

UPPER HUTT CITY

Open Space Strategy 2018 – 2028

FEBRUARY 2018



LIFE. LEISURE. *LIVE IT!*

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Executive summary

Upper Hutt City's Open Space Strategy recognises the value of open space to our community, visitors and workers and the contribution open space makes towards the quality of life in Upper Hutt.

These values are integral to achieving the city's vision: Life. Leisure. Live it!

The purpose of the Open Space Strategy is to provide an overarching framework and strategic direction for public parks and open space for the next 10 years. It is the principle, long-term planning document that will help Council manage, plan, develop and maintain our parks, reserves and open spaces in a collaborative, sustainable manner to meet the current and future recreational needs of the community.

Upper Hutt has a large open space network with a variety of spaces for the many recreation activities enjoyed by our community. Our parks and open spaces provide opportunities for a wide range of users to be active, socialise and relax. The diverse character of these spaces contributes to what makes our city unique and distinctive.

We are located close to these open spaces—local parks, the rivers, reserves, and walking and cycling trails. The relatively easy access we have to these parks and open spaces forms part of the city's identity and the lifestyle it offers. These are important features that attract people to Upper Hutt.

Upper Hutt is growing and changing which presents us with opportunities and challenges. We are experiencing increased demand for housing and business space. We'll need to ensure that the values of open space are retained as our city evolves. The Strategy considers both quality and quantity to enable the continued provision of open space that meets the recreational needs of current and future generations.

As well as meeting the recreation needs (both passive and active) of the community, we have opportunities to link to the regional open space network and draw visitors to our city through events and tourism.

To do this we propose setting the following strategic direction:

Upper Hutt has an open space network of great spaces and places that are valued for their role in contributing to the health and wellbeing of the people and the environment of our city.

Strategic goals

The strategic direction will be upheld by the following strategic goals proposed for the next 10 years.

1. Our open spaces are appropriately located.
2. Our open spaces meet the needs of the community and more people benefit from regularly using them.
3. Our open spaces are accessible and well connected, making it easier for people to exercise, play, socialise and relax outdoors.
4. Our open spaces are enhanced to provide benefits for the environment and recreational experience.
5. Our open spaces contribute to community identity, vibrancy and sense of place.

Our city vision

Environment

We're immersed in natural beauty, we love our river, our stunning parks, and we feel alive in our great outdoors.



We're Upper Hutt

We're a scenic playground.

Community

We celebrate our heritage, culture, heroes, and uniqueness. We're a caring, safe and healthy community.



We're Upper Hutt

We're family.

City Centre

Our city centre is alive, attractive, and vibrant.



We're Upper Hutt

We're a centre for opportunity.

Economy

We attract new investment and offer opportunities for people and businesses to prosper.



We're Upper Hutt

We're enabling growth and success.

Infrastructure

Built on stable foundations we have reliable and efficient networks supporting growth opportunities.



We're Upper Hutt

We're connected.

LIFE. LEISURE. *LIVE IT!*

Introduction

Open space protects and conserves features that make Upper Hutt special. We should understand the ecological, social, natural, heritage, and cultural values of our place.

It will enhance our ability to create diverse, engaging, and distinctive open spaces.

Open space is a highly-valued asset to the community and visitors to Upper Hutt. It contributes significantly to character, identity, and lifestyle.

Open space delivers a sense of shared ownership, connection and belonging for people, and these attributes are known to improve the wellbeing of individuals and communities. Open space plays a major role in improving human health, reducing crime, stimulating economic growth, and boosting property values.

What is open space?

Definitions of what open space is can vary. These spaces provide different values, which include: recreation, health and wellbeing, connection with nature, ecological, biodiversity, visual amenity and a sense of belonging.

Open space means different things to different people. It can be the space around us, parks, mountains, river and stream corridors that we enjoy and value.

For the purpose of the Strategy, 'open space' is land that is, or should be, set aside for public recreation, that the community has a relatively free right of access to.

Role and classification

Open space role and character classifications are based on land and activity use. Different types of open space have different values and functions. The individual neighbourhood open spaces need to be assessed in terms of existing and possible future function (classification) and role.

Social and family recreation	Spaces that provide a range of passive recreation activities in a predominately informal setting.
Sporting reserves	Spaces that are predominately used for active and competitive recreation.
Conservation and nature reserves	Spaces that contain biodiversity features of local, regional or national significance.
Water bodies	Streams, rivers, and lakes—along with their associated land areas—which warrant protection ahead of their use for other purposes.
Civic space	Open space in the city centre.
Road reserve	Land located between the road edge and the front boundary of private property.
Linear reserves and paths	A contiguous network of open space that establishes recreational walking, cycling, and ecological connections—with on-street connections. A great example is the Hutt River corridor.

Collectively these spaces comprise the open space network.

Why is open space important?

Open space makes a major contribution towards the quality of life in Upper Hutt. It is important for many reasons.

High quality parks, open spaces, and streets can create vibrant town centres and suburbs. Some of the most obvious functions come from use as a venue for sport and recreation, an essential part of many people's lives. Less obvious, are the ways in which open space influences and contributes to the health and wellbeing of our community.

There is a growing understanding about the importance of the relationship between green space and wellbeing, the interdependence of people and their surroundings, and how participation in recreation, physical activity and sport has wide ranging physical health, social, cultural, economic and environmental benefits.

The Strategy identifies more opportunities for open space in urban areas because demand for such space is higher than in the rural areas. In rural Upper Hutt, section sizes are larger and homes generally have more private space than urban homes. The open spaces in rural areas are more likely to be connections (e.g. roads and pathways) and regional parks than Council reserves. There are more parks and reserves in urban areas than there are in the rural areas as a result.

BIODIVERSITY



EVENTS AND THE ARTS



ECONOMICS AND TOURISM



PHYSICAL HEALTH AND WELLBEING



MENTAL HEALTH AND WELLBEING



SPIRITUAL WELLBEING



CULTURAL WELLBEING



SOCIAL CONNECTEDNESS



Revitalisation trends

Communities across the globe are experiencing positive outcomes from open space revitalisation projects, where the goal is to make places, communities, and regions more prosperous, attractive and resilient.

There is growing momentum to get 'back to the basics' of what makes cities thrive. These small-scale, often temporary interventions are characterized by their community-focus and realistic goals. Many of the most effective and immediate solutions are 'lighter, quicker, and cheaper' than traditional 'top-down' approaches to improving cities.

The quality of a public space has always been best defined by the people who use it. The growing success of these projects all over the world is leading to long-term change. The key is local ideas for local challenges, and knowing and responding to local needs.

These types of initiatives are intended to link urban development with social development to:

- promote community organisation and participation;
- increase community safety and prevent antisocial activity;
- help strengthen the sense of community belonging, social cohesion, and equitable outcomes and progress.

What is changing?

- Informal recreation: There is a growing preference for participation in informal, non-organised recreational activities such as mountain biking, bush-walking and nature based recreation. This trend also includes social modified sport opportunities including touch football and ultimate frisbee.
- Formal recreation: There is an increasing trend showing lower levels of participation in formal organised equipment based recreational activities. A large number of clubs and groups are simply 'surviving', at a below sustainable level and venue costs and maintenance are a significant challenge. There is a growing awareness that we need to act now to preserve our sporting heritage.
- Commercial use of open space: Demand is increasing for commercial use of open space for regular, one-off or pop-up events including concerts, sporting and cultural events, as well as more fixed ventures such as coaching schools, kiosks and fitness programmes and equipment hire.
- Environment: There are growing trends toward the integration of environmental protection values of recreation areas, this has the potential to provide dual benefits for the environment as well as for the recreation experience of people.
- Domestic and international tourism: Cycling, biking, walking, tramping and hiking are very popular outdoor recreation activities for overseas and local visitors.
- Edible spaces: Local governments are playing an increasing role in productive landscapes and urban agriculture, supporting and encouraging productive spaces such as community gardens and orchard plantings. These types of spaces benefit communities by enabling improved resilience, sustainability and local food security.

Council's role in open space

Council has an active role in the provision of open space within Upper Hutt.

- **Own:** As land owner and caretaker of the city's open spaces, Council regards the provision of open space as an integral component of its core business and everyday operations.
- **Partner:** Engage in partnerships and collaboration with Department of Conservation (DoC), Greater Wellington Regional Council, Hutt City Council, South Wairarapa District Council, mana whenua, and community groups.
- **Protect:** Prevent inappropriate use and development under the Reserves Act 1977, Local Government Act 2002, and Resource Management Act 1991.
- **Advocate:** Highlight the importance of open spaces in the health and wellbeing of the community through strategic documents, plans, and information sharing.
- **Research and plan:** Prepare and review strategies and management plans to meet the needs of existing and future generations.
- **Fund and deliver programmes:** Through the Long Term Plan, operations and asset management.

What about areas that Council doesn't manage or own?

Council doesn't have a mandate to actively manage other organisations' or privately owned open space resources, but there are opportunities to influence the way they're managed through our relationships and partnerships with others.

The majority of Upper Hutt's natural resources that are managed by other organisations or are privately owned also contribute to wider landscape and biodiversity values. These resources also help provide a sense of place for Upper Hutt. They include landscapes and features like the hills that surround us, our regional parks, and the Hutt River and its tributaries. The Open Space Strategy only applies to land that is accessible for public recreation.

Some areas of open space are held primarily for other management purposes, and secondarily for recreation. For example the Hutt River corridor and water collection areas managed by the regional council have primary purposes for flood management and water collection.

The Wellington Regional Policy Statement requires that Council's District Plan identifies and protects areas with significant biodiversity values and outstanding natural features and landscapes. For areas not publicly accessible (and therefore not classified as 'open space'), the Council can determine whether getting public access to them is feasible and if this will help reach the goals of the Strategy. The Strategy acknowledges the role existing open spaces can have in connecting (as ecological corridors for example) to areas with significant biodiversity and landscape values.

The best way to protect significant biodiversity and outstanding natural features and landscapes is in the District Plan. If future access to these areas is made possible, they would fit the definition of 'open space'.

The role of private land

It is recognised that the private sector may also contribute to achieving the purposes that the Strategy may focus on, for example where private land is seen to contribute to amenity values, the absorption of stormwater and spaces like golf courses that offer recreation opportunities.

Private land can therefore be seen as complementary, and in some cases, may be used as a substitute for public open space where public access to privately-owned land can be negotiated.

What is the Open Space Strategy?

The purpose of the Open Space Strategy is to provide an overarching framework and strategic direction for public parks and open space in Upper Hutt City for the next 10 years. It is the principal, long-term planning document that will help Council manage, plan, develop, and maintain our parks, reserves, and open spaces in a collaborative manner to meet the current and future needs of the community.

The need for an Open Space Strategy was identified in Council's Long Term Plan 2015 – 2025 and Land Use Strategy 2016 – 2043. The Land Use Strategy provides a strategic approach managing and planning for future growth and development in a proactive way. It acknowledges that as the city grows, we also need to manage our open space resource in a similar way to retain its value and contribution to the community.

