

Hudsons Beach Recreation Reserve Management Plan 2000



SECTION 1

INTRODUCTION: DEFINITION & 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 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 Hudsons Beach Recreation Reserve.

SECTION 5

OBJECTIVES AND POLICIES

The objectives and policies are derived from previous sections of the Management Plan 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 THE 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 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 review the Management Plan for Hudsons Beach Recreation Reserve was advertised in the Franklin County News and Waiuku and Districts Post the week of 15 March 1999.

Consultation to discuss the proposed management plan was undertaken with Hudsons Beach Environmental & Development Association on 31 July 1999, and Karl Flavell of Awaroa Environment, Ngaati Te Ata Iwi on 13 September 1999 at the time of preparing the draft management plan no submission has been received.

Two submissions were received on the review of the Hudsons Beach Recreation Reserve and these have been summarised and are included as appendix 3 of the management plan.

Submissions were received from the following organisations :

- Hudsons Beach Environmental and Development Association.
- Grahams Beach Settlers Association.

The goals and objectives that both these organisations have made in their submissions to the management plan show that the community have given careful consideration to the development and use of this reserve. These objectives have been acknowledged and have been incorporated into the final management plan.

The draft of the reviewed management plan was advertised for a further month from 18 January 2000 until 25 February 2000 for further submissions. Two further submissions of support for the draft management plan were received from the Grahams Beach Settlers Association and the Franklin Branch of the Royal Forest and Bird Protection Society.

The Franklin Branch of the Royal Forest and Bird Society highlight two points that will need to be considered by the future reserve management committee that are noted.

- Use of bikes on bush tracks.
- Public camping on the reserve is not supported because of control and associated litter difficulties.

A Management Plan for Hudsons Beach Recreation Reserve was prepared in July 1985. The update of this plan was approved 16 March 2000.

SECTION 2

THE DISTRICT PLAN (RESOURCE MANAGEMENT ACT 1991) AND THE RESERVES ACT 1977

The Franklin District Plan was approved on 2 December 1999.

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.

The Reserves Act 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

Name, Location and Legal Description

Hudsons Beach Recreation Reserve is one of the northern beaches located on the eastern side of the Awhitu Peninsula. The Awhitu Peninsula is located on the south western coastline of Manuakau Harbour. The Reserve is located on Hudson Road and is situated 42 km from Waiuku, in the Awhitu Ward of the Franklin District. The reserve is named Hudsons Beach Recreation Reserve.

Details are given in the following legal descriptions:

4.5527 hectares Allotment 237 S.O.46256 Block XV Titirangi SD. Valuation Reference number 3710/180.

Classification (Reserves Act 1977)

Gazette notice NZ Gazette 10 July 1969 no. 41, page 1281 changed the purpose of the reserve from a reserve for cemetery purposes to a reserve for recreation purposes.

Natural Physical Features and Vegetation

The reserve is of two plateaus, the lower fronting the beach and the northern boundary is of a swampy nature. The higher area adjoins Hudson Road to the south and slopes from there northwards.

Vehicle access is directly off Hudson Road and is a metal surface.

The Reserve is primarily in pasture grasses and grazed. Pockets of native revegetation are scattered throughout the Reserve.

The Reserve is exposed to wind on its Eastern Boundary.

The Reserve is sparsely planted in a mix of exotic and native species.

The Reserve abuts the foreshore of Hudsons Beach. To the west and north the reserve is abounded by developed farm land.

Historical Background

The reserve was originally gazetted in 1891 as a cemetery reserve and vested in the control of the then Awhitu Roads Board. Council's records commence in 1920 by which time the Roads Board had been abolished and merged with Council. From 1920 to 1950 there were several inquiries for the leasing of the reserve and the removal of sand from the lower area, but approval was never granted.

In 1952 a lease was let for grazing purposes only and it is still leased for this purpose today.

The cemetery status was consistent with recorded reports "that unmarked graves near the stream of what is now Hudsons Beach, were those of Orpheus men". Referring to the wreck of HMW Orpheus in 1863 and the loss of 189 lives, many who were washed up on various parts of the Manukau Harbour.

A further burial was also recorded earlier this century, its location was never defined. In 1966 moves were made to have the area defined as a recreation reserve.

The purpose of the reserve was changed by Gazette notice in 1969 from a reserve for cemetery purposes to a reserve for recreation purposes.

In 1979 0.5 hectares was fenced off which now houses public toilets, changing rooms, a parking area and a very small area incorporating children's play equipment (set of swings). The public toilets and changing facilities were constructed in 1982.

In 1998 the Kawakawa Charitable Trust made an application to Franklin District Council to lease and develop the reserve. The proposal included application to provide a Wharau (shelter) for a Waka (canoe), construct associated buildings and undertake a planting programme.

In 1998 the Hudsons Beach Environmental and Development Association also made an application to Franklin District Council, the details of the proposal are similar to those listed in the Associations submission to this plan.

As a result of the applications a public meeting was called to facilitate an outcome which will provide improved recreational opportunity on the Hudsons Beach Recreation Reserve to the benefit of the community at large.

