

Hamiltons Gap Waimatuku Reserve Management Plan 2000



Franklin
DISTRICT COUNCIL

Section 1

Introduction: Definition and Purpose of a Reserve Management Plan

This section provides information on firstly, the reasons for preparing Reserve Management Plans and, secondly the processes involved up to final approval of the Reserve Management Plan by Council.

Section 2

The District plan (Resource Management Act 1991) and the Reserves Act 1977

This section explains the overall purpose of the District Plan and its relationship to the management of Reserves. It also outlines conditions applying to Reserves designated as “Recreation Zone” under the Franklin District Plan.

Section 3

Resource Inventory

Section 3 provides information about the Reserve. A brief summary on topics such as name, location, legal description, classification under the Reserves Act, historical background, natural physical features, vegetation, landscape modifications, reserve users and reserve management and maintenance.

Section 4

Future Development and Development Controls

The section outlines the proposals for future development for Hamiltons Gap Waimatuku Reserve.

Section 5

Objectives and Policies

The objectives and policies are derived from previous sections of management plans and from public input sought during the process of preparing the Management Plan. These statements are the guidelines for the future management and development of the Reserve.

Section 1

Introduction: Definition and Purpose of a Reserve Management Plan

Reserve Management Plans are documents outlining objectives and policies for the development and operation of individual (or several) parks and reserves. Such plans should clearly outline a Council's general intentions for the use, development and maintenance of the reserve and indicate the means of implementing the provisions of the approved Management Plan.

The Reserves Act 1977 requires that every administering body of a reserve prepare a Reserves Management Plan for each reserve under its control. The legislation provides an opportunity for the public to contribute to the formulation of the Plan and the making of decisions which will affect the future of the reserve. The aim of the legislation is to ensure that the development and management of reserves and the subsequent use and enjoyment of them by the public is based on sound resource management and that, through involvement, the needs of the public are identified and accommodated as appropriate.

Once adopted by Council, a Reserve Management Plan will be reviewed from time to time so that, if necessary, it may be altered in keeping with changing circumstances.

The Management Plan Process:

The process being followed with this Plan is in accordance with the provisions of the Reserves Act 1977.

It is intended that the public have the opportunity to express their views before a Draft Management Plan for this reserve is prepared and again after the draft is prepared.

A notice of intention to prepare a Draft Management Plan was advertised in the Franklin County News and the Waiuku & Districts Post on August 17 1999.

Consultation to discuss the proposed management plan was undertaken with Wayne Aspin and Anne Lee of The Awhitu Peninsula Land Group on 31 July 1999, and Karl Flavell of Awaroa Environment, Ngaati Te Ata Iwi on 13 September 1999.

A submission to the Draft Management Plan was received, a summary of the issues raised are as follows:

- Wayne Aspin Awhitu Landcare Group

Outlines Awhitu Landcare's involvement in the Reserve and outlines the history of the area.

- Karl Flavell, Awaroa Environment Ngaati Te Ata

Requested the preliminary plan for the tribes review and comment.

The draft management plan was approved by Council on 20 April 2000. On publicly advertising the draft management plan for further comment or submission in May 2000 no further submissions were received.

The Hamiltons Gap Waimatuku Reserve Management Plan 2000 was approved by Council 20 July 2000.

Section 2

The District Plan (Resource Management Act 1991) and the Reserves Act 1977

The Franklin District Plan was approved on 2 December 2000.

The purpose of the District Plan is to assist Council in the functions of achieving sustainable management of the Franklin District's natural and physical resources which is a requirement of the Resource Management Act 1991.

Key rules in the District Plan to be considered in conjunction with the goals and objectives of this management plan are as follows:

- Part 4, Partnership with Tangata Whenua

The District Council has legal obligations with respect to Tangata Whenua when managing the natural and physical resources of the District. These obligations are set out in the Resource Management Act 1991.

Consultation with Tangata Whenua is considered a first step when embarking on the process of writing a reserve management plan and a review of a reserve management plan.

- Part 11, Recreation and Reserves

Outlines the recreation and reserves issues and the links to the Recreation Plan approved 28 May 1998 which is the guiding document in addressing recreational issues facing the district.

- Part 34, Rule 34 – Recreation zone

For the avoidance of doubt, and notwithstanding the rules which follow, all activities (or applications for consent for such activities) must also comply with such other provisions as may affect the activity and which are specified in Parts 7, 8, 10, 11, 12, 15, 22, 26, 50, 51, 52 and 53 of this Plan.

Reserve Act 1977

The provisions of the Reserves Act 1977 need to be adhered to in the management and development of Council reserves.

The Reserves Act 1977 places emphasis on the control, management, maintenance, preservation, development and use of reserves and is primarily concerned with the quality of reserves and the public enjoyment of them.

Section 3

Resource Inventory

Name, Location and Legal Description

Hamiltons Gap, Waimatuku Reserve is situated on the western side of the Awhitu Peninsula. The Awhitu Peninsula is located on the south western coastline of Manuakau Harbour. The Reserve is located on West Coast Road and is situated in the Awhitu Ward of the Franklin District. The reserve is named Hamiltons Gap, Waimatuku Reserve.