Scope of the Strategy

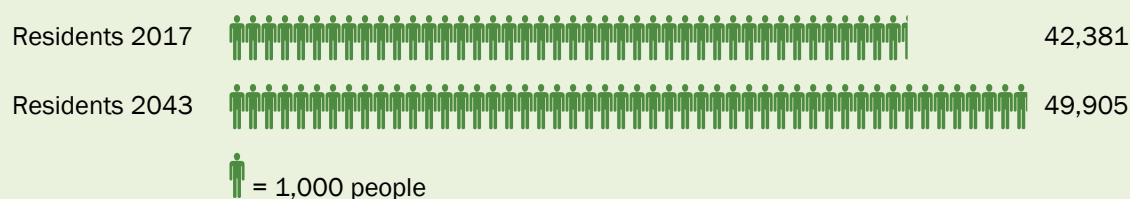
- For the purpose of the Strategy, 'open space' is land that is, or should be, set aside for public recreation, that the community has a relatively free right of access to.
- The Strategy will guide how we use, manage, and develop open spaces with a framework for decision making on future projects and work to improve our open space network.
- The Strategy will not contain specific projects or actions relating to maintenance or operations for specific parks or open spaces—this work will follow through our Long Term Plan and ongoing operations and asset management.

The Strategy includes:

1. Goals and objectives for our open spaces.
2. Guidelines for optimising our open spaces, purchasing new open spaces and disposing of land that offers limited open space opportunities for the community.
3. An analysis of our existing open space to identify some of the opportunities for future improvements and development to achieve the goals of the strategy.
4. A high level action plan to help implement the Strategy.

Upper Hutt trends

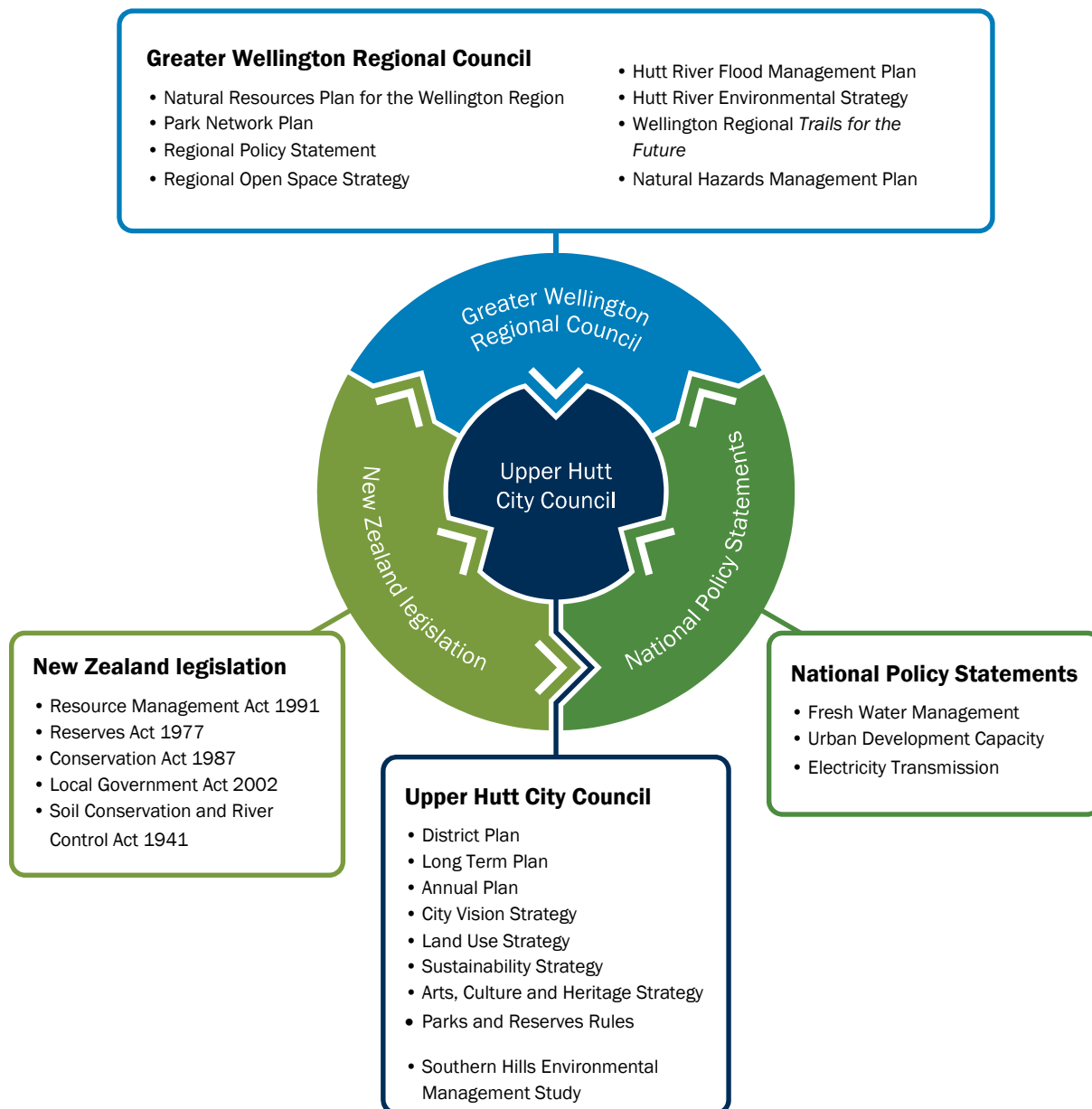
Upper Hutt has a growing and aging population. Household sizes are likely to be smaller and Upper Hutt's Land Use Strategy has identified the need for more infill housing and a more diverse range of housing. An increase in housing density may put pressure on our open spaces, so it will be important to maintain and enhance the spaces we have to ensure they serve the populations they will provide for in the future.



Strategic planning framework

The Open Space Strategy is one of a suite of strategic documents and plans, both our own and those of other agencies, that guide Council's decision making and management of open spaces.

The diagram below shows the strategic planning framework that is relevant to open spaces.



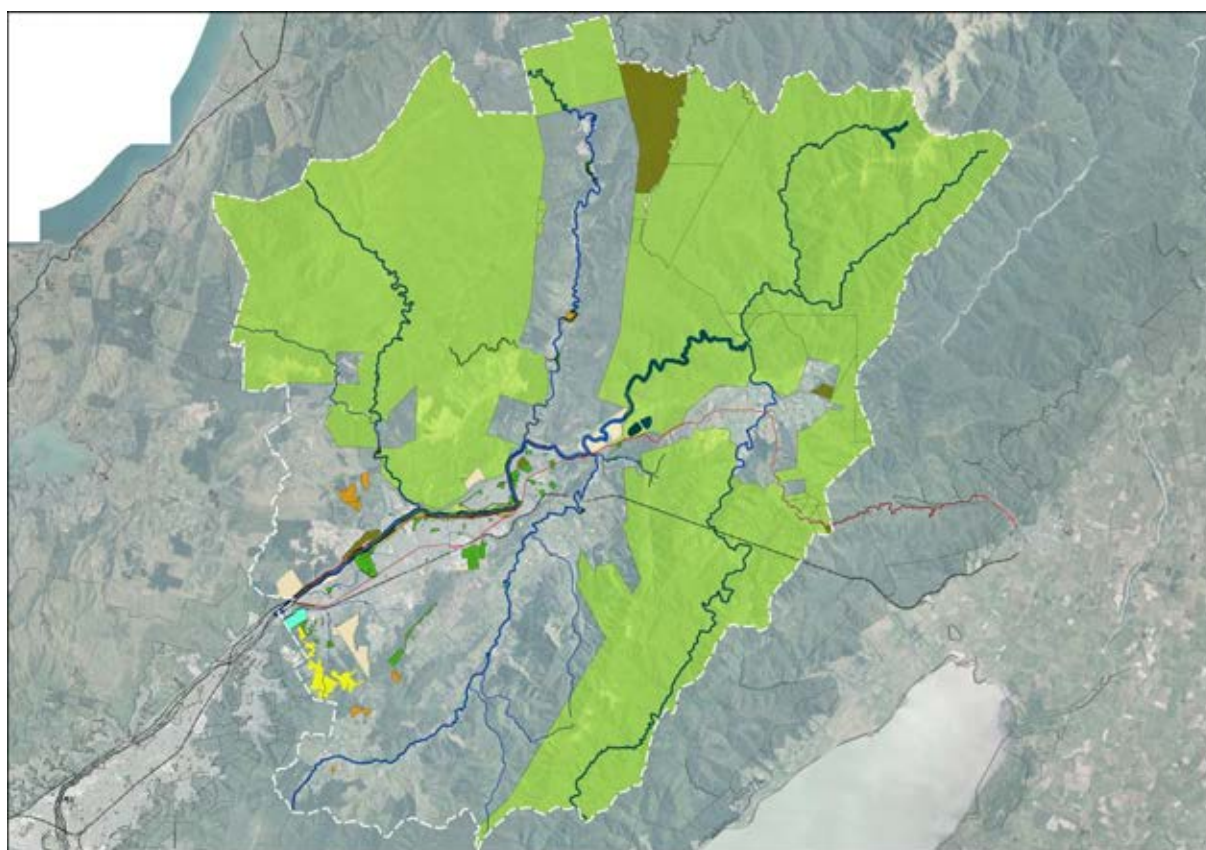
Open spaces in Upper Hutt

Upper Hutt is located within the upper reaches of the Hutt River/Te Awa Kairangi, surrounded by Whakatikei, Akatarawa, Tararua and Rimutaka Ranges, and the Southern Hills. This landscape provides a strong natural setting for the city. The linear character of the natural landscape and the movement and infrastructure networks play a significant role in the accessibility and connectivity of public open space across the city.

Each open space has its own identity within the open space network depending on its location, configuration and function. As part of developing the Strategy the character of each open space has been assessed and the distribution mapped. This has provided an understanding of what open space exists, what the distribution is and the experiences provided for within each open space.

Council manages and maintains 421 hectares of reserve land, including 54 individual parks and reserves with 67 sports fields, 36 playgrounds, 11 hectares of public gardens and 37 kilometres of walking and cycling tracks.

The city has a further 34,600 hectares of open space that is owned or managed by GWRC, DoC, and the QEII Trust. Most of these lands are on the periphery of the city, except for the regional council land along the Hutt River/Te Awa Kairangi.



