

*Ko te Mahere Hukihuki Whakahaere ā-Rāhui o te
Papa Rēhia o Raupare*

Draft Frimley Park Reserve Management Plan

INFORMATION AND SUMMARY DOCUMENT

Introduction

The Draft Frimley Park Reserve Management Plan was notified for public comment on Saturday 2 July 2022.

This Summary Document has been written to give an overview of the process that has been followed and key actions included in the Draft Frimley Park Reserve Management Plan (Draft Management Plan).

We are seeking submissions on the Draft Management Plan from 2 July until 2 September 2022.

The purpose of this Summary Document is to:

- Explain how the Draft Management Plan has been prepared
- Identify the goals and key actions contained in the Draft Management Plan
- Identify the proposed concept plan, and key actions
- Provide FAQs on the key items of interest
- Explain how to make a submission on the Draft Management Plan.

Please note that this Summary Document provides an overview of the Draft Management Plan. This document does not provide a comprehensive rundown of the Draft Management Plan. Please read the Draft Management Plan in full before making a submission.

Where to find the Draft Management Plan

The Draft Management Plan is available to read on the Hastings District Council website

www.myvoicemychoice.co.nz

Alternatively, hard copies of the document can be read at the following locations:

- Hastings District Council Customer Service Centre, 207 Lyndon Road East, Hastings
- Havelock North, Hastings and Flaxmere Libraries

Summary of the Draft Management Plan

The Draft Management Plan is a high-level policy document rather than a detailed operational plan.

The Draft Management Plan identifies the vision, objectives, policies and development and enhancement priorities for the Park over the next 10 years. Developed with comprehensive input from park users and stakeholder groups, the Draft Management Plan provides Council with a clear framework for the day-to-day management and decision-making for the Park. The process aims to ensure that management and development of the Park is based on sound principles and that, through consultation, the aspirations and requests of the community have been clearly identified and considered.



Background

Frimley Park is 19.7808ha in size and located within the suburb of Frimley, Hastings.

The Park is primarily classified as a Recreation Reserve in terms of the Reserves Act 1977, with two smaller sections containing water infrastructure classified as Local Purpose (Network Utility). The Park is owned and managed by Hastings District Council.

The Park was gifted to the Hastings Borough Council in 1951 by Elsie Williams on behalf of her siblings, in memory of her parents James and Mary Williams.

The Park is in two parts: the land known as Frimley Park and a separate section on the corner of Pakowhai Road and Frimley Road.

The Park has an open spacious feeling with widely spaced trees allowing views through the Park. It contains a number of facilities and amenities including: rose gardens; sunken garden and memorial; playground; toilet block; sportsfields and changing block; and Frimley Aquatic Centre. A water treatment plant and reservoir have recently been constructed on the boundary with Hastings Girls High School. A path network connects access points at Frimley Road and Lyndhurst Road to the amenities within the Park.

Parking is provided on the roads surrounding the Park with no vehicle access within the Park. Dogs are permitted on leash in the Park, except for around the playground.



- | | | |
|------------------|-------------------------------|--|
| ① Mature Trees | ⑤ Sports Fields | ⑨ Sports Fields Changing Rooms |
| ② Rose Gardens | ⑥ Pakowhai Corner (not shown) | ⑩ Water Treatment and Storage Facility |
| ③ Maze | ⑦ Children's Playground | ⑪ Frimley Aquatic Centre (not shown) |
| ④ Sunken Gardens | ⑧ Toilet Block | |

The Draft Plan has been prepared in accordance with Section 41 of the Reserves Act 1977 which requires that before preparing a Draft Management Plan, Council shall:

- give public notice of its intention to do so; and
- in that notice, invite persons and organisations interested to send written suggestions; and
- in preparing that management plan, give full consideration to any such comments received.

Council published its intention to prepare the Draft Management Plan in the Hawke's Bay Today on 6 March, 2021. In addition, letters were sent to residents who lived in close proximity to the Park, signboards were located in the Park advising of the process, and a comprehensive social and traditional media campaign was launched.

In addition, on behalf of Council, independent research company FOLKL carried out interviews, held a park gathering and co-ordinated a survey, to find out what park users and members of the community liked about the park and what improvements they would like to see.

That phase was followed by a public workshop, which helped refine the values, constraints and opportunities within the Park.