The play equipment was upgraded in 1998 and a bark safety surface provided below the swing set.

The balance of the area consists of a large elevated field adjacent to Hudsons Beach Road leased to a local farmer who uses it periodically for grazing, which provides some funding for the reserve.

Landscape Modifications

A public pleasance area is located centrally and on the waterfront. This area consists of :

A small children's playground

Two Concrete barbecues, rubbish bins and one picnic table are situated in the vicinity of the playground area.

A concrete block public convenience facility was built adjacent to the carpark area.

A small carpark area.

Current Use

The Reserve carpark and pleasance area accommodates a range of informal or unstructured activities such as walking, day visitors, picnickers, beach and boat ramp users.

The remainder of the Reserve is leased to local farmers B & E Blake.

Reserve Management and Maintenance

The Reserve is Crown Land vested to Franklin District Council as the administering body and gazetted recreation Reserve in accordance the Reserves Act 1977.

The Reserve is maintained by Franklin District Council.

In 1998 the Hudsons Beach Recreation Reserve Advisory Committee was formed from interested parties at a public meeting. The role of this committee is to advise and assist Council in the preparation of this Management plan, future development and use of the reserve.

Treaty of Waitangi Claim

IN 1993 the Ngaati Te Ata Iwi made claim to the Waitangi Tribunal under WAI331 for the Reserve land at Hudsons Beach Allotment 237, Awhitu Parish, situated in block XV, Titirangi Survey District Plan.

The Ngaati Te Ata claim they lost one acre of land reserved to them form the sale of the Manuakau Block to the Crown, as recorded in Turtons Deed No. 281. They seek

as redress 10 acres of land known as the Hudsons Beach Reserve. The Reserve is Crown land, vested in the management of Franklin District Council.

In 1995 Franklin District Council received a report from the Hudsons Beach Environmental Development Association and the Grahams Beach Settlers Association. The Council resolved that:

- a. That Council advises Government that the four hectares of Reserve at Hudsons Beach should not be taken out of Council control and that it is left for the benefit of all future generations of people for their recreation.
- b. That a copy of this resolution be forwarded to RT Hon W Birch immediately.

In April 1999, the Hudsons Beach Environmental and Development Association received a letter from the Office of Treaty Settlements, advising them that

“The Government accepts that Treaty settlement must take account of the need of the wider community to ensure that they result in positive relationships between all members of the community. If a locally administered reserve is proposed to be affected by a settlement, discussions are first held with the local community, usually through the District Council responsible for the reserve. To date, any such reserve has been transferred, subject to continuing free public use and access.”

To date the Claim is proceeding through the Treaty process.

SECTION 4

FUTURE DEVELOPMENT & DEVELOPMENT CONTROLS

1 Development Controls

The vision towards which this plan steers the management of Hudsons Beach Recreation 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 continue to partner community groups to provide and or, allow such groups to further develop the reserve to cater to the specific needs of these groups. At all times the needs of the wider public must be foremost so that the public are neither disadvantaged nor excluded from any part of the reserve.

Open Space Area:

The area of open space that is currently grazed will eventually be developed and function as part of the reserve. The carpark pleasance area will continue to be maintained appropriately for a public pleasance area.

Planting:

The need for further amenity planting in the reserve is recognised. This plan provides for specimen tree planting around the coastline periphery of the reserve, with effort not to restrict the sea view. Planting in the vicinity of the playground will be blending with native and other exotic specimens.

Underplanting of the existing mature specimen trees shall be ongoing to provide replacement specimens as these trees mature and become dangerous.

The development of a native regeneration area on the lower north western area adjacent to the carpark. The wetlands to be regenerated and encouraged back into its natural state. It should be noted that there may be the need to fence this area initially to assist in the establishment of the planting's by restriction of access temporarily.

The creation of bush walks through the newly regenerated areas.

The development of a Seaman's memorial garden is proposed.

Erosion Control:

It is noted that some form of erosion control will be required on the foreshore adjacent to Hudsons Beach Rd. Future planting of the coastline will provide long term erosion control in the remainder of the park.

Erosion protection methods will be implemented in accordance with Council Policy, 2.12.3 – Control of Coastal Erosion on Council Reserves. It is noted that as of December 1999, Council is working on the implementation of a Franklin District Shoreline Erosion Management Guideline that will assist Council in determining where erosion protection measures will be implemented. It is noted that the foreshore of Hudsons Beach is an area where this guideline will be used to determine what erosion protection measures will be implemented.

It is anticipated that Council will begin work on determining what erosion protection measures will be implemented at the various reserve areas of the District where coastal erosion is presently affecting Council's assets in February 2000. Hudsons Beach will be considered at this time.

Waka launching area:

The Ngaati Te Ata Iwi has indicated that they would like the ability to launch a waka at Hudsons Beach. It is an immediate goal of Ngaati Te Ata to construct a waka and have waka back on the Manukau.

Play area:

The children's play area be upgraded and further enhanced to comply with the NZ standards.

