



**HASTINGS**  
DISTRICT COUNCIL  
*Te Kaunihera ā-Rohe o Heretaunga*



# TE PAPA RĒHIA O HEREPOHO ESKDALE PARK

Ko te Mahere Hukihuki Whakahaere a-Rāhui o te Papa Rēhia o Herepoho  
**Draft Eskdale Park Reserve Management Plan 2022-2032**

ADOPTED FOR CONSULTATION JULY 2022



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HASTINGS DISTRICT COUNCIL  
207 Lyndon Road East  
Hastings 4122  
Private Bag 9002  
Hastings 4156

www.hastingsdc.govt.nz

TE KAUNIHERA Ā-ROHE O HERETAUNGA





## He Mihi

Whakataka te hau ki te uru  
Whakataka te hau ki te tonga  
Kia mākinakina ki uta  
Kia mātaratara ki tai  
E hī ake ana i te ataakura  
He tio, he huka, he hau hū  
Tihei mauriora!

*Cease oh winds of the west and of the south  
Let the bracing breezes flow, over the land and the sea.  
Let the red-tipped dawn come with a sharpened edge,  
a touch of frost, a promise of a glorious day*

*Kupu Whakataki me te Kōrero  
Whakamārama*

## INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND



### *Te Aronga o te Mahere* **Purpose of the Plan**

This Reserve Management Plan for Eskdale Park sets out the vision, objectives, policies, and development and enhancement priorities for the Park over the next 10 years.

This document will hereafter be referred to as the Management Plan.

Developed with comprehensive input from park users and stakeholder groups, the Management Plan provides Council with a clear framework for the day-to-day management and decision-making for the Park, and assigns works programming priorities and budgeting through a community-developed Concept Plan and an Action Plan.

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.

### *Te Tūāoma o te Mahere* **Status of the Plan**

The Park is classified a Recreation Reserve in terms of the Reserves Act 1977 and is owned by the Crown acting through the Department of Conservation, with the administration and management delegated to Hastings District Council.

The Management Plan has been prepared by the Hastings District Council in accordance with Section 41 of the Reserves Act 1977.



# He pēhea nei te āhua o te Mahere

## How the Plan Works

The Management Plan is informed and supported by legislation, planning documents and associated policies.

### TE TIRITI O WAITANGI THE TREATY OF WAITANGI

Hastings District Council positively upholds Te Tiriti o Waitangi, The Treaty of Waitangi, as the founding document of Aotearoa New Zealand, with a particular regard to the Bunbury Sheet signed by Ngāti Kahungunu Rangatira in June 1840 at Waipureku.

Council recognises and respects the Crown's responsibility to take appropriate account of the principles of Te Tiriti o Waitangi, The Treaty of Waitangi: Partnership, Participation and Protection. These principles guide an evolving relationship with Mana Whenua as Council works towards effective and meaningful partnerships in Council business and decision-making processes.

Eskdale Park sits within the area of interest for the following Mana Whenua Authorities:

#### Te Taiwhenua o Te Whanganui-ā-Orotū

Te Taiwhenua o Te Whanganui-ā-Orotū represents Mana Whenua as an Iwi Authority through the Treaty of Waitangi (Fisheries Claims) Settlement Act 1992 under the auspices of Ngāti Kahungunu Iwi Inc. The purpose of Te Taiwhenua o Te Whanganui-ā-Orotū is to enhance the spiritual, cultural, social, and economic wellbeing of the hapū and marae within its area of interest, and to provide kaitiaki responsibilities of ensuring the restoration and maintenance of the natural environment.

#### Maungaharuru-Tangitū Trust

Maungaharuru-Tangitū Trust is the Post Settlement Governance Entity established to receive and manage the Maungaharuru-Tangitū Hapū Claims Settlement Act 2014. The Trust represents the interests of mana whenua hapū within their Area of Interest. Te Wai-o-Hingānga is the name of the Esk River for Maungaharuru-Tangitū hapū, and it is their main ancestral river, connecting from their ancestral mountain to the sea.

#### Mana Ahuriri Trust

Mana Ahuriri Trust is the Post Settlement Governance Entity established to receive and manage the Ahuriri Hapū Claims Settlement Act 2021. The Trust represent the interests of mana whenua hapū within their Area of Interest. Te Hukawai-o-Hingānga is the name of the Esk River for Ahuriri hapū, which was once a northern tributary of Te Whanganui-ā-Orotū the former inner harbour, which exited to the sea at Ruahoro and Keteketerau.

#### Ngāti Pāhauwera Development Trust

Ngāti Pāhauwera Development Trust is the Post Settlement Governance Entity established to receive and manage the Ngāti Pāhauwera Treaty Claims Settlement Act 2012. Te Wai-o-Hingānga holds historical significance to Ngāti Pāhauwera as the southern boundary for their Historical Area of Interest.

### LEGISLATION

The following are key pieces of legislation that are relevant to this Management Plan.

#### Local Government Act 2002

The Local Government Act 2002 empowers Council to meet the current and future needs of communities for good quality local infrastructure, local public services and the performance of regulatory functions in a way that is most cost-effective for households and businesses.

#### Reserves Act 1977

The Park is classified a Recreation Reserve in terms of the Reserves Act 1977 and is owned by the Crown acting through the Department of Conservation.

Section 17(1) of the Reserves Act 1977 states that reserves classified as Recreation Reserves be held for the purpose of *'providing areas for the recreation and sporting activities and the physical welfare and enjoyment of the public, and for the protection of the natural environment and beauty of the countryside..'*

Section 41 of the Reserves Act requires that Reserve Management Plans be prepared to provide for and ensure the *"use, enjoyment, maintenance, protection, and preservation... and...the development"* of the reserve. They enable Council to outline intentions for parks and reserves with the input of the community. The aim of this legislation is to ensure that reserve management and development is based on sound principles, and that there are appropriate controls that reflect the purpose for which the reserve is classified.

This Management Plan has been prepared under the provisions of the Reserves Act 1977.

#### Resource Management Act 1991

The role of Council under the Resource Management Act 1991 is to promote sustainable management of resources. Activities within reserves will need to comply with the requirements of this Act, and the various plans and standards prepared under it.

#### Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga Act 2014

The Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga Act 2014 seeks to promote the identification, protection, preservation, and conservation of the historical and cultural heritage of New Zealand. This includes historic places, such as archaeological sites and wāhi tapu. Under this Act it is an offence to destroy, damage, or modify any archaeological site without an authority from Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga. The Act also requires an authority if there is a reasonable cause to suspect that an archaeological site (recorded or unrecorded) may be damaged, modified, or destroyed by any activity (other than by natural processes).

#### Maungaharuru-Tangitū Hapū Claims Settlement Act 2014 and Ahuriri Hapū Claims Settlement Act 2021

Mana whenua hold Statutory Acknowledgements and Deeds of Recognition over Te Wai-o-Hingānga | Te Hukawai-o-Hingānga | Esk River and its tributaries through their respective Post Settlement Governance Entities Maungaharuru-Tangitū Trust and Mana Ahuriri Trust, which have a shared Area of Interest across Eskdale Park. Deeds of Recognition oblige the Crown and Local Government to consult with mana whenua and have regard to their views regarding their special association with Te Wai-o-Hingānga | Te Hukawai-o-Hingānga | Esk River.

### COUNCIL PLANS AND POLICIES

The Management Plan is also informed by Te Aranga Design Principles and the Toi-tū Hawke's Bay Strategy, of which align to Council's current plans and policies, including the following:

#### Hastings Operative District Plan

Section 13.1 of the Operative District Plan identifies the parks and reserves within the District which have an 'Open Space Zone', the purpose of which is to ensure that the effects of activities established on public open spaces are mitigated, while enabling the reserve to meet the needs of the community. Within the Zone there are seven open space categories, which reflect the primary characteristics of each open space and are consistent with those in the Reserves Strategy 2006: (1) Sport and Recreation; (2) Community; (3) Public Gardens; (4) Open Space; (5) Cultural Heritage; (6) Civic Space; and (7) Linkages. Eskdale Park is classified as a Community Reserve in the Operative Hastings District Plan, which allows for informal leisure and social opportunities.

The District Plan generally provides that where an activity is authorised in a Reserve Management Plan, it is a permitted activity, subject to meeting controls such as building setbacks, noise and traffic controls.

Eskdale Park is also subject to other rules in the District Plan, such as River Hazard Overlay rules.

#### Long Term Plan 2021-31 (LTP)

A key function of the Local Government Act 2002 is to meet the current and future needs of communities for good-quality local infrastructure, local public services, and performance of regulatory functions in a way that is most cost-effective for the community. The Act specifically provides for 'libraries, museums, reserves, recreational facilities and other community infrastructure as core services. These services are required to be *'efficient; effective; and appropriate to present and anticipated future circumstances'*.

The Long Term Plan is Council's method for outlining the activities and services it is planning to provide over the coming 10 years. At the time of preparing this Management Plan, the current Long Term Plan covers years 2021-31. The provision, management and development of reserves and open spaces is an essential component of ensuring the safety and health of our people and the environment, along with making our communities places where people want to live, as identified in the Long Term Plan. The specific outcome is *'safe, healthy and liveable communities', through the 'provision of a range of accessible social, cultural and recreational activity'*.

#### Annual Plan

Supporting the Long Term Plan, Annual Plans provide business plans for each area of Council, including service levels and asset management information. The Annual Plan is produced each year and sets out the services and activities Council will deliver, what the elements will cost, and how they will be paid for.

#### District Wide Reserve Management Plan 2009

The District Wide Reserve Management Plan identifies objectives and policies which apply to all reserves throughout the district, including those not vested or classified as reserves under the Reserves Act. This seeks to ensure consistency, transparency and to enable greater community awareness of Council's intentions for all reserves throughout the district. The Policies and Objectives contained within the District Wide Reserve Management Plan will apply to Eskdale Park where relevant.

### Reserves Strategy 2006

The Council Reserves Strategy identifies the importance of green space in the District, and identifies existing provision and deficit areas, types of reserves as well as guiding principles and goals to address future demand, challenges and use of open space in the district. The purpose of the Strategy is to set the direction for provision of an open space network that will meet the District's needs for the next 10 years, taking into consideration existing Council provision and levels of service.

The 2006 Strategy is currently under review. For consistency with the District Plan and NZRA National Standards each of the district's reserves are classified as one of seven categories: (1) Sport and recreation; (2) Community; (3) Public Gardens; (4) Open Space; (5) Cultural Heritage; (6) Civic Space; and (7) Linkages.

Eskdale Park is identified as a Community Reserve, which includes those parks developed and used for informal recreation and sporting activities, play and family-based activities and social and community activities.

#### Play Strategy 2004 and 2008 Review

The 'Hastings: Coming Out to Play' Strategy provides direction for the provision of play in public spaces and identifies an activity plan for both renewing and establishing new play spaces. The activity plan is reviewed annually and provides a level of service hierarchy for play spaces as; Destination, Key Urban, and Local.

The play spaces in Eskdale Park are identified in the Play Strategy as a Key Urban Playscape. Key Urban playscapes are found in places that serve popular destinations, with space for different ages and abilities to play at the same time. Key Urban playscapes typically provide at least six play pieces. Playscapes in the rural areas, such as Eskdale, not only meet the needs of the local communities they set in, but in many cases are visitor destinations.

#### Landmarks Development Plan 2011

The purpose of the Landmarks Development Plan is to promote the district's image, identity and sense of place, and to foster civic pride. It is part of the Landmarks philosophy that the overall distribution and quality of open spaces contributes significantly to visual amenity, image and civic amenity. A well-developed open space network integrates town and country.

#### Te Aranga Māori Cultural Landscape Strategy 2008 (2nd Edition)

Hastings District Council has adopted Te Aranga Māori Cultural Landscape Strategy 2008, working to embed Te Aranga design philosophy as a way of working for reinstatement, development, and articulation of the physical and metaphysical cultural landscapes of mana whenua. Te Aranga design philosophy is a values and principles based co-design process underpinned by the following principles:

- Mana Rangatiratanga | Chieftainship
- Whakapapa me ōna Pūrākau | Names and stories
- Te Whakatipuranga o Te Taiao | Healing of the environment
- Mahi Toi | Creative expression
- Ahi Kā Roa | the living presence
- Pōtikitanga | Cultural innovation

## Ngā Kōrero mō te Papa About the Park

Eskdale Park is a 12.5ha rural park sited on the banks of the lower Te Wai-o-Hingānga | Esk River, within Esk Valley, 20km north-west of Ahuriri Napier.

The Park is in two parts, being the publicly accessible park area of 7.8834ha (the western portion of the Park), and a leased area of 4.6618ha, to the east.

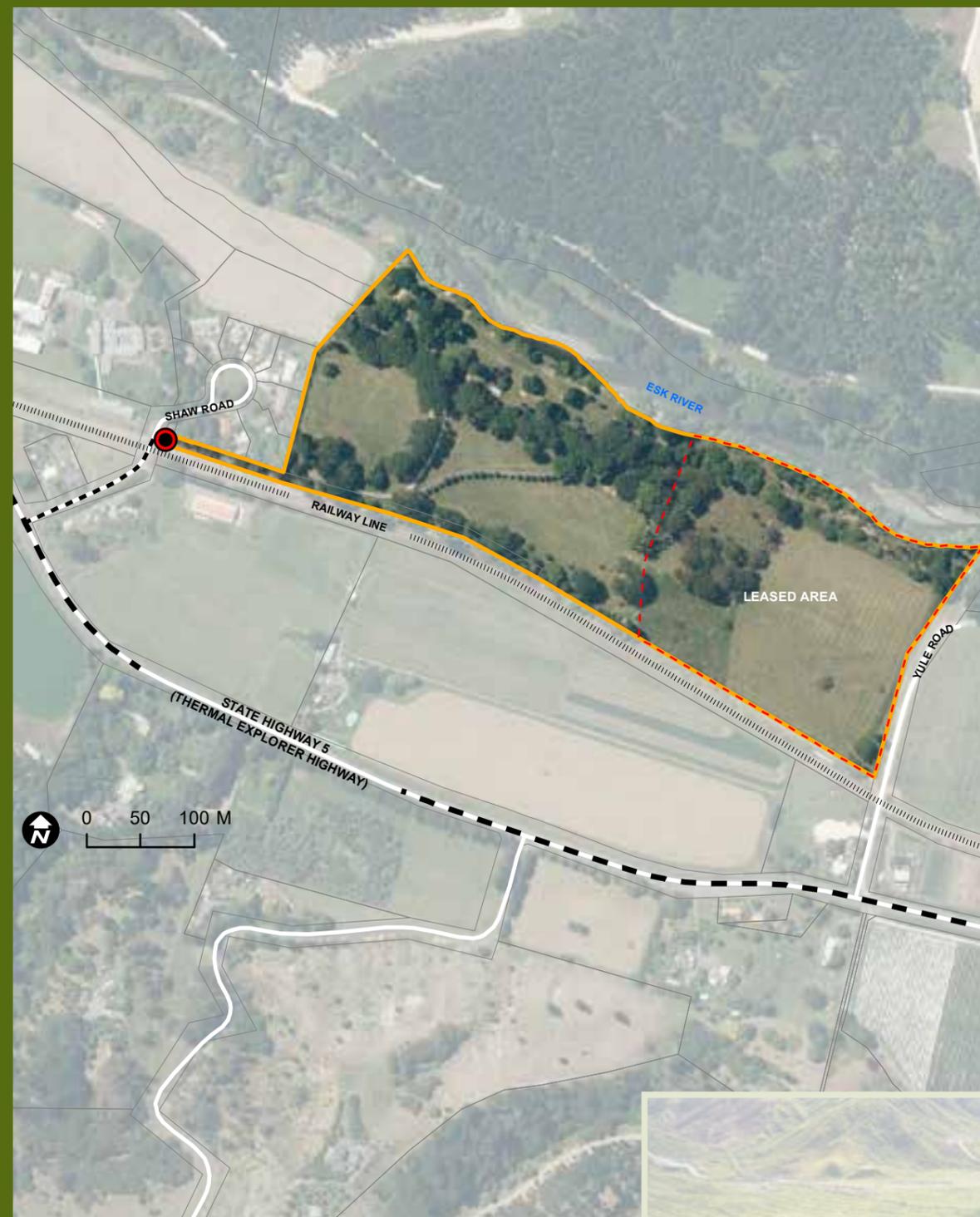
The Park is classified as a Recreation Reserve under the Reserves Act 1977, and managed by Hastings District Council on behalf of the Crown.

### LOCATION

Eskdale Park is located on the bank of Te Wai-o-Hingānga | Esk River, at Herepoho Eskdale.

The Park is bordered to the north by the Te Wai-o-Hingānga | Esk River and to the south by the Palmerston North-Gisborne Railway.

The western boundary comprises an accessway from Shaw Road and private residential properties fronting onto the Park. The eastern boundary comprises the land currently leased for grazing, accessed via Yule Road and its intersection with State Highway 5.



Eskdale Park Location Map

Shaw Road also provides access to Hukarere Girls College, a commercial brewery and café, and a number of residential properties. Yule Road also provides access to residential properties and the Eskdale Holiday Park.

The Park is located within a predominately rural environment, with the farmland used for cropping, vineyards and grazing. A Pan Pac owned forestry block is sited across Te Wai-o-Hingānga | The Esk River.

### LEGAL DESCRIPTION

Eskdale Park is a 12.5452 hectares parcel of land legally described as Block 18 Eskdale Crown Ground District, Block XI Puketapu Survey District SO Plan 6341.

The Park is a 'Recreation' Reserve in terms of the Reserves Act 1977 and is owned by the Crown acting through the Department of Conservation.

The land is held in the unregistered New Zealand Gazette 1981 page 2339.

### OWNERSHIP AND MANAGEMENT

The administration and control of Eskdale Park was vested in the Hawke's Bay County Council by a notice in the New Zealand Gazette in 1921 (page 2183). The assets of the Hawke's Bay County Council were subsequently transferred to Hastings District Council in 1989 during local government reform.

Hastings District Council manages the Park on behalf of the Crown according to its Recreation Reserve classification under the Reserves Act 1977.

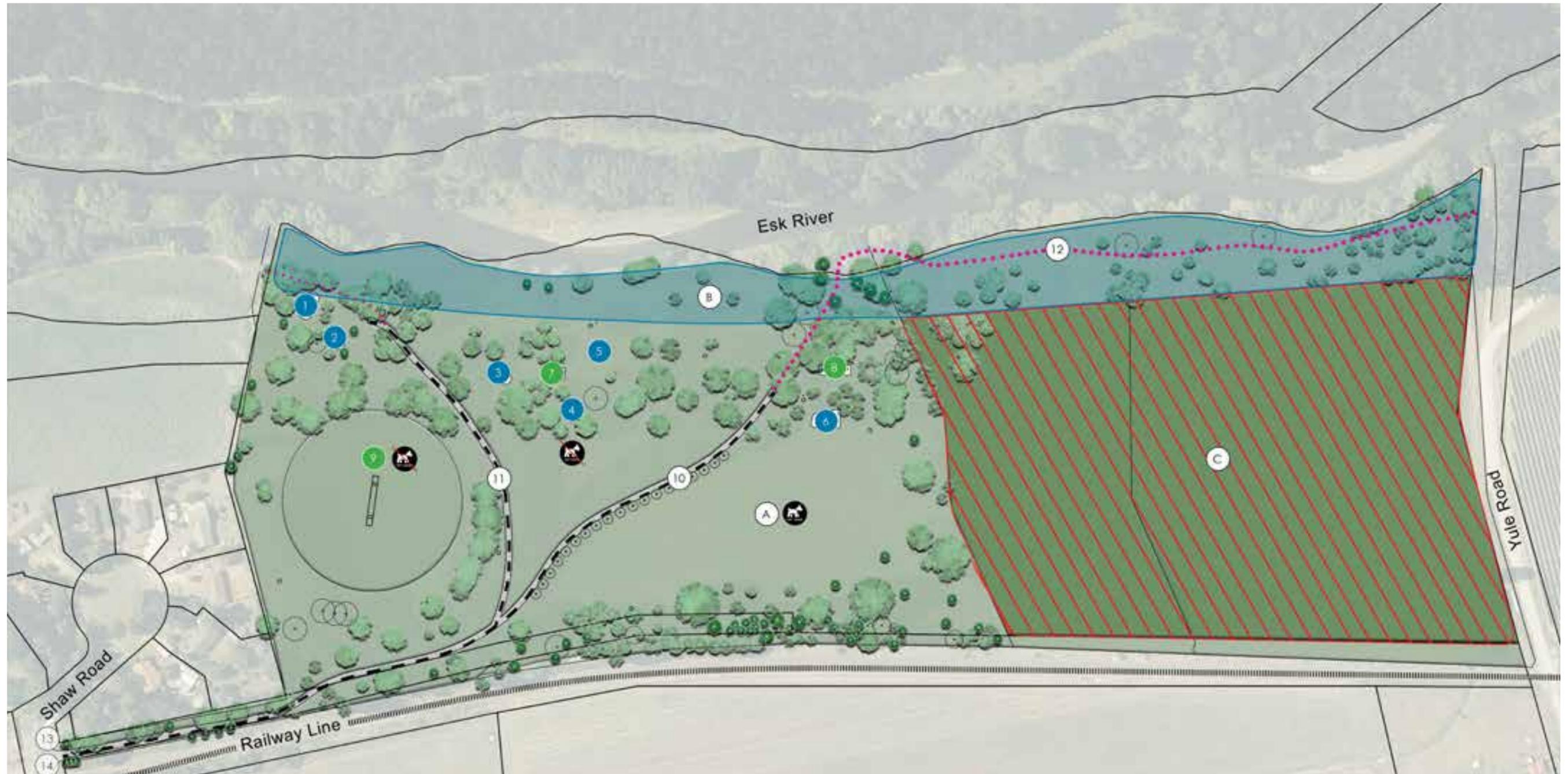
Pursuant to s 17(1) of the Reserves Act, recreation reserves are intended to provide "areas for the recreation and sporting activities and the physical welfare and enjoyment of the public, and for the protection of the natural environment and beauty of the countryside, with emphasis on the retention of open spaces and on outdoor recreational activities, including recreational tracks in the countryside."

Section 17(2) goes on to provide that recreation reserves be administered to:

- provide for freedom of access, with regard to protecting the 'general well-being' of the Park and the people using it;
- protect, where compatible with the primary purpose of the Park, its scenic, historic, archaeological, biological, geological, or other scientific features or indigenous flora or fauna or wildlife;
- conserve those qualities of the Park which contribute to the pleasantness, harmony, and cohesion of the natural environment and to the better use and enjoyment of the reserve; and
- maintain the Park's value as a soil, water and forest conservation area.