What you have told us

Feedback was received and analysed from over 230 members of the community. This, together with input from a number of specialist reports, including Arboricultural Report, Archaeological Report and Historic Report, was summarised into a Key Themes and Concepts Document that was released to the community on 14 March 2022.

The Key Themes identified were:

- Retaining and valuing the open green space, trees and gardens
- Valuing and sharing the history of the park
- Developing play options
- Improving connections to and within the park
- Retaining spaces for organised sport and informal recreation
- Improving parking.

The summary document also included a number of concepts that Officers were asked to investigate for inclusion in the Draft Plan:

- Vehicle parking, traffic safety and cycling connections
- Establishing a clear hierarchy of entranceways and connections to and within the park
- Expanding play and picnic areas, and educational opportunities
- Developing new garden types and areas
- Improving facilities and accessibility, including toilets, seating and path surfaces
- Formalising the protection of historic trees
- Celebrating the park's history and geology
- Future of Frimley Park poplar.

The process we have followed

The decision to prepare a Reserve Management Plan for Frimley Park followed the approval process allowing the construction of critical water infrastructure on the Park. That resource consent process required the removal of maintenance sheds near Frimley Road and the return of this area to public use. The future community use of this area formed a key part of the consultation in preparation of the Draft Plan.



THE FRIMLEY PARK RMP PROCESS



Vision and Goals

All of the issues and suggestions identified during the consultation have been considered during the preparation of the Draft Management Plan which was released by Council for public consultation on 2 July, 2022.

The Draft Plan sets out the proposed vision and key actions, detailed on this page, for the park.



Park Vision

The protection, management and enhancement of the natural, historic, cultural and formal and informal recreation, values of Frimley Park.

The Park continues to provide a venue for organised sport and recreation, with the balance used for passive recreation and relaxation in a natural environment, together with provision of critical network infrastructure.



Goals and Key Actions

Te Whakatipuranga o Te Taiao *Healing of the Environment*

GOAL

The Park is a rich source of indigenous and exotic species as a living and evolving natural heritage of significance.

KEY ACTIONS:

- Continue to maintain the existing trees and complete the asset management recommendations from the arboricultural report.
- Ensure indigenous species are included in canopy succession planning across the Park.

Te Whakatipuranga o Te Taiao | Healing of the Environment is a principle that is a call to action, to give back to the environment and continue to develop the Park in ways that contribute to positive partnerships for the protection, enhancement and reinstatement of indigenous flora and fauna across Heretaunga Hastings District.

This principle guides Hastings District Council's Reserve Management Plans in their inclusion of Mātauranga Māori, as expressed by mana whenua, as a significant contributor to the appropriate reinstatement of taonga species.

Ahi Kā Roa *The Living Presence*

GOAL

The Park reflects and celebrates the layers of heritage of the whenua and its use over time.

KEY ACTIONS:

- Be effective kaitiaki stewards to ensure the protection and conservation of the historic values and features of the Park, including protected trees.
- Conserve and enhance the open space character of the Park.
- Collect and interpret cultural, educational, historic and environmental information to promote the Park's significance and importance, through information signage and cultural markers.
- Work collaboratively with mana whenua, stakeholders and the community to achieve the vision for the Park and aspirations of the Plan.

Ahi Kā Roa | The Living Presence recognises that all parks and reserves have a unique shared mana whenua and community heritage. The natural features and location of each park attract various individuals, families, and groups of people who maintain strong connections with their local park.

Ahi Kā Roa | The Living Presence encourages and enables community participation and contribution to the parks, specifically ensuring that Frimley Park is managed in a way that reflects its purpose and values. This principle also holds the aspiration that mana whenua may foster a sense of Ahi Kā through partnership and participation in the ongoing protection, enhancement, and reinstatement of indigenous flora and fauna.

Manaakitanga *Sharing our Experience*

GOAL

The Park is a safe and welcoming environment with a range of recreational opportunities for all members of our community.

KEY ACTIONS:

- Encourage the use of the Park for the purposes for which it is classified.
- Use accessible design in construction of the sensory garden.
- Construct a new toilet facility in a location accessible by visitors of all motilities and providing for passive surveillance.
- Identify and design a main entrance into the Park and provide drop kerbs on the Frimley Road footpath to improve accessibility.
- Extend the path network within the Park including through the sunken garden and avenue and around the rose gardens.
- Paint a mural on the aquatic centre wall to activate the area.
- Increase the capacity of vehicle parking on both Lyndhurst and Frimley Road frontages.
- Realign the existing footpath on Pakowhai Corner.

