

SEPTEMBER 2009



DRAFT WAIKUKU BEACH RESERVE MANAGEMENT PLAN

2009 Draft Waikuku Beach Reserves Management Plan

Process for preparing the 2009 Draft Waikuku Beach Reserves Management Plan in accordance with the Reserves Act 1977

Procedures for the Tuhaitara Coastal Reserve and Waikuku Beach Reserves Management Plan

- i. Public notification of intention to prepare a management plan, 19 February & 5 March 2005
- ii. Public meetings, 21, 28 February, 7 March 2005
- iii. Submissions closed, 1 April 2005
- iv. Hearing of submissions, 18 April 2005

Procedures for the 2009 Draft Waikuku Beach Reserves Management Plan

- v. 2009 draft management plan approved by Council for public submissions, 18 August 2009
- vi. 2009 draft management plan notified for submissions, 26 September 2009
- vii. Submissions closed, 27 November 2009
- viii. Hearing of submissions, 23 & 24 February 2010
- ix. Revised plan adopted by Council, April 2010

Introduction

The Waikuku Beach Reserves consists of six different reserves. To the north-east of the Waikuku Beach Township, the Ashley River Mouth Reserve is a two hectare recreation reserve that borders the Ashley River, estuary, Pegasus Bay and Walkway. This reserve provides access to the sand dunes and beach. To the south-west of the reserve and set amongst residential properties are three recreation reserves referred to as the North Oval, Central Reserve and South Oval. These reserves are maintained as open space for informal play, and include play equipment, toilets, a paddling pool, tennis courts and a community hall.

To the southern end of the Waikuku Township set amongst residential properties is a corner reserve called Kiwi Avenue Reserve. The sixth reserve called Pine Avenue Reserve runs along the eastern boundary of the residential properties at the southern end of the township. This strip of recreation reserve forms a seamless boundary with the Tuhaitara Coastal Reserve, which is administered by Te Kohaka o Tuhaitara Trust.

The boundary of the Waikuku Beach Reserves continues along the top of the Ashley River banks and does not include any of the estuary, the sand dunes south of the Ashley River mouth or the dunes to the east that form Pegasus Bay. The sand dunes, many forested with protection vegetation from the easterly winds, form part of the Tuhaitara Coastal Reserve (referred to as Coastal Reserve) and are administered by Te Kohaka o Tuhaitara Trust. The Pegasus Bay Walkway is administered by Te Kohaka o Tuhaitara Trust. The sand dunes and Coastal Reserve can be accessed at several points from the boundary of the Waikuku Beach Reserves.

In April 2006 the Tuhaitara Coastal Reserve Management Plan was adopted by Te Kohaka o Tuhaitara Trust. The draft Tuhaitara Coastal Reserve Management Plan originally incorporated the Waikuku Beach Reserves; however the Waimakariri District Council did not adopt the Waikuku Beach Reserves as part of the original Management Plan and left the document as a draft. This Management Plan replaces the previous *Part B: Waikuku Beach Reserves* that formed part of the *Tuhaitara Coastal Reserve and Waikuku Beach Reserves Management Plan*. There are two significant differences between the 2006 and the 2009 draft Management Plans; (1) vehicles can access the beach from the Ashley River Mouth Reserve car park and (2) the format of the 2006 document has been changed to the format used in the recent reserve management plans, ensuring there is a consistency across similar Council documents.

In some areas of the Waikuku Beach Reserves and the Coastal Reserve it is difficult to determine where the reserve boundaries lie and what land is administered by the Waimakariri District Council (Council) or Te Kohaka o Tuhaitara Trust (Trust). To many people the organisation that administers the reserve is not as important as the accessibility and enjoyment experienced while in the reserve. For this reason the Council and the Trust have agreed to work together to provide a seamless boundary. This is achieved by using design features and structures that reflect both organisations, such as signage, track markers, bollards, fences and gates.

This Management Plan will enable the Council to provide for the protection and restoration of the Waikuku Beach Reserve's natural qualities, the enjoyment of the users, define types of uses compatible with its settings and policies to guide ongoing management of the reserve. This Management Plan, in accordance with the Reserves Act 1977, can only consider the management and development of the land as specified within the boundaries of the Waikuku Beach Reserve. Any issues or activities outside the legal boundaries of the Waikuku Beach Reserves are not part by this document are beyond the jurisdiction of this Management Plan.