Eskdale Park Aerial Photograph





**STRUCTURES & FACILITIES**

- 1-6 Children's play areas
- 7-8 Toilet block
- 9 Cricket wicket
- 10 Formed vehicle access
- 11 Lime sand vehicle access
- 12 Shared pedestrian pathway
- 13 Park entrance
- 14 Thomas Clark and flood plaque
- Dog exercise area
- Dog prohibited area

**NATURAL ENVIRONMENT**

- A Maintained Open Space Area
- B Esk River Riparian Margin
- C Land Leased for Grazing (no public access)

- Trees - Native
- Trees - Exotic

SCALE | 1:2000 @ A3



# Te Taiao

## The Natural Environment

### LANDSCAPE AREAS

There are three distinct landscape areas within the Park that are unique and identifiable by their natural features, use and facilities. These areas are:

- 1 **Maintained Open Space – Exotic Tree and Grassland**
- 2 **Te Wai-o-Hingānga Esk River Riparian Margin – Exotic Riparian Treeland**
- 3 **Land Leased for Grazing – Exotic Tree and Grassland**



### 2

#### Te Wai-o-Hingānga Esk River Riparian Margin – Exotic Riparian Treeland

The entire 600m of the northern boundary of the Park is located on the true-right bank of the lower Te Wai-o-Hingānga | Esk River, providing a number of informal points to access the river for swimming and recreation.



### 1

#### Maintained Open Space – Exotic Tree and Grassland

This area is the main publicly accessible part of the Park. The purpose and use of this area is open space for passive and active recreation and access to nature and the river, with large mature trees providing shade and amenity value.



### 3

#### Land Leased for Grazing – Exotic Tree and Grassland

At the time of preparing this Management Plan, 4.6618ha of the Park is leased for the grazing of sheep, cattle or horses, or for cutting of hay or lucerne. No cropping is permitted as the existing water supply is insufficient for that purpose. This land is located on the eastern side of the Park, with access off Yule Road. There is currently no public access to this part of the Park.

## ECOSYSTEMS

Eskdale Park is located in the catchment of Te Wai-o-Hingānga. There used to be two main ecosystem types in the lower reaches of the catchment in the vicinity of the Park.

### WF2-2 Kahikatea, Tōtara, Matai Forest

This ecosystem type used to dominate the flood plains of the lower catchment, comprising emergent kahikatea under a canopy of tōtara, matai, pōkākā, black maire, white maire, titoki, tawa, kōwhai, lacebark, houhere and a range of divaricating shrubs. This ecosystem, once common along most river systems in Te Matau-a-Māui Hawke's Bay, is now listed as acutely threatened. Unfortunately, this ecosystem type has completely disappeared from Te Wai-o-Hingānga | Esk River catchment.

### MF1: Tōtara, Titoki forest

This ecosystem type was also once a dominant forest type in the catchment on drier sites than WF2-2, consisting of tōtara and titoki in the canopy with a range of broadleaf species understorey. It is also extremely rare and threatened nationally today, classified as acutely threatened. There are remnants of this ecosystem in the wider catchment but they are generally small and heavily modified and degraded.

## VEGETATION

The current vegetation of the main recreational area of the Park is exotic trees, consisting of large exotic specimens including eucalyptus (*Eucalyptus spp.*), oaks (*Quercus spp.*), poplars (*Populus spp.*), and walnuts (*Juglans spp.*) over an exotic grassland.

The leased area consists of exotic grassland (for grazing) and exotic trees, including a few eucalyptus trees.

The riparian area of Te Wai-o-Hingānga | Esk River is dominated by crack willows (*Salix x fragilis*) with other exotic trees, shrubs and herbaceous exotic plants, including pest plant species.

Except for some indigenous tree planting there is very little, if any, indigenous vegetation within the Park or the surrounding area. There is also no remnant indigenous vegetation in the park or in the immediately surrounding area.

While exotic, the Park's existing vegetation does have habitat values for native fauna. As well as providing various food resources and habitats for native birds (both observed and potentially present), some of the larger exotic trees with loose bark, knots and cavity holes provide potential habitat values for native lizards, bats, and insects.

## SOILS

The Park comprises weakly developed soils formed in alluvial sand silt or gravel (in deeper layers) deposited by Te Wai-o-Hingānga | Esk River from hard sandstone parent material. Generally, the soil is imperfectly drained with low vulnerability to water logging in non-irrigated conditions and has moderate to high soil water holding capacity. The soil is likely to have a structural vulnerability and a moderate nitrogen leaching potential.

## FAUNA

Avifauna within the Park is predominantly of exotic origin, such as the blackbird (*Turdus merula*), common myna (*Acridotheres tristis*), common starling (*Sturnus vulgaris*) and chaffinch (*Fringilla coelebs*).

The New Zealand Threat Classification System (NZTCS) is used to assess the threat status of native species and identify those as 'Threatened', 'At Risk' or 'Not Threatened'.

Not-Threatened native species found in the Park include kōtare/sacred kingfisher (*Todiramphus sanctus*), tūi/parson bird (*Prosthemadera novaeseelandiae*) and tiwaiwaka/New Zealand fantail (*Rhipidura fuliginosa*).

Other native species that have been recorded in the proximity of the Park, include pōpokotea/whitehead (*Mohoua albicilla*), which is classified as 'At Risk – Declining' (Robertson et al., 2021) where habitat is suitable. Whitehead are classified as the 'At Risk – Declining' in the NZTCS.

Te Wai-o-Hingānga | Esk River is one of the 'Regionally Significant' rivers for supporting nationally and regionally 'Threatened' and 'At Risk' bird species, including whio/blue duck (likely to be in the headwaters and upper river) and tōrea/pied stilts. Its river mouth regularly supports indigenous species including the piopio/banded dotterel (*Charadrius bicinctus*) which is classified as 'Threatened – Nationally Vulnerable'. While the river is primarily single channel, exposed gravel islands and muddy substrates are sparsely present in the channel. These features may provide habitat for shorebirds such as black-fronted dotterel (*Elseya melanops*), which is classified as 'At Risk – Naturally Uncommon'.

Bats are the only native terrestrial mammals in New Zealand with two remaining species, Pekapeka/long-tailed bat (*Chalinolobus tuberculatus*) and the lesser short-tailed bat which is separated into three subspecies (*Mystacina tuberculata spp.*). All bat species are 'Threatened' due to predation, habitat degradation and loss, and competition.

While short-tailed bats typically live within mature indigenous forest, long-tailed bats prefer roosting in small cavities of old, large trees, but have also been observed to utilise other features such as loose bark, hollow limbs or epiphyte growth for roosting. They prefer commuting and foraging along vegetation edges and near waterbodies. The nearest recording of long-tailed bats are from regenerating indigenous vegetation 5km inland from the Park area, where bats are likely foraging along the waterways and in the surrounding areas. Some of the habitat features commonly used by long-tailed bats, such as large trees with loose bark and knots and the river itself, are present within the Park and its surrounds.

Native lizards often occupy habitats of otherwise low ecological value that are not protected, such as weedy vegetation and vegetation margins. While predation pressures on native lizards (as well as other native fauna) are expected to be high in the area, the Park contains features that may potentially provide some habitat for native lizards such as northern grass skink (*Oligosoma polychroma*), and Raukawa gecko (*Woodworthia maculata*), neither of which are classified as threatened species. The introduced Plague skink (*Lampropholis delicata*) is also likely present. The Park also contains features that could provide habitat for the Barking gecko (*Naultinus punctatus*) which is classified as 'At Risk – Declining'.



Eskdale flood damage, March 1924 when 419 mm of rain was recorded at Eskdale in nine hours

## ESK RIVER WATER QUALITY AND ECOLOGY

Te Wai-o-Hingānga | Esk River has reasonably good quality habitat for most of its length, with regular riffles, pools and bends and a mostly large cobble/gravel streambed.

Riparian margins are well protected in the upper reaches. However, the catchment is subject to erosion/sediment inputs to the waterways due to its soft sediment geology. As a result, water clarity is generally relatively low in Te Wai-o-Hingānga | Esk River compared to other reference sites in the region.

Microbiological water quality is generally suitable for contact recreation. Nutrient levels are generally below the relevant guideline values and trigger points, and the trend of the nutrient levels are stable over time. Water quality, as measured by the macroinvertebrate community index, indicates that water quality is generally good with possible mild pollution.

The periphyton (such as algae) growth in the river is generally high, exceeding the threshold for the protection of aquatic biodiversity values, and is within or just exceeding threshold for the protection of aesthetics and recreational values. This indicates that the river experiences excessive nutrient inputs.

Indigenous fish species present or likely present in the lower reaches of Te Wai-o-Hingānga | Esk River along the Park edge include the following 'At Risk' and 'Not Threatened' species: bluegill bully (*Gobiomorphus hubbsi*), inanga (*Galaxias maculatus*), tuna long-finned eel (*Anguilla dieffenbachii*) and torrent fish (*Cheimarrichthys fosteri*), common bully (*Gobiomorphus cotidianus*) and short-finned eel (*Anguilla australis*).

## NATURAL HAZARDS

### Flooding

The Esk River flooded the Esk Valley in March 1924 with the Esk River rising six feet (in one location). Another flood, in April 1938, caused widespread damage. In 2018, 270mm of rain in 12 hours caused another serious flood with residents and campers evacuated from the Esk Valley.

The valley floor, fans and flood plain of Te Wai-o-Hingānga | Esk River Valley are subject to periodic inundation and fast rising flood waters during intense rainfall events. For new land uses and development, avoidance of the hazard is considered the best approach.

Eskdale Park is located within a Flood Risk Area and included within the River Hazard Overlay in the Hastings District Plan.

### Fire Hazard

There is a risk to people and properties from fire, predominately in the rural areas of the District. The dry weather conditions that exist in Hawke's Bay make the rolling hills and forested areas of the District susceptible to fire.



## Ngā Hangatanga me Ngā Whakaurunga Structures and Facilities

The Park provides an open parkland character of large exotic trees, open grass areas, play facilities and two toilet blocks. Two formed access roads (one sealed and one limesand) facilitate vehicle access into the Park. Internally, vehicular movement is unlimited with no barriers to vehicles accessing any area of the publicly accessible Park land.

### CHILDREN'S PLAY AREAS

There are six separate 'play areas' scattered throughout the Park. These are mainly located along the banks of a raised bund that separates the larger flat open space areas, including the cricket oval, from the river margin to the north.

While most of the facilities were installed in 2006, two slides that were installed in 1950 require replacement; 'monkey bars' also installed in 1950, are in good condition.

The equipment at each of the six play areas in the Park, including year of installation, are listed below. Photos of each of the play pieces and their location are identified on the map in Appendix 3.

PLAY AREA	PLAY PIECES	DATE INSTALLED
1	• 2 bay swing set	2006
2	• Balancing planks • Commando climber • Uneven vertical log steps	2006
3	• 1 bay swing set	2006
4	• Yellow/green slide	1950
5	• Monkey bars	1950
6	• 1 bay swing set • Green slide	2006 1950



### TOILET FACILITIES

There are two concrete toilet blocks in the Park, one in the central area (built 1975), and the other to the eastern end of the Park (1960s). Adjacent to the eastern toilet block is a raised mound with a water tank, surrounded by trees.

### PARK FURNITURE

Park furniture includes picnic tables, seats and litter bins. These are all of varying design, materials and quality in the Park.



## Ngā Āhuatanga ā-Papa Features of Significance

### SITES OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL SIGNIFICANCE

An Archaeological Screening Report was prepared in November 2020 by Dr Gaylyne Carter, Archaeology Hawke's Bay. This report identified that while there are no recorded archaeological sites within the Park, it does lie within a wider environment of cultural and archaeological significance.

There are a number of recorded sites in the area, particularly in the Tangoio and Bay View coastal hills.

The nearest currently recorded archaeological site is V20/209, a single pit located approximately 450m to the north west across Te Wai-o-Hingānga | Esk River within Pan Pac forest land. More widely there are a large number of recorded sites to the northeast associated with the Tangoio coastal hills, and to the south and south east associated with numerous pā.

It also lies in an area of Te Matau-a-Māui Hawke's Bay that was significantly altered by the uplift from the 1931 earthquake. This event resulted in the drying out of swamps as well as shifts in the natural courses of rivers in the region. Prior to this uplift and preceding drainage intervention by farmers and other agencies,

these broad valley bottoms were often areas of swampy wetland. Such environments were resource-rich for mana whenua, providing birds, fish and plant materials.

However, the historical evidence clearly demonstrates that the area has been and remains flood prone. Therefore, any archaeological presence will have been exposed to drying effects of uplift and drainage, scouring effects of flood through the river channel environs, and deposition of a significant overburden of silt throughout the wider valley. All these events will likely have compromised or destroyed much of any potential surviving archaeology, or buried it deeply within the silt overburden.



### MEMORIALS

In recognition of the gift of land to the Park, there is a memorial to the late Mr Thomas Clark at the entrance to the Park.

A concrete pillar in the vicinity of the Clark memorial depicts the height of flood waters in 1938.

### OUTSTANDING TREES

There are no identified protected trees within the Park.

The community consultation identified the presence of a fruit tree located within the land leased for grazing that has special significance to members of the Clark family.



# Mana whenua

## MANA RANGATIRATANGA

The mana of iwi, hapū, whānau and their respective marae are recognised and respected.

Ko Haruru te Maunga

Ko Te Wai-o-Hingānga te awa e hukahuka ana

Ko Te Whanganui-ā-Orotū te Roto

Ko Tangitū te Moana

Ko Petane te Marae

Ko Ngā Karanga Hapū o Te Wai-o-Hingānga ko Ngāti Tū, Ngāti Matepū, Ngāti Te Rūruku, Ngāti Pāhauwera

Tīhei Mauri Ora!

Mana whenua history for this area stretches over one millennia with a strong heritage and association connected by rivers from mountain to sea. This long tenure and development of society was disrupted in the 1820s with the introduction of musket warfare and escalation of inter-tribal warfare known as Te Amiohenua | The Musket Wars.

Through the turmoil of Te Amiohenua, mana whenua sought exile and refuge at Te Māhia, under siege by invading tribes from the north, south, and west.

When the Ngāti Matepū, Ngāti Whakaari and Ngāti Te Ruruku hapū returned from exile they settled at Kapemaihi Pā on the south side of the mouth of Te Wai-o-Hingānga River (Esk River). William Colenso of the Church Missionary Society first referred to this pā in his diary in October 1848.

By January 1849, Kapemaihi Pā inhabitants had moved to a new pā two kilometres away at Petane.

William Colenso wrote in his diary on 30 January 1849 that he had arrived at a new marae on the north bank of the Waiohinanga, where Māori were building a chapel. He mentions leaving 'Bethany' after this visit. Petane is the Māori transliteration for 'Bethany' – a feminine name for the Biblical place near Jerusalem at the foot of Mount of Olives. It means 'house of welcome' or 'house of figs'.

In 1851 the deed for the sale of the Ahuriri Block was signed at Whareongaonga, and Te Wai-o-Hingānga was drawn as the northern boundary.

### Te Wai-o-Hingānga

Te Wai-o-Hingānga flows from the southeast end of the Maungaharuru, through what was a majestic sub-tropical podocarp forest, to the sea of Tangitū. For many centuries the primary waterways of Heretaunga were connected to Te Whanganui-a-Orotū and exited to the sea at Ruahoro, Keteketerau and Ahuriri at various points in time. Te Wai-o-Hingānga was an arterial route for those travelling between Te Whanganui-a-Orotū and the foothills of Maungaharuru.

Te Whanganui-ā-Orotū, Traditional Use and Environmental Change, customary usage report (1992):



*'In 1850, Kapemaihe pā was occupied first and was located near the beach on the south side of the present day Esk River mouth, and Pētane pā was located on the northern side of the present day Esk River.'*

*Prior to the 1931 Napier earthquake, the Esk River (known as Te Wai-o-Hingānga) flowed towards Te Whanganui-ā-Orotū (Ahuriri Estuary). Today, the Esk River flows south-east and exits at the entrance to the Esk valley at Tangitū (the sea). The Esk River is significant as a boundary and as a mahinga kai providing a wealth of kai including Kākahi (fresh water mussels), Tuna (eels), Inanga (whitebait), Kōura (fresh water crayfish), Kohitihiti (shrimps), Kahawai and Herrings. There are numerous sites of significance near The River including kāinga (villages), pā (fortified villages) and wāhi tapu (sacred sites). Kapemaihi a kāinga, and Nukurangi pā were located near the river mouth. Nearby is an urupā (burial ground) named Ararata – Mt Ararat. Further inland from Kapemaihi is the famous Heipipi pā. The important status of Esk River is recognised by the Hapū in their whaikōrero (formal speeches) on their marae and in waiata (songs).'*

### Te Hukawai-o-Hingānga

The following is an extract from the Ahuriri Deed of Settlement:

*'Ahuriri Hapū refer to Esk River as Te Hukawai-o-Hingānga, which is so named because in early times the river was narrow and deep and with the faster flow of water it produced a froth (hukawai) which often gathered along the riverbank or was seen floating by. The waterway is also known by the name Wai-o-Hingānga. Rising in the Esk valley, the river runs southwards until veering eastwards where it flows around the base of the Heipipi hills.'*

*Originally, the river flowed into the northern end of Te Whanganui-ā-Orotū. As a result of the 1931 earthquake, the river's lower course was altered and today it flows out to the sea at a point just to the north of Le Quesne Road.*

*Traditionally, Ngāti Tū are associated with the Esk valley through which Te Hukawai-o-Hingānga runs. The area around the mouth of Te Hukawai-o-Hingānga was the focal point of settlement when Ngāti Matepū, Ngāti Te Ruruku and Ngāti Tū returned from Nukutaurua in the 1830s. Initially the hapū occupied Kapemaihi pā at the northern end of the Te Whanganui-ā-Orotū. By 1849, those occupying the pa had moved to Porairā (later named Pētane) just north of the present-day mouth of the river.*

*Living communally in the Pētane district brought close connections between Ngāti Te Ruruku, Ngāti Tū and Ngāti Matepū. The lower reaches of Te Hukawai-o-Hingānga formed part of the northeastern boundary of the 1851 Ahuriri purchase block.'*



## AHI KĀ ROA | THE LIVING PRESENCE

The importance of maintaining occupancy of, and connection with, whenua – as the puna (well-spring) of our identity, and recognition of the value and importance of those who 'keep the homefires burning'.

Mana whenua acknowledge the Ahi Kā Roa Living Presence of Hukarere Girls' College and its contribution to the ongoing development and cultural aspirations pertaining to Eskdale Park, alongside all of those people who dedicate time and effort to care for and maintain this space.

Hastings District Council is committed to working with mana whenua on the development of Eskdale Park in a way that is conducive to fostering Ahi Kā Roa and reinstatement of customary use and activity to the Park.

## TE WHAKATIPURANGA O TE TAIAO | HEALING OF THE ENVIRONMENT

The natural environment is protected, restored, and/or enhanced.

Mana whenua aspirations are for the reinstatement of indigenous flora to Eskdale Park that holistically supports improvement of water quality and aquatic life, establishment of bird corridors, and planting for customary harvest and customary use.

Hastings District Council is committed to working with mana whenua on the development of Eskdale Park in the spirit of WAI262 Flora and Fauna, with respect to Mātuaranga Māori and the reinstatement of indigenous flora and fauna and their associated taonga and mātauranga.

## MAHI TOI | CREATIVE EXPRESSION

Mana whenua narratives are captured and expressed creatively and appropriately.

Mana whenua aspirations are for the installation of cultural markers that delineate cultural spaces and areas of significance, with associated signage and interpretation of stories and mana whenua heritage.

Hastings District Council is committed to working with mana whenua for the design and interpretation of pūrākau stories, whakapapa genealogy, and toi arts installed across Eskdale Park where appropriate for their respective interpretation.



Aerial photograph of Eskdale Park, April 1951

Whites Aviation Ltd Ref: WA-27440-F. Alexander Turnbull Library, Wellington, New Zealand



Thomas Clark, circa 1905

Clark Family Collection

## Te Hītori o te Papa History of the Park

Post-European history of Eskdale Park, prepared by Michael Fowler

### HEDGELEY STATION

On behalf of the Crown, Donald McLean purchased the estimated 265,000 acre (107,242ha) Ahuriri block from Māori in November 1851.

William Villers arrived in Napier in 1850. He settled on the Western Spit (Westshore) and established a trading post with the McKain family. In December 1854, William purchased 11,500 acres (4,654ha) of Donald McLean's land as a Crown Grant on behalf of the Villers and McKain families and other relatives. The families transported their household effects up Te Wai-o-Hingānga | Esk River and then by bullock to the homestead sections. Around 500 sheep from Mataruahou Scinde Island were also taken to the property.

The Villers family's land was on the southern side of the Petane hill while the McKains lived on the northern side.

The European name of Eskdale was first referred to by Douglas Mary McKain (then in Wellington) when she mentioned the birth of her grandson at Esk Dale, Ahuriri in 1857. There are three United Kingdom locations with the name Esk: the Esk Valley and Esk River south-west of Glasgow (where Douglas was born), the Esk River and Eskdale in the Lake District, and an Esk River south of Edinburgh.

In 1861, part of the Villers' land was taken over by Messrs Richardson and Troutbeck to become part of their Petāne Station.

The Carr brothers, Oswald and Edmund, took over 6000 acres (2,428ha) of the southern part of Richardson and Troutbeck's land in 1865. The brothers named the property after their birthplace – Hedgeley in Northumberland, England. They were later joined by their cousin John, but he soon left for Australia.

Oswald Carr was killed in 1868 along with another settler, Davis Canning, while fighting in the Ruatikuri Engagement during the New Zealand Wars. His brother Edmund returned to England in 1869, and James Orr was employed to manage the farm.

William Smith purchased the property around 1875.

In January 1899, William sold Hedgeley to Thomas Clark of Rongotea, Manawatū. The 6000-acre property (2,428ha) went for £33,000 (2020: \$4 million). Apparently, while riding to Napier, Thomas saw the property and admired it.

Thomas added to the property between 1902 and 1905, including land purchased by his sons. Hedgeley now extended to Te Wai-o-Hingānga | Esk River, which was part of Block 8 of the Crown Grant.

Thomas sold around 36 acres in 1918 to Hawke's Bay Children's Home for a boys' home (France House). The land adjoined the railway line and Te Wai-o-Hingānga | Esk River, and is now the site of Hukarere Girls' College.

Thomas Clark announced in October 1915 that he would make a public gift of an area of around 10 acres for a Park, with the process completed in 1919.

Eskdale War Memorial Church, located on State Highway 5, was dedicated on 3 December 1920. The interdenominational church was built by Thomas Clark and his daughter Annie in memory of Annie's husband, Lieutenant Percival Moore Beattie, who had been killed in action at Le Quesnoy on 4 November 1918. There are glimpses of the church from certain locations within the Park.