■ Greater Wellington Regional Council	■ Guildford development proposed public reserves
■ Department of Conservation (DoC)	■ District Plan open spaces
■ Upper Hutt City Council managed open space	■ Land subject to land swap MoU with Guildford Timber Company

Strategic direction and goals

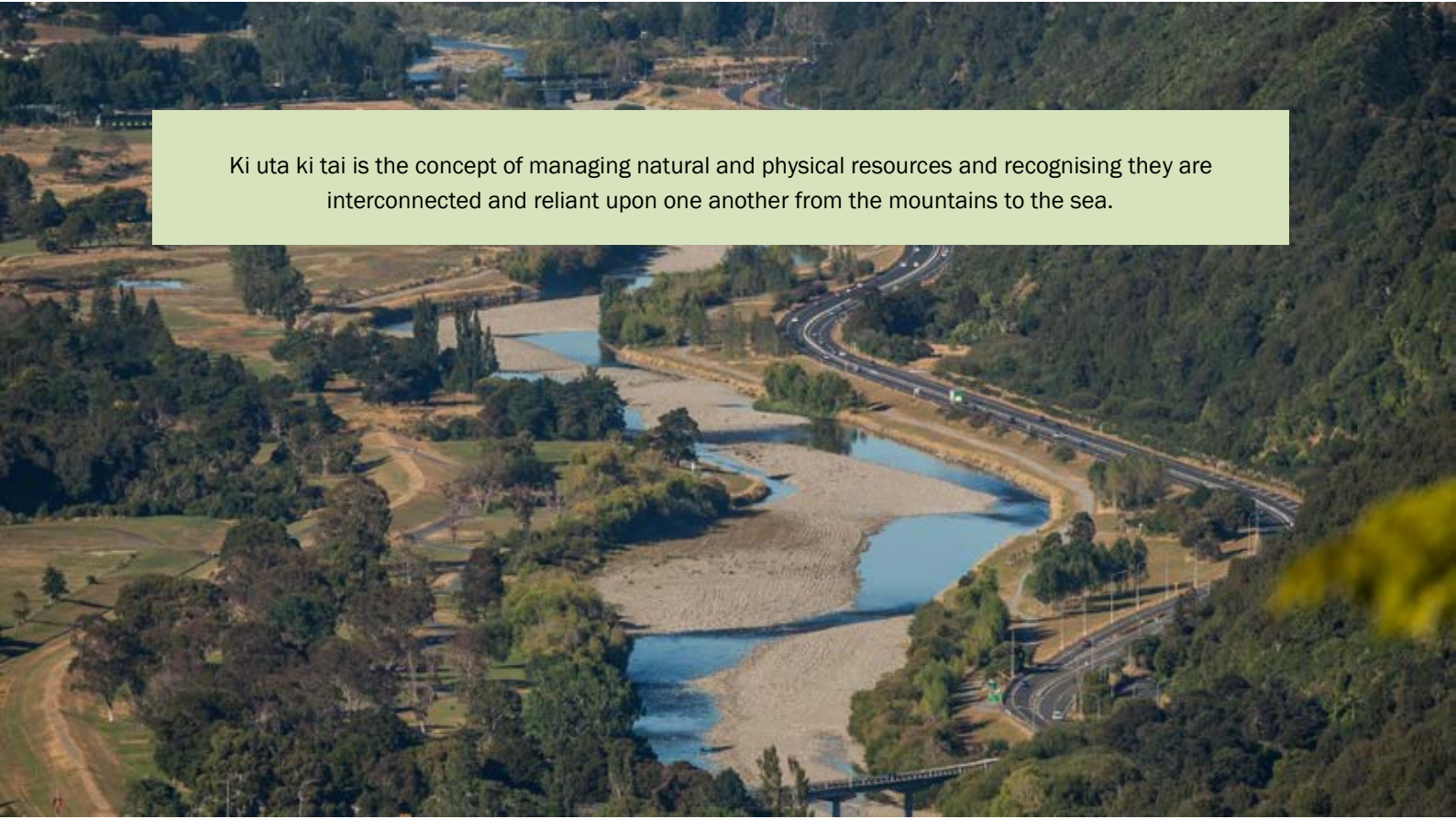
Upper Hutt has an open space network with great spaces and places that is valued for its role in contributing to the health and wellbeing of the people and the environment of our city.

Strategic goals

1. Our open spaces are appropriately located
2. Our open spaces meet the needs of the community and more people benefit from regularly using them.
3. Our open spaces are accessible and well connected, making it easier for people to exercise, play, socialise and relax outdoors.
4. Our open spaces are enhanced to provide benefits for the environment and recreational experience
5. Our open spaces contribute to community identity, vibrancy and sense of place

In the next section, each goal is discussed in detail to consider what Council provides, what we want to achieve and how we will measure success.

The goals, objectives and subsequent actions are intended to apply to future open space developments taking place over the life of the Strategy and may not necessarily be achieved or applied retrospectively to all existing open space resources.

An aerial photograph showing a wide river valley. The river flows through the center, surrounded by lush green forests on the hillsides. A multi-lane road curves along the right bank of the river. The landscape is a mix of natural greenery and developed infrastructure.

Ki uta ki tai is the concept of managing natural and physical resources and recognising they are interconnected and reliant upon one another from the mountains to the sea.

Goal 1: Our open spaces are appropriately located

Our parks and open spaces are an easy walk from where our people live and work, for people to engage and connect with nature and each other, to have fun and learn.

WHAT DOES COUNCIL CURRENTLY PROVIDE?

Currently within Upper Hutt City, 77% of residents and workers are within 300 metres of a park or open space and 96% are within 500 metres.

WHAT DO WE WANT TO ACHIEVE?

To improve the walkable access to our open space network. As well as providing open spaces, it is important to ensure that the spaces are easily accessible to the community and well connected to each other by a network of shared pathways.

Geo-spatial analysis of our existing open spaces within the urban areas has been undertaken. The open space analysis has been undertaken to allow more detailed assessment of the existing situation and forecast change in future Urban Growth Areas identified in the Land Use Strategy 2016 - 2043.

OBJECTIVES

The objectives set out below will help Council with decision-making on the location of open spaces and assist in the process of acquisition or disposal of open space where there are gaps, oversupply or proposed intensification.

- Provide an attractive walkable and bike-able open space environment by ensuring the majority of urban dwellings and places of work will be within a 10-minute walking radius or 300 metres of an open space.
- Provide guidelines for ideal open spaces.
- Provide for civic, open space(s) within the city centre.
- Natural, cultural and historic features will be considered when locating open spaces.
- Use the appropriate mechanism for the purchase, development and enhancement of land for future open spaces through financial contributions and development contributions.

HOW DO WE MEASURE SUCCESS?

- Percentage of urban households within 300 metres of open space.
- Percentage of people using the open space resource in neighbourhood catchments and city wide.
- Any major new developments include or provide appropriate access to open spaces and contribute to the open space network.

Goal 2: Our open spaces meet the needs of the community and more people benefit from regularly using them

A healthy and vibrant community for people of all ages and lifestyles is of high importance to Upper Hutt City and forms one of the priority areas in the city vision. Active and passive recreation activities often take place within parks and open spaces and are well known to have positive benefits for physical and mental wellbeing. .

WHAT DOES COUNCIL CURRENTLY PROVIDE?

- 54 neighbourhood parks and reserves
- 36 neighbourhood playgrounds
- Other green spaces (esplanade reserves, public gardens within road reserve)
- 67 sports fields
- 37 kilometres of walkways and cycleways
- Facility provision such as signage, toilets, seating, picnic tables and areas of shade

Destination open spaces such as Trentham Memorial Park, Maidstone Park and Harcourt Park are examples of open spaces that provide for a diversity of recreational activities within Upper Hutt.

WHAT DO WE WANT TO ACHIEVE?

The objectives below support the ongoing provision of a wide range of well designed, quality open spaces that are fit for purpose.

OBJECTIVES

- Maintain a network of open spaces that are designed so they meet the needs of the community, are safe, attractive and the right mix of recreation type.
- Better understand the recreational needs of individual neighbourhoods and people that come from outside of the city to use Upper Hutt's open spaces.
- Open spaces are able to adapt to meet the changing needs and expectations of the community from day to day, season to season and from one generation to the next.
- The functionality of the open space will be fit for purpose: the location, layout and quality of play spaces and equipment, seating, signage and shade are planned to support all ages, physical abilities and cultures to be active.
- Support community involvement in open space enhancement and development appropriate to the needs and demographic profile of the community it serves.

HOW DO WE MEASURE SUCCESS?

- Percentage of people using the open space resource in neighbourhood catchments and city-wide.
- Percentage of satisfaction with the open spaces in neighbourhood catchments and city-wide.
- Physical works upgrades within the open space network in response to a condition audit.

Goal 3: Our open spaces are accessible and well connected, making it easier for people to exercise, play, socialise and relax outdoors.

The open space network plays an important role in connecting our communities, local and citywide, in built and natural areas. It helps encourage people out of their cars and to cycle or walk through open space short cuts when making local trips to school, work or the shops.

WHAT DOES COUNCIL CURRENTLY PROVIDE?

- 37 kilometres of walkways and cycleways
- Access to esplanade strips and reserves

WHAT DO WE WANT TO ACHIEVE?

The objectives below support the ongoing provision of connections across the open space network including new initiatives to help ensure well designed, logical links are established across the city.

OBJECTIVES

- Improve connections when locating open spaces: with links through walking, cycling and shared paths, along waterways and between existing open spaces.
- Open spaces are easily accessible to a wide range of users and abilities (e.g. community groups, elderly, families, children, visitors), with improved connectivity across major transport routes and to the river corridor.
- Shared pathways, tracks, walkways and cycleways are developed so that they are easily accessed by the community providing opportunities for connecting spaces, commuter routes, mountain biking, equestrian use and recreation with dogs.
- Improved wayfinding and connectivity of the open space network, including across major transport routes and to the river, to ensure it can be easily accessed and used by the community.
- Streetscapes are acknowledged as places of recreation and exercise (including walking and cycling), providing access to open spaces and making an important contribution to visual amenity.
- Promote active transport to the community, including expansion of the safer to school cycle routes to include safer cycle routes across the valley floor to connect neighbourhoods, the city centre and open spaces within the road reserve corridor.
- Where appropriate, improve connections to the regional open space network.

HOW DO WE MEASURE SUCCESS?

- Number of improved connection points through acquisition of esplanade strips and reserves, tracks, and access points across major transport routes and to the river.
- Percentage of people using connections within neighbourhood catchments and city wide.
- Survey to establish bike usage in the city.
- Monitor means of getting to work data collected in the Census.

Goal 4: Our open spaces are enhanced to provide benefits for the environment and recreational experience

The environmental values within our open spaces contribute to the city's sense of place and the health and wellbeing of our community.

WHAT DOES COUNCIL CURRENTLY PROVIDE?

- Owns and manages bush remnants and esplanade reserves.
- Develops reserve management plans to protect and maintain biodiversity and heritage values within our open spaces.
- Develops asset management plans for open space resources.

WHAT DO WE WANT TO ACHIEVE?

To make sure there is appropriate protection for the qualities of the environment that contribute to biodiversity, the recreational experience and our sense of place.