Manaakitanga | Sharing our Experiences is a principle to guide the accessibility and enrichment of the visitor experience for people of all ages and abilities. This principle acknowledges the role of parks as places of holistic wellbeing and areas for enjoyment, relaxation, physical activity, education and environmental action. Each park has its own unique experience and this principle is critical to augmenting and enriching the experience for residents and visitors to the District.

Whai Oranga *Promoting Healthy Activity*

GOAL

The Park is used by the community for a range of activities encouraging them to visit more often and stay longer.

KEY ACTIONS:

- Encourage young people to visit the Park by extending the playground with pieces catering for a range of ages and abilities.
- Provide opportunities for enhanced passive recreation activities and enjoyment through construction of a sensory garden, extension of the path network, installation of adult fitness equipment and a new maze.
- Extend the shared path network and bicycle parking to encourage people to walk or cycle to the Park.
- Support ongoing use of the sports fields for year-round games and install bollards on the frontage to prevent damage to the sports fields.

Whai Oranga | Promoting Healthy Activity encourages the provisions of passive and active opportunities for engaging in healthy activity. For some people healthy activity could be in the ethereal merits of flora to support mental and spiritual wellbeing, for some it may be physical activity for bodily wellbeing. Whether the activity is found in the design of playgrounds, sensory gardens, pathways, or outdoor fitness equipment, Whai Oranga Promoting Healthy Activity ensures that wellbeing is core to park management.

Delivering the Vision

The range of amenities and facilities in Frimley Park are well loved and enjoyed by the community. Feedback from the community is that Frimley Park holds a special place in many people's lives, for special occasions celebrated in the Park, enjoyment of the peace and serenity provided by walking amongst the trees and rose gardens, and the sense of camaraderie on the sports fields.

The Draft Management Plan aims to enhance access to and the enjoyment of these aspects of the Park, as well as utilise the area previously occupied by the maintenance sheds, in three key shifts:

- A** A new main Park entrance with a path connection to a new sensory garden and picnic area in the vicinity of the area previously occupied by the maintenance sheds. The path will extend to the sunken garden, better connecting this heritage feature.
- B** Extension of the playground with play pieces aimed at older children, while also providing play value for younger children; installation of adult fitness equipment; and the installation of a storywalk.
- C** Parking and traffic safety improvements on Lyndhurst and Frimley Roads, as well as a shared path connecting Frimley Park to Hawke's Bay Sports Park and Pakowhai Road.

In addition to these shifts, the path through the sunken garden is proposed to extend to, and around, the outer perimeter of the rose garden, and a new accessible toilet facility placed near the Frimley Road entrance to the rose garden. It will be sited to be handy to visitors to the playground and rose garden, and enable passive surveillance.



MAIN ENTRANCE AND SENSORY GARDEN

Development in the vicinity of the area previously occupied by the maintenance sheds:

- Construction of a garden to activate the senses: sight, sound, smell, touch, taste with a gathering area for small groups.
- Construction of a new main entrance.
- Path network linking the new entrance to the sensory garden, playground and sunken garden.
- Cultural markers, heritage information and wayfinding signage.



PLAYGROUND EXPANSION

Playground expansion with a focus on play pieces for older children, while maximising play value for all children.



PARKING AND ACCESS IMPROVEMENTS

Parking and access improvements on Lyndhurst and Frimley Road frontages:

- Increased parking spaces on Lyndhurst Road with associated traffic calming measures.
- Shared path to complete the connection from Nottingley Road to Pakowhai Road, through Frimley Park.
- Parking and access improvements on Frimley Road.



Proposed Concept Plan

The following Concept Plan, included in the Draft Management Plan identifies investment in the following key actions:

- 1 Lyndhurst Road frontage access and vehicle and bicycle parking capacity improvements
- 2 Aquatic Centre wall mural
- 3 Playground extension, storywalk and installation of adult fitness equipment
- 4 New toilet facility and dog drinking water facility
- 5 Signage, including historical and cultural information and wayfinding
- 6 Additional park furniture
- 7 Frimley Road frontage and parking improvements
- 8 New main Park entrance and sensory garden with path connections to the sunken garden and playground, incorporating signage and cultural markers
- 9 Path extension through sunken garden and avenue
- 10 Rose garden extension; garden and path network



FAQs

What is a sensory garden and why is it proposed for Frimley Park?