Determining community preferences and establishing the best means to provide for these needs are essential components for good management planning. A Reserve Management Plan provides the community with certainty about the function and management of each reserve

administered by the Council and enables the Council to manage the reserve in an efficient manner, by not requiring public notification or ministerial consent for some routine matters.¹

Waikuku Beach Reserves

Legal Description and Classification

At the north-east end of the Waikuku Beach Township, the Ashley River Mouth Reserve is legally described as Reserve 4226, BM 329, being 2.0234 hectares.

The Waikuku Beach North Oval is the northern reserve of a set of three reserves (referred to as North Oval) and is legally described as Pt Reserve 3224, SO 6604, being 0.5593 hectares.

The Waikuku Beach Central Reserve (referred to as Central Reserve) is legally described as Pt Reserve 3224, SO 6605, being 10.0368 hectares.

The Waikuku Beach South Oval Reserve (referred to as the South Oval) is legally described as Pt Reserve 3224, SO 6604, being 1.5761 hectares.

Kiwi Avenue Reserve is legally described as Pt Reserve 3224, SO 6618, being 0.3767 hectares.

The recreation reserve, referred to as Pine Avenue Reserve is situated between Boundary and Kiwi Road, and behind the residential properties on Pines Avenue is legally described as PT Reserve 3224 BLK VIII RANGIORA SD-WAIKUKU

All of these reserves are gazetted as Recreation Reserve under the Reserves Act 1977 and are vested in the Waimakariri District Council.

Related Policy and Plans

The following documents are relevant to the future management of these reserves:

- Tuhaitara Coastal Reserve Management Plan
- Waimakariri District Plan
- Long Term Council Community Plan 2009-2019
- Draft Northern Pegasus Bay Bylaw 2010
- Dog Control Bylaw 2004
- Draft Coastal Management Plan Northern Pegasus Bay.

History

The Waikuku Beach Reserves were set aside as recreation reserves for residents and visitors to the area to enjoy. The reserves provide open space for impromptu and organised activities, and at various points along the reserve access can be gained to the sand dunes and ocean beach of Pegasus Bay, and the Ashley River Mouth.

The Tuhaitara Coastal Reserve that adjoins parts of the Waikuku Beach Reserves feature diverse landforms, soil types, groundwater levels and salinity that have influenced the evolution of the original flora and fauna communities. The coast plant communities that evolved were suited to living on semi-mobile sand dunes while the inland dune hollows developed into

¹ Reserves Act 1977, Local Government New Zealand and The Department of Conservation, 1999

wetlands rich in fish and birds. Surrounding these wetlands tall podocarp forest became established. Human intervention and new forms of land-use have modified these communities over the past thousand years and only fragments or more resilient components of these communities remain.

The Pegasus Bay Walkway stretches from Kaiapoi to Waikuku with a large part of it lying in the Tuhaitara Coastal Reserve. The walkway can be accessed from a number of places along the Waikuku Beach Reserves. The Pegasus Bay Walkway was originally developed by the NZ Walkways Commission in 1987. The Commission was later absorbed by the Department of Conservation (DoC). In 2000 DoC completed a review of the walkway network in the Canterbury area and concluded that as the majority of the walkway passed over Waimakariri District Council land it was the more appropriate administering authority. In April 2006 the Tuhaitara Coastal Reserve Management Plan was adopted, which includes the coastal reserve the Pegasus Bay Walkway winds through. The Council has passed the administration of the walkway over to Te Kohaka o Tuhaitara Trust, as part of the Tuhaitara Coastal Reserve.

Features and Current Use

Vegetation

The majority of the recreation reserves are maintained as amenity, open space lawn areas for informal recreation. Mature *Pinus radiata* and *Macrocarpa* trees grow along many of the eastern coastal reserve boundaries to provide shelter from the easterly winds and provide stabilisation for the sand dunes.