OBJECTIVES

- Work collaboratively with key partners, agencies and the community for better environmental outcomes and provide the opportunity to enhance biodiversity habitats in our open space network.
- Protect and enhance the environment when developing or providing access to the open space network.
- Biodiversity values are protected and enhanced by maintaining and developing ecological corridors and green spaces that link rivers, streams and surrounding hills.
- Work towards restoration and protection of natural values of waterways that run through Upper Hutt: enhance habitat; improve water quality; and increase recreation opportunities.
- Planting using eco-sourced (local seed) indigenous species where appropriate.

HOW DO WE MEASURE SUCCESS?

- Partnership agreements with key stakeholders and community groups.
- Bird counts with key stakeholders and the community.
- Monitor to ensure pest plants and animals are absent in open spaces.
- Percentage of eco-sourced indigenous species used in plantings in open spaces.

Goal 5: Our open spaces contribute to community identity, vibrancy, and sense of place

High quality open spaces can help enable and sustain community cohesion and deliver a wide range of health, social, cultural, economic and environmental benefits.

WHAT DOES COUNCIL CURRENTLY PROVIDE?

- Support for community events and commercial activities in open spaces.
- Public artworks throughout the city centre.
- Community gardens (including an orchard).
- Community planting days and stream restoration projects.
- Community funding initiatives.

WHAT DO WE WANT TO ACHIEVE?

Ongoing provision of the above activities with some new initiatives to further develop vibrancy, and a sense of place and belonging within our community.

OBJECTIVES

- Enable community participation in the ongoing development of the open space network.
- Develop partnerships with community groups to enable involvement in open spaces through participation, volunteering and similar opportunities.
- Ensure there is a diversity of open spaces able to cater for recreation (formal, informal, passive and active) and where community can come together for cultural events and celebrations.
- Support the local economy by attracting visitors and promoting events tourism, and supporting one-off, pop-up or regular activities that enhance the recreational experience.
- Protect and enhance cultural and historic heritage in open spaces.

HOW DO WE MEASURE SUCCESS?

- Percentage of people using our open spaces.
- Number of attendees and events bookings across venues is maintained or increased.
- Provide guidance on the use of appropriate engagement and consultation processes to enable more people to participate in local decision making.
- Volunteering numbers for activities in or relating to open spaces.
- Community satisfaction with the level of provision of open space, amenities, and gardens.

Implementation

This section outlines components that will enable us to start implementing the Open Space Strategy to achieve the goals and objectives we've set for our open space network.

Guidelines for ideal open space	The guidelines provide a framework of factors to consider in decision making, to enable the practical realisation of the goals and objectives.
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Analysis of open space	This analysis considers the main types of open spaces we have and how these are provided, as well as analyses of neighbourhood areas to identify gaps and opportunities for potential future improvements. There is also an analysis of existing esplanade reserves to consider how they link to other open spaces.
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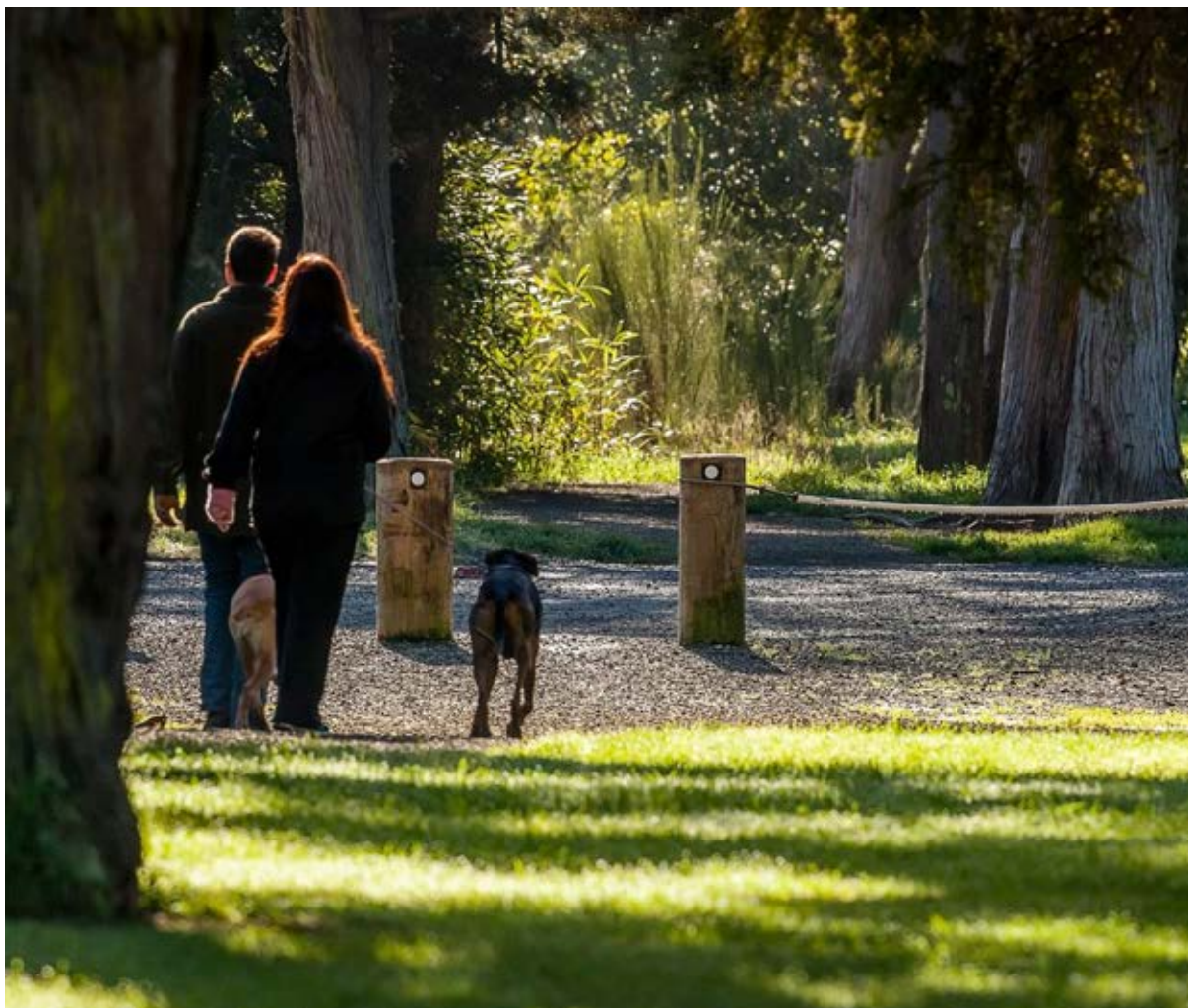
Action plan	A high level action plan outlining next steps to implement the Strategy.
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POPULAR ACTIVITY: Over one million people visit the Hutt River/Te Awa Kairangi every year.

Guidelines for ideal open space

The guidelines for open space are designed to guide Council with the continued protection, development or optimisation of open space to make Upper Hutt a liveable city and deliver great value for money to the community. The guidelines will assist in the practical realisation of the goals and objectives within the Strategy using best practice for open space.



It provides a consistent and balanced framework for decision-making regarding the open space network to ensure its continued contribution to the health and wellbeing of our community and the environment.

Over the next 10 years, these guidelines will assist Council to effectively manage, protect and ensure values are maintained across the open space network through:

- Maintaining and enhancing the existing open spaces before acquiring more.
- Ensuring assets are fit-for-purpose for their defined activity and intended user group.
- Disposing of underperforming assets that won't meet present or future community needs.
- Realising opportunities for flexible and multi-purpose spaces where possible and desirable.
- Acquiring open space in areas of walkable gaps, intensification or greenfield development to provide for a range of recreation opportunities.

Factors for consideration

Not all open spaces will address all of the factors below as it will depend on the function, type and nature of the open space. Consideration of these factors will assist in evaluating the strengths and weaknesses and potential of an existing or proposed open space when making decisions.

- **Accessibility and visibility:** Clear signage and wayfinding, ease of physical access for people of all abilities, multiple and generous entrances, good passive surveillance from adjoining street(s), avoid solid fences and dense planting. There should be road frontage across at least one boundary to ensure the park is visually accessible and contributes to the surrounding environment.
- **Adaptability and resilience:** Flexible space that can change with the seasons, recreation trends, demographic trends within the neighbourhood and climate change to support the community. If the neighbourhood park is a sportsground, it will also provide for flexible, casual sports and recreation use.
- **Amenity:** Provides a good level of amenity values, open spaces are attractive, comfortable and enhance the livability of neighborhood through providing visual relief and borrowed views.
- **Choice:** Provides a diversity of open spaces types and functions within the open space network.
- **Condition:** Well cared for open space with appropriate levels of maintenance to facilities and structures.
- **Equity:** A balance of quality open spaces and facilities for all, based on housing and population density, income and health measures and demographic considerations.
- **Identity and sense of place:** Provides for cultural, historical heritage, natural features, and ecological features and values to be protected and/or opportunities to enhance.
- **Landscape character:** Contributes to the character of the neighbourhood and /or wider setting, landform, natural setting and orientation for good solar access and shade.
- **Location and linkages:** Consider immediate adjoining land use and the influence of adjacent activities. Consider gap analysis within the residential catchment (300 m) and connectivity opportunities to the transport network, waterways and ecological corridors.
- **Ongoing maintenance and management:** Consider the ability to re-zone land as open space.
- **Partnership:** Opportunity for community participation and partnering with key stakeholders.
- **Purpose of space:** Define target user group within the community, open space type, size, function, and values.
- **UHCC policy review:** Opportunity to provide a level of flexibility within creative planning policies to achieve desired outcomes in a timely and affordable manner that encourages community participation and ownership.

Analysis of our open space

Types of open space

In this section we have categorised our open spaces by their main types as outlined. This sets a framework for the kind of opportunities and facilities that may generally be provided in different types of open spaces.

Some open spaces are more developed than others or have higher levels of facilities provided, while others are multi-functional and may cross over the type boundaries set by the definitions below.

NEIGHBOURHOOD PARK

A neighbourhood park is an area of open space that is easily accessible for the immediate neighbourhood, generally within easy walking distance to residents in the area. It provides a basic informal recreation experience for nearby residents.

A neighbourhood park may provide the following experiences

- Play opportunities
- Open, kick-around space
- Areas for respite and relaxation
- Community gardens and food forests

Examples include Upper Plateau Park, Dunn's Park, and McLeod Park.

COMMUNITY PARK

A community park is an area of open space on flat or undulating land that provides a variety of informal recreation experiences for residents across a neighbourhood/suburb. They are often well known by the wider community, are primarily used for the community for informal recreation, social, cultural and leisure activities and can have other complementary values, such as landscape amenity and playgrounds.

These parks have a good standard of provision and often these park types have good multi-use potential.

Community parks should be located in a prominent position within a suburb/neighbourhood and have good transport and cycling/walking access.

A community park may provide the following experiences:

- Multiple kick-around or play spaces
- Socialising areas, including some picnic facilities
- Perimeter or walking pathways
- Sportsgrounds
- Community gardens

Examples include Clyma Park, California Park, Timberlea Park, and Whakatiki Park.