A sensory garden is proposed near the area previously occupied by the maintenance sheds. The garden could incorporate suggestions received during community consultation which included: a sensory garden, native planting, edible trees; play pieces; water feature; picnic area; and small stage for concerts/events. A number of other suggestions received for this area during consultation are proposed in other parts of the Park, including: expanded playground with play pieces focused on older children; fitness circuit (adult exercise equipment) and bicycle parking.

Currently the District's only sensory garden is located within the Splash Planet complex, which limits enjoyment of the facility. While Frimley Park has a number of existing facilities and amenities, given the size and status as a premier park attracting people across the District, return of this area to public use provides an opportunity for an additional amenity. The garden, strongly supported by the Stortford Lodge Rotary Club, will be designed to be enjoyed by all members of our community at all times of the year, providing an additional way to connect to nature.

A sensory garden is a garden designed to activate the five senses: sight; sound; smell; taste; and touch. This is achieved primarily through choice and placement of plants. The specific plant choice would be considered at a future point but would include a diverse range of plant colour, shape, size and texture.

For example:

- **Sight:** A variety of height, shape, hues, and patterns with different species of trees, shrubs and other plants such as sunflowers, tulips and grasses.
- **Smell:** Aromatic plants, such as fragrant lavender or stock.
- **Sound:** Rustling grasses or reeds.
- **Taste:** Edible plants including herbs, flowers and trees.
- **Touch:** A range of textures, such as spongy moss or smooth succulents. Landscape features such as smooth stones can also be utilised.

The garden would be arranged across a variety of raised and low garden beds to ensure people of all ages and abilities could access the gardens, for example: low garden beds for young children and medium height raised gardens for visitors using a wheelchair.

Other features within the garden design are proposed to also activate the senses, including a water feature (sight, touch and sound) and an interactive musical feature such as chimes (sound). In addition exploratory elements are also proposed, for example wooden stepping stones through gardens.

The garden space is proposed to have a central gathering area with seating, catering for casual visitors, school groups and small concerts.

The garden would be connected to the balance of the Park with paths, including a new main entrance from Frimley Road. Signage at the entrance and around this area would tell the story of the cultural and landscape heritage of the Park.

The detailed design, including specific location, garden layout and species choice would be undertaken at a later stage.

Illustration of the proposed concept (final design is likely to change elements)



What about accessibility?

It was identified that the location of the current toilet facility can be a barrier to some people visiting the Park. It is proposed to construct a new toilet facility near the entrance to the rose gardens and within close proximity to the playground, with connecting paths, to ensure this is accessible to all Park visitors. This would also improve safety for users of the facility.

The sensory garden, placement of furniture and design of new paths across the Park would be designed to ensure Park visitors of all abilities would be able to use these areas.

Are there any additional play facilities?

We heard during consultation that people wanted more play pieces, particularly catering for older children. Three new pieces are proposed; a carousel, mouse wheel and mega air swing. Fitness equipment is proposed near the expanded playground, as well as a Storywalk.



This image illustrates the extended playground concept, with new toilet block near Frimley Road



What is a Storywalk?

A Storywalk is a creative way for children and their whānau to enjoy the park on a family-friendly, accessible path while reading an adventure at the same time. Pages of a children's book are put on signs and placed along the path. It is designed to promote early literacy, physical activity, and family time together in nature.

Are any changes proposed to the rose gardens?

The rose gardens are a much loved feature of the Park. It is proposed to complete the circle of garden beds, with a pergola and path extension around the outer perimeter of the garden to improve accessibility to this facility.

What about the Necklace Poplar?

The Necklace Poplar is a significant feature within the Park, previously the tallest deciduous tree in New Zealand. Due to safety concerns the Poplar has been reduced in size twice in recent years, with the most recent reduction in 2020 reducing its height by half. The tree is closely monitored.

Feedback from the community engagement process raised concern about the impact on park users of retention of the tree.