### IMPROVEMENTS TO ESKDALE PARK

A children's playground was developed in 1950 with two large slides, six swings, and four climbing frames around the park.

The Eskdale Cricket Club was formed in the 1930s and played games at the Eskdale Domain. It went into recess after the 1938 flood and remained so during World War II. It was revived in 1949 and the club laid a concrete cricket pitch in November 1951.

Pumice blocks for seats were purchased and the pavilion floor concreted in October 1956 for the conveniences and changing rooms, built at a cost of \$3000 (\$159,000).

It appears the club went into recess again in the 1980s, as the last recorded AGM is dated 1985.

### ESKDALE PARK COMMITTEE

To care for Eskdale Park, the Hawke's Bay County Council allowed the formation of a Park Committee, to which it delegated "day to day administration".

Reference to the committee was made in 1951 when the Eskdale Cricket Club wanted the park committee to "erect a notice to warn people to enter the park at their own risk." It appears this was in connection with picnic traffic encroaching on the cricket ground.

In 1972, the Park Committee reported to Council that "due to the large number of organised picnics using the Domain, consideration may have to be given in the near future to extending the grassed area". The Council reported that the Park Committee "continues to maintain a high standard in the Domain".

An attempt was made by the Park Committee in March 1974 to try and raise \$20,000 (\$237,000) to build a house for the caretaker. The only way they could get a loan was if the Council applied on their behalf but this was not a priority for Council. Despite enlisting the help of MP Richard Harrison, the committee's plan was ultimately unsuccessful.

Vandalism at the park was common and in September 1974 one of the park's toilets was smashed and large holes were made in a building housing a sewerage pump. The park caretaker had also recently found broken beer bottles littering the toilet blocks. This led to the park gates being shut at 7pm to stop vehicle entry.

The Park Committee in 1975 expressed reservations to the County about continuing to look after the Park but agreed to continue, with some financial support from the Council.

In 1977, the Council discussed developing the eastern part of the Domain by clearing poplar trees in the area.

On 6 March 1990 the Eskdale Park Committee wrote to Council advising that given the "lack of interest in running the Park, the community meeting agreed that handing the park



Freezing worker's picnic at Eskdale Park, 1931

Collection of Hawke's Bay Museums Trust, Ruawhāro Tā-ū-rangi, W329 (c) and (d) gifted by H J Williams



1953 newspaper advertisement

over to the Hastings District Council was in the best interests". The request was to "place the total running of the park with the District Council", with the following suggestions requested to be included in future management plans:

1. That Mr Arthur Blair be appointed as community liaison between Council and the valley community
2. That the Eskview Cricket Club be given free use of the cricket pitch and be asked to control social use of the cricket pitch
3. That all play equipment remains in the park
4. That monies raised from the felling of the small pine plantation be put back into the park by means of amenities
5. That the policy of locking the park gates at night be continued

This matter was reported to the 26 April 1990 Community and Recreation Committee meeting, and all recommendations were adopted with the exception of that relating to the pine plantation.

# Te Hitori Whiwhinga Acquisition History

When the Eskdale Domain was established in 1921 it was 4.9584ha in size, made up of land gifted by Mr Thomas Clark in 1919.

The Domain was added to in 1922 (2.11ha: Crown Land), 1923 (1.68ha: Estate of Mr Thomas Clark) and lastly in 1972 (3.93ha: Yule and river accretion).

The Park was the subject of a compiled Survey Office Plan 6341 in August 1972. The purpose of this plan was to amalgamate all the individual land parcels making up the domain and include a number of parcels of accretion from the old bed of Te Wai-o-Hingānga | Esk River. This Survey Plan enlarged the Park to its current 12.5452ha.

A map and table included in Appendix 2 identify the acquisition history of the land parcels forming the boundaries of Eskdale Park today.

In recognition of his gift of land there is a memorial to the late Mr Thomas Clark at the entrance to the Park.



AREA	LEGAL DESCRIPTION	AQUISITION
1	Part Block 8 Eskdale Crown Grant	Gifted by Thomas Clark in 1919
2	Part Block 8 Eskdale Crown Grant	Gifted by Thomas Clark in 1919
3	Section 10 Block XI	Crown Land given as a Reserve
4	Block 8 Lot 2 DP 4189	Gifted by the Estate Thomas Clark in 1923
5	Part Lot 9 DP4301	River Bed Accretion acquired from B Yule and A Robinson
6	Block XI Puketapu Survey District SO 6236	River Bed Accretion

Extract from SO3958 (1918)

## AREA 1 & 2: PARK BLOCK 8

The first parcels of land for Eskdale Park were received from Mr Thomas Clark in 1919. The land was included in the Crown Grant for Block 8 Eskdale Crown Grant District.

At the time Mr Clark was a Hawke's Bay County Councillor and at the October 1915 Council meeting he said:

*"The desirability of setting aside areas of land in the county for picnics and recreation has often been suggested by the Council. The Esk valley has become a favourite resort for summer holiday-makers, and I should be pleased if the Council would accept from me a gift of a block of land to be permanently set aside for a camping, picnic and recreation ground for the free use of the public. Now that the Railway Department has defined the position of the proposed Eskdale railway station, I thought that a site adjoining would be a convenient and suitable one for the purpose mentioned, commencing at chain peg 9.66 or thereabouts, and ending at the 10 mile peg, an area of about 10 acres. There would be a frontage to the railway and to the river. The gift to be unconditional, except that in the framing of the necessary by-laws by the Council regulating the use of the grounds by the public I should like to be consulted prior to their final adoption".*

No gift deed has been found for Thomas's land donation, or any record of his express wishes regarding the park. The Chairman of the County Council commented "the Council should be proud to have such a liberal member".

A letter dated October 1918 from the Department of Lands and Survey office in Napier to the Under Secretary for Lands mentioned Thomas Clark's gift being "in aggregate about 13 acres as a site for recreational purposes." It is mentioned in the letter that the area was to be used for "recreational purposes".

A New Zealand Gazette notice in April 1919 recorded that 1 acre and two perches of Block 8, Eskdale Crown Grant District together with 11 acres and 38.4 perches of accretion would be "taken for the purposes of a recreation ground".

Therefore, the land was taken by proclamation under the Public Works Act for a recreation ground, rather than being conveyed directly to the Crown as a public domain. This meant the land had to be reclassified under the Public Reserves and Domains Act 1908 to be administered as a public domain rather than a recreation ground.

Therefore in 1920, the Public Works Department prepared a proclamation declaring that this land was given by Clark for a park.

The land of 12 acres 1 rood and 0.4 perches was formally named in 1921 as Eskdale Domain to be managed, administered and dealt with as a public domain under the management of Hawke's Bay County Council.



## AREA 3: SECTION 10

The second parcel of land added to Eskdale Park was Section 10, Puketapu of 5 acres 0 roods and 35 perches (2.11ha), which was gazetted as Crown land to the Eskdale Domain in March 1922. This land was not part of Block 8 belonging to Thomas Clark and was in the ownership of the Crown as shown on the 1918 survey map.

The Department of Lands and Survey wrote to the Minister of Lands in November 1918 and mentioned that an adjoining area of 5.5 acres which belongs to the Crown could be included in the reserve:

*"If the procedure outlined above is carried out, the land donated by Mr Clark and the adjoining Crown land will form a properly constituted public domain available for recreational purposes for all time".*

Section 10 was land-locked with no road access.

## AREA 4: BLOCK 8 LOT 2 DP 4189

The third parcel of land to be added to the Park was Lot 2 DP 4189, comprising 4 acres, 0 roods and 25 perches (1.68ha), which was gifted by the Estate of Thomas Clark and others in 1923.

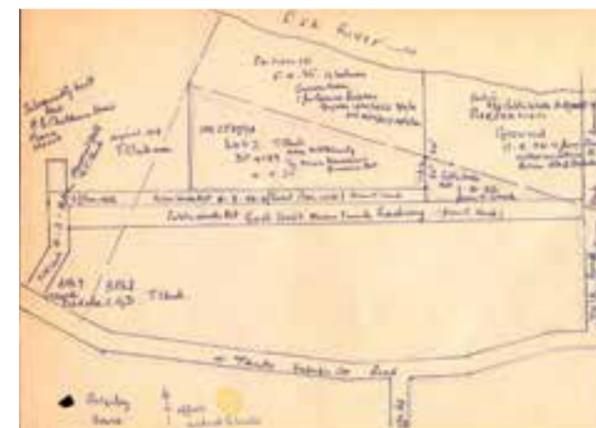
In January 1955 the Department of Lands wrote to the Commissioner of Crown Lands stating:

*"If Lot 2 DP 4189 forms an integral part of the Domain, it would be advisable for it to be given the same status as the Domain and you are authorised to approach the County Council with a suggestion that it be transferred to the Crown under Section 44 of the Reserves and Domains Act 1953".*

A year later, in January 1956, the Commissioner of Crown Lands signalled to the Lands and Survey Department that it would approach the Hawke's Bay County Council regarding including Lot 2 DP 4189 into the Eskdale Domain. This was done, and the Hawke's Bay County Council replied that they had no objection but would approach the donors (Clark family) to advise them before any action was taken.

*The Hawke's Bay County Council advised that the trustees of the Clark Estate "are in agreement with the proposal that the area presented by the late Mr T Clark be added to the area already proclaimed a Domain." It was decided by the Council to "install a plaque on the approach recording Mr Clark's generosity."*

Lot 2 DP 4189 was added to the Eskdale Domain by N.Z Gazette, 1956, No.66, p.1698.



## AREAS 5 & 6:

After the major flood of 1938, riverbed accretion led to a new course for Te Wai-o-Hingānga | Esk River, and the old riverbed area of 9 acres 35 perches (3.6421ha) was officially added to Eskdale Park in 1972. The land had been used as part of the park for over 30 years. This was gazetted on 9 November 1972.

The accretion claim shown as Area 5 was approved by the Chief Surveyor upon approval of SO 6236 in December 1971. The accretion land was then added to the Eskdale Domain by a notice in the New Zealand Gazette. The accretion area was the old bed of Te Wai-o-Hingānga | Esk River which had never been in private ownership.

The land shown as Area 6 was defined by survey in August 1972 by SO 6341. These areas are shown as 0-0-17, 0-0-04, 0-0-34 and 1-1-20 on SO 6341. These land parcels were originally part of the property of Brian Yule and Arthur Robinson, contained in title HB181/22. The Yule and Robinson property was physically defined by DP 4301 which was a reconstituted plan, with the original having been lost in a fire following the Hawke's Bay Earthquake.

The plan was not reconstituted until 1971. The alignment of the Esk River had moved between the original undated survey of the Yule/Robinson property and April 1971, when SO 6236 defined the river by survey. This land was exchanged by Mr Yule and Mr Robinson with the Crown for use as a recreation ground, in exchange for the Crown surveying and declaring an extension of Yule Road to be legal road.

Map drawn by R Clark, a grandson, in 1971 showing Lot 2 DP 4189 given by Estate of Thomas Clark

# Ngā Take me Ngā Āheinga Issues and Opportunities

A number of considerations and opportunities have been taken into account in the preparation of this Management Plan. These have been identified within the specialist reports that have been prepared, together with feedback from users and stakeholder groups.

## ENHANCEMENT OF BIODIVERSITY VALUES

The Park is located in a land environment where very little (less than 10%) indigenous vegetation is left. In such land environment, protecting any remnant indigenous vegetation, from mānuka shrubland to indigenous forest is a priority.

The original ecosystems of the Park and its surrounding area were kahikatea, tōtara and mataī dominant alluvial forests with various shrub, liana and herbaceous species underneath. This ecosystem was once extensive in flood plains formed by Te Wai-o-Hingānga | Esk River, which would have cast dark shade over the river, keeping the aquatic environment stable and optimal for aquatic organisms.

Some of the closest indigenous vegetation (regenerating kānuka scrub) to the Park is approximately 5km (linear distance) away, and closest indigenous forest remnant (White Pine Bush Scenic Reserve) is 11km from the Park. While some of the native birds may be able to traverse the landscape, lack of indigenous vegetation means lack of habitat and food sources in general. For example, kererū (*Hemiphaga novaeseelandiae*) prefer to stay close to their core habitat (such as tawa forest) and only occasionally do long-distance travel. Limited bird dispersal also means limited seed dispersal from remnants to the wider landscape.

Loss of indigenous forest results in a loss of a range of ecosystem services that such forest provides, such as climate regulation, soil conservation and clean air production.

With the climate change impacts inevitably hitting the region by way of drought and extreme weathers, protecting and restoring forest ecosystems and their services is crucial. In response to the biodiversity loss in the region, a Hawke's Bay Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan has been developed by government agencies (including Hastings District Council), mana whenua, community groups, industries, and landowners. These documents set out priority actions to halt the further decline of biodiversity in the region.

The aspirations of the Te Hukawai-o-Hingānga (Esk) River Care Group is to restore the biodiversity of the land and water of the catchment by planting indigenous plants along the river, and ultimately for the people who would be able to enjoy the thriving biodiversity. Their focal planting site is directly upstream of the



## FLOODING

The valley floor, fans and flood plain of the river valley are subject to periodic inundation and fast rising flood waters during intense rainfall events. When this occurs flooding of neighbouring properties and land can also occur.

Hastings District Council's District Plan requires any permanent buildings, structures (excluding bridge structures) and habitable buildings within the River Hazard Overlay in the Herepoho Esk Valley to obtain consent as a Non-Complying activity, to ensure consideration is given to this natural hazard during the design of such structures.

Park area, and their planting programme extends from there up to the Waipunga Road Bridge.

Given these initiatives, there is an opportunity for the Park to be part of this regional collaboration to halt the biodiversity decline and contribute to the restoration of a forest in the landscape. The restoration of indigenous vegetation could form part of a network of ecological corridors/stepping stones for native flora and fauna, and where people come to feel good and nurtured by nature, and learn about nature and its value.

## TREE MANAGEMENT

Park users frequently describe the mature trees as being among their favourite features of the park, particularly for their beauty, established nature and size, and the shade they provide.

The majority of the canopy coverage of the park is exotic, particularly poplar, with one cultivar providing the majority of the canopy coverage. The majority of these trees are either mature or fully mature specimens, with their structure showing emerging mechanical weaknesses.

There is an opportunity to enhance the management and recognition of the large number of mature trees within the Park, as well as providing for succession planning.

An Arboricultural Report prepared by Paper Street Tree Company in 2021 identifies management improvements and recommendations for the tree assets, which will be progressively implemented.

A proactive replacement and removal of trees that are becoming hazardous is recommended. Those recommended for removal over a staged period of time include the relatively short-lived failure-prone cultivar of poplar; or those that have compromised structures.

Continuation of the use of exotic trees must be balanced against the desire to increase indigenous biodiversity of the Park. Members of the community have historic connections with the poplar trees, particularly those around the cricket oval. It is therefore recommended to remove these poplars in conjunction with successive planting of large, long-lived exotic specimen trees such as Pin Oak or London Plane.

## LANDSCAPE AND OPEN SPACE VISTAS

The aesthetic qualities of the Park are not only visual, but relate to a range of user experiences such as 'contact with nature' and the quiet, tranquil ambience found within this space. The landscape has historic and community significance, enjoyed by the community for recreational and amenity values. Historically it is held in the memories of many, as a significant place of inter-generational social and family gatherings.

Park users enjoy the beauty and natural aspects of the Park, and the escape it provides from busy and crowded urban spaces. Commonly mentioned aspects are the scenery, lack of structures, and the rural country feel of the Park. The size of the Park also allows users to find their own uncrowded space, where children can run and play games. This gives park users a sense of tranquillity and freedom that is unique in its simplicity and informal nature.

The Park is characterised by its large open green vista, views through the Park, and large mature trees. This rural character has been identified as a fundamental characteristic to retain, enhance and protect from 'urban-style' development; together with the opportunity to showcase the beauty of the Park to encourage more people to visit and appreciate it.

There is a glimpse of the Eskdale Church, looking southwest through the eastern grazing land, that is a significant vista that should be retained and enhanced.

**“The mostly untouched environment where my kids use imagination. Make fairy houses under the trees, play in the earth piles, and hide behind trees”**

*2021 Community Consultation Response*

## CLIMATE CHANGE

Climate change predictions for the region are for temperature increases and extended periods of prolonged dry weather with decreases in rainfall and increases in winds and fire. This will have an impact on tree growth, plant establishment and how trees react to environmental stress. These effects are likely to be more severe for species which are currently at the extent of their climatic zone. It is important to recognise the impact of climate change and improve the capacity, resilience and adaptability of the Park to mitigate these impacts.

## MANA WHENUA HERITAGE AND TE ARANGA DESIGN PHILOSOPHY

Te Aranga Design Philosophy is a mana whenua-led, cultural values and principles co-design process that enables strong cultural design outcomes. Te Aranga provides a framework in which to express mana whenua aspirations and identify opportunities for cultural reinstatement.

Mana whenua heritage holistically includes the natural environment, physical and metaphysical realms, and maintenance of whakapapa genealogy, carried through generations with a strong tradition of oral history. Te Aranga design approaches underpin the relationship between Hastings District Council and mana whenua for this plan.

The entrance to the Park will benefit from clear welcome and naming signage, and the inclusion of the Te Aranga design principle of Mahi Toi Creative Expression for the installation of cultural markers and gateways.

## RECOGNITION OF HISTORIC ASSOCIATIONS

The Park has a rich history. The gifting of the original land parcel from Thomas Clark should be acknowledged and stories of the past shared with the community.

## INTRINSIC VALUE

The Park has an intrinsic value that goes beyond its physical features and characteristics, and how people use it and how often they use it. Knowing that the Park is there, that it is in public ownership and protected in perpetuity for future generations is a significant part of the value it has to members of the local and wider community.

## FAMILY

The Park is considered an important place for families to visit together for activities, such as picnics and cricket, and to mark special occasions such as Christmas Day and Boxing Day. Many park users have their own tradition of visiting on these occasions and value the Park for the close personal ties to family memories that often span multiple generations. Park users have described the experience of their families changing while the Park remains the same.

## COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

The community is highly active in the area with a high degree of interest in the Park and its current and future management. Local community members are active users of the Park and have a strong sense of identity attributed to the Park.

There is substantial opportunity to build on existing community involvement in the restoration of the Park; particularly through partnerships with the Te Hukawai-o-Hingānga (Esk) River Care Group, Hukarere Girls' College, Eskdale School and other community interest groups. There is also the potential to work with Pan Pac which owns land across the river to explore opportunities for public access for enhanced recreation opportunities.



## RIVER ACCESS

The Park provides convenient and direct public access to the Te Wai-o-Hingānga | Esk River for swimming and fishing. The river is viewed as a safe and peaceful place for people of all ages to swim, play and enjoy nature.

Current access to Te Wai-o-Hingānga | Esk River from the Park is via a series of informal 'desire line' tracks down relatively steep slopes that have been informally established depending on the location of the best swimming holes. Access is available at these locations along the full length of the riparian strip adjacent to the Park, extending from Shaw Road to Yule Road.

The opportunity to improve the river access with more formal structures has been investigated, however given the natural and changeable environment this would likely have limited success. Rather, the enhancement of water quality through increased riparian planting is likely to have greater long-term benefits to future generations to ensure continued river use and access.

## SURVEILLANCE AND SIGHTLINES

Passive surveillance of the Park from permanent residents is limited, with views intermittent with private fencing and vegetation obscuring some views.

Views to the Esk River margin are limited by exotic species, with informal 'goat' tracks to the water's edge where possible.

The avenue of Acacia trees along the sealed road corridor visually divides views across the two open lawn areas of the Park, and views to the river corridor are obscured by the natural ground level forming a ridge between the open lawn areas and the river margin.

The toilet blocks have obscured entrances, in particular the eastern facility which opens toward the river corridor, away from the active playground area of the reserve. The central toilet block is atop of the river margin ridgeline and opens out to the southern open spaces of the Park, with limited views of the access.



## PATHWAYS AND ACCESSIBILITY

Some members of the community spoke of the desire to 'leave the park as it is', to retain its peacefulness and tranquillity that is particularly enjoyed by immediate locals who feel a sense of ownership and protection of the space. However, in many cases, such tranquillity is obtained due to the park being inaccessible to the wider community, particularly those with mobility difficulties or young children.

Routes into the Park are primarily via one vehicle entrance, however access can also be gained along the Esk River esplanade reserve area that adjoins the eastern and western ends of the Park.

Formed access, both vehicular and pedestrian, is not provided to the two toilet blocks within the Park. Accessibility to these is limited to able-bodied users only, with no all-weather surface access from hard surface paths in the Park.

The provision of a network of pathways around the perimeter of the park for exercising, together with a new accessible toilet closely linked with vehicle access will encourage further use by the wider community. In addition safety surfacing within playground areas can be provided that will ensure features are accessible by children of all ages and abilities.

**'We are neighbours to the park and have little kids. Something for older kids would be great too. A bike trail around the park would mean kids can ride their bikes without having to do it on the road. We love the park, but it is not attractive for us to visit often.'**

*Community consultation 2021.*

Wayfinding within the Park is limited with no directional signage or clear indication of distances, facilities, names or directions to attractions within the Park.

## PLAYGROUND

Play facilities are scattered along the riverside ridgeline through the Park, with positions sited near to the two toilet blocks. Signage around these areas is not clearly visible.

There are six different play stations throughout the Park. While the ability to drive to these areas was identified by some as a positive aspect of the Park, a number of safety issues were also identified. Some of the existing equipment also requires replacement due to its age and condition.

The provision of a new upgraded playground in the Park has the opportunity to provide an enhanced rural play experience for children who have limited access to nature and wilderness. A new playground should be designed to fit into the surroundings, connect children with the environment, complement the rural character and provide a hub for parents and caregivers to interact.

There is the opportunity to involve the community and local school in the design of a new playground that responds to the character of the area; incorporates natural materials into the space, and provides natural and challenging play spaces that are unique to this Park, creating a point of difference to attract families to visit and enjoy nature.

Furniture throughout the Park is mixed, with variable styles of tables, rubbish bins, and surface materials.

## DOG WALKING

There is a designated dog-off lead area in Eskdale Park identified in the bylaws, comprising the area along the riverbank and perimeter of the Park, and the large grassed area to the south of the entrance road. The rest of the Park is identified as 'dogs prohibited' due to the presence of the cricket pitch and children's play areas.

A number of park users expressed confusion over the location of the different areas; concern of dogs within and near children's playground areas; and dogs off lead that are not under control.

There is an opportunity within this Plan to clearly delineate areas where dogs are required to be on lead that are practical and identifiable.