On the reserve behind the properties of Pines Ave, many of the old-man pines have reached maturity and the trees within 20 metres of the residents' boundaries have been removed to reduce the incidence of fallen branches or trees onto residential property. The 20 metre strip is being replanted with low flammability, hardy, drought resistant plants suitable to the local conditions.

There are very few natural pockets of native plants growing in the Waikuku Beach Reserves. Most of the treed boundaries are dominated by pine, *Macrocarpa* and broom.

Leased Land

There are leases for the Waikuku Campground, the Waikuku Play Centre, Waikuku Boxing Club and the Waikuku Volunteer Fire Services situated on the Waikuku Beach Reserves.

Recreation and Public Access

The Waikuku Beach Reserves are actively managed as recreation amenity reserves. There are clear open spaces for informal or organised sporting activities, such as a friendly game of touch or for passive activities such as a picnic. The North Oval has been used for organised events such as orienteering and vintage car rallies. Casual users can use the reserves to access the Pegasus Walkway and the beach at designated points along the reserves.

Services and Infrastructure

There is a public toilet block in the Ashley River Mouth Reserve and a second public toilet block in the Central Reserve close to the playground and paddling pool. The playground has a range of junior play equipment, with seating and open space for children to play. A flying fox, tennis court with a hoop at one end are located at the southern end of the Central Reserve for teenagers and adults.

The paddling pool is open in the summer and is enclosed with a pool fence. Shade sails are rigged across part of the enclosure during the summer months.

The entrance to the Waikuku Campground is adjacent to the Central Reserve. The campground is situated between a row of residential properties lying east of the North Oval Reserve and the coastal sand dunes.

The Waikuku Volunteer Fire Service garage is situated on the eastern edge of the Central Reserve, close to the entrance to the Waikuku Campground.

The Waikuku Community Hall is located on the edge of the western end of the Central Reserve. The Play Centre lease an area of the Central Reserve and building adjoining the back of the Community Hall. The Waikuku Boxing Club also lease a building adjoining to the southern part of the Community Hall.

A public car park is situated at the Ashley River Mouth Reserve adjacent to a public toilet block. Access can be gained to the Ashley River Mouth and beach from the reserve. There is plenty of formal and informal parking along the edge of the roads surrounding the North Oval, Central Reserve and South Oval Reserves.

Management Objectives

The Management Objectives describe how the Council will manage the reserves in accordance with its classifications under the Reserves Act 1977.

The Council will:

- Preserve in perpetuity the Waikuku Beach Reserves as recreational areas for the enjoyment of the residents and visitors to the Waimakariri District.
- Make the reserve accessible for public use and, as resources permit, support further prioritised development in accordance with this management plan.
- Provide and encourage informal outdoor recreation activities that are compatible with the management policies of this document.
- Collaborate with public agencies and communities interested in helping to achieve management objectives and realise the potential of the reserve.
- Manage the reserves in partnership with Te Kohaka o Tuhaitara Trust to provide positive recreational experiences, whilst maintaining and conserving the cultural and ecological features of the reserves.

Management Policies

The Management Policies describe how the use, maintenance and development of the reserves will proceed in accordance with the stated objectives.

Policy 1 – Recreational Use

- 1.1 Provide and encourage pedestrian access through the reserves to the Coastal Reserves and the Pegasus Bay Walkway.
- 1.2 Permit informal recreation activities that do not degrade the natural environment or conflict with management objectives and policies.
- 1.3 Regular competitive sporting games or regular formal sporting games are prohibited from the reserve.
- 1.4 The Waikuku Beach Reserves are classified as District Parks and the activities undertaken on the reserves should comply with the classification as per the Parks and Recreation Activity Management Plan.
- 1.5 Prohibit use of unauthorised motorised recreation activities and firearms in the reserves.

Explanation

The Waikuku Beach Reserves are classified as recreation reserves and are for the enjoyment of residents and visitors to the area. Recreational activities must be compatible with other recreational users and not harmful or degrade the biodiversity and ecology of the area.

The reserves do not have the facilities and the Council does not have the resources to maintain the open space areas of the reserves to a competitive standard for regular practice or competitive sporting activities.

Implementation

Bollards and car barriers to be installed to keep unauthorised vehicles off the reserves and within designated car parking areas.