DESTINATION PARK

A destination park provides a unique experience and typically has a more extensive range of facilities that people will travel to and spend more time at. These parks are usually larger and meet the needs of both residents within the city and visitors to the area as they provide a unique experience or point of difference to other parks. People make a special trip just to get there, often driving past one or more local or community parks on the way.

The park may enjoy a particularly advantageous location (such as being adjacent to the river) or have recreational assets of a higher quality, or be a civic space in the town centre.

These open spaces are likely to receive the majority of use from visitors and they are to be designed with this in mind with a higher level of service than other parks. Events are often held in these spaces. They are places that help establish connections and linkages where people can move through, visit and congregate.

A destination park may provide the following experiences:

- Networks of walking circuits and trails
- Destination and/or multiple playgrounds and specialised recreation facilities
- Distinct natural or heritage features
- Multiple places for gatherings and socialising such as BBQ and picnic facilities.
- Sportsgrounds

Examples include Trentham Memorial Park, Maidstone Park, and Harcourt Park.



NATURE RESERVES

A reserve or open space that might only be partly developed but contains valuable natural features. It is usually a large reserve or open space that provides for informal recreation. These areas may have high ecological values and/or provide access to our unique landscapes. They may offer diverse recreation opportunities such as biking, walking and providing connections with nature.

These reserves can include some recreational facilities but might also have ecological values, protect waterways and provide wildlife corridors.

Examples include Gentian Reserve, Fendalton Reserve, and Keith George Memorial Park.

Other types of open space

The following types of open space may generally be smaller, less common, less developed and / or used. These also add to the open space network and can provide some recreation opportunities.

CONNECTIONS

Open space should be distributed to create a contiguous network where possible that establishes recreational trail networks. Connections can be recreation linkages such as walkways, cycleways, esplanade strips and reserves, and can also provide ecological linkages.

The city has an impressive network of walking and cycling trails and this is very popular for both recreation and tourism. Connections or linkages can also make moving around our neighbourhoods easy, and can provide an alternative and sustainable mode of transport.

When new developments are planned they should connect with the existing open space network, active transport infrastructure (walkways and cycleways), trails, esplanade strips and reserves.

POCKET PARKS

Pocket parks are areas of greenspace that are either very small and/or are often not fully accessible as the land is often steep or located in gullies. These should generally only be acquired if providing connections or protecting views or heritage sites. Council will generally not acquire small areas of open space as reserve that primarily serve an amenity purposes for a development or are too steep or narrow to develop. Open spaces smaller than a local park should typically be retained in common or private ownership unless they have an important linkage or conservation function as part of the wider open space network.

Developments are encouraged to take advantage of the amenity and associated economic benefits of providing a well-designed and valuable public open space network and avoid creating small areas of surplus, undevelopable land.

STORMWATER RESERVES

Stormwater infrastructure such as wetland areas can have recreation values, in addition to providing for wildlife and these wetlands or discharge areas can be designed to mitigate effects of development on water quality. It is important to encourage developers to discharge stormwater to land where possible to recognise the environmental benefits of this low impact design.

For Council to accept stormwater reserves in lieu of reserve development contributions they must also have appropriate recreation value that meets the guidelines for ideal open space. Developers will be required to engage with Council to ensure an appropriate mix of open spaces is provided.

Outline of current facility provisions in each of the four main types of open space

Provision	Neighbourhood park	Community park	Destination park	Natural reserve
Rubbish bin(s)	Sometimes	Yes	Yes	Sometimes
Turf irrigation		Sometimes	Sometimes	
Amenity lighting		Sometimes	Yes	
Pathway(s)	Sometimes	Yes	Yes	Sometimes
Basic playground	Sometimes			
Intermediate playground		Yes		
Destination playground			Yes	
Sportsground(s)		Sometimes	Sometimes	
Floodlights		Sometimes	Sometimes	
Seating	Sometimes	Yes	Yes	Sometimes
Picnic table(s)	Sometimes	Sometimes	Yes	Sometimes
Barbeque(s)		Sometimes	Sometimes	
Drinking fountain		Sometimes	Yes	
Toilet(s)		Sometimes	Yes	Sometimes
Changing rooms			Sometimes	
Car park		Sometimes	Yes	Sometimes
Entry sign	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Wayfinding signs		Sometimes	Yes	Sometimes
Interpretative signs			Sometimes	Sometimes

Neighbourhoods

The open space analysis has been undertaken on a neighbourhood basis to allow more detailed assessment of the existing situation and forecast future change. These are based on 22 Upper Hutt area units used by Statistics New Zealand for the Census and are used for other Council planning purposes.


























The following pages provide more information on the intent and purpose of existing and proposed open spaces in each neighbourhood. It also shows how the open space network is linked within the community and where links are proposed to strengthen and improve the network.

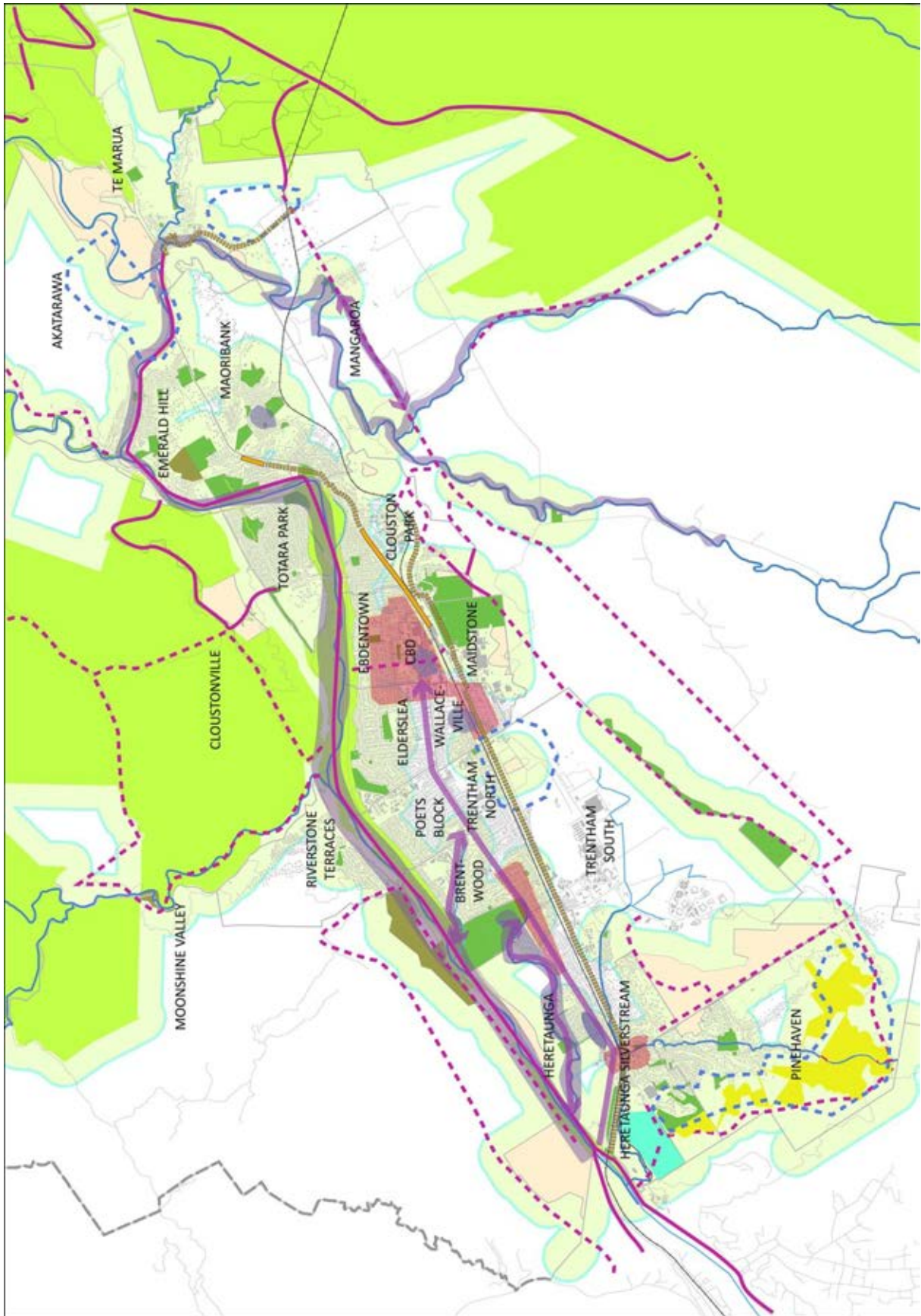
The analysis looked at:

- Gap analysis of the open space network where areas illustrated in grey are located more than 300 m, an easy walk away from an open space. The 300 m buffer (walkable zone) is set at the perimeter boundary of each open space. For the purposes of establishing an easy 10-minute walk, a 300 m offset has been applied at the boundary and does not take into account the local street network, access points or where facilities are located within the open space. As such, the 300 m zone is 'as the crow flies' and not necessarily a 300 m long walk.
- Visibility, accessibility and use of existing open spaces.
- An over- supply of open spaces or right size for the right activities and uses to accommodate the intended functions, and recommendations
- Future open space area aligned with existing gaps or proposed areas of urban intensification and edge expansion, these are shown as indicative locations.
- Open space network links including existing and proposed cycleways and pedestrian access, where additional links are needed or where already existing links need to be improved to strengthen the open space network.

The map opposite illustrates the current open space provision within Upper Hutt.

Refer to the key below for all maps in this section (pages 33- 58).