## PARK ENTRANCE/VEHICLE ACCESS

The public entrance to the Park (vehicular and pedestrian) is via a gated access from Shaw Road. The gates are locked in the evening with the 24hr exit gate allowing vehicles still in the Park at closing time to depart. While functional, it does not create a welcoming gateway into the Park. Pedestrian access and exit is available at all times.

The entry driveway is narrow and unattractive and has minimal signage marking the entry point. The accessway is shared with secondary access gates to private property along the access road into the Park.

Within the Park, vehicle movement is unlimited.

There are no formal or designated parking areas in the Park. While this enables a variety of formal and informal uses, at the same time conflicts can arise between vehicle movements and play and dog walking areas, particularly during high use periods. In addition the grass is often damaged by use during bad weather or inappropriate vehicle use.

Community engagement has highlighted this as both a positive and negative factor. Some users enjoy the informality of access and the ability to park in any area of the Park. However, the unrestricted access has also occasionally enabled undesirable behaviour, with cars destroying turf surfaces including the cricket ground.

There is the opportunity to delineate the playground and cricket oval with natural barriers to restrict vehicle access and clearly delineate dog exercise areas. The remaining area of the park will be able to be accessed by vehicles, to enable the continued ability to access picnic spots under the trees and the river.

**“We would like the continuation of free access, the ability to drive to an area near the river, or under the shade of the trees, to gather in a group or just be on your own to enjoy the peaceful country park atmosphere”.**

*Descendants of Thomas Clark*

## STATE HIGHWAY 5 AND RAIL CORRIDOR

The Palmerston North-Gisborne railway line runs through the area, crossing both Shaw Road and Yule Road at level crossings, while both entrances to the park are accessed via State Highway 5.

KiwiRail is responsible for ensuring safety in relation to the rail network, while Waka Kotahi is responsible for safety issues related to the state highways.

Any development or changes to the Park that will increase movements over the level crossing must be able to safely occur. Typically, KiwiRail requires a Level Crossing Safety Impact Assessment to assess changes in use and thereby identify what, if any, works are required to ensure the level crossing can safely accommodate anticipated movements over it (vehicle, pedestrian and cyclist).

State Highway 5 is the primary corridor through the area, providing inter-regional connection between Taupo and Hawke’s Bay. The posted speed limit on this part of State Highway 5 is 100km/hour (as at 2022).

The publicly accessible western part of the Park is accessed via Shaw Road from its intersection with State Highway 5. Shaw Road also provides access to Hukarere Girls College, a commercial brewery and café and a number of residential houses.

The eastern part of the Park that is leased for grazing is accessed via Yule Road from its intersection with State Highway 5. Yule Road also provides access to residential properties and the Eskdale Holiday Park.

Shaw Road meets State Highway 5 at a stop-controlled T-intersection, which has a right turn bay to assist traffic turning into Shaw Road. The Yule Road intersection is also stop-controlled but does not have any auxiliary turning lanes.

The safety of vehicles accessing the Park off the State Highway was raised during consultation, particularly with regard to any increase in vehicle numbers, or provision of public access to the Park via the Yule Road boundary.

Any improvement of facilities or provision of additional recreation use within the Park has the potential to have an impact on both of the Yule and Shaw Road accesses and therefore on State Highway 5.

A Traffic Impact Assessment has assessed the operational performance of both Shaw Road and Yule Road with regards to potential increase in traffic generated by any future park improvement works. The assessment has indicated that while both intersections could separately absorb expected additional traffic, there are identified deficiencies with the available safe intersection sight distances at both intersections, and Yule Road would require a right turn bay. Based on the level of assessment, Waka Kotahi has no objection in principal to intensification of either intersection on the basis that identified sight line deficiencies can be resolved and the recommended right turn bay can be achieved.

The Plan will therefore require consultation with and approval from Waka Kotahi for any activity or development on the Park that will likely result in an increase in vehicle traffic in order to confirm the feasibility of achieving the above requirements.

## FOOTBRIDGE

Eskdale Park has been identified by the Hawke’s Bay Mountain Bike Club (HBMBC) as an optimal location to provide direct access via a footbridge across the Esk River to the new mountain bike trails that are being constructed on private land owned by Pan Pac opposite the Park.

This public expression of interest by HBMBC is the principal driver for the preparation of this Management Plan, and was therefore specifically addressed during consultation, despite no formal application being received.

The construction of a footbridge would require:

- Consultation and approval from Maungaharuru-Tangitū Trust and Mana Ahuriri Trust.
- Resource Consent from Hawke’s Bay Regional Council for construction of a structure over the bed of a river, which would assess the effect of a footbridge on the bed and banks of the river. The Regional Council would need to be satisfied that the footbridge would not significantly impede the flow of flood water or adversely affect hydrological processes; and also assess any effects on neighbouring properties, erosion, aquatic animals and amenity values.
- Building Consent from Hastings District Council, which would consider the structural integrity of the footbridge.
- Consultation with and approval by Waka Kotahi and KiwiRail to address safety considerations of additional users accessing the Park off the State Highway and over the level rail crossing.

In addition to the above, permission would be required from Hastings District Council to locate the abutments of the footbridge on the Park. This would require a lease agreement with Council to occupy the relevant parts of the Park and potentially an easement or right of way to allow access.

Matters for consideration as part of an application for concession would relate to the effect of the construction of the footbridge abutments on the Park; including earthworks, vegetation removal and potential for archaeological remains to be uncovered; the visual impact of the footbridge; and its impact on the use of the Park, both by the physical presence of the structure, and increase in use of the park by different recreational users, visiting not to enjoy the park itself, but as an access point to recreation facilities on adjoining land.

Safety considerations of additional users accessing the Park off the State Highway are an important consideration, and the Management Plan indicates that consultation with and approval by Waka Kotahi, as well as Kiwi Rail would be required.



Benefits to the proposal would also be considered. In addition to the proposal facilitating access for members of the HBMBC to recreation facilities on adjoining land; the proposal has the potential to enable wider public access to the other side of the river, providing this can be agreed by the landowner and appropriately secured.

The consultation during the preparation of the Reserve Management Plan noted strong and conflicting views both in support of and opposition to the proposal, between both members of the community local to the park, and between cycling and non-cycling advocates. A higher level of comfort was expressed provided any infrastructure did not detract from the Park’s atmosphere or amenities, or use was made of the area of the park currently leased for grazing.

Given the above, it is appropriate that the Management Plan provide direction as to what may be considered acceptable. While not predetermining the outcome of any consideration and public consultation, this will provide guidance to both the HBMBC to pursue formal applications if they wish to, and the community as to the scope and location of the activity that may be considered within the Park.

The Concept Plan therefore identifies an area within the Park where such an activity may be considered acceptable, subject to the legislative and consultative requirements being met.

The proposed area is located within the land currently leased for grazing to ensure there is no impact on the current recreation use of the Park, or on the open space character.

The Management Plan is also explicit that the any footbridge located on the Park would have to be available for public use, with public access being available to the privately-owned Pan Pac land along the riparian margin of the Esk River. This would ensure that the footbridge would provide wider community benefit, rather than just to members of a particular club. Pan Pac has identified their willingness to consider facilitating this public access by the provision of associated pathways, river access and riparian planting. Further details would need to be provided in any application, including how public access would be managed with Pan Pac.

Council will follow the legislative requirements of the Reserves Act 1977 to assess and publicly notify any application for the use of the Park by any group or organisation, including any additional requirements identified in this Management Plan.

*Te Ahunga ā-Rautaki*

STRATEGIC  
DIRECTION

The strategic direction for Hastings District Council Parks and Reserves is identified in the Asset Management Plan and stems from aspirations for safe, healthy, liveable communities through the provision of a range of places for recreation and interaction. The focus of Council's Parks team is to provide public open space for the preservation and management of areas for the benefit and enjoyment of the public. This not only addresses safe, healthy and liveable communities now, but contributes to sustaining and improving the District's environmental quality, landscape character, cultural values and heritage for future generations to enjoy.

The strategic direction and vision specific to Eskdale Park has been developed through comprehensive consultation with the local community, users and stakeholders.

This resulting plan balances community aspirations for the future of the Park, while maintaining those aspects that make it unique and functional.

It includes an overall vision for the future of Eskdale Park and a series of overarching strategic goals and objectives that will guide and inform the overall management and development of the Park and key actions to deliver on these.

The decision on whether the actions will be implemented will depend on funding and ongoing community will, with improvements progressively implemented over the next 10 years.

## Te Wawata o Te Papa Park Vision

A rural country park providing a welcoming, safe family environment for all ages and abilities; with opportunities for recreation, natural play and river access in an open tranquil setting with mature trees; where history is honoured and new memories are made; with a thriving ecosystem where indigenous vegetation is restored, and Te Wai-o-Hingānga | Esk River benefits from enhanced biodiversity on the land.



## Ngā Mātāpono Whakahaere o te Papa Reserve Management Principles

The management of the Park is guided by four principles aligned with the Te Aranga Design Philosophy. These four principles are translated into four policy areas alongside a fifth area related to Kāwanatanga Management and Partnerships.

TE ARANGA GUIDING PRINCIPLES FOR MANA WHENUA	TE ARANGA GUIDING PRINCIPLES FOR RESERVE MANAGEMENT PLANS
Mana Rangatiratanga - Chieftainship	Kāwanatanga - Management and Partnerships
Whakapapa me ōna Pūrākau - Names and Associations	
Te Whakatipuranga o Te Taiao - Healing of the Environment	Te Whakatipuranga o Te Taiao - Healing of the Environment
Ahi Kā Roa - The Living Presence	Ahi Kā Roa - The Living Presence
Mahi Toi - Creative Expression	Manaakitanga - Sharing Our Experience
Pōtikitanga - Cultural Innovation	Whai Oranga - Promoting Healthy Activity

## Te Whakatipuranga o Te Taiao Healing of the Environment

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

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 Eskdale 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

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

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.



# Ngā Whāinga me Ngā Paetae o te Rautaki

## Goals and Key Actions

### Te Whakatipuranga o Te Taiao

#### Healing of the Environment

##### GOAL

There are fully functioning ecosystems within the Park where indigenous flora and fauna are prioritised, soil is conserved and Te Waio-Hingānga | Esk River benefits from thriving biodiversity on land.

##### KEY OBJECTIVES:

- Reinstatement indigenous flora and fauna to Eskdale Park that holistically supports improvement of water quality and aquatic life, establishes bird corridors, and provides plants for customary harvest and use.
- Enable partnership and involvement of mana whenua and the inclusion of Mātauranga Māori for the reinstatement of indigenous flora and fauna.
- Improve the ecological condition of riparian zone to enhance and support water quality and flood protection.

##### KEY ACTIONS:

- Establish an indigenous forest patch within the 4.7ha area that is currently planted with eucalyptus woodland and pasture.
- Establish an indigenous riparian shrubland/forest along Te Wai-o-Hingānga | Esk River that is contiguous with the Te Hukawai-o-Hingānga (Esk) River Care Group planting area, while retaining open connected views along the margin.

### 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 OBJECTIVES:

- Acknowledge the Ahi Kā Roa | Living Presence of Hukarere Girls' College and its contribution to the ongoing development and cultural aspirations pertaining to Eskdale Park, alongside those who dedicate time and effort to care and maintain this space.
- The Park is managed and developed with mana whenua, stakeholders and the community to reflect the desires of our ancestors, while meeting the needs of current and future generations.
- Enable Mahi Toi | Creative Expression of mana whenua narratives through cultural markers and gateways.
- Park users are connected to the Park through its history and stories.
- Mana whenua are connected to their ancestral river Te Wai-o-Hingānga, Te Hukawai-o-Hingānga and have cultural context to their living presence.
- Be effective kaitiaki stewards to ensure the Park is managed and developed to reflect the desires of our ancestors, while meeting the needs of current and future generations.
- Manage the Park in a manner that reflects its purpose, values and community needs and aspirations.
- Recognise and protect the landscape, open space values and natural heritage character of the Park.

##### KEY ACTIONS:

- Work with mana whenua on the development of the Park in a way that is conducive to fostering Ahi Kā Roa and reinstatement of customary use and activity to the Park.
- Work with mana whenua and the community for the design and interpretation of pūrākau stories, whakapapa genealogy, and toi arts installed across the Park where appropriate for their respective interpretation.
- Work collaboratively with mana whenua, stakeholders and the community to achieve the vision for the Park and aspirations of the Plan.
- Enable the continued guardianship of the leased block for private use until either the restoration of the land to an indigenous forest block commences and/or a determination on public use of this land is made.

### Manaakitanga

#### Sharing our experience

##### GOAL

The Park is a safe and tranquil sanctuary, providing a rural environment for relaxation, physical activity, education and environmental action in a natural and largely undeveloped setting to enrich the experience of users

##### KEY OBJECTIVES

- Retain the open space vistas and rural character of the Park to optimise the benefits of public enjoyment and recreation in an open setting.
- Enhance, promote and facilitate recreational use of the Park for passive recreation in a way that maintains the unique values of the Park.

##### KEY ACTIONS:

- Introduce Management Zones characterised by their landscape features, existing facilities and use and deemed acceptable future use.
- Retain the freedom of users to access the Park without restriction, while delineating the new playground and cricket oval with natural barriers to restrict vehicle access and clearly delineate dog exercise areas.
- Replace the two toilet blocks with a fully accessible toilet block consolidated to a central location, close to the formed access for mobility impaired users.
- Upgrade and consolidate park furniture to comprise a rural character, positioned in high use areas under trees, open areas, accessible by pathways, or where views can be obtained of features such as the river or Eskdale Church.
- Facilitate opportunities for larger group gatherings with large rustic picnic tables.
- Crown lift and remove trees where required for safety or to open views across the Park.
- Upgrade the main entrance to the Park to provide a high quality well signposted entrance along the entire route. Consolidate signage into a singular sign and provide clear information on park closure and uses, and consider replacing the control gate and providing CCTV.
- Improve movement through the reserve by formalising sealed surfaces for vehicle movement areas.

### Whai Oranga

#### Promoting healthy activity

##### GOAL

The Park is accessible and welcoming, with a range of facilities to meet the passive and active recreation needs of people of all ages, abilities and interests, set within a unique natural environment.

##### KEY OBJECTIVE:

- Promote healthy lifestyles by the provision of enhanced and additional facilities and opportunities for outdoor activity and exercise for people of all ages and abilities

##### KEY ACTIONS:

- Encourage increased park use and accessibility by providing educational trails and natural surface pathways for recreational walking and cycling and 'learn to cycle' opportunities for young children in a safe environment. Provide fitness stations, markers and wayfinding along the pathways with clear distances.
- Upgrade and consolidate play facilities in a single area to improve legibility of activity mix and user safety; designed to complement the rural environment.
- Use strategically placed natural and functional barriers to inhibit vehicle movement onto the cricket oval and within the playground; and clearly delineate dog exercise areas.
- Consider applications that provide opportunities for enhanced and additional recreational opportunities where the impact on the Park or park users can be avoided or mitigated.

# Te Tuku Matawhānui

## Delivering the Vision – Management Zones

Management Zones characterised by their landscape features, existing facilities and use, and deemed acceptable future use. Pathways will provide safe and accessible circulation within and around these different zones.

Four zones are introduced, each characterised by their landscape features, existing facilities and use, and deemed acceptable future use. Pathways will provide safe and accessible circulation within and around these different zones.

### Passive Recreation Zone

Emphasis is on open space and passive recreation, including:

- Maintained Open Space
- Exotic Specimen Trees
- Relocation of Play Areas
- Vehicle Permitted Area
- Dog Exercise Area
- Accessible Shared Pathways
- Picnic Areas and Park Furniture
- Community Events/Markets

### Ecological Enhancement Zone Riparian Enhancement Zone

Emphasis is on indigenous and riparian restoration, including:

- River Access
- Riparian Margin Restoration
- Publicly Accessible
- Indigenous Forest
- Partnerships with adjoining landowner restoration projects and public access
- Accessible Shared Pathways
- Minimal Structures
- Dog Exercise Area
- Restoration and Education

### Active Recreation Zone A & B

Emphasis is on safe play for all ages and abilities, with well-designed facilities to support family and group recreation, including:

- Cricket Oval
- Bespoke Children's Playground
- Structures, (Toilet, Shelter, Community Barbecue)
- Vehicle Restricted Area
- Dog Prohibited Area

### Active Recreation Zone C

Emphasis is on provision of facilities to facilitate access to indigenous forest and adjoining land including:

- Informal Carpark
- Vehicle Permitted Area
- Structures
- Community Events



#### PLAN KEY

- Dog Exercise Area
- Dog Prohibited Area

- Existing shared pathway
- Existing vehicle access
- Proposed shared pathway

#### MANAGEMENT AREA

- Active Recreation Zone
- Active Recreation Zone A
- Active Recreation Zone B
- Active Recreation Zone C
- Passive Recreation Zone
- Ecological Enhancement Zone
- Riparian Enhancement Zone

SCALE | 1:2000 @ A3



*Ngā Paetae me Ngā Kaupapa Here*

OBJECTIVES  
AND POLICIES



## 1.0 WHAI ORANGA | PROMOTING HEALTHY ACTIVITY

### 1.1 TE WHAKAMAHI PAPA RĒHIA | PARK USE

Eskdale Park is provided and maintained for use by the community for informal and formal recreational activities. Most activities undertaken by individuals and groups on a non-commercial basis have a low impact on the Park and other visitors. Permission is not required from Council to undertake these activities on the Park, which can include dog walking and running, barbecuing, picnicking, filming for personal use, and vehicle access in designated areas.

Any individual, group or organisation wishing to occupy or use part of the Park for more formal activities or use is required to obtain permission from Council. The process to follow is identified in Section 5.2: Concessions.

Eskdale Park is classified as a Recreation Reserve pursuant to the Reserves Act 1977, and this legislation identifies, in broad terms, how Council should manage the Park and how it should be used.

Section 17(1) of the Act states that reserves classified as Recreation Reserve are held for the purpose of 'providing areas for the recreation and sporting activities and the physical welfare and enjoyment of the public, and for the protection of the natural environment and beauty of the countryside, with emphasis on the retention of open spaces and on outdoor recreational activities, including recreational tracks in the countryside'.

Eskdale Park is classified as a Community Reserve in the Operative Hastings District Plan which means that it provides for informal leisure and social opportunities and may provide general amenities (green space, picnic areas, playgrounds, skate parks, walkways, and cycle paths and community buildings).

#### Objectives

- 1.1.1 To provide for recreation and use of the Park in a way that is compatible with its classified purpose of Recreation Reserve under the Reserves Act 1977 and does not compromise park values.
- 1.1.2 To maximise sustainable public use and enjoyment of the land and facilities at the Park for recreation, play and contemplation, while maintaining and improving its landscape and biodiversity values.
- 1.1.3 To provide a safe and welcoming environment to enable visitors of all ages and abilities to enjoy the natural environment.

#### Policies

- 1.1.4 Ensure the continued provision of a range of recreational activities within the Park, while protecting the natural environment.
- 1.1.5 Support the provision of new recreation activities and uses that are compatible with the Park's classified purpose under the Reserves Act 1977 and Hastings District Plan.

### 1.2 TE HĀKINAKINA ŌKAWA | ORGANISED SPORT

The Park contains a cricket oval with a synthetic wicket that is used informally by members of the community and for social cricket matches. The Park is not currently used for any other form of organised sport.

#### Objective

- 1.2.1 To provide and maintain the cricket pitch and field to an appropriate standard that allows the optimal use of the facility by use for the community.

#### Policy

- 1.2.2 Allow for the use of the cricket pitch for informal community cricket games.



## 1.0 WHAI ORANGA | PROMOTING HEALTHY ACTIVITY

### 1.3 NGĀ KURĪ | DOGS

Eskdale Park is a desirable area for dog exercise due to its large expansive grass area, proximity to Te Wai-o-Hingānga | Esk River and location away from busy roads.

Dogs are not permitted on the cricket oval or children's play areas. The remaining part of the Park (the grass area to the south of the entrance road) is a permitted dog exercise area.

Feedback from public consultation has expressed confusion over the location and boundary of the areas as well as concern about park users not following the rules, particularly the areas where dogs are prohibited.

Due to the current play facilities being scattered along the riverside ridgeline through the Park, the 'dog prohibited' area is quite extensive.

The proposal to centralise the play areas, and create a new bespoke playground in Active Recreation Zone 2 would provide additional dog exercise areas. Dog Prohibited areas would therefore be confined to Active Recreation Zones 1 and 2, with the remainder of the Park that is publicly accessible being an off-lead dog exercise area.

It is the intention to clearly delineate these areas by the use of natural barriers such as trees and seating rails, landscaping and stepping logs and appropriate signage.

#### Objective

- 1.3.1 To allow dogs in Eskdale Park in accordance with Council policies and bylaws.

#### Policies

- 1.3.2 Encourage the use of the Park as an off-lead dog exercise area with sufficient facilities to ensure that the needs of both dog owners and other park users are met and enhanced, in accordance with Council policies and bylaws.
- 1.3.3 Clearly delineate areas where dogs are prohibited with appropriate barriers and/or signage.

### 1.4 TE EKE HŌIHO | HORSE RIDING

Many people in the community enjoy horse riding. This activity can however create conflicts with other users, and may, if undertaken in inappropriate areas, adversely affect the park environment. Restrictions for horse riding are necessary to protect the park, including cultural and archaeological values and health, safety and wellbeing of park users.

It is considered that horse riding is not appropriate within the park, given the presence of cricket oval, children's playground and dog exercise area. Clubs are however welcome to book part of the park for one-off events that will ensure that any potential impacts on the park or park users can be managed.

#### Objective

- 1.4.1 To allow horse riding on the Park where a permit has been granted for one-off events.

#### Policy

- 1.4.2 Restrict horse riding on the Park to permitted events only or as specified in the relevant Bylaw of Council.

### 1.5 TE EKE PAIHIKARA | CYCLING

There has been a steady increase in participation in recreational cycling and mountain biking nationally over recent years. This is likely to be in part as a result of bikes becoming more accessible to a wider range of people and the positive health and social benefits of the outdoor activity.

Both recreational cycling and mountain biking have become an established recreational activity in the Hawke's Bay region; with the establishment of the i-Way network, and the provision of mountain bike trails, predominately located within the privately owned Pan Pac forest land and in Te Mata Park, Havelock North.

There is a plan to extend the i-Way network from Bay View to Whirinaki (Esk River mouth). While there would be significant benefits to extend this along the river bank out to Eskdale Park and Waipunga Bridge this would require further planning and consultation with adjoining landowners, given the narrow riparian margin and lack of flood protection in this area.

Park users are welcome to cycle within and around the park although there are currently no pathways that facilitate this. The creation of a shared pathway around the perimeter of the Park may encourage further use of the Park by the community for recreational cycling, particularly providing a safe area for 'biking beginners' and children. The provisions of such facilities is addressed in Sections 2.11 and 2.12.

