

7 Recreation and Open Space

Introduction

New Zealanders partake in a wide range of recreational activities including both passive and active recreation. Open space and recreation areas are essential for people's health and wellbeing. There is an emphasis placed on the need to maintain the open space nature of the City. The City provides a range of recreation areas including the beaches, rivers, parks and reserves, as well as gymnasiums, sportsgrounds, indoor sports centres and swimming pools. They provide for informal recreation, organised sport and recreational activities, and visual amenity value. The recreation activities offered within the City draw both local and regional residents, and enhance the attraction of the City.

The approach taken in the Plan is to create four activity areas. These activity areas recognise the different characteristics of the land in each area, and the activities which take place in them. They are as follows:

- (a) **General Recreation;**
- (b) **Special Recreation;**
- (c) **River Recreation; and**
- (d) **Passive Recreation.**

(a) General Recreation Activity Area

The General Recreation Activity Area includes both public and private owned recreation space. The Activity Area encompasses the majority of the open space in the City, and provides for both organised and informal recreation activities. The Activity Area makes no distinction between those recreation activities that are restricted or require payment by the public to participate, and those that are readily available for public use. The recreation space includes parks, reserves, sportsgrounds, golf courses, and tennis courts. Reserves, as identified under the Reserves Act 1977, are also included in this Activity Area.

Areas along the motorway and the railway line which were previously designated for railway or proposed motorway use are also included in this Activity Area. Such areas are not large enough to be developed for other purposes, therefore the open space nature of this area is to be retained.

(b) Special Recreation Activity Area

The Special Recreation Activity Area encompasses three recreation areas of distinctive character. These areas provide opportunities for recreation activities which are unavailable in other parts of the City. This difference needs to be recognised and maintained. The three areas are as follows:

(i) Area 1 - Petone Foreshore

Area 1 consists of the Petone Foreshore from the Korokoro Reclamation to the eastern end of Marine Parade, between Mean High Water Spring and The Esplanade. The area is generally open space, although a small number of buildings exist. These

include the Settlers Museum, boating and rowing club and the Oarsman Cabaret building.

(ii) Area 2 - Seaview Marina

Area 2 comprises the Seaview Marina. This area consists of the reclaimed land near the junction of Port Road and Eastern Bays Marine Drive, and the associated Seaview Marina complex. The complex includes a launching ramp, finger jetties and moorings to accommodate boating activities. The area is located at the interface between the Wellington Harbour and Seaview/Gracefield industrial area.

(iii) Area 3 - Hutt Park Visitor Accommodation

Area 3 comprises the Hutt Park Holiday Village. This encompasses the part of the Hutt Park Recreation Reserve used for visitor accommodation purposes. The existing complex includes a range of buildings and facilities offering temporary accommodation for visitors to the Hutt Valley and wider Wellington metropolitan area.

(c) River Recreation Activity Area

The River Recreation Activity Area includes the Hutt, Wainuiomata and Orongorongo Rivers, the Waiwhetu Stream, and land adjacent to these water bodies. There are a number of other tributaries and streams included within this Activity Area. Some of these streams are narrow or shallow, which limits the range of activities that can be undertaken on them or along their banks.

(d) Passive Recreation Activity Area

The Passive Recreation Activity Area consists of land on the Eastern Hills, Stokes Valley and Wainuiomata hills. The Activity Area is significant because the hills provide a visual backdrop to the City, but are however, susceptible to landslip. The majority of the land is in public ownership.