Details are given in the following legal descriptions:

3656 m2 Part Allotment 102 & Part Allotment 108 Awhitu Parish. Certificate of Title 153/26. SO Plan 69316.

Classification (Reserves Act 1977)

The land is vested as Road Reserve.

Natural Physical Features and Vegetation

The reserve is typical of those bordering the wild west coast beaches. The vegetation is sparse and wind battered. The topography is undulating leading to the steep adjoining cliffs.

A central roadway accesses the reserve, with a gravel carpark area provided.

The vegetation is kikuyu grass interplanted with flax plantings. The environment is harsh with strong salt laden winds, the grass maintains a rough cut appearance.

The Waimatuku Stream meanders along the cliff face boundary. The stream banks have evidence of recent flooding.

The cliff face on the adjoining farm has been retired from grazing. Large portions have been planted in Maram grass. This forms a significant visual backdrop to the reserve and is integral in revegetation of the reserve.

Evidence of the old Waimatuku Swamp are further up the valley and currently modified and farmed.

Historical Background

Hamiltons Gap, Waimatuku is part of the Manukau block which was purchased at Waiuku on 2 October 1857, by the District Commissioner and Government Survey W.N. Learing on behalf of the Crown from the Ngaati Te Ata for 1685 pounds. It was signed by 43 of the Ngaati Te Ata including the leading chiefs Aihepene Kaihau, Te Awarahi, and Hori Tauroa.

Hamiltons Gap is named after the Hamilton Family who's ancestors James and Margaret Hamilton purchased Lots 102 & 108 on the south side of the gap in 1864.

This family was to own large areas of surrounding hills and swampland in the forecoming years and about 1900-20 operated a cheese factory, selling under the brand name 'Awitu'.

At the Gap itself a flax mill operated about 1870's with flax being taken from the surrounding coastal hills. Before vehicle transport came to the peninsula cattle were driven along the coast to Waiuku and Hamiltons Gap was used as an access route. Many early pioneers used this route for travel as well.

The Gap has been a popular and customary swimming and fishing site for up to seven generations of original settlers descendants and continues to still be so.

Up to the creation of Waimatuku Reserve the land was grazed by who ever owned the land on the North side. This land as well as the reserve is now permanently retired from grazing and is being replanted in flax with a follow up of colonising species in forthcoming years by the Awhitu Landcare Group.

The reserve was donated by the Keith Hamilton family, with the agreement with the Franklin District Council to pay for surveying and boundary fencing.

In 1999 this situation was formalised by NZ Gazette notice number 114, the Reserve was acquired for road, with the adjoining roading land being stopped and taken as severance by the adjoining land owner.

The concrete block toilet and changing facility was built by Franklin District Council. In 1998 the Awhitu Landcare group painted an attractive mural on the exterior of the convenience.

A large pit is evident on the open grass area adjacent to the toilet block. The pit is the site of a buried whale. The whale beached and was buried on this site.

In 1998, The Awhitu Peninsula Land Group won the BHP Environmental Award for the Hamilton's Gap Waimatuku Reserve project.

Landscape Modifications

A public pleasance area is located centrally this area consists of :

There is a concrete block public convenience facility adjacent to the carpark area. A number of picnic tables are located throughout the reserve.

Vehicle access is via an gravel roadway and parking area.

Access is restricted to sections of the reserve by bollards and post and wire fencing.

In 1998 the Awhitu Peninsula Land Group a expressed an interest in turning this barren wilderness with an eyesore toilet block into an attractive natural wilderness area with native species.

A grant of \$5,000 from the Franklin District Council to improve the area was obtained. This money was spent on fencing an old land slide to contain erosion. The first year 700 flax plants were planted and the toilet block repainted with an attractive mural depicting the natural environment. A fence was erected to enable an area regeneration.

A programme of native revegetation of the reserve was undertaken. 700 native plants were planted into the Kikuyu grass, with the aim of providing a canopy crop to nurse further revegetation to be planted at a later date. To further assist the development of the flax, the area was fenced off with a post and wire fence.

The second year a further 400 flax were planted extending into the retired neighbouring farm land.

It is intended to plant colonising coastal plants amongst the flax.

The plants were funded by Franklin District Council and planted by the Awhitu Peninsula Land Group.

Current Use

The reserve accommodates a range of informal or unstructured activities such as walking, day visitors, and picnickers. Occasional freedom camping takes place.

Reserve Management and Maintenance

The reserve is owned and maintained by the Franklin District Council and gazetted Road Reserve in accordance with the Reserves Act 1977.

The Awhitu Landcare Group have been partnering Council for a number of years with the maintenance and development of the reserve.

Section 4

Future Development and Development Controls

Development Controls

The vision towards which this plan steers the management of Hamiltons Gap, Waimatuku Reserve is the opportunity to provide valuable recreational community facilities for the use of the public and specific groups.