With regard to mountain biking, the main issues with the current provision of mountain biking opportunities in the region are related to a lack of provision and connectivity to meet demand, the distance of purpose-built mountain bike facilities from urban areas and the reliance on commercial forests.

Eskdale Park does not have the appropriate terrain for the creation of mountain bike trails within it. However, the Park is located directly across the river from one of the region's largest mountain bike facilities, within the privately owned Pan Pac forest. The Park has been identified by the HBMBC as an optimal location to provide direct access via a footbridge across the Esk River to the new mountain bike trails that are being developed. The ability to locate a footbridge from the Park across the river to enable public access to these trails is addressed in Section 2.2 of this Plan.

#### Objective

- 1.5.1 To facilitate recreational cycling within the Park.

#### Policies

- 1.5.2 Provide a pathway around the perimeter of the Park for shared walking and recreational cycling in a safe environment.
- 1.5.3 Prohibit the construction of mountain bike trails on any part of the Park.
- 1.5.4 Consider applications to facilitate public access from the Park to private mountain bike trails across the river, subject to legislative and consultative requirements being met and that any facility provided is available for the use and benefit of the whole community.
- 1.5.5 Support the continuation of the i-Way network from Whirinaki to Eskdale Park and Waipunga Bridge should this be achievable and supported by the community.

1.6 NGĀ WAKA KĀINGA ME TE NOHO PUNI | MOTORHOMES AND CAMPING

There is documented history of Eskdale Park being used for camping.

At an October 1915 meeting discussing his gift of land to form Eskdale Park, Thomas Clark stated... *“I should be pleased if the Council would accept from me a gift of a block of land to be permanently set aside for a camping, picnic and recreation ground for the free use of the public”.*

In Annual Reports filed between 1932 and 1951 the Eskdale Park Domain Board identified that the Park was used for ‘picnics, sports and camping ground’, which appears to indicate that camping on the Park was encouraged in accordance with the wishes of Thomas Clark. However from 1953 the Annual Reports identified park use was just ‘picnics and sports’.

It is unknown why ‘camping ground’ was no longer listed as a use of the Park from 1953, however this was verified in the 1984 Eskdale Park Management Plan prepared by the Hawke’s Bay County Council that expressly prohibited all forms of camping in the reserve.

Since the introduction of the Freedom Camping Act 2011, there is a perception that camping is allowed as of right in any public place, which has led to an increase in freedom camping and a number of issues. The Freedom Camping Act however does not apply to reserves.

Camping in a reserve is generally prohibited under Section 44 of the Reserves Act 1977, which provides that any vehicle, caravan or tent may not be used for permanent or temporary accommodation within a reserve, except in limited circumstances including where such an activity is expressly identified in a management plan for that reserve. The District Wide Reserve Management Plan identifies those reserves within the District where overnight camping in certified self-contained is permitted, such as Puketapu Park. Eskdale Park is not identified as park where any camping is permitted.

Camping can have positive effects by providing options for members of the community and visitors to experience nature, and indeed the location, river and toilet amenities provided at Eskdale Park would make it an attractive and likely extremely popular destination for self-contained camping.

Camping can however also lead to issues such as conflicts with existing use and users, litter and damage to the Park grounds. In addition the Park is prone to fast rising flood waters during intense rainfall events. The relative seclusion of the Park would make alerting campers to the risk, and evacuation, in a timely manner difficult.

There is a public camping ground on land adjacent to the Park that has suitable provisions for overnight accommodation. It is therefore recommended that self-contained overnight camping remains a prohibited activity on Eskdale Park.

- Objective**
- 1.6.1 Retain the open character, informal recreation values and security of the Park by not allowing overnight camping in the Park.
- Policy**
- 1.6.2 To prohibit the use of the Park for any form of permanent or temporary accommodation, including in vehicles, certified self-contained campervans, caravans and tents.

1.7 NGĀ KAUPAPA E RĀHUITIA ANA | RESTRICTED ACTIVITIES

There are a number of activities that are not permitted on reserves due to their impact on amenity and the enjoyment of other users. These activities are restricted through Council bylaws. Breaches of bylaws can result in fines, confiscation of equipment or court orders for various purposes.

All of Council’s Bylaws are contained in the Hastings District Council Consolidated Bylaw. The relevant Chapters are Chapter 2 (Public Places) and Chapter 3 (Dog Control), which have been prepared under Section 145 of the Local Government Act.

Of particular note is Consolidated Bylaw 2.2.1 which relates to Public Places and provides:

*A person must not undertake any activity in a public place in a manner which may result in damage to property, injury to another person in that public place or unreasonably interfere with that other person’s use and enjoyment of that public place. For the avoidance of doubt, this obligation applies notwithstanding that the activity might otherwise be able to be lawfully undertaken in a public place under this bylaw.*

The Council’s Unmanned Aircraft Policy (2018) that provides guidance on where, and under what conditions the public are allowed to fly unmanned aircraft such as drones over the Park also applies.

- Objective**
- 1.7.1 To prevent activities from occurring that have an adverse impact on the natural environment and amenity values of the Park or significantly detract from the enjoyment of other reserve users.
- Policy**
- 1.7.2 Ensure that activities within the Park are consistent with the relevant Council bylaws and policies.



2.1 TE WHAKAWHANAKETANGA | DEVELOPMENT

There is scope for the further development of Eskdale Park to provide enhanced facilities to increase the enjoyment of users and encourage them to stay longer, provided that any development is in keeping with Park values, objectives and policies of this Management Plan, and any other legislative requirements.

Factors that need to be taken into account when considering new development include analysis of park values and the visual and landscape qualities of the Park, the consideration of alternatives, proposed design elements such as materials, colour and texture and how visible the structure is from key vantage points within the Park.

- Objectives**
- 2.1.1 To ensure that any development is consistent with the purpose of the Park and requirements of the Reserves Act 1977.
- 2.1.2 To ensure that any new development enhances the quality of visitor experience and is sympathetic to, and complements the character and landscape values of the Park.
- 2.1.3 To ensure the Te Aranga Design Principles and Toi-tū Hawke’s Bay Arts and Culture Framework are considered during design and implementation of projects across the Park.

- Policies**
- 2.1.4 Ensure any proposed development takes into account and recognises the following:
- a) The vision for the Park in relation to its specific values
  - b) The landscape character and features of the Park
  - c) The natural heritage features of the Park and its ecological context
  - d) Mana whenua values associated with the whenua (land), wai (water), and any other significant taonga of cultural importance
  - e) Visual intrusion of structures, including visibility from within and outside the Park
  - f) Utilisation of natural materials that reflect the colours and textures of the Park and locality, or are appropriate to its historical context
  - g) The appropriate range of activities to be accommodated in the Park
  - h) The extent and nature of revegetation and habitat enhancement programmes.
- 2.1.5 Require any proposed project or development within the Park to be analysed against whether the project aligns with the principles of the Plan, and:
- a) Expresses the identity and heritage of the Park
  - b) Fosters inter-cultural exchanges
  - c) Offers opportunities for cultural connections
  - d) Encourages community inclusion
  - e) Celebrates cultural diversity
  - f) Contributes to environmental awareness
  - g) Contributes to a sense of place
  - h) Enhances visitor experiences.

2.2 NGĀ WHARE ME NGĀ HANGANGA | BUILDINGS AND STRUCTURES

There are currently only two buildings in Eskdale Park; both of which are toilet blocks. The objectives and policies relating to these are included in Section 2.7.

Requests for new buildings and structures in the Park will be supported where there is a demand and need, and where they will not impact on the open space values of the Park.

The construction of buildings and structures are regulated by both the Hastings District Plan and Building Act. Structures that are not buildings may or may not require resource or building consent, depending on the nature and scale of the structure.

In terms of the Open Space chapter of the District Plan, activities do not require consent under that chapter if they are identified within this Management Plan. Consents may however still be required under other chapters of the District Plan, particularly the Natural Hazards section. Eskdale Park is located within the River Hazard Overlay of the District Plan which generally requires any permanent buildings, structures and habitable buildings to obtain consent as a Non-Complying activity, thus promoting the avoidance of this hazard.

Council may consider establishing a community recycling station in Eskdale Park in the future to provide residents of the surrounding area with access to a convenient local recycling facility. The establish of a facility in the Park would align with the goals and objectives of the Joint Waste Management and Minimisation Plan 2018-2024 and expected changes from Central Government.

With regard to new structures, Eskdale Park has been identified by the HBMC as an optimal location to provide direct access via a footbridge across the Esk River to the new mountain bike trails that are being developed.

Given this desire, the potential to locate a footbridge on the Park has been addressed during the preparation of this Management Plan, and while not predetermining the outcome of any consideration, it is appropriate for this Management Plan to clearly identify how an application would be assessed, and any area that such a facility may be considered acceptable. Further details would need to be provided at the time of application, to be publicly notified, giving the community further opportunity to be involved.

In addition to approval from Hastings District Council and Minister of Conservation to use the Park; the construction of a footbridge would also require:

- Consultation and approval from Maungaharuru-Tangitū Trust and Mana Ahuriri Trust.
- Building Consent from Hastings District Council, which would consider the structural integrity of the footbridge
- Resource Consent from Hawke’s Bay Regional Council for construction of a structure over the bed of a river, which would assess the effect of a footbridge on the bed and banks of the river. The Regional Council would need to be satisfied that the footbridge would not significantly impede the flow of flood water or adversely affect hydrological processes; and also assess any effects on neighbouring properties, erosion, aquatic animals and amenity values.

- Consultation with and approval by Waka Kotahi and KiwiRail to address safety considerations of additional users accessing the Park off the State Highway and over the level rail crossing.

The Concept Plan therefore identifies that such an activity may be considered acceptable in Active Recreation Zone C, subject to the legislative and consultative requirements being met. The Management Plan is also explicit that any footbridge located on the Park would have to be available for public use, with public pedestrian access being available to the privately-owned land along the riparian margin of the Esk River. This would ensure that the footbridge would provide wider community benefit, rather than just to members of a particular club.

Council will follow the legislative requirements of the Reserves Act 1977 to assess and publicly notify any application for the use of the Park by any group or organisation, including any additional requirements identified in this Management Plan.

**Objectives**

- 2.2.1 To allow for appropriately located buildings and structures where they support identified uses and activities, and do not detrimentally affect the cultural landscape, amenity of or use of the Park and meet the applicable requirements of the Hastings District Plan.
- 2.2.2 To ensure all existing buildings and structures within the Park are maintained to a high standard so as not to detract from the amenity of the Park.
- 2.2.3 To encourage the efficient use of existing and future buildings.

**Policies**

- 2.2.4 Replace the two toilet blocks with a fully accessible toilet block, located close to the formed access for mobility impaired users.
- 2.2.5 Assess proposals for the construction of new buildings or structures against the following criteria in addition to those rules and standards in the Hastings District Plan and Building Act:
  - a) Any new building or structure will facilitate community enjoyment of the Park
  - b) Any new building or structure positively responds to and enhances the amenity of the Park.
- 2.2.6 Consider the use of land within **Active Recreation Zone C** for the abutment of a footbridge to provide access from the Park across the river to additional recreation opportunities, subject to:
  - a) The applicant obtaining any required resource and building consents from the Hawke’s Bay Regional Council and Hastings District Council, including any required consultation and/or approval from Waka Kotahi, Kiwi Rail and Pan Pac;
  - b) Consultation and approval from Maungaharuru-Tangitū Trust and Mana Ahuriri Trust;
  - c) The footbridge being available for public pedestrian access; and
  - d) Public access being available to the privately owned land along the riparian margin of the Esk River opposite the Park.

- 2.2.7 Review the use and condition of buildings or structures on the Park to ensure they meet the needs of park users and the community and remain relevant to the Park. Where they are no longer well utilised, an alternative compatible community use will be found, or the building or structure removed.
- 2.2.8 Consider the location of a community recycling station within the Park should this be supported by the community.

**2.3 NGĀ TAIAPA ME NGĀ PAKITARA | FENCES AND WALLS**

The western boundary of the Park is shared with residential properties accessed off Shaw Road; together with two land parcels in Department of Conservation and Hawke’s Bay Regional Council ownership that are part of the revegetation programme of Te Huka Waiohonga (Esk) River Care Group.

The southern boundary of the Park is bordered by the Palmerston North – Gisborne Railway in Kiwi Rail ownership. The southern Park boundary is delineated by a post and wire fence along its entire length, from Shaw Road to Yule Road.

Yule Road forms the eastern boundary of the Park, which is delineated by stock proof post and wire fence.

Te Wai-o-Hingānga | Esk River forms the northern boundary of the park, with no structure in place to delineate this boundary or restrict access. Pan Pac own the forestry block on the northern banks of Te Wai-o-Hingānga | Esk River, opposite the park.

Farm fencing is worn but characteristic of the rural area.

**Objectives**

- 2.3.1 To define the boundary of the Park to ensure the safe use and protection of the landscape qualities.
- 2.3.2 To protect the landscape qualities of the Park from inappropriate vehicle access and vehicle use at night.
- 2.3.3 To ensure the safety of users by the physical delineation of areas.

**Policies**

- 2.3.4 Install fencing where required to restrict access or protect amenity features of the Park.
- 2.3.5 Ensure that any fence or barriers are designed and located so as to retain the rural character of the Park.
- 2.3.6 Contribute to the cost of any private boundary fence in accordance with the Fencing Act.



**2.4 NGĀ RAMA | LIGHTING**

Given its isolation in a rural area and lack of passive surveillance, vehicle access to Eskdale Park is restricted by a gate that is locked at night. There is therefore no clear safety or amenity benefit to be gained by providing lighting in the Park to facilitate safe night time use.

The only exception to this may be the lighting of new facilities or structures for security reasons and to deter anti-social behaviour.

**Objective**

- 2.4.1 To discourage night time use of the Park through avoidance of lighting in the Park

**Policy**

- 2.4.2 Provide lighting within the Park only where required to deter anti-social behaviour and to facilitate the protection of features and facilities from vandalism.

**2.5 NGĀ PAPA TĀKARO | PLAYGROUNDS**

Eskdale Park is identified as a Key Urban play space, with the Play Strategy classifying the current play value as poor, with a need for at least one multi-aged area.

There are six separate ‘play stations’ throughout the Park. Four of these stations include equipment that was installed in 2006. There are two slides that were installed in 1950. While these are valued for their historic links to the Park, they no longer meet health and safety requirements and will be replaced.

Many park users like the convenience of being able to drive to the playground stations that are spread throughout the Park, without having to walk long distances. Conversely other users consider the presence of vehicles close to children’s play areas a safety issue.

It is therefore proposed to design a new bespoke playground within the Park in consultation with the local community within **Active Recreation Zone B**, identified on the Concept Plan in **Appendix 4**. This location is centrally located, with convenient access to other features such as the cricket wicket and river, and an optimal central location for the new toilet facility. It is within an area of mature trees that will provide natural shade and shelter.

It is intended that this new playground will be designed with natural barriers (such as landscaping, seating rails or stepping logs) around the perimeter to restrict vehicle access and indicate clearly that dogs are not permitted within the play area.

Facilities will include new toilets, seating, shelter and community barbecue, as well as safety surfacing that responds to the natural rural setting, while being accessible to all users.

Natural materials will be used on all aspects of the new playground, and the bespoke design will offer unique and challenging elements, allowing children to experience nature, which will make this a popular playground to visit and enjoy.

Existing play pieces in other areas of the Park may be relocated to this new playground area, including community

favourites such as the Monkey Bars, with opportunities for new bespoke items, such as a tree house tower, included in considerations with the community.

Council will work with the local community, Hukarere College and Eskdale School in the design of this new playground, to ensure that it responds to the character of the area; incorporates natural materials into the space, and provides natural and challenging play spaces that are unique to this Park, creating a point of difference to attract families to visit and enjoy nature.

**Objectives**

- 2.5.1 To provide for enhanced play opportunities in the Park while ensuring the safety of users.
- 2.5.2 To ensure that the play equipment in the Park meets the needs of reserve users and is in keeping with the rural characteristics and amenity of the surrounding area.

**Policies**

- 2.5.3 Design a new bespoke play area with the local community and schools that responds to the character of the area, incorporates natural materials, provides natural and challenging play that are unique to the Park:
  - a) That is centrally located in **Active Recreation Zone B** with new toilet facility, seating, shelter and community barbecue
  - b) That responds to the character of the area, incorporating natural materials
  - c) That includes nature and challenging play that is unique to the Park while being accessible to users of all ages and abilities;



2.6 NGĀ KAUPAPA HĀKINAKINA ŌPAKI | INFORMAL SPORT & RECREATION FACILITIES

Parks within the rural areas of the district are popular with users wanting to participate in a number of informal sporting activities. Eskdale Park has extensive open spaces providing opportunities for walking, running and kicking a ball. It is used by the local schools for cross country and school sports days. The cricket wicket is used for informal cricket matches. While there are several children’s play areas, there are no dedicated facilities enabling youth to participate in informal recreation. The provision of youth facilities such as basketball courts were not largely supported during the consultation and therefore not recommended to be provided. The community was however comfortable with the provision of fitness equipment within the Park for circuit training, which could include distance marker posts to enable the pathways to be better utilised for school sports.

Objectives

- 2.6.1 To support and encourage the use of the Park for informal sporting activities such as walking, running and other passive activities.
- 2.6.2 To ensure that any proposed use of the Park for informal sport will consider the appropriateness of the activity, and take into account any possible impact this may have on the Park, its existing facilities and features, and users.

Policy

- 2.6.3 Incorporate elements that will facilitate the use of the Park for informal sporting activities, such as adult fitness equipment.

2.7 NGĀ WHAREPAKU ME NGĀ WĀHI PANONI KOPE | TOILETS AND CHANGING FACILITIES

Public toilets in rural areas are provided for the convenience of people visiting destination parks. They should be clean, well-maintained, accessible, safe and strategically located. There are currently two public toilet blocks within the Park. The block located on the eastern side of the Park was built in the early 1960s; with the block located in the centre of the Park built in 1975. While these two blocks provide adequate provision, they are both of low quality, with only one accessible toilet. Both facilities will be removed and consolidated to a central location, close to the formed access for mobility impaired users. The design will ensure entry points have broad visibility and clear movement areas around the building to allow clear sightlines.

Objective

- 2.7.1 To ensure that toilet facilities in the Park are safe, adequate, and accessible to the whole community and comply with relevant legislation.

Policy

- 2.7.2 Replace both existing toilet blocks with a fully accessible facility for community use within **Active Recreation Zone B**.

2.8 NGĀ TOHU | SIGNS

Visitors’ enjoyment and appreciation of the Park can be enhanced through raising awareness and understanding of the features and history of the Park. This can be achieved through interpretative and history boards which connect people with places.

Such signs can add to users’ experiences by fostering understanding and knowledge of the values and history of the Park, explaining management objectives and encouraging participation, as well as explaining the importance of user behaviour in public spaces.

Such story boards should reflect the Park’s ‘rural character’, and tell visitors the history of the Park, including the generous gifting of some of the park land from Thomas Clark.

Wayfinding signage can be introduced at key nodes throughout the Park, providing distances, destinations, attractions, closing times, heritage and cultural information and emergency contact information. Wayfinding information can be integrated into posts, bollards, signs, tables and other ground placed markers.

Objective

- 2.8.1 To enhance visitors’ enjoyment of the Park and raise awareness, understanding and respect for the cultural landscape and history of the Park through interpretation and signboards.

Policies

- 2.8.2 Provide educational and interpretative signs throughout the Park, including historical information, sites of interest and facilities to facilitate use, wayfinding, access and enjoyment of the Park.
- 2.8.3 Collaborate with mana whenua and descendants of Thomas Clark to design interpretive signs identifying features of historic and cultural significance.
- 2.8.4 Prohibit the use of the Park for the remote advertising of events that are not being held at the Park without the consent of Council.



2.9 NGĀ RAWA O TE PAPA | PARK FURNITURE

The provision of furniture in the Park, such as tables and seating, rubbish bins and drinking fountains, can enhance the visitor experience and encourage users to stay longer. Council has a standard bin and seat design that incorporates stainless steel for its endurance and robustness. Those designs will be used unless a unique design that is similarly robust is adopted to fit with the theme of a particular park.

There is currently a limited amount of furniture in the Park, including 11 picnic tables, three seats and three bins. This furniture is of variable design, materials and condition.

It is recommended that a new palette of furniture be designed, made of natural materials that better represents how the Park is used for social gatherings and family picnics. This may include longer picnic tables strategically located to make best use of shade and views, and proximity to playground and facilities.

Objective

- 2.9.1 To provide new and replacement reserve furniture to facilitate the public use and enjoyment of the Park.

Policies

- 2.9.2 Upgrade and consolidate park furniture to comprise a rural character, positioned in high use areas under trees, open areas, accessible by pathways, or where views can be obtained of features such as the river or Eskdale Church.
- 2.9.3 Facilitate opportunities for larger group gatherings with large rustic picnic tables.
- 2.9.4 Provide a community barbecue with associated drinking fountain, shelter and furniture.
- 2.9.5 Locate reserve furniture in appropriate settings with regard to orientation to the sun, shelter from sun and wind, and user safety and surveillance.



2.10 TE TAURANGA WAKA | VEHICLE PARKING

There is currently no formal or designated area for vehicle parking in the Park. While this has been identified by some as a positive attribute, providing park users with the ability to drive to a space under a tree or river; there were also those who identified this as a negative, especially with regard to the safety of vehicles around children in the playgrounds and dogs running off lead.

While the majority of users were respectful of others, it was noted that some drivers took advantage of the lack of restrictions and risked injuring people or caused damage to amenities (such as the cricket oval).

It is proposed to restrict vehicle access from the cricket oval and children’s playground. This can be achieved by the use of natural or functional barriers located between the gaps in existing trees around the perimeter of the oval. These can include seats, picnic tables or bollards, or additional tree planting. Natural barriers, such as landscaping and stepping logs will also be used to delineate the new children’s play area and amenity space to restrict vehicles.

The remaining area of the Park will be able to be accessed by vehicles, to enable the continued ability to drive to picnic spots under the trees and to the river.

If use of the Park increases in the future, to the point where the ability to drive and park vehicles freely within the Passive Recreation Zone creates safety issues, then Council will consider the creation of linear carparks along the entrance roads.

If additional public use is provided for in the land currently leased for grazing, associated carparking facilities may be required. These will be provided within the **Active Recreation Zone C**, utilising a natural surface delineated with natural barriers to prevent vehicle access into the Ecological Enhancement Zone.

Objectives

- 2.10.1 To maintain the existing vehicle access into the Park from Shaw Road for the benefit of park users.
- 2.10.2 To restrict vehicles from accessing the children’s playground and cricket oval to improve the safety and experience of park users in these areas.
- 2.10.3 To continue to enable the informal access and parking of vehicles within the Passive Recreation Area.