An independent arboricultural report completed in 2022 found the tree has shown movement consistent with the direction of the lean and that the load reduction pruning may have been insufficient to limit further cracking in the trunk. The report recommended options for management of the tree and provided safety assessments. Given the ongoing management costs required for retention of the tree, including the potential relocation of the path, and the desire to enable users to access this area rather than be excluded from a section of the park, it is proposed to remove the tree. A resource consent would be required for this work.

Succession planning for the Necklace Poplar commenced some 20 years ago, with Council's arborist planting seedlings ago sourced from the tree. These trees will be identified as descendants of the original tree.



What is proposed for the sports fields and parking?

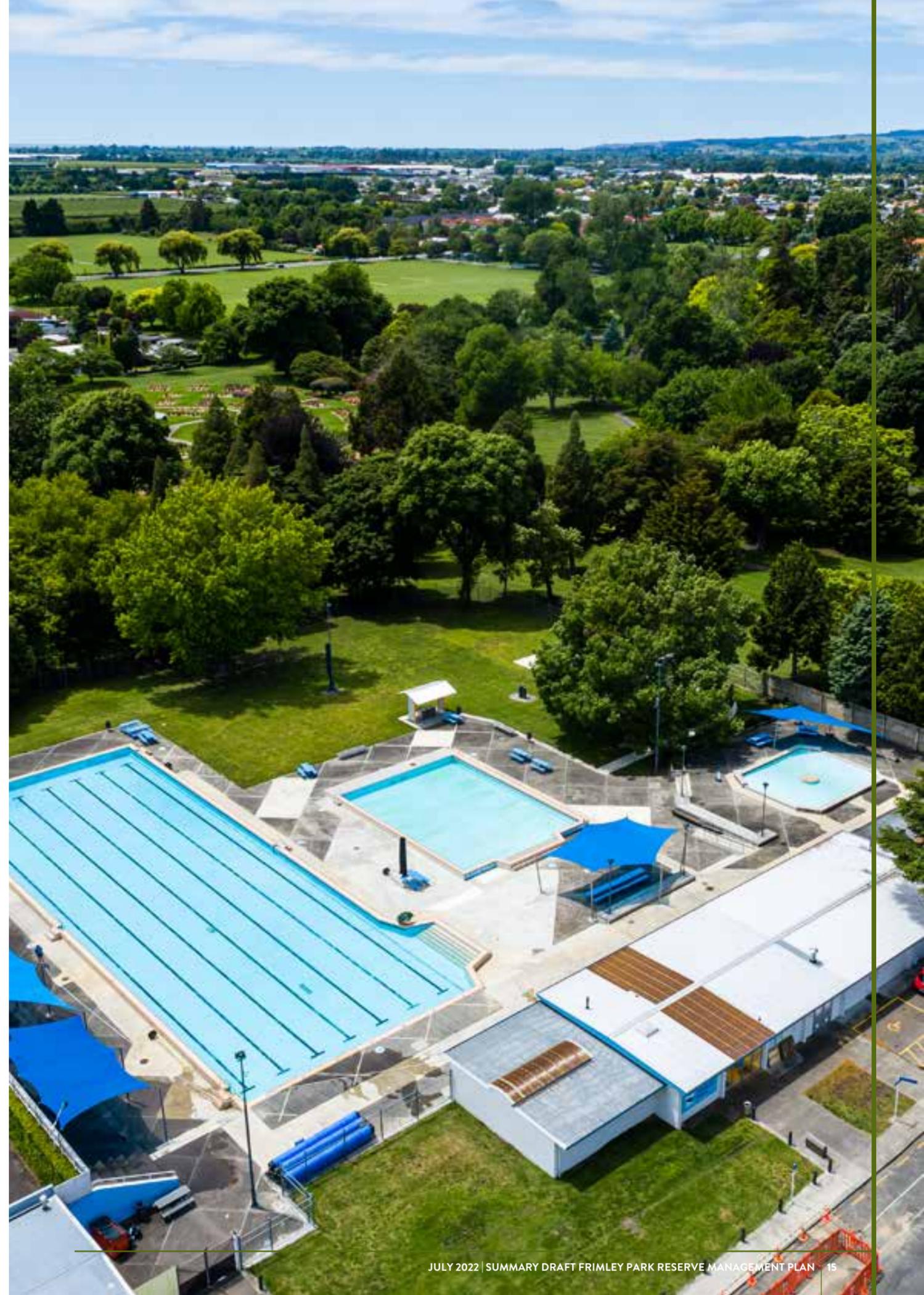
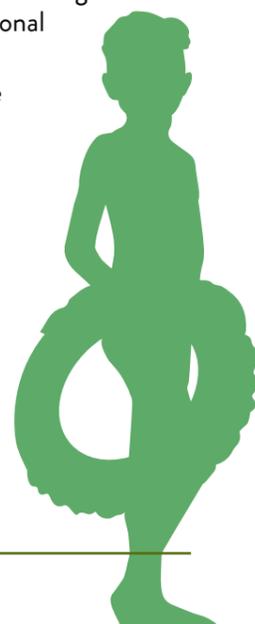
Parking and traffic safety improvements along the Lyndhurst Road frontage are proposed to increase parking capacity and safety during sports events, together with filling in the swale and construction of a shared path within the Park to improve access. This path will link to Pakowhai Road and Nottingley Road, completing this connection to assist users who choose to use active transport to visit the Park. Bicycle parking will be placed near the entrance with bollards located along this frontage to prevent vehicles damaging the sportsfields. The use of the sports fields will remain unchanged.