Essentially the reserve will cater for many needs of the local and wider community while ensuring that environmental and landscape values are protected.

The reserve will continue to be developed in accordance with its Recreation Reserve status.

The Council will partner the Landcare Group to further regenerate the natural state of the reserve. At all times the needs of the wider public must be foremost so that the public are neither disadvantaged or excluded from any part of the reserve.

Planting:

The continuation of the native revegetation programme will endeavour to recolonise species native to the local area.

Erosion Control:

It is noted that some form of erosion control will be required at the stream/coastline boundary. Future planting of the coastline will provide long term erosion control in the remainder of the park.

Toilet Block:

The public toilet block visually dominates the reserve. Recent attempts of painting in natural colours depicting the landscape have minimised this impact.

The size and type of toilet block are not necessary for this type of park. A more appropriate small bio-composting type facility would be an improvement.

Fixtures:

Seating, bins, picnic tables and possibly barbecues will be provided in the reserve at locations determined by the Asset Co-ordinator Open Space Amenities.

Picnic Area:

Development of a picnic area sheltered from the wind.

Freedom Camping:

Investigate the opportunity for and provision of facilities for freedom camping.

Signs:

Signs will be placed in the park where necessary to mark entrances and provide information to park users. Signs will continue to recognise the partnership between the Awhitu Peninsula Land Group and Franklin District Council. Care will be taken to avoid a proliferation of signs.

Car Parking:

It is recognised that parking facilities for cars is a requirement on the reserve. Provision for vehicles is permitted on the existing road and current parking area. The carpark shall continue to be defined and the surface improved.

Vehicle parking shall be prohibited from sections of the reserve with the securing off areas by the use of strategic planting and bollard fencing.

Park Name:

It is proposed that the Reserve be named Hamiltons Gap, Waimatuku Reserve. Waimatuku means (Waters of the Brown Bitten).

Reserve Management Committee

Where stated in reserve management plans it is Council's policy that Reserve Management Committees (Friends of ...Park), be established.

The function of this committee will be to participate in future development and maintenance of the reserve on an advisory basis.

The Hamiltons Gap Waimatuku Reserve Management Committee shall include:

- Local residents
- Awhitu Peninsula Landcare Group
- Iwi
- Either/or member(s) of the Waiuku Community Board or Ward Councillor(s)
- A member of the Open Space Amentities activity of Council

Section 5

Objectives and Policies Future management and Development

1 Objective: Statutory

To ensure that all statutory requirement relating to the Reserve are met.

Policies

- To develop and administer the Reserve according to the Reserves Act 1977.
- To ensure that any planned future development is compatible with the classification of the Reserve as Recreation reserve.
- To control and direct all public activity on the Reserve in accordance with the Franklin District Council bylaws and other relevant laws.
- To ensure that any future uses and development proposal are in accordance with the Proposed Franklin District Plan or any resource consent granted under the provisions of the Proposed Franklin District Plan.

2 Objective: Protection

Protect and enhance the natural ecological features of the reserve.

To enhance the public amenity of the Reserve with appropriate management and development.

Policies

- Planting of the coastal boundaries to provide both erosion control and shelter.
- Planting native colonising coastal plants amongst the flax.
- Provision of any development to take into account the current high level of vandalism on this site.

3 Objective: Use

To provide for the appropriate use of the reserve for informal and organised activities.

To ensure the reserve remains available to all members of the public.

To minimise adverse effects on the immediate neighbourhood of all activities conducted on the park.

To encourage the participation and use of the Reserve by user groups and the Public.

Policies

- That the organised use of the reserve be allowed in accordance with Council's procedures for the booking of reserves.
- That the exercising of dogs be permitted in accordance with Council's dog control bylaw.
- That all members of the public be allowed access to and through the entire reserve.
- To monitor the use of the toilet block, and review its renovation/replacement.
- To provide appropriate furniture and fixtures to cater to park users, including sheltered areas.
- To define the parking areas, and appropriately restrict vehicle access to the remainder of the reserve.
- To investigate the potential use for overnight wilderness/freedom camping.

4 Objective: Management Committee

To provide efficient and effective reserve management.

To foster and facilitate community inclusion in the ongoing management of the park.

Policies

- The function of the committee will be to participate in the future development and maintenance of the reserve on an advisory basis.
- Initiate and facilitate a community based "Friends of Hamiltons Gap, Waimatuku Reserve" group. To encourage community/local participation in the development, protection and enhancement of Hamiltons Gap, Waimatuku Reserve.

5 Objective: Signs

To provide high quality directional signs.

Policies

- To ensure that signs do not affect the aesthetic appeal of the reserve
- To limit the number of permanent signs to those necessary for the purpose of providing information to users.
- To ensure that signs comply with Council bylaws and Franklin District Plan requirements.
- That any signage reflect the partnership with the Awhitu Landcare Group.

Appendix List

- Hamiltons Gap, Waimatuku Reserve – facilities plan, boundaries and location plan.