Policies

- 2.10.4 Restrict vehicle access to the cricket oval and children’s play area by the installation of natural or functional barriers such as seats, picnic tables or bollards, or additional tree planting, consistent with the character of the Park.
- 2.10.5 Provide an informal carparking area within **Active Recreation Zone C** if public utilisation of this part of the Park increases in the future.
- 2.10.6 Consider the creation of linear carparking along the access road within the Passive Recreation Zone if increased use of the Park has an impact on park user safety.

2.11 TE ĀHEITANGA | ACCESSIBILITY

As the Park is provided for all people of the District, it is important to ensure that where possible, the needs of the District's diverse community are taken into account and provided for. It is important to acknowledge that the District population includes a wide range of abilities, depending on age and physical ability, including young, old, those in pushchairs or injured, all of whom have a right to access and use the Park.

Provision of access to and through the Park is an important consideration. Vehicle and pedestrian access and circulation within the Park needs to be appropriate and safe as well as allow access to the variety of facilities and features, including playground, toilets, picnic areas and river.

The public entrance to the Park (vehicular and pedestrian) is via a gated access from Shaw Road. The gates are locked in the evening with the 24hr exit gate allowing vehicles still in the Park at closing time to depart. While functional, it does not create a welcoming gateway into the Park. Pedestrian access and exit is available at all times.

The following measures are proposed to improve access to the Park for all ages and abilities:

- Accessible pathway around perimeter of the Park;
- New fully accessible toilet located in central location
- Formalise existing limesand vehicle access road
- Enhance the existing entrance off Shaw Road
- Continue to restrict Park access after-hours to help prevent unsociable behaviour.

Objectives

2.11.1 To ensure that the Park and its features and facilities are accessible to, and inclusive of people with disabilities and limited or special mobility needs.

Policies

- 2.11.2 Provide safe access to facilities within the Park for people of all ages and abilities, including fully accessible bathroom facilities and sealed accessway, the provision of accessible safety surfacing in new playground design and provision of accessible pathway network around the perimeter of the Park.
- 2.11.3 Ensure that accessibility for people with limited mobility is considered in the design of any new features or facilities within the Park.
- 2.11.4 Continue to restrict access to the Park at night, as well as areas within the Park where necessary to ensure the safety of park users and the protection of areas of natural, historic, landscape or mana whenua values.
- 2.11.5 Consider opportunities for access to recreational opportunities across the Esk River, subject to obtaining any required concessions and the matters for consideration set out in Section 2.2.

2.12 NGĀ TŪHONONGA HUARAHI | PATH NETWORKS

Pathways can provide recreation opportunities for a variety of different park users.

There are currently no formal track or path networks through the Park. There is an informal 'desire line' track that has formed along the river margin.

There is community support for the provision of a pathway network around the Park, which would facilitate enhanced accessibility for all members of the community; as well as providing young children with the ability to ride bikes in a safe environment. This is particularly relevant given the lack of areas for safe cycling in the area.

The provision of pathways will however be kept to a minimum, to ensure that the open informal nature of the Park is retained.

Objective

2.12.1 To provide connected accessible pathways through and around the Park and to facilities, as supported by the community.

Policies

- 2.12.2 Provide natural surface pathways for recreational walking and cycling and learn to cycle opportunities for young children in a safe environment, including fitness stations, markers and wayfinding along the pathways with clear distances.
- 2.12.3 Construct any new tracks and paths to meet New Zealand Standard 8630:2004, while minimising impact on the surrounding environment and open space values of the Park.



3.0 TE WHAKATIPURANGA O TE TAI AO | HEALING THE ENVIRONMENT

3.1 NGĀ RĀKAU ME NGĀ MĀRA | TREES AND GARDENS

There are currently three distinct vegetation areas within the Park:  
 Area 1: Exotic Tree and Grassland (Maintained Open Space)  
 Area 2: Exotic Riparian Treeland (Esk River Riparian Margin)  
 Area 3: Exotic Tree and Grassland (Land Leased for Grazing)  
 Mana whenua aspires to the reinstatement of indigenous flora in Eskdale Park that holistically supports improvement of water quality and aquatic life, the establishment of bird corridors, and planting for customary harvest and customary use.

Area 1: Exotic Tree and Grassland

The current vegetation of the main recreational area of the Park is exotic tree land, consisting of large exotic trees such as eucalyptus (*Eucalyptus spp.*), oaks (*Quercus spp.*), poplars (*Populus spp.*), and walnuts (*Juglans spp.*), over an exotic grassland.

In 2021 the trees were assessed by the Paper Street Tree Company, which prepared an arboricultural report and management recommendations for the Park's trees. The management recommendations will be progressively undertaken until completion, after which the trees will be managed in line with Council's Tree Management Strategy.

In line with Council's Tree Management Policy, trees will have an assessment of their condition and health every three years, highlighting any work that may be required to ensure the tree is retained in the best possible condition. If a tree is found to be dead, dying, diseased or dangerous and posing an unacceptable risk to public safety, it will be removed.

The majority of the canopy coverage of the Park is poplar, with one cultivar providing the majority of the canopy coverage. The majority of these trees are either mature or fully mature specimens, with their structure showing emerging mechanical weaknesses.

While current risk of harm to park users has been assessed as low, given the low site occupancy and proactive management approach in response to increased limb failure, a proactive replacement and removal of trees that are becoming impractical to maintain is recommended.

Those recommended for removal over a staged period of time include the relatively short-lived failure-prone cultivar of poplar; or those that have compromised structures. This removal is recommended in conjunction with successive planting of large, long-lived specimen trees such as Pin Oak, London plane or Totara.

There is a row of Norfolk Island hibiscus (*Lagunaria patersonii*) planted along the main access way of the Park. Although this species is not yet regarded as problematic in Hawke's Bay, nor is it listed in the HBRC Regional Pest Management Plan, it is considered invasive in northern North Island regions and recommended to be replaced. Refer to the policies in Section 3.5 Plant and Animal Pests.

There are no trees within the Park that are identified as being notable, or protected as Outstanding or Significant in the Operative Hastings District Plan.

Area 2: Exotic Riparian Treeland

The riparian area of Te Wai-o-Hingānga | Esk River is dominated with crack willows (*Salix x fragilis*) with other exotic trees, shrubs and herbaceous exotic plants, including pest plant species.

The aim of Te Huka Waiohinganga (Esk) River Care Group is to restore biodiversity to the land and water of the catchment by planting indigenous species along the river. Their focal planting site is directly upstream of the Park and extends north to the Waipunga Bridge.

Long term biodiversity outcomes for the Park can be achieved by establishing indigenous riparian planting along Te Wai-o-Hingānga | The Esk River that is contiguous with the Te Huka Waiohinganga (Esk) River Care Group planting area.

Low-statured plants such as indigenous vines, herbaceous and shrub species may be preferable to retain visibility for the river users as well as not hindering flood protection scheme administered by Hawke's Bay Regional Council. Plants with morphology that is adapted to flowing water are also preferred to minimise the risk of losing plants to high flow events. The plant species recommended for this area are identified in Appendix 5 (Table 3).

Eco-sourced and carefully selected species that are known to be from the area, or from similar habitats within the region, are crucial to the success of establishing vegetation. Te Huka Waiohinganga (Esk) River Riparian Planting Plan provides best practice for planting methods in this area and will be followed to maximise survival rate and ensure high efficacy of maintenance.

It is noted by the Care Group that the site is subject to intensive drought conditions which may result in high mortality rate. Drought is best dealt with by planting drought tolerant species that are also frost tolerant that can be planted as early in the planting season as possible, so roots are able to establish before summer droughts. Depending on the rainfall pattern and soil moisture level of the site, an early and truncated planting season (e.g. late April to June) might be considered. This also applies to Area 3 planting.

Area 3: Exotic Tree and Grassland (Leased Land)

The leased area consists of exotic grassland (for grazing) and exotic tree land with a stand of Eucalyptus trees. Eucalyptus is a genus of over 900 specimens. Around 240 species have been introduced into New Zealand. These trees come from a range of climatic regions, where certain species have limited tolerance to prolonged dry periods, mainly the stringybark and ash eucalyptus. The area has had a couple of years of prolonged periods of dry conditions, which is likely to have contributed to the trees' current condition. Another contributing factor could be from pest species. As climate change intensifies, the frequency and intensity of pests are likely to increase which may contribute to further decline of the stand over the years.

Community consultation identified a fruit tree in the leased block that has historic significance.

It is recommended that an indigenous forest patch be established within this area. The aim is to create an approximately 4ha forest patch of compact shape to maximise the creation of core habitat, while connecting the patch with the wider restoration effort by the Care Group.

The large pines, eucalyptus and other trees will be retained where they do not create a safety hazard, and underplanted with indigenous plant species. These exotic trees will provide necessary shade and protection to the indigenous plantings from the sun, as well as maintaining habitat and food provision

for some of the indigenous fauna until indigenous plants start to provide those functions. The plant species recommended for this area are identified in Appendix 5 (Table 1).

The plant species recommended for the open pasture area (outside of the proposed forest) are identified in Appendix 5 (Table 2).

**Programme of Delivery**

While restoring fully functional ‘ecosystems’ often takes multi-generational efforts, some of the ecological functions such as shading effects and provision of habitats for indigenous flora and fauna are achievable within the 10 year life of this Plan. It is recommended that Council works in partnership with the Te Huka Waiohonga (Esk) River Care Group to make use of their expertise in planning and preparation of the sites, organising and running community planting days, providing technical advice on post release planting and co-ordinating other plantings in the area.

Staged targets to achieve the long-term biodiversity outcomes could include the following.

- **Years 1-3:** Establish an indigenous riparian shrubland/ forest along the Esk River that is contiguous with the Te Huka Waiohonga (Esk) River Care Group planting area. Potential areas for planting include landside of the footpath up to a natural ridgeline. Sections of the river banks, focusing along the river access points (formed gradually by the people who access to the river) are also potential areas to introduce indigenous plants of lower stature which could tolerate flooding events (on approval by HBRC Asset Management Group)
- **Years 4-10:** Establish an indigenous patch within the area that is currently under eucalyptus woodland and pasture. As it is a large project, it is recommended that this area be divided into stages.
- **Year 10 onwards:** Successional planting of the forest patch, underplanting the initial planting form Year 6–10 with shade-tolerant late-successional species.

**Objectives**

- 3.1.1 To protect and maintain planting to retain an environment that is attractive to all users and contributes to the amenity of the Park.
- 3.1.2 To maintain and manage the trees within the Park in a balanced and measured way.
- 3.1.3 To establish an indigenous riparian shrubland/forest along Te Wai-o-Hingānga | Esk River.
- 3.1.4 To create an indigenous forest to maximise the creation of core habitat, within the area currently leased for grazing.
- 3.1.5 To work with mana whenua on the development of the Park in the spirit of WAI262 Flora and Fauna, with respect to Mātuaranga Māori and the reinstatement of indigenous flora and fauna and their associated taonga and mātauranga.

**Policies**

**Area 1: Exotic tree land**

- 3.1.6 Manage the trees within the Park in accordance with the recommendations in the 2021 Arboricultural Report and any subsequent arboricultural advice.
- 3.1.7 Ensure that the removal of any trees within the Park is consistent with the aims of the Tree Removal Policy; or undertaken for reasons of safety or good management, including where it has outgrown its location or site, is restricting optimal use of a space; or suppressing or inhibiting the growth of more desirable specimens.
- 3.1.8 Replace the failure-prone poplar trees around the cricket oval with long-lived specimen trees such as London Plane or Pin Oak.
- 3.1.9 To progressively replace the Norfolk Island hibiscus along the entrance road with long-lived specimen trees to open views through the Park.
- 3.1.10 Ensure that planting in this area does not impact on open space recreation use.

**Area 2: Exotic riparian tree land**

- 3.1.11 Establish permanent indigenous riparian vegetation consisting of resilient plant species native to the Park area.

**Area 3: Leased area**

- 3.1.12 Establish an indigenous forest which supports core habitat for indigenous flora and fauna and improves ecological connectivity with habitats surrounding the Park.
- 3.1.13 Apply for external funding to fund the establishment of the indigenous forest patch.
- 3.1.14 Enable the continued guardianship of the leased block for private use until either the restoration of the land to an indigenous forest block commences and/or a determination on public use of this land is made.

**General Policies**

- 3.1.15 Work in partnership with the Te Huka Waiohonga (Esk) River Care Group in the planning and delivery of the indigenous riparian and forest planting plans.
- 3.1.16 Ensure that any planting, replacement or removal of any trees within the Park is consistent with the aims of the Concept Plan identified in Appendix 4.



**3.2 TE HORANUKU | LANDSCAPE**

Eskdale Park is identified as part of the Eskdale Valley Rural Character Landscape (RCL2).

The aesthetic qualities of the Park are not only visual, but relate to a range of user experiences such as ‘contact with nature’ and the quiet, tranquil ambience found within this space. The landscape has historic and community significance, enjoyed by the community for recreational and amenity values. Historically it is held in the memories of many as a significant place of inter-generational social and family gatherings.

Eskdale Park is characterised by its large open green ‘rural’ vista, tranquillity and views into and through the Park, and large mature trees. It is these views that enhance the user experience and enjoyment of this Park. Development, natural growth and revegetation programmes can diminish and obliterate these views, and so need to be sensitively managed to retain the open space vista of the Park.

The provision of public facilities will be limited to those that are necessary to support the effective management of the parks and visitors’ needs for recreation, information, ablutions and safety.

**Objectives**

- 3.2.1 To protect the natural character of the Park from inappropriate development while providing adequate facilities for recreation and play.
- 3.2.2 To enhance the landscape through management of vegetation, including revegetation and planting programmes.

**Policies**

- 3.2.3 Retain and enhance large open grassed areas in the Park suitable for recreation such as picnicking, community events, and casual recreation.
- 3.2.4 Locate facilities in locations where they will have a minimal impact on landscape values and/or are of a scale that minimises impact.
- 3.2.5 Design any new buildings or facilities to be compatible with the natural landscape.



**3.3 TE WAI | WATER**

The Hawke’s Bay Regional Council is primarily responsible for the management of the District’s water resources, including rivers. However the Council, under the Resource Management Act is required to recognise and provide for the preservation of the natural character of waterbodies and their margins and to promote public access to and along them in the District.

Te Wai-o-Hingānga | Esk River flows from the southeast end of the Maungaharuru, through what as a majestic sub-tropical podocarp forest, to the sea of Tangitū.

Mana whenua hold Statutory Acknowledgements and Deeds of Recognition over Te Wai-o-Hingānga | Te Hukawai-o-Hingānga | Esk River and its tributaries through their respective Post Settlement Governance Entities Maungaharuru-Tangitū Trust and Mana Ahuriri Trust, which has a shared Area of Interest across Eskdale Park. Deeds of Recognition oblige the Crown and Local Government to consult with mana whenua and have regard to their views regarding their special association with Te Wai-o-Hingānga | Te Hukawai-o-Hingānga | The Esk River.

The Park adjoins the river, and provides the access point for public access to the river.

Visiting Te Wai-o-Hingānga | Esk River was identified as the most popular reason why people visit the Park. The Park provides convenient and direct public access to the river for swimming and fishing. The river is viewed as a safe and peaceful place for people of all ages to swim, play and enjoy nature. Current access to the river is via a series of informal ‘desire line’ tracks down relatively steep slopes, that are created depending on the location of the best swimming holes. The ability to improve this river access with more formal structures was identified by the community, however given the natural and changeable environment this would likely have limited success. Rather, the enhancement of water quality through increased riparian planting is likely to have greater long term benefits to future generations for continued river use and access.

**Objective**

- 3.3.1 To provide continuous riparian cover alongside Te Wai-o-Hingānga | Esk River which enhances biodiversity and complements existing flood protection scheme.

**Policies**

- 3.3.2 Recognise the obligation contained in the Deeds of Recognition to consult with mana whenua and have regard to their views regarding their special association with Te Wai-o-Hingānga | Te Hukawai-o-Hingānga | Esk River.
- 3.3.3 Establish an indigenous riparian shrubland/forest along Te Wai-o-Hingānga | Esk River that is contiguous with the Te Hukawai-o-Hingānga (Esk) River Care Group planting area, while retaining open connected views along the margin.
- 3.3.4 Ensure that any land-based activities do not negatively affect the water quality and ecology of Te Wai-o-Hingānga | The Esk River.

3.4 TE RERENGA RAUROI | BIODIVERSITY

There is considerable potential within Eskdale Park to undertake extensive ecological restoration and enhancement. Habitat restoration and enhancement through revegetation programmes is a key objective of this Plan. Such programmes can restore indigenous forest that has been removed in the past and create wildlife corridors and buffers. While revegetation and planting programmes can add significantly to the ecological and amenity values of the Park, they need to be balanced against the recreational values of the Park. Revegetation and planting plans are recommended for certain areas of the Park, not the entire Park.

Increasing the ecological integrity of existing ecosystems is necessary to improve the resilience of these ecosystems to climate change induced threats, such as droughts and floods. Invasive species are also expected to become an increasing threat due to climate change.

The 2015-2050 Hawke's Bay Biodiversity Strategy was adopted in November 2015, in response to declining biodiversity in Hawke's Bay. The vision of the document is that 'working together, Hawke's Bay's biodiversity is enhanced, healthy and functioning'.

The Park can play an important role in the enhancement and protection of indigenous species and ecosystems.

The Park's non-indigenous vegetation has features that provide food and habitat for some of the native birds, and also provide for potential habitat for native lizards and bats. Given this, improving habitat values for native lizards and bats could be achieved with inexpensive management interventions including retention of large exotic trees or branches for providing roosting and foraging activities.

Objectives

- 3.4.1 To protect indigenous species, habitats and ecosystems on the Park and enhance their long-term viability and resilience.
- 3.4.2 To progressively restore, enhance and reinstate indigenous habitats and ecosystems to support their continued viability and resilience.
- 3.4.3 To ensure that restoration is carried out to improve ecological connectivity and to enhance existing ecosystems.
- 3.4.4 To enhance the viability, diversity and connectivity of the Park's ecosystems to improve their resilience and adaptability to the effects of climate change.

Policies

- 3.4.5 Establish permanent indigenous riparian vegetation consisting of resilient plant species indigenous to the Park area. Consideration will be given to retaining and enhancing river views and access where appropriate.
- 3.4.6 Establish an indigenous forest patch which supports core habitat for indigenous flora and fauna and improves ecological connectivity with habitats surrounding the Park.

- 3.4.7 Recognise the important role individuals, tangata whenua, community-based organisations, adjoining landowners and private businesses play in restoring the indigenous ecosystems of the Park, and support community initiatives with advice, plants and other materials.
- 3.4.8 Support community revegetation, restoration and education programmes in accordance with the policies of this Plan, and the Hawke's Bay Biodiversity Action Plan.
- 3.4.9 Identify other areas for revegetation to improve the ecological connectivity of the Park, enhance species diversity, and improve habitats for fauna (native birds, lizards and bees).
- 3.4.10 Progressively manage pest plants to ensure the success of ecological restoration and ongoing maintenance of the biodiversity values of the Park and its surrounds.



3.5 NGĀ KĪREAREA Ā-TIPU, Ā-KARAREHE ANŌ HOKI | PLANT AND ANIMAL PESTS

Plant pests can reduce the ability of indigenous and amenity plants to establish and regenerate. A number of plant pests are found in the Park that require ongoing control. These include:

- Old man's beard (*Clematis vitalba*)
- Great bindweed (*Calystegia sylvatica*)
- Pampas (*Cortaderia selloana*)
- Poplars (*Populus sp.*)
- Black locust (*Robinia pseudoacacia*)
- Tradescantia (*Tradescantia fluminensis*)
- Buddleia (*Buddleja davidi*)
- Periwinkle (*Vinca major*)
- Lily of the valley vine (*Salpichroa origanifolia*)

There is also crack willow (*Salix x fragilis*) within the Park. While regarded as ecological weed, the specimens on the bank of the river are managed by Hawke's Bay Regional Council for flood protection.

Initial clearance of these weeds as part of site preparation for revegetation, post-planting control, and annual weed control for the first 3-5 years of each planting stage are crucial to indigenous plant survival.

Animal pests such as possums and rabbits can damage indigenous plant habitat and increase erosion in some areas if their populations are allowed to reach high levels. Other pests, such as rats, stoats and ferrets are a direct threat to birdlife and native lizards.

Council will work in conjunction with the Hawke's Bay Regional Council to control any pest species when they represent a threat to the indigenous flora and fauna within the Park.

Norfolk Island hibiscus (*Lagunaria patersonii*) are planted along the main access way of the Park. Although this species is not listed in the HBRC Regional Pest Management Plan, it is considered invasive in northern North Island regions. In addition, the fruiting body (or capsules) contain white fibres which cause skin irritation, so therefore can be hazardous to park users. It is recommended that these trees be progressively replaced with a species more appropriate to biodiversity aims of this Plan.

Objectives

- 3.5.1 To identify and assess plant and animal pest threats and their management, prioritised in accordance with the Hawke's Bay Regional Council Plant Pest Management Strategy.
- 3.5.2 To control other animal, plants or pests where park values are threatened and as prioritised.

Policies

- 3.5.3 To progressively replace the Norfolk Island hibiscus along the entrance road with long-lived specimen trees.
- 3.5.4 Control pest plants and animals to ensure the success of indigenous forest and habitat restoration.
- 3.5.5 Control pest plants and animals using best practice techniques to ensure effective control and success in managing threats.
- 3.5.6 Provide clear notification of pest control to ensure the safety of the public and dogs when undertaking pest management programmes.

3.6 NGĀ MATEPĀ TAIAO | NATURAL HAZARDS

The District is subject to a wide range of natural hazards, in particular flooding, earthquakes and fires.

In order to manage the use, protection and development of parks within the district, Council needs to be aware of natural hazards and their potential impact on the use and safety of public open spaces.

Rules within the Hastings District Plan regulate land use activities to ensure the effects from natural hazards are avoided or minimised.

Flooding and Storm Damage

The valley floor, fans and flood plain of the Esk River Valley are subject to periodic inundation and fast rising flood waters during intense rainfall events. The effects of this are likely to increase with climate change. For new land uses and development, avoidance of the hazard is considered the best approach.

Eskdale Park is located within a Flood Risk Area and included within the River Hazard Overlay zone in the Operative Hastings District Plan.

The rules in the Hastings District Plan require any permanent buildings or structures within the River Hazard Overlay in the Esk Valley to obtain consent as a Non-Complying Activity, thus promoting avoidance of this hazard.

The trees within the Park are at risk during high wind events.