Groups or organisations wishing to use the reserve are to use the centralised Council booking system to reserve an area in the reserve.

Designated walking tracks through and from the Waikuku Beach Reserves, such as the Pegasus Bay Walkway are to be identified with signs and track markers to encourage people to keep to defined routes.

Regulatory signs will be placed at the main reserve entranceways.

Policy 2 – Vehicle Traffic and Parking

- 2.1 Prohibit the use of motorised vehicles, including 2 and 4 wheel motorised bikes, within the reserve unless authorised by Council.
- 2.2 A parking area is to be formalised on the Ashley River Mouth Reserve.
- 2.3 No additional car parks to be developed within the existing reserve open space areas of the North Oval, Central Reserve and South Oval Reserve.
- 2.4 Vehicles are prohibited from driving on the grass unless authorised by the Council.

- 2.5 Vehicles barriers are to be erected to prevent unauthorised vehicles driving onto the reserve or compromising the enjoyment and safety of park users.

Explanation

There is an existing informal car park on the Ashley River Mouth Reserve this should be developed as a formal car park when the reserve is developed. There is provision for informal car parking along the road edges along the North Oval, Central Reserve and South Oval Reserves.

For public safety, especially where there are children, vehicles should be prohibited from driving onto the grass areas unless authorised by the Council, in such cases vehicles must give right-of-way to the public at all times.

Implementation

Informal car parking areas along the Waikuku Reserves to be identified, if required, with signs or road marking.

Ashley River Mouth Reserve car park to be developed to provide all weather access.

Policy 3 – Plants

- 3.1 Trees and shrubs should only be planted that are tolerant of sandy soils, coastal conditions and drought resistant.
- 3.2 Trees surrounding the reserve are to provide wind protection, shelter, shade, structure and form.
- 3.3 All trees are to be managed in accordance to Council's guidelines and best arboriculture practice.
- 3.4 The flammable properties of plants need to be considered when selecting plants.
- 3.5 In areas identified for revegetation encourage the re-establishment of indigenous vegetation suited to site conditions and representative of original plant communities.

Explanation

Trees and shrubs provide shelter from the prevailing strong and drying winds for the enjoyment of the people using the reserves.

Trees provide structure to large public areas and it is in large parks that trees have the space to mature. In many urban areas it is unsustainable to allow some trees to become established, with the close proximity of neighbours and infrastructure services.

Implementation

Prepare and implement a tree management plan for the reserve.

Areas identified for revegetation should us plants suited to the site conditions and be of low flammability.

Policy 4 – Cultural Heritage

- 4.1 Recognise, incorporate and protect (where applicable) Maori and other cultural heritage values associated with the area.

Explanation

There are significant areas of Maori cultural significance within the adjoining Coastal Reserve, such as food sources. Access and awareness of cultural sites within the Coastal Reserve should be retained and recognised for their cultural values as an intrinsic part of the area.

Implementation

New access routes from the Waikuku Reserves into the Coastal Reserve should be developed in consultation with Te Kohaka o Tuhaitara Trust to ensure Maori cultural heritage values have been taken into consideration.

Policy 5 – Community Involvement

- 5.1 Encourage community involvement in the enhancement and maintenance of the reserve behind Pines Avenue through work with the residents in South Waikuku.
- 5.2 Encourage and develop the partnership with Te Kohaka o Tuhaitara Trust to actively manage the transition between the Waikuku Reserves and Coastal Reserves as a seamless boundary.
- 5.3 Liaise with Environment Canterbury and other relevant agencies and organisations to help achieve the Management Plan objectives and benefit the reserve and its users.

Explanation

Community involvement in the development and ongoing maintenance of areas of the reserve can encourage individuals to protect, enhance and enjoy the reserve through being part of a community project.

The ongoing development of the partnership between the Trust and the Council for the reserves is crucial to achieving a large coastal reserve that to users of the reserves will appear to be a seamless boundary.

Implementation

Develop regular ongoing meetings between Council staff and Trust staff to increase the awareness of issues and developments in the reserves administered by both parties.

Ensure each party (Council and Trust) are invited to participate and/or contribute in management processes that could influence either reserve.

