



Open Spaces for the Future

Growing Thriving communities
through open spaces for tomorrow

What do open spaces of the
future look like to you?

Open Space makes a major contribution to the quality of life in Central Hawke's Bay and is integral to achieving our community's vision of Project Thrive!

There is a growing understanding about the importance of the relationship between green space and wellbeing, the interdependence of people and their surroundings, and how connections to vibrant open spaces and streets supports the economic and social wellbeing of business and people.

Not all open spaces are the same. Large fields allow for informal and organised sports play. Smaller areas allow neighbours to meet and watch children's play, while longer and varied spaces connect places and provide for recreational walks. Streets are our most important public spaces, as people gain enjoyment from a pleasant and safe street with many activities and buildings occurring along it.

During Project Thrive, we heard your aspirations for open spaces of our future - whether local art and sculpture, vibrant and revitalised town centres, walkways, community gardens or sports grounds.

We are working hard to plan for and support open spaces for a Thriving Central Hawke's Bay of the future. Our draft Integrated Spatial Plan – a blueprint for the next 30 years,

identifies a number of key short to immediate quickwins for our three main centres of Otane, Waipawa and Waipukurau – as well as medium and longer term opportunities to deliver on Project Thrive. This includes identifying and planning for parks, walkways, open spaces and vibrant town centres for the future.

It's important that we hear from you to check-in with where we have landed in terms of our future open spaces, as well as to know what else we should be planning for. We know we have challenges, in particular about how we fund our open spaces for the future, however these challenges simply mean we have to use every tool in box and develop new and innovative delivery and funding partnerships to make our vision our reality.

Have
your
say!

You can give feedback on our Integrated Spatial Plan by visiting www.chbdc.govt.nz/our-thriving-future and choosing to 'Have your say' by leaving us a note on a range of interactive maps which provide a snapshot of what the future might look like. You can also provide written feedback by email at our-thriving-future@chbdc.govt.nz, in person at the Council office, Waipawa Library or Waipukurau pop-up centre, or post at PO Box 127, 28-32 Ruataniwha Street, Waipawa 4240.

For more information, including access to the full Draft Integrated Spatial Plan, head to www.chbdc.govt.nz/our-thriving-future



CENTRAL
HAWKE'S BAY
DISTRICT COUNCIL

Our current Open Space network

The Central Hawke's Bay Open Space network is comprised of 55 parks, reserves, or domains totalling over 140 hectares. These parks provide our community space for play, sport, and both active and passive recreation. Some contain native bush and foster biodiversity.

Some of the most used community open spaces are not owned or supported by Council, such as Central Park in Waipukurau, that receives no funding or support from Council. Council has little, if any, involvement in many sportsgrounds, with the maintenance being completed entirely by the clubs such as White Domain in Porangahau.

Many sites provide basic amenities such as public toilets and access to the beach while others provide both indoor and outdoor community gathering spaces for socialising and celebrating family or community events.

Opportunity

- We are working hard to plan for open spaces for a Thriving Central Hawke's Bay of the future, that support strong urban and town centres, and are vibrant and attractive spaces for community and visitors alike.
- We know that attractive and vibrant parks, open spaces and town centres, plus the connectivity of these, helps to build resilient communities by providing places for people to gather.
- The COVID-19 lockdown proved the importance that close access to green, open spaces has on the health and wellbeing of our people.
- Council is strategically planning for the future of our open spaces, to maximise the community's participation in these areas for everyone in our district. This might mean increasing the number of, or improving, our playgrounds for our children, ensuring there is inclusive access to gathering spaces, and providing more seating for our aging population.
- Our existing network of cycle trails and river access, has further potential to be a major tourism drawcard and facility for our community.

Challenges

- We have not planned our open spaces well, meaning previous investment and decisions have been ad hoc, or in some cases limiting in our options for the future or not necessarily in assets or locations where it was most needed. We have no reserve management plans, a statutory requirement under the Reserves Act. Our open spaces have no overarching master plan for the future.
- We already provide low levels of maintenance and service across the District, with limited opportunities to redirect investment without significant closures or ceasing the limited services already provided entirely in some communities. There is also large amounts of deferred operational maintenance in our open space assets and insufficient operational funding for the basics.
- Currently, there is no funding for significant projects allocated to our open spaces, including plans to develop and enhance our existing assets or for new assets in the future.
- We currently do not take any development contributions, as no open space projects are identified relating to growth. There is also minimal funding available to open space assets when they reach the end of their life – which presents a challenge for some of our aging infrastructure including playgrounds and coastal toilet blocks.
- Many areas are poorly serviced and Council does not support many of our sports organisations.
- Our living infrastructure requires funding too. Our established trees and plants also require regular inspection and arborist care, with considerable work overdue. Aspirations to increase native plantings through our reserves also come at a cost, needing formative care to ensure successful establishment.