Earthquakes

This hazard area consists of areas identified as being prone or at risk of seismic hazard. The Park is in an identified low liquefaction zone in the Hastings District Plan.

Fire Hazard

There is a risk to people and properties from fire, particularly in the rural areas of the District. The dry weather conditions that exist in Hawke's Bay make the rolling hills and forested areas of the District susceptible to fire.

All fires, whether lit naturally, accidentally or deliberately can pose a risk to park visitors, vegetation, species, park assets and adjoining property.

Objective

- 3.6.1 To manage the risk and impact of natural hazards on park visitors, park assets and the environment.

Policies

- 3.6.2 Restrict the establishment of activities which have the potential to increase natural hazards that have, or may have, an effect on the Park.
- 3.6.3 Restore resilient native riparian vegetation as a nature-based solution for mitigating effects of natural hazards as well as climate change impacts.

## 4.0 AHI KĀ ROA | THE LIVING PRESENCE



### 4.1 TE WHAKAHIRAHIRA Ā-AHUREA, Ā-HĪTORI ANŌ HOKI | CULTURAL AND HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE

The Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga Act 2014 seeks to promote the identification, protection, preservation, and conservation of the historical and cultural heritage of New Zealand. This includes historic places, such as archaeological sites and wāhi tapu. Under this Act it is an offence to destroy, damage, or modify any archaeological site without an authority from Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga. The Act also requires an authority if there is a reasonable cause to suspect that an archaeological site (recorded or unrecorded) may be damaged, modified, or destroyed by any activity (other than by natural processes).

There are currently no recorded archaeological sites within Eskdale Park, nor have there been any indicators of unrecorded archaeological sites identified or reported to date. Potentially the area with the greatest inherent archaeological risk is the river channel where evidence of weirs, pātuna and mooring posts may survive, embedded out of sight within the banks of the current channel.

Esk Park is however located within an area of acknowledged wider archaeological significance. There are a number of recorded sites in the area, particularly in the Tangoio and Bay View coastal hills.

The nearest currently recorded archaeological site is V20/209, a single pit located approximately 450m to the north west, across Te Wai-o-Hingānga | Esk River within Pan Pac forest land. More widely there are a large number of recorded sites to the northeast on the Tangoio coastal hills, and to the south and south east.

Due to the flood history of the area it is very possible that isolated objects, including taonga such as adzes or koiwi tāngata (human remains), could have been deposited anywhere in the park environs. Such objects, whilst not archaeological sites, are of significance and require reporting and managing under archaeological protocols and cultural tikanga. Therefore, any proposed management plan should include guidance around process and procedure should such objects be encountered during earthworks including planting.

#### Objectives

- 4.1.1 To protect areas of archaeological and cultural significance in the Park.
- 4.1.2 To identify, assess and record cultural heritage on the Park, and increase mana whenua involvement in the identification of places of significance on the Park.

#### Policies

- 4.1.3 Adopt an Accidental Discovery Protocol (ADP) whereby if any archaeological or cultural material, koiwi or taonga tuturū are found during park development or planting programmes, work should be stopped.
- 4.1.4 Identify and preserve any historic sites and features of special community interest and, where appropriate, display information as to their significance.

### 4.2 MANA WHENUA AND TE ARANGA DESIGN PHILOSOPHY

Hastings District Council adopted the Te Aranga Māori Cultural Landscape Strategy 2008, to ensure it is working towards the reinstatement, development, and articulation of the physical and metaphysical cultural landscapes of mana whenua.

Te Aranga Design philosophy provides a platform from which the ongoing relationship and partnership with mana whenua can be developed through the lifetime of this plan. Understanding and following a Māori design practice is key to delivering design outcomes that help to deepen our sense of place and develop meaningful and durable relationships with iwi and hapū in Heretaunga.

Māori culture and identity highlights Aotearoa New Zealand's point of difference in the world and offers up significant design opportunities that can benefit us all.

Te Aranga Design philosophy is founded on intrinsic Māori cultural values and provides practical guidance for enhancing outcomes for the environment. The principles have arisen from a widely held desire to enhance mana whenua presence, visibility and participation in the design of the physical realm.

#### Objectives

- 4.2.1 To involve mana whenua in park management processes in ways which take into account the principles of Te Tiriti o Waitangi | The Treaty of Waitangi.
- 4.2.2 To identify, protect, enhance and, where appropriate, reinstate mana whenua values within the Park.
- 4.2.3 To enable partnership with mana whenua authorities in the future development and management of the Park in relation to any identified wāhi tapu sites or wāhi taonga (sites of significance) to mana whenua.
- 4.2.4 To ensure Te Aranga Design principles are considered during design and implementation of projects within the Park.

#### Policies

- 4.2.5 Provide opportunities for expressions of tikanga Māori, ritenga Māori, mātauranga Māori, such as recommendations for the naming of natural features, and by providing for cultural harvest and resource use, the installation of bilingual signage and interpretations panels, thereby enhancing Māori cultural presence in the landscape.
- 4.2.6 Ensure mana whenua partnership and participation in the development of interpretive history information for the Park.
- 4.2.7 Require any proposed project or development within the Park to be analysed against whether the project aligns with the principles of the Plan, and:
  - a) Expresses the identity and heritage of the Park
  - b) Fosters inter-cultural exchanges
  - c) Offers opportunities for cultural connections
  - d) Encourages community inclusion
  - e) Celebrates cultural diversity
  - f) Contributes to environmental awareness
  - g) Contributes to a sense of place
  - h) Enhances visitor experiences

## 4.0 AHI KĀ ROA | THE LIVING PRESENCE

### 4.3 NGĀ TOI | ART

The Landmarks philosophy has been adopted by Council to promote civic pride through the enhancement of the natural and built environment. Part of this philosophy is to use art to develop an element of style within the District, and thereby foster civic pride. Art is a great mechanism to attract community response and develop civic pride by creating an environment of diversity, vibrancy and cultural sophistication. It is generally associated with permanent installations like paintings, sculpture or carvings.

Art within parks can increase community interest and enjoyment of the environment, or be used tell stories of its history and significance.

There is currently no art within Eskdale Park.

Council will work with the community and local artists on the provision or commission of any public art installations within the Park and enable the principle of Mahi Toi Creative Expression for the inclusion of mana whenua artists interpreting mana whenua narratives through cultural markers and/or cultural gateways.

#### Objective

- 4.3.1 To enhance the enjoyment and appreciation of Eskdale Park through the provision of art works that contribute to an understanding of the park's values and history.

#### Policies

- 4.3.2 Provide opportunities for the community to contribute to creating unique features within the Park, such as artwork, carvings, local history markers and/or information boards.

### 4.4 NGĀ ĀHUATANGA WHAKAMAUMAHARA | COMMEMORATIVE FEATURES

Council is often asked by members of the public to place commemorative features in parks within the District.

While Council values the importance of acknowledging significant people and events the location of memorials, commemorative plaques and dedicated structures can detract from the natural setting and can create a feeling of exclusive ownership.

Whilst such commemorations can assist in enhancing amenity, strengthening community values and mark important historic events, the location and number of such features must be managed.

Commemorative features can also add cost to the ongoing maintenance of reserves, and can cause difficulties when the features are damaged, vandalised or require significant maintenance. Council needs to be in a position to control the nature, number and location of such features.

Memorial plantings without plaques are considered to be a suitable way for people to commemorate people and events.

There are currently two commemorative feature within Eskdale Park.

In recognition of the gift of land to the Park, there is a memorial to the late Mr Thomas Clark at the entrance to the Park, and there is a concrete pillar depicting the height of flood waters in 1938.

#### Objective

- 4.4.1 To consider any request for bequeathed land, gifts and commemorative features to ensure they are managed in a sustainable manner and are beneficial to the Park and wider community.

#### Policies

- 4.4.2 Consider any request for a bequest or commemoration against:
  - a) The compatibility of the proposed feature in relation to the character and use of the Park
  - b) The benefit to the community using the Park
  - c) The ease and cost of maintenance.
- 4.4.3 Enable memorial plantings (without plaques) where they are part of a Council-approved planting programme.
- 4.5.4 Require gifts of memorial seats or park benches to (a) be in the adopted standard design for consistency throughout the Park and district.

### 5.1 TE WHAKAHAERE ME TE WHAKATIKATIKA | MANAGEMENT AND MAINTENANCE

Council is responsible for managing and maintaining parks in a cost-effective, socially responsible and environmentally sound manner.

Hastings District Council manages Eskdale Park on behalf of the Crown, according to its Recreation Reserve classification under the Reserves Act 1977.

The maintenance of the Park is undertaken by an external contractor to Council, in accordance with Council's Public Spaces Maintenance Contract.

The management of the Park must take into account the objectives and policies of this Plan and agreed levels of service.

The primary mechanism by which the provisions of this Plan will be implemented is through Council's Long Term Plan; more specifically the Asset Management Plan. This specifies the works and actions which will be undertaken in any financial year. The 10-year plan for this work is set out in the Concept Plan and Action Plan.

#### Objectives

- 5.1.1 To maintain the Park to a standard that meets the recreational needs of the community and user groups.
- 5.1.2 To ensure that the costs of managing and developing the Park are acceptable when compared to national benchmarks.
- 5.1.3 To implement the provisions and actions of this Management Plan in a structured and integrated manner through the Asset Management Plan and Long Term Plan.

#### Policy

- 5.1.4 Maintain the Park in accordance with the levels of service identified in the contract with Council's Public Spaces Maintenance Contract.

### 5.2 TE WHAKAPŪMAUTANGA | SUSTAINABILITY

Council will endeavour to incorporate sustainable practices into the development and management of the Park.

The key management objective for the Park is about maintenance and enhancement of the existing area and protection of natural values: environmental; economic sustainability; social; cultural.

Protecting the Park for future generations and sustainably managing partnerships are important to the ongoing community benefits of the Park.

#### Objective

- 5.2.1 To incorporate sustainable practices into the provision, management and development of the Park where practicable.

#### Policy

- 5.2.2 Ensure that sustainable management practices are taken into account in the design, operation, maintenance and development of the Park.

### 5.3 NGĀ TUKUNGA | CONCESSIONS

Any individual, group or organisation wishing to occupy any part of the Park requires permission from Council. The Reserves Act 1977 governs the ability for concessions to be granted in respect of Eskdale Park.

The powers with respect to issuing concessions on Eskdale Park is provided for in Sections 54 and 59(A) of the Reserves Act 1977.

Section 54 of the Reserves Act 1977 provides that Council may consider applications for concessions on recreation reserves for the following four general purposes:

- Facilities for public recreation and enjoyment
- Erection of structures associated with or necessary for the use of the reserve
- For the playing of any outdoor sports, games or other recreational activity
- For the continuation of any trade, business or occupation provided that it must be necessary to enable the public to obtain the benefit and enjoyment of the reserve, or for the convenience of persons using the reserve.

Section 59A of the Reserves Act 1977 applies to the granting of concessions where a reserve is vested in the Crown. The Council has delegated authority to grant concessions under this section. Section 59A refers to the process for granting concessions under the Conservation Act 1987, so the process may be different than would apply for a reserve vested in the Council.

#### Temporary Use of a Park - Permits

Eskdale Park is typically used as a venue for small events such as corporate Christmas parties and school sports days. Use of Eskdale Park for such organised events requires the prior approval of Council. Such non-exclusive and temporary events are typically applied for through the Council's park booking system or by the issuing of a permit.

While events can enhance the public use and enjoyment of the Park, large numbers of people and activities can adversely affect the Park and neighbours. Applications will be determined by Officers on their merits, and on a case-by-case basis, without the requirement for public notification. Consideration will be given to the size of event, health and safety plans, provision of additional facilities such as bins and toilets, need for traffic management plans, and whether it will conflict with any other booking of the Park at that time.

The use of the Park for temporary events is also controlled via rules in the Hastings District Plan.

#### Commercial Permits

The Council has a legal responsibility under the Reserves Act to licence commercial operators wishing to operate on Council reserves. Commercial use of reserves can detract from the public use and enjoyment of them and therefore, in general, such use is therefore considered inappropriate. However in some instances a commercial activity can complement the purpose of a particular reserve, for example a mobile food stall locating in the Park when a sports day is on, or a market. In such cases, Council may determine that it is appropriate to provide for such commercial activities by way of issuing a permit.

As a Community Park, the Hastings District Plan allows for up to 6 Temporary Events of a commercial nature over a 12

month calendar year (January–December) on the Park for a maximum of 3 consecutive days. The number of people permitted to attend is 3000 and there are various other controls that apply. Commercial activities beyond these parameters require resource consent in addition to any concession required.

#### Local Community Permits

The use of reserves for non-profit local community temporary events are generally considered to be consistent with the purpose of reserves, and contribute to the community's enjoyment and use of them. Generally these activities will be supported and permits issued, provided that the activity does not adversely impact on the use or users of the reserve and all other requirements are met (bylaws, District Plan rules)

As a Community Park, the Hastings District Plan allows for up to 12 Temporary Events of a community nature over a 12 month calendar year (January–December) on the Park for a maximum of 3 consecutive days. The number of people permitted to attend is 3000 and various other controls also apply.

#### Leases and Licences

Leases and licences that provide for the occupation of land are the most common forms of concession granted to an individual, group or organisation wanting to occupy or use part of a park. The term of a concession will depend on the type of permission, the circumstances and the requirements of the Reserves Act 1977.

A Lease will be usually be appropriate where an individual, group or organisation requires the exclusive long-term use of the land. Applications for leases will require the submission of a detailed application, and are required to be publicly notified with a final determination by Council. The usual requirement to comply with other statutory obligations, such as obtaining any necessary resource consents, also apply.

A lease will generally be required from Council for any activity that will:

- require an exclusive use of the Park or an area of the Park;
- change the physical Park environment;
- require a temporary or permanent building or structure to be built or installed;
- be commercial in nature, in other words are for private gain or financial reward, such as a coffee cart or commercial filming

A Licence (or Licence to Occupy) will be issued where an individual, group or organisation requires the non-exclusive use the Park for a specific purpose.

Examples of an activity requiring a licence would be for regular small-scale operations such as a food vendor operating weekly on a park that does not involve the building of a structure or modification of the park. It is likely any licence would be for a term of up to 5 years.

A licence may be issued at the discretion of Council where it will not adversely impact on the reserve or its use or users, where the proposed use is for less than three years, and where Council has the right to resume occupation at any time during that period at the expense of the occupier with one month's notice.

Before granting a lease or licence Council must consider the nature of the proposed activity, any adverse effects on people

using the Park and effects on existing Park infrastructure and facilities and the values of the Park, Park values include natural, ecological, cultural, historic, recreation and enjoyment.

If an activity is not consistent with the primary purpose of the Park, the application will most likely be declined. It is the applicant's responsibility to provide a detailed description of the proposal and likely impacts and benefits.

Public notification of the intent to grant a concession is a requirement for any lease or a licence of more than 10 years, and is likely for any other concession that is not provided for in the Reserve Management Plan. The Reserves Act 1977 identifies the public notification requirements for applications for concessions.

Applicants should consult with Council before submitting an application in order to determine the appropriate form of concession, any statutory requirements, whether the activity is potentially appropriate to the location, and the level of information appropriate and necessary to enable assessment of the application.

#### Existing Concessions

There is an existing lease to graze part of Eskdale Park. This lease will be maintained and administered by the Council in terms of the lease conditions. Council will work with the leaseholder with regard to the long term plan for this leased block, and the vision that the restoration of this land to an indigenous forest block will commence within the coming years.

#### Objectives

- 5.3.1 To allow the use of the Park for approved uses and activities by the granting of a permit, license or lease where the use or activity satisfies the requirements of the Reserves Act 1977 and any applicable provisions of the Conservation Act 1987; are in accordance with the objectives and policies of this Plan; can avoid, remedy or mitigate any adverse effects on the Park, park users and neighbours; are approved by the Minister of Conservation (if required).
- 5.3.2 To use the power to grant concessions to ensure the most effective use of Eskdale Park for the enjoyment of the whole community.

#### Policies

##### General Policies

- 5.3.3 Require that any application for the use of the Park is consistent with the objectives and policies of Section 5.3 of the District Wide Reserve Management Plan.
- 5.3.4 Retain the absolute right to restrict the number of leases, licences and permits granted on the Park, the period, and conditions imposed.
- 5.3.5 Require that applications for a concession be made in writing to the Council and include the following information:
  - a) Description of the proposed activity;
  - b) Description of the location of the activity;
  - c) Description of the potential effects of the proposed activity on reserve use, users or reserve neighbours, and any actions to avoid, remedy or mitigate any adverse effects;

- d) The type of concession applied for;
- e) Identification of the duration of the activity, and the reasons for the duration;
- f) Any additional information required by the Reserves Act 1977 and the Conservation Act 1987.

- 5.3.6 Require that any concession granted on reserve land be in accordance with Council bylaws, District Plan policies, the Reserves Act, the Sale of Liquor Act and regulations, and the Building Act.
- 5.3.7 Charge a fee or rent for all leases, licences and permits in accordance with Section 5.4 Rental and Charges, except where Council has resolved that no or reduced rental or fee is required for local community uses.
- 5.3.8 Notify the public where part or all of the Park is to be closed to public access for an activity at least two weeks before the closure. The activity organisers will be responsible for meeting the cost of public notification.
- 5.3.9 Require the event organiser to have public liability insurance where there is a possibility of serious damage being caused to the reserve.

#### Permits

*Note: where a permit is sought that does not comply with the following matters, permission may be granted by Council after consideration of the reasons for non-compliance and an assessment of the proposal against relevant matters in the Management Plan.*

- 5.3.10 Require that applications for a permit be made to the Council a minimum of 10 days prior to the requested start date.
- 5.3.11 Allow permits for commercial or community activities on the Park, where the use is non-exclusive and temporary and where the adverse effects on other users, the Park and Park neighbours are minimised, and the activity meets statutory and policy obligations.
- 5.3.12 Allow for permits to be issued for a maximum period of three consecutive days unless otherwise authorised by resource consent.
- 5.3.13 Allow for a maximum of 12 Local Community Permits to be issued per calendar year (January – December) on the Park for community activities or events (and ancillary mobile food shops) where there will be no impact on the park use or users and will not conflict with any other approved use of the Park at that time. Permits for additional Community Permits per year will be at the discretion of the Asset Manager. Any exceedance of 12 events is required to be authorised by resource consent.
- 5.3.14 Allow for a maximum of 6 Commercial Permits to be issued per calendar year (January – December) on the Park for one-off commercial activities or events (and ancillary mobile food shops) where there will be no impact on the park use or users and will not conflict with any other approved use of the Park at that time. Permits for additional Commercial Permits per year will be at the discretion of the Asset Manager. Any exceedance of 12 events is required to be authorised by resource consent.
- 5.3.15 Impose conditions on any permits issued regarding fees, hours of operation and maximum duration of event which will be dependent on the nature of the activity and potential impact on the reserve use and users.

#### Leases and Licences

- 5.3.16 Applications for a lease or licence shall be made to the Council a minimum of 6 months prior to the requested start date.
- 5.3.17 A Licence to Occupy may be issued for the temporary use of reserve land at the discretion of Council where it will not adversely impact on the reserve or its use or users, where the proposed use is for less than three years. Such a licence may not require public notification, with the final determination by the Asset Manager.
- 5.3.18 Require all individuals, groups, or organisations requesting a licence or lease for the exclusive use of the Park to apply in writing, with the following information in addition to that required under Policy 5.3.5 to enable an assessment in an equitable and consistent manner:
- a) An explanation of how the proposal is aligned with the Reserves Act 1977, park classification and purpose, objectives and policies of this Plan and how it could benefit the Park and park users;
  - b) A description of the potential adverse effects of the proposal, if any, on the environment and reserve visitors and any actions the applicant proposes to take to avoid, remedy or mitigate the adverse effects;
  - c) An assessment of whether the proposal could reasonably be undertaken in another location which is not on the Park, where the potential adverse effects would be significantly less;
  - c) A statement detailing what other approvals or consents, if any, are required from other agencies;
  - d) Where applicable, Identification of those persons interested in or affected by the proposal, (including Mana Whenua), the consultation undertaken, formal responses from those consulted and the applicant's responses to any issues raised in the formal responses.

#### Assessment Criteria for Leases and Licences

- 5.3.19 Assess applications for leases and licences to occupy or use the Park in accordance with any applicable statutory requirements and against the following criteria:
- a) Legal authority of Council to grant concession
  - b) The degree to which the proposal is consistent with the objectives and policies of this Management Plan
  - c) Whether the proposal is consistent with the Recreation Reserve classification under the Reserves Act 1977
  - d) The adverse effects on the park values, park infrastructure, approved activities and the enjoyment of other park users
  - e) Demonstrated support and demand within the community for the proposal
  - f) The degree to which exclusion of the public is necessary for the protection of public safety, the security or operation of the proposal
  - g) The level of adverse impacts on adjoining neighbours
  - h) The benefits to the local and regional community
  - i) Whether the proposal could reasonably be undertaken in another location on the Park, or on another Park, or outside reserve land, where the potential adverse effects would be significantly less.

- 5.3.20 Give favourable consideration to proposals that:

- a) Enable Mana Whenua to enhance their long-term wellbeing while sustaining the Park's natural and cultural values;
- b) Increase access for sectors of the community that are not current users of the parks;
- c) Provide opportunities for park visitors to extend themselves by developing skills in the outdoors;
- d) Contribute to the local and regional economies

- 5.3.21 Require public notification of applications for leases or licences in a manner consistent with the requirements of the Reserves Act 1977. The applicant will be responsible for meeting any costs of public notifications and hearings if required.

- 5.3.22 Require that any application for a concession that will require vehicle access to the Park from its Yule Road entrance will require consultation with, and approval from Waka Kotahi and Kiwi Rail to assess the activity and associated additional traffic on State Highway 5 and the rail corridor.

- 5.3.23 Review and negotiate all existing lease arrangements on the Park to ensure they meet current lease terms and conditions.

- 5.3.24 Consider applications to renew existing leases against the legislative requirements of the Reserves Act 1977 and how the lease maximises the use of the facility for community use and enjoyment.

#### 5.4 TE RĪHI ME NGĀ UTU | RENTALS AND CHARGES

Council has the ability to fix charges either generally or with respect to specified occasions. There is a rental policy for buildings on Council parks and reserves. This identifies three categories of lessees (1) Sporting/recreation groups; (2) Community groups; and (3) Commercial users with associated tiered rental charges. The Council also sets fees and charges for the short-term use of Council reserves on an annual basis as part of its annual planning process.

#### Objectives

- 5.4.1 To recover costs to the Council associated with the processing of applications and managing the Park.
- 5.3.2 To ensure that all activities authorised by a concession are charged in accordance with Council policy for consistency and transparency.