What about the water infrastructure?

The construction of the water treatment plant and reservoir has been underway since 2020. Two areas of the Park have been classified as Local Purpose (Network Utility) under the Reserves Act to provide for this infrastructure. The balance of the Park has been classified as Recreation Reserve, to ensure the recreation purpose of the Park is provided for into the future. No further infrastructure will be constructed within the Recreation Reserve land, with the exception of one bore which will be constructed near the playground when additional supply is required in approximately 10 years. The bores on the Park are provided for by an easement over the Recreation Reserve land.

What about Frimley Aquatic Centre?

While located on Frimley Park, the aquatic centre is managed together with the District's other aquatic assets. It is anticipated that following completion of the Hawke's Bay Regional Sports Park aquatic centre, a review of the District's aquatic assets will be undertaken, including the Frimley Aquatic Centre.



What happens now?



Making a submission

The community can now make formal submissions either in support or opposition to any part of the Plan. A submission is your chance to tell us what you think of the Draft Management Plan.

Council respects that members of the community use and value the Park for different reasons; and as such, will have different opinions on how the Park should be managed and developed into the future; and what recreation activities, in their opinion, may or may not be acceptable. In reading this Draft Management Plan, Council encourages you to remember that parks and reserves in the District are for all members of the community to use and enjoy for recreation purposes. It is the role of Council to balance the diverse and varied needs of the community; and enable the Park to continue to be used for a wide variety of recreation use, today and into the future, provided that such activities can be undertaken without having an adverse impact on the key environmental and cultural characteristics of the Park.

Submission forms are available at the following locations:

- Customer Service Centre, Hastings District Council
207 Lyndon Road East, Hastings,
- Hastings, Havelock North and Flaxmere Public Libraries
- Online at www.myvoicemychoice.co.nz

To make your submission as effective as possible, please state which section or policy number you are commenting on, whether you agree or disagree with it, explain your reasons for agreeing or disagreeing and state what you think is an appropriate change.

Please note, your submission, including your name, will be a public document, and attached in full to the hearing report for consideration by Council (your contact details will remain confidential).

Return your submission form

ONLINE

www.myvoicemychoice.co.nz

EMAIL

parks@hdc.govt.nz

POST

Hastings District Council, Freepost
108623, Private Bag 9002, Hastings 4122

DELIVER

Hastings District Council, Customer Service
Centre, 207 Lyndon Road, Hastings

**SUBMISSIONS
CLOSE: Friday
2 September 2022**

Speaking at a hearing

As part of your submission, you can speak to your submission at a hearing. Speaking at a hearing gives you the chance to explain your submission to Council and present evidence that supports your written submission. It gives you the opportunity to talk to Council about your thoughts and suggestions before they make their decisions.

If you wish to speak to your submission at a hearing, please either tick the box on the submission form, or make sure you state this if you do not use the form.

If you have any questions please email parks@hdc.govt.nz.

Council officers will be available at a drop-in event at Frimley Park (near the playground) on **Sunday 31 July 2022**, between **10.30am and 12.30pm** to discuss any questions or concerns you may have. (In the case of wet weather, the event will be held at Frimley Primary School.)

We look forward to your comments on this plan for Frimley Park.

**MY VOICE
MY CHOICE**



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