

Section 1

Coronation Park

5. Coronation Park, Waipawa

5.1 Purpose

This document sets out information and the management approach specific to Coronation Park to recognise its role as the local sport and recreation park for Waipawa and surrounds.

The purpose of the management approach is to identify outcomes and key actions to be undertaken for Coronation Park.

5.2 Background

Coronation Park is home to the Waipawa Country United Men's Rugby Club (WCUMR) and Waipawa Country United Junior Rugby. The Club was established in 2017 by a group of locals who were keen to see rugby grow in the Waipawa community. From the ground up (with a lot of support from local business and individuals) they did what was needed to make this new club prosper.

Coronation Park is bordered by Tikokino Road to the north and Waipawa River to the south.



Reserve category	Sport and Recreation Park
Reserve location	Tikokino Road
Area	10.96 ha
Reserves Act classification	Fee simple
Facilities and use	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4 grass sportsfields (rugby and rugby league) • Grandstand • Public toilets • Waipawa United Incorporated Hall – home to WCUMR and WCUJR, gym, used for functions (owned by Waipawa United Incorporated) • The Green Shed • Old netball courts • Walking, cycling, dog walkers – access to Waipawa River trails • Waipawa transfer station (recycling centre) • NZMCA use for motorhome/caravan rally
Agreements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Waipawa United Incorporated own hall on Council land. There is no formal lease agreement. They pay rates and WCUMR hire the building from Waipawa United. WCUMR do some maintenance e.g., cleaning of grandstand • Historical Lease: League was asked to vacate due to not keeping payments up. The club still stores belongings in The Green Shed

5.3 User information (as of February 2022)

- Waipawa United Incorporated manage hall bookings
- Council manages all bookings and use of the sportsfields
- Senior club membership is 50 + members, cricket club has 30+ members and junior club has 100 + members.
- Wider active recreation role with access to river trails
- Recent addition of a cricket wicket due to growing interest from the local area

5.4 Role in the wider sports and recreation network

Coronation Park is Waipawa's local sport and recreation park, providing a hub for sports, events and activities undertaken by the local community and surrounding areas

5.5 Key challenges and opportunities

- No adequate lighting for night games and training
- Clubroom needs upgrading (roof, toilets, changing facilities and heating)
- An improved irrigation system is needed, as the fields are too hard when season kicks off. Waipawa River provides irrigation, however, when flow is low and/or there are water restrictions, the fields are affected. This is impacting the ability to play cricket due to the condition of the outfields. Grass condition is also an issue
- The club is very self-sufficient
- There are ongoing maintenance and operational challenges.
- The eastern and western end of the Park are underutilised, so there is potential to consider facilities that support growth of existing and new sports, play, events, and active recreational needs
- Ongoing work is required to eradicate Chilean Needle grass present on eastern fields which are now closed. This typically closes fields 2 months late in the year (October to Christmas) and could easily go on for 50 years. This is an invasive species that is prevalent on properties across the river from the Park
- Conflicts arise between walkers/dog walkers and motorbikes accessing the river area. Response is coordinated with Hawke's Bay Regional Council who manage the Waipawa River corridor
- Possible site for a motor caravan dump station
- Hawke's Bay Cricket Association identified further potential to grow cricket in Waipawa, particularly with women and rangatahi, and to attract cricket training camps with participants from the wider region.

5.6 Management approach

Park specific considerations:

- Recognise the significant role of WCUMR in management and development of the Park and support community led processes to determine future aspirations for the park
- Continue as the local sport and recreation park for Waipawa
- Council to continue to provide maintenance support – mowing, toilets, rubbish bins, inspection of the grandstand, cleaning, painting, and regular infill and grading of the parking area
- Identify options for improvement of irrigation, drainage and grass to maximise use of sportsfields and facilities
- Identify opportunities for improved utilisation of eastern and western areas of the Park
- Identify opportunities to address anti-social behaviour and improve security
- Monitoring and eradication of the Chilean Needle grass
- Dog Control Policy - The eastern unfenced part of Coronation Park is declared an off-lead exercise area while it is not used for any organised activity (sporting or otherwise)
- Recognise the area as a popular dog walking area and facility
- The landfill and transfer station occupy the area of reserve. Plan to minimise the long-term effects of these facilities through screen planting or similar

5.7 Wider considerations:

- Implementation of Integrated Spatial Plan – improve connections to town centre
- Improve connections to Waipawa River for walking, cycling, dog-walking, etc