#### Policy

- 5.3.3 Ensure that all concession arrangements on the Park are being charged in accordance with Council policy and amend or create arrangements to ensure consistency.

#### 5.5 NGĀ WHAIPAINGA HONONGA | NETWORK UTILITIES

Parks are often seen by utility operators as convenient places to locate infrastructure such as drains, water supply and electricity substations. Such infrastructure can however have an adverse impact on the character of a park and its open space qualities and make the maintenance of it more difficult and costly.

Given the open rural character of Eskdale Park and its community use for recreation and play, it is not considered to be a desirable location for the location of network utilities.

#### Objectives

- 5.5.1 To only allow network utilities to locate on the Park where the effects can be remedied or mitigated and they will have a less than minor adverse impact on the recreation use of the Park by the community or can be located where they will have a less than minor negative impact on the open rural nature and tranquillity of the Park.
- 5.5.2 To minimise the impact of utilities on the public use, enjoyment or general visual amenity of the Park.

#### Policies

- 5.5.3 Require any external infrastructure on the Park to be authorised by a concession, following the processes set out above, and only where:
- a) all other options have been investigated;
  - b) there will be less than minor adverse effect on the use or enjoyment of the Park;
  - c) there will be no adverse effects (on the amenity or cultural significance of the Park);
  - d) there will be no increased cost to Council in respect of the maintenance of the Park;
  - e) all utility structures that involve pipes, cables, lines or similar shall be placed underground, except where this is not practicable; and
  - f) the location of the easement will not result in any lost opportunities for Council in terms of the future development of the Park.
- 5.5.4 Permit utility services necessary for the servicing of the Park, its buildings and other facilities within the Park.

#### 5.6 NGĀ WHAKAMĀRAMA TAITARA, WHENUA RĀHUI ANŌ HOKI | TITLE & RESERVE CLASSIFICATION

The Reserves Act 1977 requires all reserves held subject to that Act be classified to reflect their primary purpose. All of Eskdale Park is vested and held subject to the provisions of the Reserves Act 1977 and is classified a Recreation Reserve. This classification is considered appropriate for the use and facilities on the Park.

#### Objective

- 5.6.1 To ensure the future management and development of Eskdale Park is consistent with the requirements of the Reserves Act 1977.

#### Policy

- 5.6.2 Require that all uses of land and buildings within Eskdale Park are consistent with the Recreation Reserve classification under the Reserves Act 1977.

5.7 TE TANGOHANGA WHENUA ANAMATA | FUTURE RESERVE ACQUISITION

Acquisition of new park land can be considered through purchase, reserve contribution funding, or resource consent subdivision. The Reserves Strategy identifies existing reserve resources, analyses current and future demand for reserves, public amenities and open space, and identifies current deficiencies and future needs for each type of reserve by community.

Eskdale Park is bounded on three sides by residential properties, road reserve and railway line which provides limited scope to extend the boundaries.

The northern boundary of the Park is bound by Te Wai-o-Hingānga | Esk River which may in the future provide land accretion opportunities that will be formalised if appropriate.

**Objective**

5.7.1 To acquire future reserve land that provides for enhanced community recreation space and improved accessibility and connectivity or where acquired by river accretion.

**Policy**

5.7.2 Pursue the acquisition of land where it will provide for linkages or additional open space land for recreation and sport or by natural river accretion.

5.8 TE HOKONGA WHENUA RĀHUI | SALE OF PARK LAND

The Eskdale community has strong historic and cultural links to the park, and derive strong benefit from knowing that it is in public ownership and protected in perpetuity for future generations to enjoy. This is consistent with the wishes of Thomas Clark who donated part of the Park for community recreation and use.

The Park is owned by the Crown and therefore any disposal would require the consent of the Minister of Conservation.

Given the land acquisition history, and importance of the Park to the community, the Council would not support any disposal of all or part of the Park, and will advocate for such retention.

**Objectives**

- 5.8.1 To recognise the acquisition history and aspirations of Thomas Clark in the gifting of the land for community recreation use.
- 5.8.2 To acknowledge that any revocation or disposal of any part of Eskdale Park would be required to follow the legislative process as outlined in the Reserves Act 1977, and recognise the acquisition history of the land that may require that surplus land be offered back to the original landowner and/or their immediate descendants.

**Policy**

5.8.3 Retain all land parcels contained within Eskdale Park in public ownership in perpetuity for current and future generations in recognition of the aspirations of Thomas Clark in the gifting of the land for community recreation use.

5.9 NGĀ ROHEROHENGA O NGĀ WHENUA RĀHUI | PARK BOUNDARIES

The southern boundary of the Park is bordered by the Palmerston North – Gisborne Railway in Kiwi Rail ownership. The southern Park boundary is delineated by a post and wire fence along its entire length, from Shaw Road to Yule Road. Yule Road forms the western boundary of the Park, which is delineated by stock proof post and wire fence.

Te Wai-o-Hingānga | Esk River forms the northern boundary of the Park, with no structure in place to delineate this boundary or restrict access. Pan Pac own the forestry block on the northern banks of Te Wai-o-Hingānga | Esk River, opposite the Park.

**Objectives**

- 5.9.1 To encourage neighbours to be responsive to any issues that may arise in the Park.
- 5.9.2 To give approval for any adjoining land use proposal where there is no adverse effect on the amenities, values or uses of the Park.
- 5.9.3 To ensure the safety of park users by the provision and maintenance of the fence along the southern boundary of the Park with the railway line.
- 5.9.4 To continue good working relationships with Department of Conservation and Hawke’s Bay Regional Council to enable the continued access and establish additional public access along the riparian margin.

**Policy**

5.9.5 Liaise with neighbouring landowners with a view to co-operating on matters of mutual interest or benefit including public access, security issues and fences, maintenance of amenity values and surveillance.



5.10 TE KŌKUHUNGA | ENCROACHMENT

An encroachment is the use of the Park for private purposes which have not been authorised by Council. This includes structures, earthworks, gardens, plantings, access ways and any other uses that give the appearance of private ownership, such that the public are discouraged from using that portion of the Park.

There are currently no formal agreements authorising any adjoining property owners to use any part of it for private purposes, nor are there any known current encroachments onto the Park.

**Objective**

5.10.1 To allow no new encroachment on the Park from adjoining properties without Council consent.

**Policy**

5.10.2 Prohibit any encroachments onto the Park, or private vehicle access through the Park from private property, except where a formal written agreement exists with Council.

5.11 TE HAUMARU ME TE TAKAKINO | SAFETY AND VANDALISM

A Crime Prevention through Environmental Design (CPTED) Audit of the Park has been undertaken to inform future site development, maintenance and long term management of the Park. The purpose is to assist in resolving any current safety issues and provide guidance to avoid or minimise any potential issues as part of ongoing development and maintenance of the Park. This audit recommended that consideration be given to the following items, which have been included where feasible in the Concept Plan in Appendix 4:

- Upgrade park entrance
- Improve wayfinding signage throughout the Park
- Consider public access off Yule Road
- Crown lift vegetation to improve sightlines
- Upgrade and move ablution blocks to central location
- Upgrade and consolidate play areas into one central location
- Retain views to river corridor
- Provide accessible walking trails around the Park and to facilities

**Objectives**

- 5.11.1 To maintain the integrity and safety of all assets and structures within the Park.
- 5.11.2 To ensure the personal safety of users as far as practicable through the implementation of crime prevention design initiatives.
- 5.11.3 To ensure activities undertaken on the Park are done so in a manner to appropriately ensure the health and safety of all users.

**Polices**

- 5.11.4 Investigate feasibility of providing CCTV at the entrance to the Park.
- 5.11.5 Require holders of events on the Park to provide a Health and Safety Plan.
- 5.11.6 Require the holders of leases, licences and permits to be responsible for the health and safety of users of their facilities.
- 5.11.7 Adhere to New Zealand Standards and timeliness of inspections of Council assets.
- 5.11.8 Apply Crime Prevention through Environmental Design (CPTED) strategies to developments in the Park.

5.12 NGĀ HONONGA Ā-HAPORI | COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

The involvement of individuals, groups and organisations in park management as volunteers and partners can provide a variety of benefits for the Park and the community. It is envisaged that volunteer programmes will become a major and valued form of participation in the enhancement of Eskdale Park that will be particularly imperative in the success of the creation of the new forest patch.

Community involvement in Eskdale Park could involve:

- Strategic partnerships with other public agencies such as Hawke’s Bay Regional Council and Napier City Council
- Partnerships with mana whenua
- Partnerships with the agencies and groups that share an interest in certain aspects of the Park
- Informal partnerships with individuals and groups, such as the Te Huka Waiohiganga (Esk) River Care Group; Hukarere College and Eskdale School; and neighbouring businesses.
- Partnerships with adjoining landowners such as Department of Conservation and Pan Pac to provide enhanced public access opportunities.

The aspirations of the Te Huka Waiohiganga (Esk) River Care Group is to restore the biodiversity of the land and water of the catchment by planting native plants along the river; ultimately benefitting the park users who will be able to enjoy the thriving biodiversity. The group’s focal planting site is directly upstream of the Park area, extending from there to the Waipunga Road Bridge. It is the intention of this Plan to support this programme and extend it along the river margins adjacent to Eskdale Park.

Partnerships may also be established with current and future user groups. There are several parks in the District that have active community groups. These groups can be positively utilised to raise funds for enhancement projects, carry out volunteer work and enhance park visitor experiences. The Council will support a community group for the Park provided their intentions and activities are consistent with the overall management direction of the Park, the wishes of the wider community, and the objectives of this Plan.

Sponsorships can also be utilised, involving local businesses offering funds and/or labour to support enhancement projects on the Park. In addition there are often a number of retired experts in revegetation and ecology fields that can be drawn on for assistance.

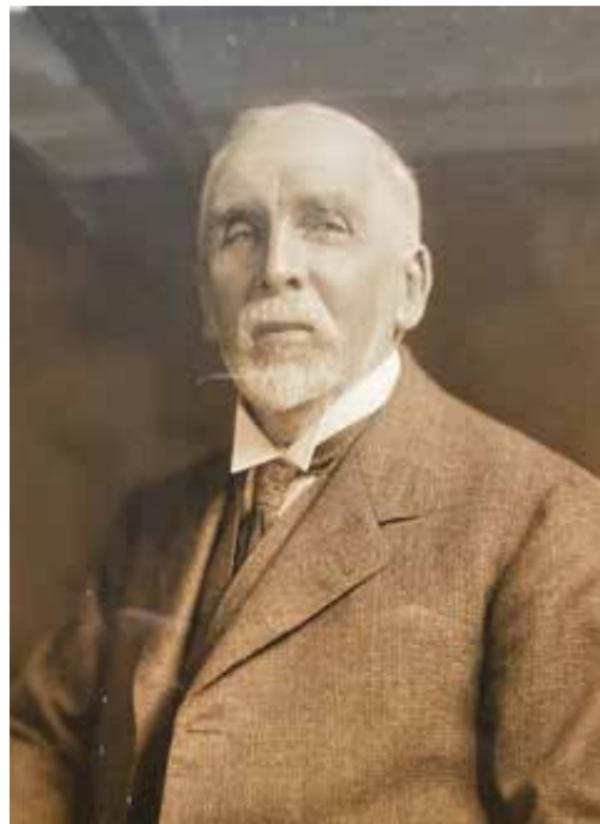
Objective

- 5.12.1 To promote community support for the management of Eskdale Park and delivery of enhancement projects through partnerships and volunteer programmes.

Policies

- 5.12.2 Promote and provide opportunities for mana whenua, businesses, community groups and individuals to work in volunteer programmes that assist in achieving the objectives of this Reserve Management Plan.

- 5.12.3 Support a range of community participation opportunities in the Park, including volunteer programmes, friends groups, sponsorships and partnership agreements.
- 5.12.4 Identify and work co-operatively with any organisation where such partnership results in an effective method to assist in achieving the goals and objectives of this Plan.
- 5.12.5 Encourage and support the active participation of members of the Te Huka Waiohiganga (Esk) River Care Group in the ongoing management, maintenance and development of the Park.
- 5.12.6 Support community groups where their activities are consistent with the objectives and policies of this Plan.



5.13 TE WHAKATAIRANGA | PROMOTION

To ensure the Park is used and enjoyed by the community, it is important Council promotes its use and the recreational opportunities it provides.

Promotion can be undertaken a number of ways, including on Council’s website, via press releases, the development of information brochures, and providing maps and interpretation panels. Signage is also an important method to advertise the location of facilities within the Park.

Objective

- 5.13.1 To promote the use of Eskdale Park to the community and wider district.

Policy

- 5.13.2 To provide quality promotional communication and information about the facilities and recreational opportunities within the Park.

5.14 TE AROTAKE ME TE AROTURUKI | REVIEW AND MONITORING

All parts of this plan will be kept under a continuous review in order to be able to adapt to changing circumstances or to adapt it in accordance with increased knowledge. Notwithstanding this, a full review will be undertaken 10 years from the final date of approval by Council of this Plan.

Objective

- 5.14.1 To review this Plan regularly in order to conserve, maintain and enhance the values and character of the Park.

Policy

- 5.14.2 Review this Plan every 10 years. In the interim, Council may determine to review part of, or the entire plan, in response to:
- a) Information from monitoring which indicates the need for a review or change;
  - b) Identification of new management issues or problems for which policy is required; and
  - c) Changes in National Policy including new or amended Laws, Regulations or other actions.



*Te Mahere Whakatutuki  
Me Ngā Angawā*

**ACTION LIST  
AND TIMEFRAMES**

**TE MAHERE WHAKATUTUKI ME TE ANGAWĀ  
ACTION LIST AND TIMEFRAMES**

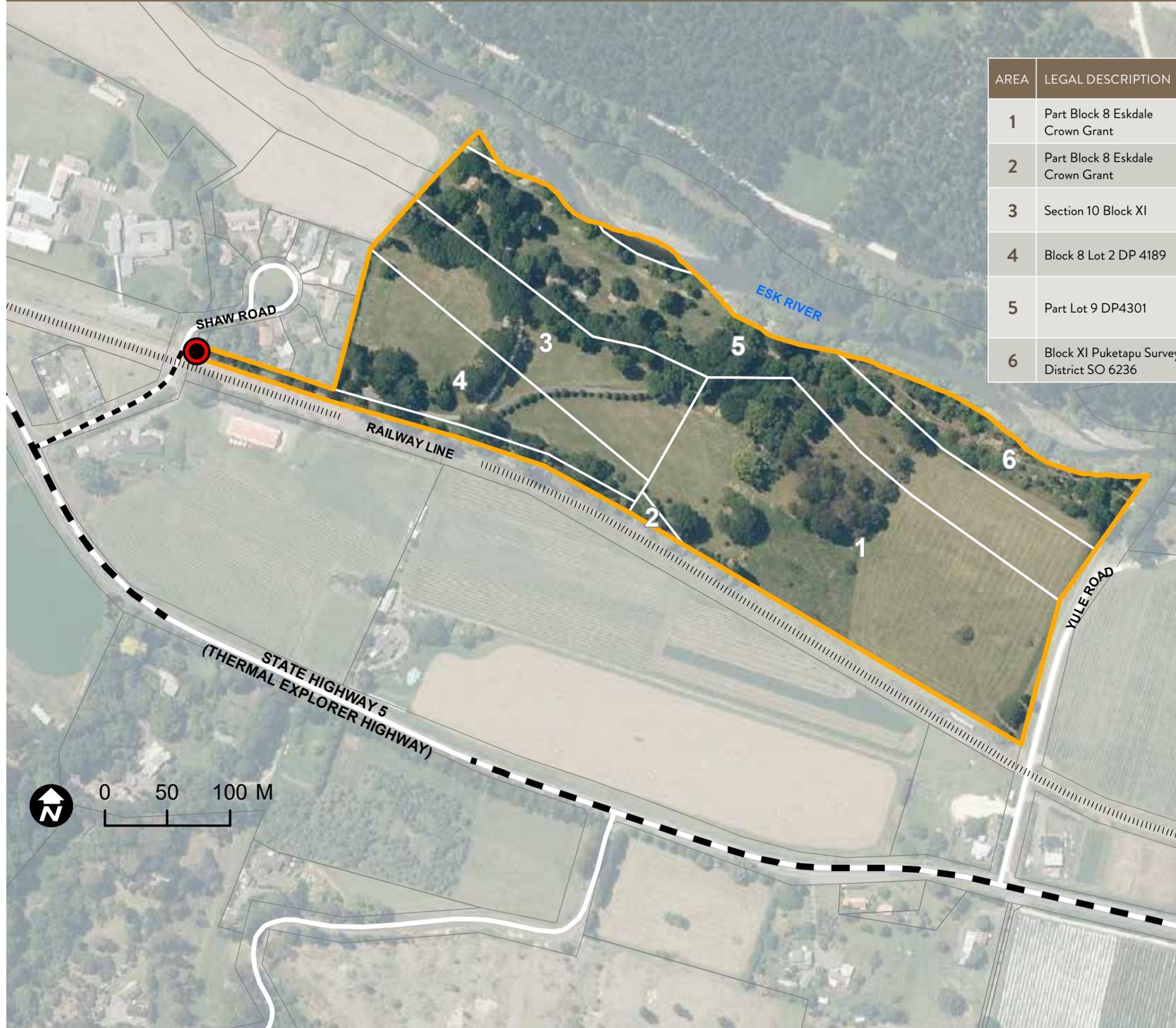
NO.	POLICY	ACTION	SHORT TERM 1-3 years	MEDIUM TERM 4-7 years	LONG TERM 8-10 years
1	2.5.3	Design and construct a bespoke rural themed playground			
2	2.7.2	Replace the 2 toilet blocks with 1 new fully accessible toilet			
3	2.8.4	Provide interpretative signage in the Park			
4	2.9.2	Provide additional seats and picnic tables using natural materials to reflect the rural character of the Park.			
5	2.9.3	Provide a community barbecue with associated drinking fountain, shelter and furniture.			
6	2.9.4	Upgrade existing bins within the Park to be of a standard design and adequate size for the rural environment.			
7	2.11.2	Enhance entrance to the Park off Shaw Road			
8	2.11.2	Formalise existing limesand vehicle access road			
9	2.12.2	Construct accessible shared pathway around perimeter of Park			
10	3.1.5	Succession planting of trees around cricket oval			
11	3.1.8	Establish indigenous forest patch in leased area			
12	3.1.9	Enhance planting along riparian margin of river edge			

\* Subject to Annual Plan and Long Term Plan priorities.

*Ngā Āpitihanga*  
**APPENDICES**







AREA	LEGAL DESCRIPTION	SIZE (IMPERIAL)	SIZE (METRIC)	AQUISITION
1	Part Block 8 Eskdale Crown Grant	11 acres 38.4 perches	4.5487ha	Gifted by Thomas Clark in 1919
2	Part Block 8 Eskdale Crown Grant	1 acre 2 perches	0.4097ha	Gifted by Thomas Clark in 1919
3	Section 10 Block XI	5 acres 35 perches	2.11ha	Crown Land given as a Reserve
4	Block 8 Lot 2 DP 4189	4 acres 25 perches	1.68ha	Gifted by the Estate Thomas Clark in 1923
5	Part Lot 9 DP4301	2 acres 32 perches	0.89ha	River Bed Accretion acquired from B Yule and A Robinson
6	Block XI Puketapu Survey District SO 6236	7 acres 2 roods	3.04	River Bed Accretion

ĀPIHITANGA 3: NGĀ MOTUHAKETANGA ME NGĀ WHAKAURUNGA  
APPENDIX 3: FEATURES AND FACILITIES



1 Play Area 1



2 Play Area 2



3 Play Area 3



4 Play Area 4



5 Play Area 5



6 Play Area 6



7 Toilet 1



8 Toilet 2



9 Cricket Oval

ĀPIHITANGA 4: TE MAHERE HUATAU TŪTOHI  
APPENDIX 4: PROPOSED CONCEPT PLAN



PLAN KEY

- River access points
- Trees to be added
- Proposed shared pathway
- Existing shared pathway
- Existing vehicle access

LEGEND

- Maintained open grass
- Proposed indigenous planting
- Existing exotic trees
- Revegetation planting
- Riparian planting

PROPOSED ACTIONS

- 1 Children's nature playground
- 2 Accessible toilet
- 3 Interpretive signage
- 4 Park furniture
- 5 Community BBQ
- 6 Park bins

- 7 Enhance park entrance
- 8 Formalise limesand road
- 9 Shared pedestrian pathway
- 10 Tree planting around oval
- 11 Establish indigenous forest
- 12 Riparian margin planting

ACTIVE RECREATION ZONES

- A Active Recreation Zone A
- B Active Recreation Zone B
- C Active Recreation Zone C

SCALE | 1:2000 @ A3

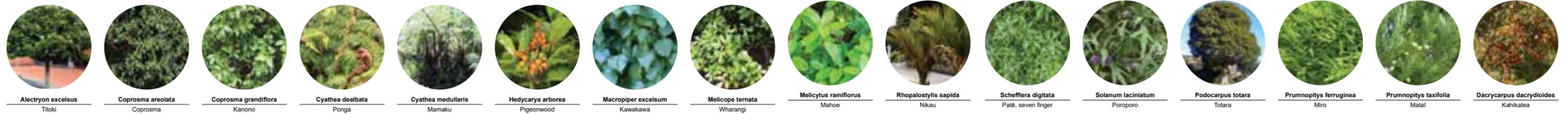


# ĀPIHITANGA 5: TE RĀRANGI TIPU TŪTOHI

## APPENDIX 5: PROPOSED PLANTING LIST

Below is a non-exhaustive list of species that could be planted for different conditions based on landform and light levels. It is broadly based on plant species lists compiled by the Esk River Care Group with their learnings from the past 2 years of planting on species survival.

### PLANTING PALETTE - UNDER PLANTING ON FLAT AREAS



### PLANTING PALETTE - OPEN FLAT PASTURE AREA



### PLANTING PALETTE - UNDER PLANTING WILLOW ON RIVER BANK



ĀPIHITANGA 6: TE KŌWHIRINGA WHAIWHAKAARO - NGĀ TAPUTAPU NOHO ME NGĀ ARA  
 APPENDIX 6: DESIGN IDEA PALETTE – FURNITURE AND PATHWAYS



ĀPIHITANGA 6: TE KŌWHIRINGA WHAIWHAKAARO - TE PAPA TĀKARO  
APPENDIX 6: DESIGN IDEA PALETTE - PLAYGROUND









**HASTINGS DISTRICT COUNCIL**

207 Lyndon Road East

Hastings 4122

Private Bag 9002

Hastings 4156

[www.hastingsdc.govt.nz](http://www.hastingsdc.govt.nz)

**TE KAUNIHERA Ā-ROHE O HERETAUNGA**

4570322