivision, and the use of incentives, to secure land along the coast and along the margins of rivers and lakes identified as having important recreational values; (Incentives may include legal and survey costs for covenanting, fencing costs, or purchase of land)
3. involving the community in decisions regarding the siting, use and design of open space and recreation areas; and,
4. designating Council reserves under the Plan to enable the continued recognition and function of the sites for recreational and open space purposes.

### **3.3.2.4 Explanation and Reasons**

The District is well provided with public open space and recreation areas. Most of the District contains large domains, picnic areas and active sports areas. The Council has set aside finance to improve access to the margins of rivers and lakes identified in the District as having important recreational values. Council will also take esplanade reserves or strips on subdivision in these areas, and along the coast as shown on planning maps 45-48.

Most of Waipukurau and Waipawa are within walking distance of public open space and recreation sites, including schools. The emphasis is on the maintenance of existing recreational facilities unless there is evidence of a need for purchase of additional land for neighbourhood reserves.

These policies acknowledge the potential adverse effects of recreational activities and form the basis for performance standards in the Plan. In the Residential Zone any large-scale buildings for recreational activities will require resource consent.

Public reserves are designated to ensure these areas will be available for the future use of residents and visitors. General recreation activity is provided for in residential areas and outdoor recreation is provided for in rural areas. Most public recreation and open space areas are controlled by other legislation such as the Reserves Act. To avoid duplication of procedures the District Plan limits control of adverse effects beyond the boundaries of the public area itself.

### **3.3.3 ISSUE - Surface of Waters**

**Activities on the surface of lakes and rivers can have adverse effects on the amenity of the surrounding environment and the quality and enjoyment of recreational activities.**

#### **Explanation**

Many lakes and rivers in the District support birdlife and fisheries, which are important for recreational pursuits. The Council recognises there has been conflict in the past between motor boats and other forms of recreation, such as fishing. Motor boats also have a potential to adversely affect birdlife and the fisheries.

#### **3.3.3.1 Objective**

**Activities on the District's lakes and rivers undertaken in a manner that avoids or mitigates conflict between recreational activities and general amenity values.**

#### **3.3.3.2 Policies**

- 1. To enable residents and visitors to the District to have access to a range of recreation experiences on the lakes and rivers, based on the identified characteristics of each waterbody.*
- 2. To control motorised craft in order to avoid conflict between them and other passive recreation users, in particular recreational fisherman, and to avoid or mitigate adverse effects on birdlife and the fishery.*

#### **3.3.3.3 Implementation Methods**

To achieve policies 1 and 2 through:

1. continuing to support the application and enforcement of the Water Recreation Regulations 1979 for those waterbodies that have been gazetted in the District; and,

2. Introduction of rules to allow motorised craft on part of the Tukituki River above a specified flow rate.

### **3.3.3.4 Explanation and Reasons**

The Tukituki River below the confluence with the Waipawa River is used for fishing or swimming and, on occasions, for motor boating. Above the confluence, the tributaries are increasingly important for fishing and as trout spawning habitat but less suitable for motor boating because the tributaries are very small.

The Council considers that motorised craft should be restricted to the Tukituki River below the confluence with the Waipawa River providing the river exceeds a flow rate of 25 cumecs (m<sup>3</sup>/s). At this flow rate the potential for conflict between motor boats and other recreational users is avoided or mitigated, and the potential for adverse effects on the fishery and birdlife from motor boats is also avoided or mitigated. Navigational safety issues are the jurisdiction of the Maritime Safety Authority.

### **3.3.4 ENVIRONMENTAL RESULTS ANTICIPATED**

- Diversity in the type and size of open spaces and recreational facilities throughout the District, to produce the following outcomes:
  - provision of a wide range of recreational opportunities in recognition of the diversity of community recreational needs at local, District and regional levels;
  - provision and development of additional public open spaces and recreation areas where there is significant growth and development in the District;
  - open spaces and recreational facilities that are convenient and accessible to users.
- Gradual enhancement of public access to the District's major rivers where there are significant recreational values.
- Recreation activities undertaken and recreation buildings and facilities constructed in a manner which does not adversely affect the ecological, landscape or cultural values or general amenity of the surrounding environment, or reduce the recreational opportunities or experience of other recreational users.
- Cooperation between the Central Hawke's Bay District Council and the Hawke's Bay Regional Council to ensure that this anticipated environmental result is achieved in an efficient manner without duplication of work efforts by either council.