Policy 6 – Leases

- 6.1 The lease agreement with the Waikuku Camp Ground to continue within the designated camp ground and not to extend onto reserve land in either a temporary or permanent capacity.
- 6.2 The lease agreements with the Waikuku Play Centre and Boxing Club to continue within the defined area. The leased area is not to extend into the reserve land in either a temporary or permanent capacity.
- 6.3 New Leases and use agreements for the Waikuku Beach Reserve land should not be considered unless there is a benefit to the recreation users of the area and the use is compatible with the Management Plan objectives and policies for the reserve.

Explanation

The existing lease holders have been established for a number of years and are providing benefits to the area, either through attracting people to the area or providing a service to the residents.

The Waikuku Beach Reserves are used throughout the year and experience high use particularly in the summer months. Any requests for new leases on reserve land must be carefully considered as not to disadvantage the residents or visitors who use the reserves.

Implementation

The renewal of existing leases or agreements to be compatible with the reserve management objectives and policies.

The terms and use of an area of reserve under lease or agreement must be taken into consideration before approving any development on the leased area.

Policy 7 – Signs

- 7.1 Provide the minimum number of signs necessary to ensure the effective communication of park information, directions and regulation.
- 7.2 All public signs, other than regulatory signs, will be designed in consultation with the Trust to provide a consistent appearance throughout the Coastal and Waikuku Reserves.
- 7.3 Advertising billboards and other commercial signs are prohibited unless approved by Council in conjunction with a specific temporary event.

Explanation

Signs can help direct, inform and warn the public, but can also be intrusive and compromise the quality of the reserve environment. Signs should be kept to a minimum number and a consistent design.

The Council is working with the Trust to provide a seamless boundary between the Coastal Reserves and the Waikuku Beach Reserves, this can be achieved through using an agreed sign design.

Implementation

All signs are to be consistent with the agreed sign designs by the Trust and Council.

Policy 8 – Interpretative features

- 8.1 Permit the installation of interpretative material to provide information on the cultural, historic, biodiversity, fauna or flora of the reserve.

Explanation

Interpretative features can tell stories, enhance park experiences and understanding, such as through the use of pictures, diagrams, maps, plans and text.

Implementation

Provide interpretation panels and materials as resources permit

Policy 9 – Buildings and Facilities

- 9.1 The public toilet in the Ashley River Mouth Reserve is to be renewed. It is to consist of a number of uni-sex cubicles opening directly to the outside and designed for disabled access.
- 9.2 The public toilet at the Central Reserve is to be maintained to provide facilities for children using the playground and adjoining reserves.

- 9.3 The design and exterior colours of new buildings must be sympathetic to the surrounding reserve environment and the exterior colours should conform to the Council's Parks and Recreation Unit's standard reserve colours.

Explanation

The reserves are regularly used by residents and visitors and the two toilet blocks are required to provide amenities at both ends of the reserve.

Implementation

Ensure the replacement uni-sex toilet is in character with the beach setting, can withstand vandalism and is sympathetic in design and colour to the reserve.

Policy 10 – Utility Services

- 10.1 Permit utility services required to service the reserve and associated buildings and facilities.
- 10.2 All utility services to be placed underground unless exceptional circumstances make it impractical to do so.
- 10.3 The placement of utility services to be carefully sited with regard to existing features including trees, facilities and recreational activities.
- 10.4 Easements to be registered for all non-Council utilities.

Explanation

The placement, installation and maintenance of utility services can compromise the integrity of the reserve.

Implementation

Applications for utilities to be considered in relation to the reserve Management Plan objectives and policies.

Policy 11 – Furniture and Paths

- 11.1 Permit the installation of simple park furniture such as seats and picnic tables for the comfort and convenience of park visitors.
- 11.2 Ensure park furniture is of an approved and consistent design that can withstand coastal conditions and fit for its purpose.
- 11.3 Pedestrian paths will be a minimum of 2 metres wide to allow both cycle and pedestrians to use the path. The surface material of the path is to be suitable for cycles, wheelchairs and prams.

Explanation

Well placed and designed furniture will contribute to the use and enjoyment of the reserves.

The use of cycles and walking is to be encouraged and the path network is to be developed with clearly defined signs.