The play area to be complemented with appropriate furniture and facilities to cater to caregivers.

Walking Tracks:

The path/walking track network provides a valuable amenity for passive recreational use. The walking track networks shall be maintained and enhanced, using community volunteer labour groups.

Fixtures:

Seating, bins, barbecues and picnic tables will be provided in the reserve at locations determined by the reserve management committee in conjunction with Council's open space amenities team.

Tohu:

The Ngaati Te Ata Iwi have indicated that they would like the provision for a Tohu (monument in nature), at Hudsons Beach. The Tohu identifies areas of significance to Iwi, this site would be one of many in the Franklin District. The Tohu would be in a carved format.

Signs:

Signs will be placed in the park where necessary to mark entrances and provide information to park users. Care will be taken to avoid a proliferation of signs.

Grazing:

Currently large portions of the reserve are leased to B & E Blake. The leasing arrangements shall be altered to accommodate the new and future users of the park.

Car Parking:

It is recognised that parking facilities for both cars and boat trailers is a requirement on the reserve. Provision for vehicles are permitted within the current parking area. It is envisaged that the area of carparking may need to be extended to provide adequate provision for park and beach users.

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

Overnight Camping:

Wilderness Camping has been sought at this reserve it is intended to investigate the potential use for overnight wilderness camping, on a limited basis. It should be noted that health regulations must be adhered to and that the public toilet is provided for casual visitors to the beach and not large scale camping groups.

2 Reserve Management Committee

Where stated in reserve management plans it is Council's policy that a Reserve Management Committee (Friends of ...Park), be established. The function of this committee will be to participate in the future development and maintenance of the reserve on an advisory basis.

The functions and responsibilities should be clearly understood by the reserve committee and be documented.

In the case of Hudsons Beach Recreation Reserve a very active community group formed in 1992. On 26 March 1998 the Franklin District Council resolved that:

That a public meeting be called of interested parties to form a management committee to put forward local views on the review of the Hudsons Beach Recreation Reserve Management Plan.

On 17 May 1998 a public meeting was held at the Grahams Beach Settlers Hall, approximately 100 people attended the meeting. Representatives attended from the local community, Hudsons Beach Environmental and Development Association, Grahams Beach Settlers Association and Orua Bay Residents and Ratepayers Association. The meeting elected a committee to represent the groups attending the meeting, throughout the Management Plan preparation process.

This group will form the basis of the Hudsons Beach Recreation Reserve Management Committee.

It is proposed that either a member of the Franklin District Council Waiuku Awhitu Community Board or a Ward Councillor will be included in the future reserve management committee.

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 development 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:

Protect and enhance the natural ecological features of the reserve.

Policies

- A programme of native revegetation planting, particularly on the lower north western area adjacent to the creek.
- Native revegetation of the natural wetlands area. The wetlands to be regenerated and encouraged back to its natural state.
- The development of a native regeneration area on the lower north western area adjacent to the carpark
- Specimen tree planting around the coastline periphery of the reserve, with effort not to restrict the sea view.
- A programmed underplanting replacement programme is implemented to replace existing specimen trees as they die or become dangerous.

- Further amenity planting will be provided in the vicinity of the playground area.
- The creation of bush walks through the newly regenerated areas.
- The development of a Seaman's memorial garden.
- Large open areas to be kept free of planting to provide for a wide range of recreational uses.
- The development of a large proportion of the upper grazed area to facilitate a flat playing area for casual sport.
- The protection of the foreshore by implementing appropriate erosion control measures.
- To redefine any leasing agreements for grazing the Reserve.
- Programme and implement the eradication of evasive exotic weeds.

2 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.

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 are allowed access to and through the entire reserve.
- The upper level area be available as an emergency heli-pad for emergency helicopter landings.
- To upgrade and enhance the playground to ensure compliance to the NZ standards.
- To provide appropriate furniture and fixtures to cater to park users.
- To support the launching of waka from the foreshore.

- To support the installation of a Tohu on the Reserve.
- To define and enlarge the parking areas, provide adequate parking facilities in the lower area adjacent to the toilet and changing rooms, to facilitate vehicle/boat trailers and visitor's cars.
- To appropriately restrict vehicle access to the remainder of the reserve.
- To monitor the use of the toilet block, and review its renovation/replacement.
- To investigate the potential use for overnight wilderness camping, on a limited basis. It should be noted that health regulations must be adhered to and that the public toilet is provided for casual visitors to the beach and not large scale camping groups.
- To investigate the installation of a permanent boat ramp in place of the existing temporary wooden ramp.

5 Objective: Management Committee

To provide efficient and effective reserve management and 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.
- To encourage community/local participation in the development, protection and enhancement of the Reserve.

6 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 Proposed Franklin District Plan requirements.

Appendix

- Location Map
- Hudsons Beach Recreation Reserve Facilities Plan - boundaries Map
- Summary of submissions received from the following:
 - Hudsons Beach Environmental and Development Association
 - Grahams Beach Settlers Association
 - Franklin Branch of the Royal Forest and Bird Protection Society