	State Highway 2 (SH2)		Pedestrian access
	Edge expansion areas		Proposed shared path
	Generous entry points		Safe to School route
	Narrow entry points		Existing cycleway
	Open space buffer (300 m)		Proposed cycleway
	Urban intensification areas		Existing Hutt River Trail
	Greater Wellington Regional Council		Proposed Hutt River Trail
	Department of Conservation (DoC)		Tracks
	Upper Hutt City Council managed open space		Proposed Tracks
	District Plan open spaces		Community Gardens
	Guildford development proposed public reserves		Potential oversupply of open space
	Land subject to land swap MoU with Guildford Timber Company		Potential improved links
			Potential open space improvement area



The next pages are organised alphabetically as follows:

- Akatarawa
- Brentwood
- Cloustonville
- Clouston Park
- Ebdentown
- Elderslea
- Emerald Hill
- Heretaunga
- Heretaunga – Silverstream
- Maidstone
- Mangaroa – Whitemans Valley
- Maoribank
- Moonshine Valley
- Pinehaven
- Poets Block
- Riverstone Terraces
- Te Marua
- Totara Park
- Trentham North
- Trentham South
- Upper Hutt Central
- Wallaceville



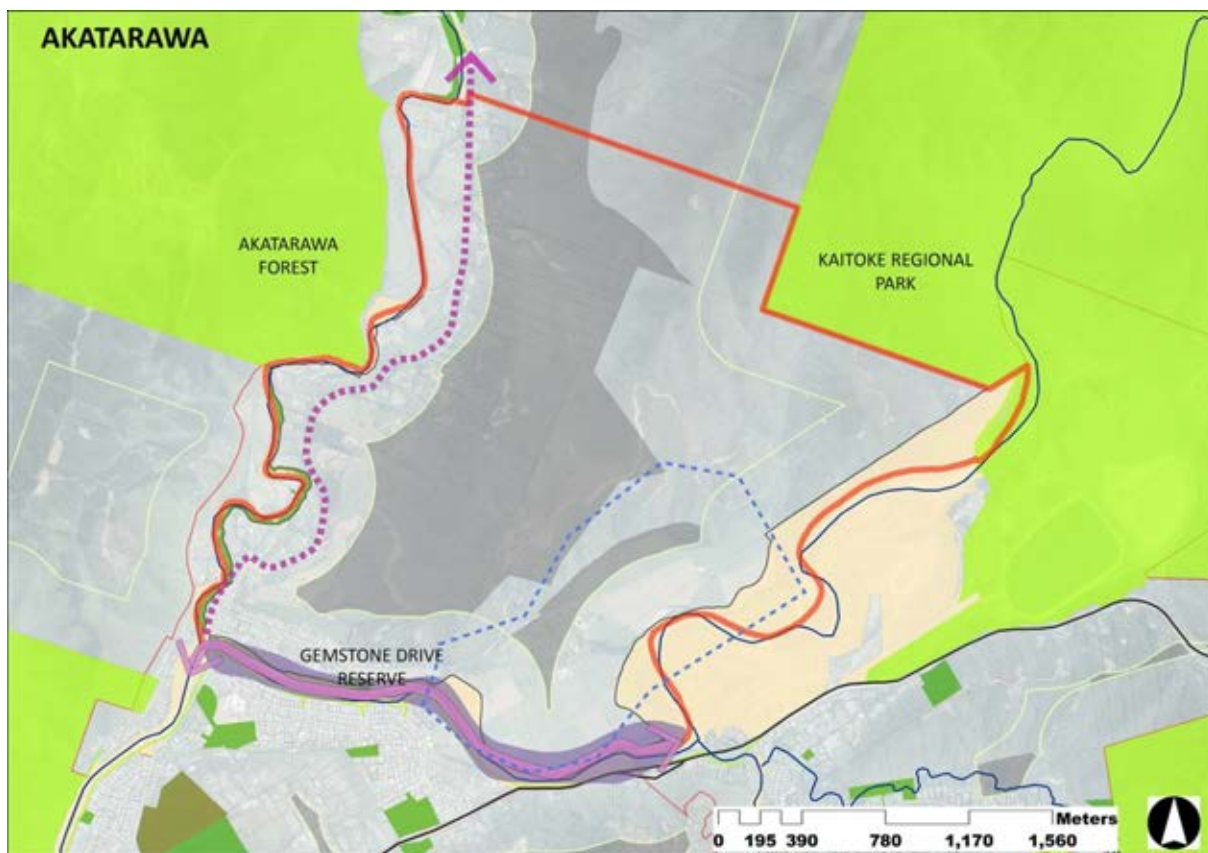
Akatarawa

ANALYSIS

Most of the dwellings in the southern precinct of Akatarawa neighbourhood are within the 300 metre zone to the Gemstone Drive Reserve open space. The majority of the neighbourhood is of a rural nature.

OPPORTUNITIES

Future growth in the way of urban expansion is forecast for this area (see the Land Use Strategy for details). As part of the new urban form access and connectivity of open spaces should be considered to enhance the network and make it easy for the community to connect with each other and nature.



Refer to page 29 for map key.

Brentwood

ANALYSIS

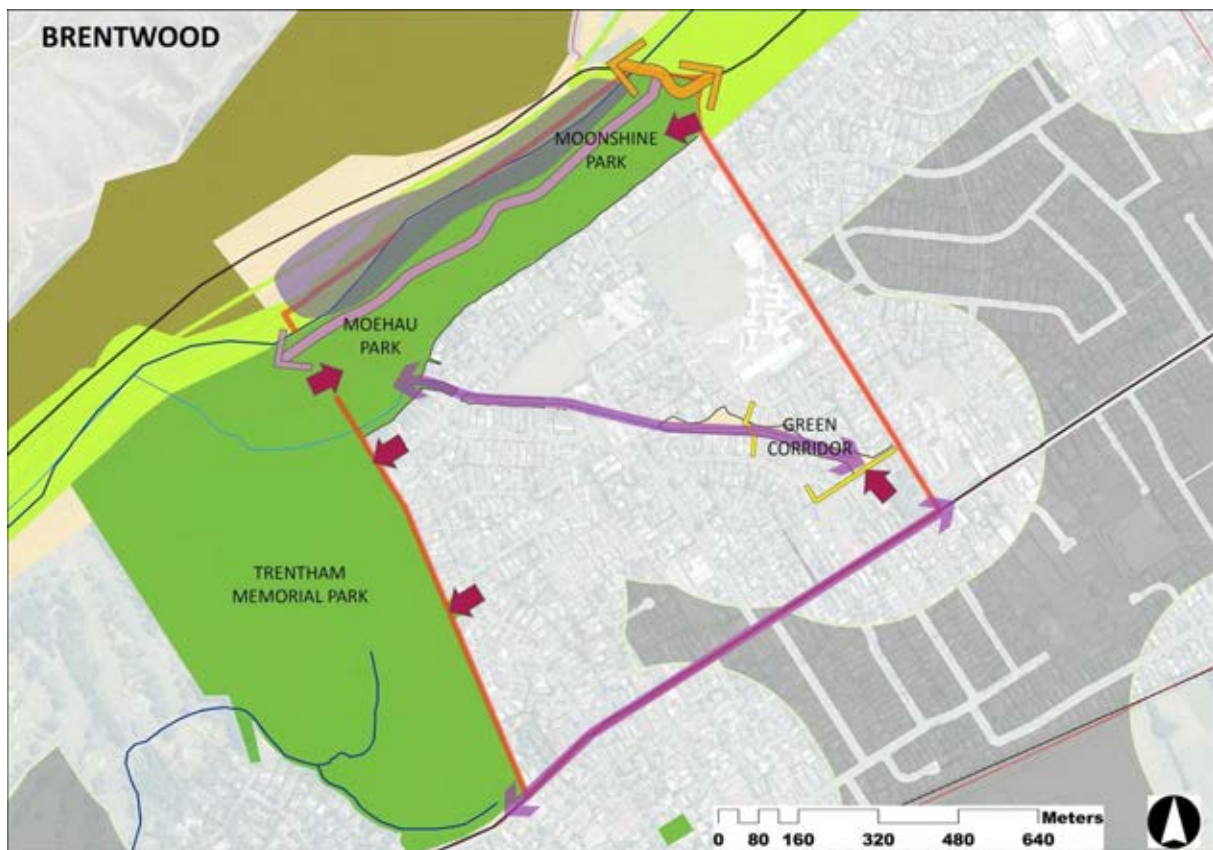
Brentwood neighbourhood is located next to Trentham Memorial Park, Moehau Park and Moonshine Park with a green corridor running through the middle of the neighbourhood. This linear reserve is located between Moehau Park and Smallfield Lane, the middle section has limited access around the Merton Street shops with gates, fences and residential buildings. Only a few households in the southern end of the neighbourhood are located outside the 300-metre zone.

Moehau Park and Moonshine Park are visible from SH2 and relatively easy to access from Moonshine Rd and the Hutt River Trail. The parks are also part of a greater open space network along Hutt River, linking reserves into a contiguous esplanade giving recreational and ecological values.

For commentary on Trentham Memorial Park see Heretaunga (page 41).

OPPORTUNITIES

Enhancement of the natural waterways corridor across the valley floor with Fergusson Intermediate located on the edge of the drainage reserve. This presents great opportunities / potential for an ecological corridor connecting to Moehau Park and the Hutt River corridor.



Refer to page 29 for map key.

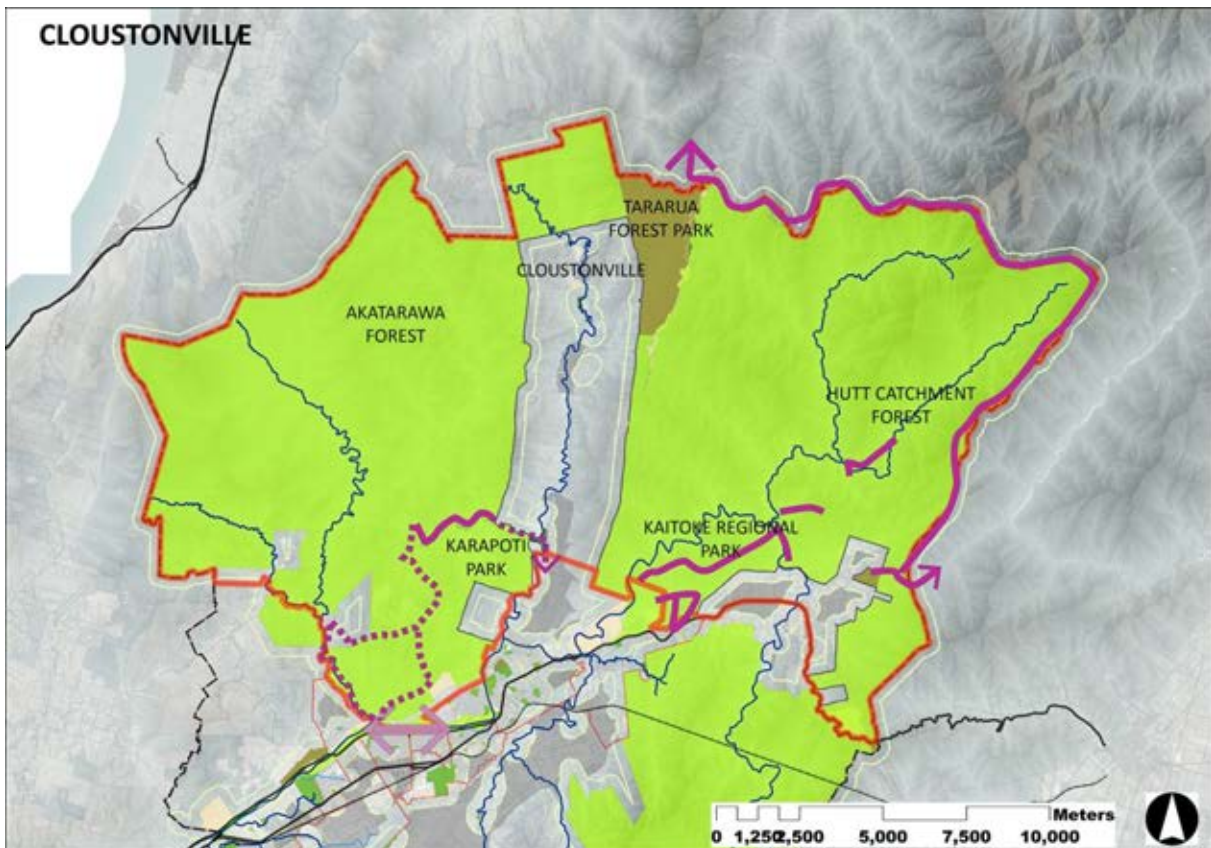
Cloustonville

ANALYSIS

Cloustonville is surrounded by forest and has a number of parks contributing to the open space network. The rural character of Cloustonville tends to have dwellings on large lots with a feeling of space.