Implementation

Provide furniture as resources permit.

The renewal or development of paths should be undertaken to the standards as prescribed.

Policy 12 – Rubbish Bins

- 12.1 Rubbish bins will only be provided in the reserve areas that are close to shops, playgrounds or picnicking locations.
- 12.2 Visitors to the reserves will be encouraged to be responsible for removing their own rubbish.

Explanation

The beach reserves have been identified in the Parks and Recreation Activity Management Plan as an area to trial rubbish bin free sites. The rubbish bin free sites are not where there are shops or playgrounds. The beach sites where people drive to a car park, leave their vehicle and walk to their destination were considered ideal trial sites as people carrying their rubbish to their site should carry it back to their vehicle.

Implementation

Information signs asking the public to take away any rubbish they bring to the reserve will be installed at reserve car parks and at the reserve entrances.

Policy 13 – Dogs

- 13.1 Dogs are managed in accordance with Council dog policy and dog control Bylaws.
- 13.2 Dogs will be restricted from around play ground areas.

Explanation

Dogs should be kept under control when in the Waikuku Beach Reserves and away from playground areas.

Implementation

'Dogs under control at all times' is applicable to the Waikuku Beach Reserve and signs notifying the public of this Bylaw are located at the main entrances to the reserves.

Policy 14 – Fire

- 14.1 Prohibit the lighting of fires and the use of solid fuel cooking equipment within the Waikuku Beach Reserve.
- 14.2 Any activities that could heighten the risk of potential fire are prohibited from the reserve.
- 14.3 Maintain existing, clear access corridors along residential property boundaries and avoid planting extensive and dense 'heavy fuel' vegetation along residential boundaries.

Explanation

Fire can be a significant threat particularly where parts of the reserve adjoin areas used for forestry.

Implementation

Boundary fence lines and access corridors are to be kept clear of any dead tree or shrub vegetation.

Flammability of plants should be considered when plantings along boundary fences.

Policy 15 – Security

- 15.1 Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) principles will be considered when planning new developments.
- 15.2 Maintain existing, clear access corridors close to residential boundaries, structures and walkways to allow views into the reserve and observance of boundary activity.

Explanation

Safety of reserve users must be considered at all times and any developments in the reserve need to adhere to safety and design principles.

Plantings adjoining boundary properties should not be designed in a way that will encourage hiding places or areas for entrapment.

Implementation

All proposed plantings and developments to be approved by the Council's Parks and Recreation Unit to ensure safety and security principles have been considered.

Policy 16 – Events

- 16.1 Permit use of the reserve for recreational and cultural events approved by Council.
- 16.2 Ensure events are compatible with the infrastructure of the reserve and do not compromise its primary functions.
- 16.3 No single event shall use the reserve for more than one period of six consecutive days within a month.

Explanation

Events and temporary commercial activities can improve the use and enjoyment of the reserve and can be beneficial to the community and visitors to the district.

Council approval is required for all events and approval is at the discretion of the Council.

Implementation

All applications and booking of events in the reserve are to be managed by the Council through the Council's central booking system, in line with other Council parks and reserves.

Policy 17 – Camping

- 17.1 Camping can only occur within the designated camp ground. There is no over-flow or additional camp sites on the adjoining Waikuku Beach Reserves.
- 17.2 Camping or freedom camping is prohibited within any of the Waikuku Beach Reserves.

Explanation



There is a designated camping ground within the Waikuku Beach Reserves. The other areas of the reserves are regularly used by residents and visitors and any camping would cause conflict with the reserve users. Outside the designated camping ground there are no facilities for campers.

Implementation

The designated camping ground is clearly sign posted from the road.

Regulatory symbols prohibiting camping are to be erected on a multi-symbol sign at the main entranceways to the reserve.



 WAIMAKARIRI DISTRICT COUNCIL technical services	SCALE 1:5,000 (A4)	SHEET TITLE	PROJECT TITLE	PLAN No
	 NORTH	Reserve Areas	WAIKUKU BEACH COASTAL RESERVE	3005
				<small>FILE HF-WaikukuBeachOutline.gws</small>
				<small>ISSUE SHEET</small> A 2