OPPORTUNITIES

To provide for public access along the esplanade reserve of the Akatarawa River.



Refer to page 29 for map key.

Clouston Park

ANALYSIS

Clouston Park neighbourhood is located along Hutt River and Maoribank Park. Maoribank Park offers sports fields and a playground. The visibility and access to the park from the adjacent neighbourhood is poor: the park is visible from SH2 however it creates a barrier between Clouston Park neighbourhood and Hutt River. The open space around the river, such as Awakairangi Park is difficult to access for people living in Clouston Park.

Maidstone Park is Upper Hutt's most central park. The park has generous entry and egress points, making it accessible for the public. The railway, however, creates a barrier between the northern parts of the neighbourhood and Maidstone Park making it less accessible.

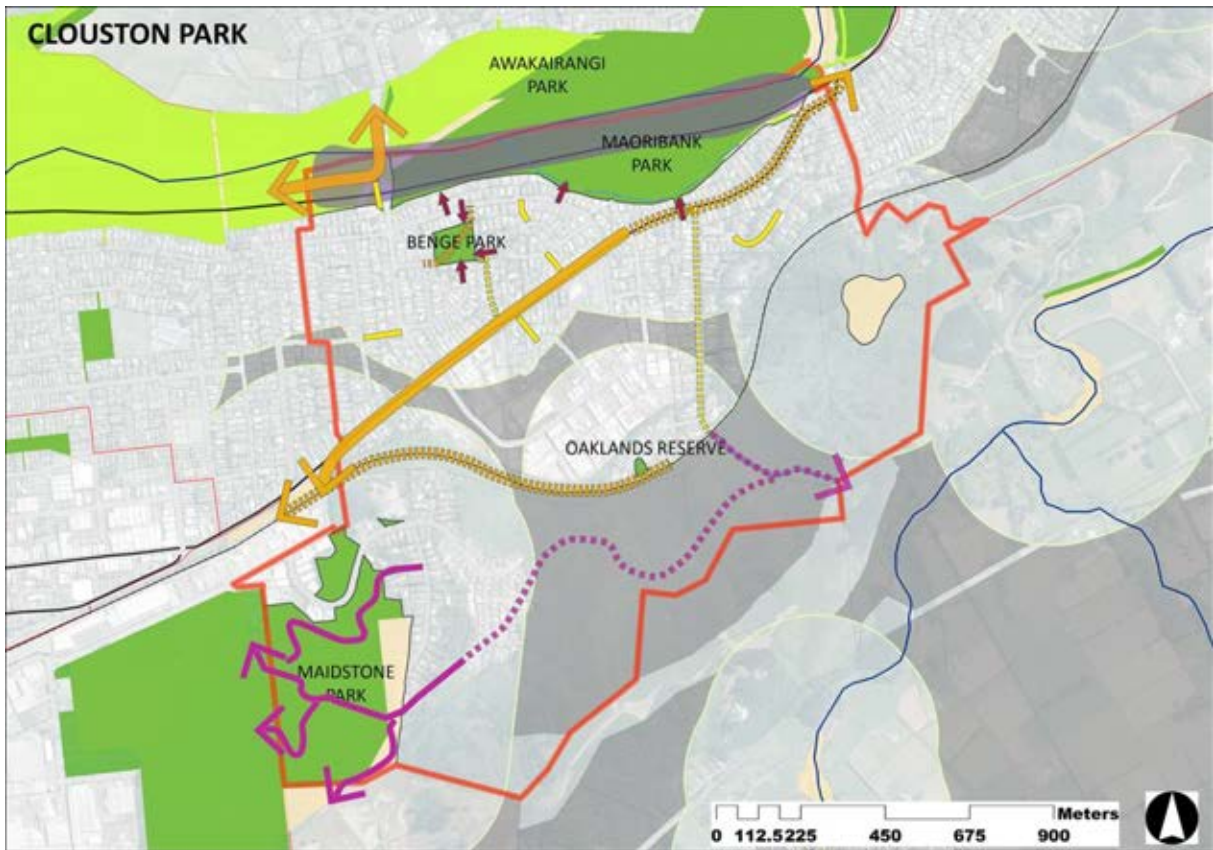
Benge Park is located centrally in the neighbourhood providing a walkable distance for a large number of dwellings. Fergusson Drive travels east – west through the neighbourhood creating a barrier for the community to the south. The park is tucked away behind dwellings and neighbourhood shops with no street frontages. Its location and narrow entry points create access and passive surveillance issues. The park does have a good stand of indigenous trees.

Oaklands Reserve is located at the end of a residential cul-de-sac with the railway line along the southern edge. The park provides the immediate community with good access to open space.

OPPORTUNITIES

A series of shared pathways linking north – south across this neighbourhood would improve the connectivity and accessibility to the network of open spaces within an easy walk. The Cruickshank tunnel is also located within the southern part of the neighbourhood, this existing Long Term Plan project would see an increase in the number of walkers and cyclists within the neighbourhood.

The visibility and accessibility of Benge Park requires further investigation as to how this could be opened up to the surrounding street network.



Refer to page 29 for map key.

Ebdentown

ANALYSIS

Ebdentown is located next to the Hutt River Trail and Riverbank Park. The local parks create a neighbourhood where only a few dwellings sit outside the 300 metre easy walk zone. A safe cycle route to school goes right through the middle of the neighbourhood.

Oxford Park caters mainly for organised sport, recreation and ball kick around space. The park is linked to Oxford Crescent School. The park has no street frontage and only two narrow entry points which limit the visibility of the park, lacking passive surveillance and accessibility.

Riverbank Park is located on the corner at the entrance to Upper Hutt at Gibbons Street, with street frontages on two sides and the stop bank and SH2 along the northern edge. The park has a small playground with a large green space and is connected to the wider walk and cycleway network along the stop bank from Totara Park Rd.

OPPORTUNITIES

An opportunity exists within the open space at Riverbank Park to enhance the arrival and connectivity to the Upper Hutt city centre. This could be complemented by improved access to the Hutt River. Further development of the safe cycle route within the neighbourhood linking spaces is another opportunity. Ebdentown is an urban area proposed for intensification in the Land Use Strategy, this could provide opportunities to address accessibility to the Oxford Park open space.



Refer to page 29 for map key.

Elderslea

ANALYSIS

Elderslea neighbourhood has a wide range of different open spaces with everything from sporting grounds to community garden to mountain bike tracks. SH2 and the stop bank creates a barrier to the adjacent Poets Park on the edge of the river.

The southern part of the neighbourhood is not within the 300 metre zone to an open space which creates a gap in the open space network. This gap is also overlaid with a future urban intensification zone. Clyma Park is central to the neighbourhood and sits behind Fraser Crescent and Maidstone Intermediate Schools. The park accommodates a community garden. The park has no street frontage but one generous entry point at Clyma Street. In addition, there are two narrow entry points at Fraser Crescent. Visibility, accessibility and passive surveillance are still not optimal.

Whakatiki Park and McLeod Park are both connected to the shared pathway along the top of the stopbank and facilitate mountain bike tracks, bowling, croquet and sports fields. Whakatiki Park is linear with streets on two sides which provide good visibility, passive surveillance and accessibility. McLeod Park is a BMX track with no street frontage, glimpses of the park may be seen from SH2. Visibility, access and passive surveillance are limited.

OPPORTUNITIES

With future intensification proposed (see the Land Use Strategy for details) an opportunity exists to investigate the accessibility, visibility and open space gaps within the neighbourhood. Poets Park is part of the open space network along the Hutt River Trail and provides great opportunities to enhance biodiversity as well as access for recreational purposes.



Refer to page 29 for map key.

Emerald Hill

ANALYSIS

Emerald Hill neighbourhood is surrounded by green open spaces and is located along the edge of the Hutt River without any barriers. There are only a few households outside the 300 metre zone. Gemstone Drive reserve connects to the greater Hutt River open space network.

Harcourt Park is one of Upper Hutt's key open space attractions. It is located along Norbert Street and Akatarawa Road which makes the park visible and easy to access. The Rimutaka Cycle Trail along the Hutt River connects Harcourt Park and Te Haukaretu Park with the wider open space network. The park has generous entry and egress points giving the park a clear circulation. Te Haukaretu Park is located along the Hutt River and Fergusson Drive. The topography makes the park difficult to see and access. The park sits well below SH2 and the adjacent residential dwellings to the north.

OPPORTUNITIES

Opportunity to further create shared pathways linking the neighbourhood to the open space network. The network facilitates both recreational values as well as strengthen the opportunity to enhance biodiversity values. The topography of Te Haukaretu Park makes the park difficult to see and access, opening up views from SH2 into the park would be beneficial to this hidden park.



Refer to page 29 for map key.

Heretaunga

ANALYSIS

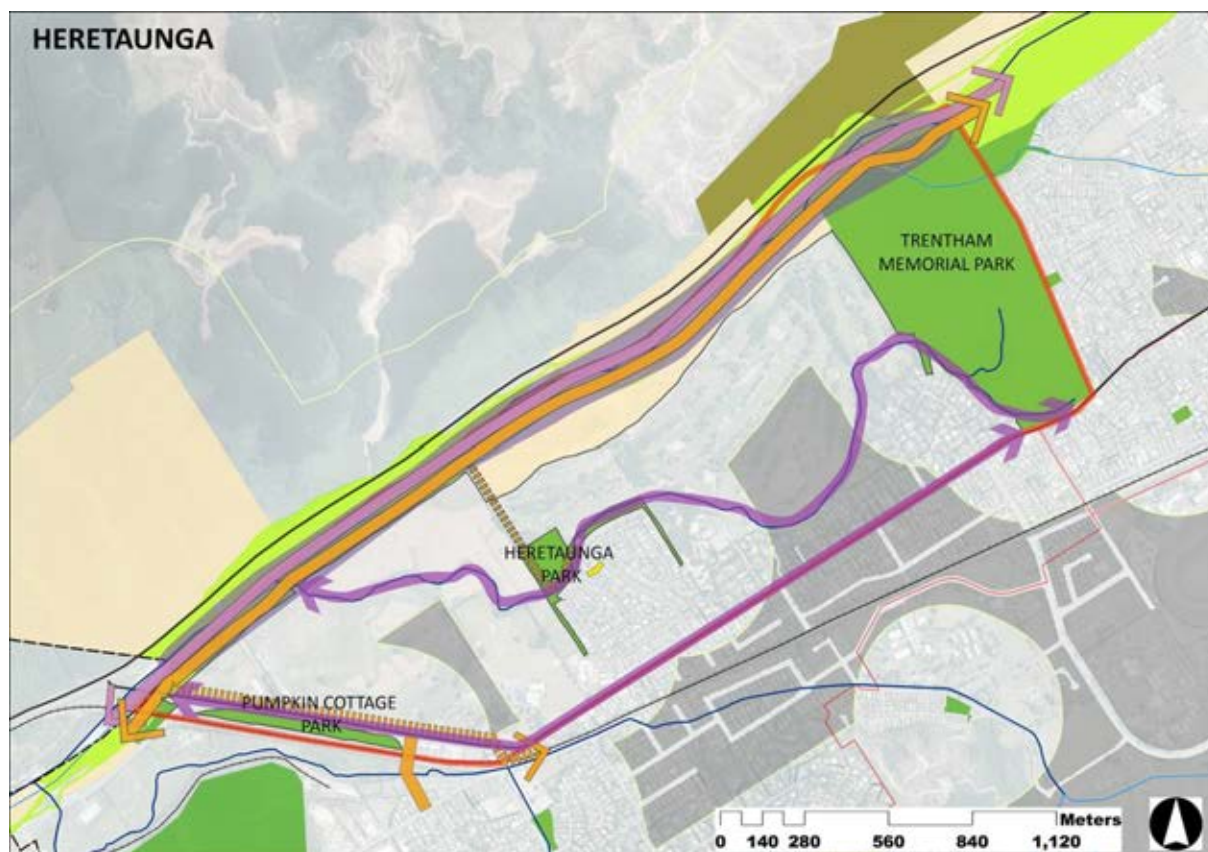
Heretaunga neighbourhood is bounded by Fergusson Drive and the Hutt River with Trentham Memorial Park at the eastern end and Heretaunga Park in the middle. Only a few dwellings are outside the 300 metre zone to an open space. Most of the gaps are located over the golf course or school playing fields.

Trentham Memorial Park has a clear circulation and generous entry and egress points, although not that visible from the adjacent neighbourhoods. It also offers a number of different open spaces (sportgrounds, Barton’s Bush, playground, park space).

Pumpkin Cottage Park is a heritage reserve that sits between Fergusson Drive and the railway line. The current value of the reserve is its setting as an arrival point into Upper Hutt: it is highly visible but lacks accessibility.

OPPORTUNITIES

The green corridor along the Hutt River links the reserves into a contiguous recreation esplanade with river access and walk and cycleway facilities. The river corridor also creates greater opportunities to enhance biodiversity values.



Refer to page 29 for map key.

Heretaunga – Silverstream

ANALYSIS

Heretaunga – Silverstream has plenty of open spaces in its south-west area but there is a large gap in the open space network in the north-eastern part of the neighbourhood. A significant number of dwellings do not have access to an open space within 300 metres.

Silverstream Park is a neighbourhood park located on a corner by Whitemans Road and Dowling Grove with good passive observation and good accessibility. It has a playground, open kick-around space and toilet.

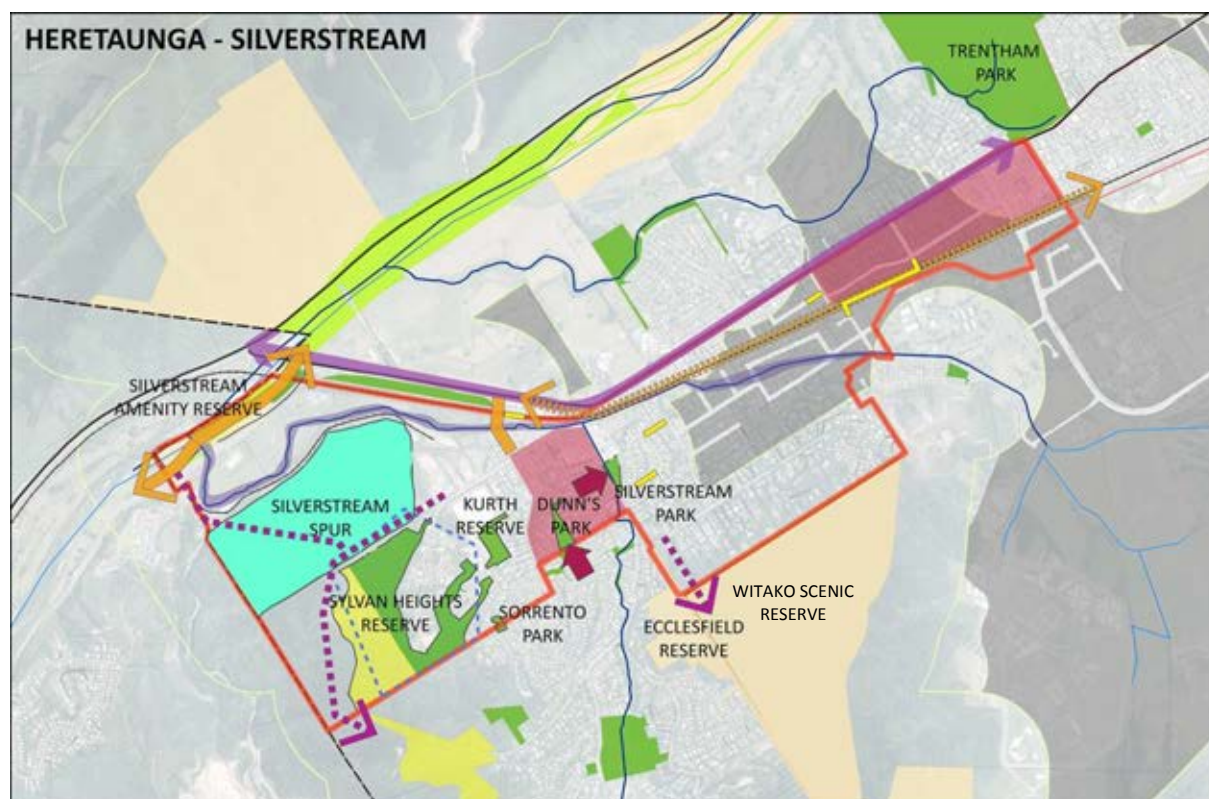
Silverstream Amenity Reserve provides access to the Hutt River along with a picnic area, and public toilets.

Kurth Reserve offers sports fields for green bowling. It has generous access points but is located behind private property which is limiting the visual access.

Dunn's Park has its main entry point facing Tapestry Grove which makes the park visible and easy to access. At its southern end is a north-south connection for pedestrians walking from surrounding streets to the village centre, railway station and school. The northern part of the park is steep with a rough track and has dense tree plantings limiting the passive surveillance.

OPPORTUNITIES

With a future urban intensification zone in this area (see the Land Use Strategy), there is an opportunity to investigate and address open space gaps in this neighbourhood. Another opportunity is to improve walking and cycling access to the Hutt River Trail. Additional entry points into Witako Scenic Reserve from adjacent areas would make it more accessible for a greater part of the neighbourhood.



Refer to page 29 for map key.

Maidstone

ANALYSIS

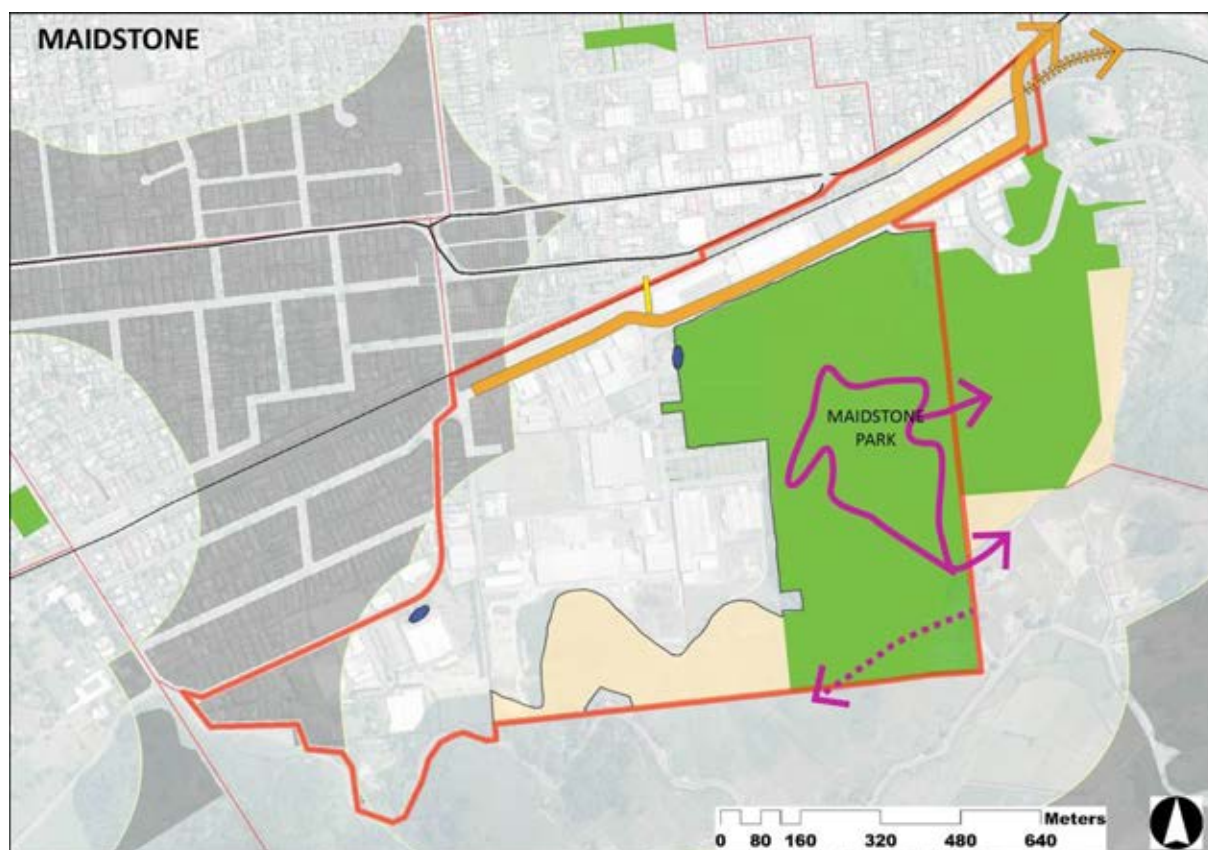
Maidstone neighbourhood is predominantly a business area with some residential dwellings in the western corner. The residential dwellings sit outside the 300 metre zone and are more than an easy 10-minute walk to the open space.

Maidstone Park is one of Upper Hutt’s destination parks with a sports hub, large bush area that facilitates mountain bike tracks and bush walks.

Two of Upper Hutt’s community gardens are located within this neighbourhood.

OPPORTUNITIES

An opportunity exists to make Maidstone Park more accessible through a connected shared pathway system to the city centre and adjoining neighbourhoods where there are large gaps in the accessible open space network.



Refer to page 29 for map key.

Mangaroa – Whitemans Valley

ANALYSIS

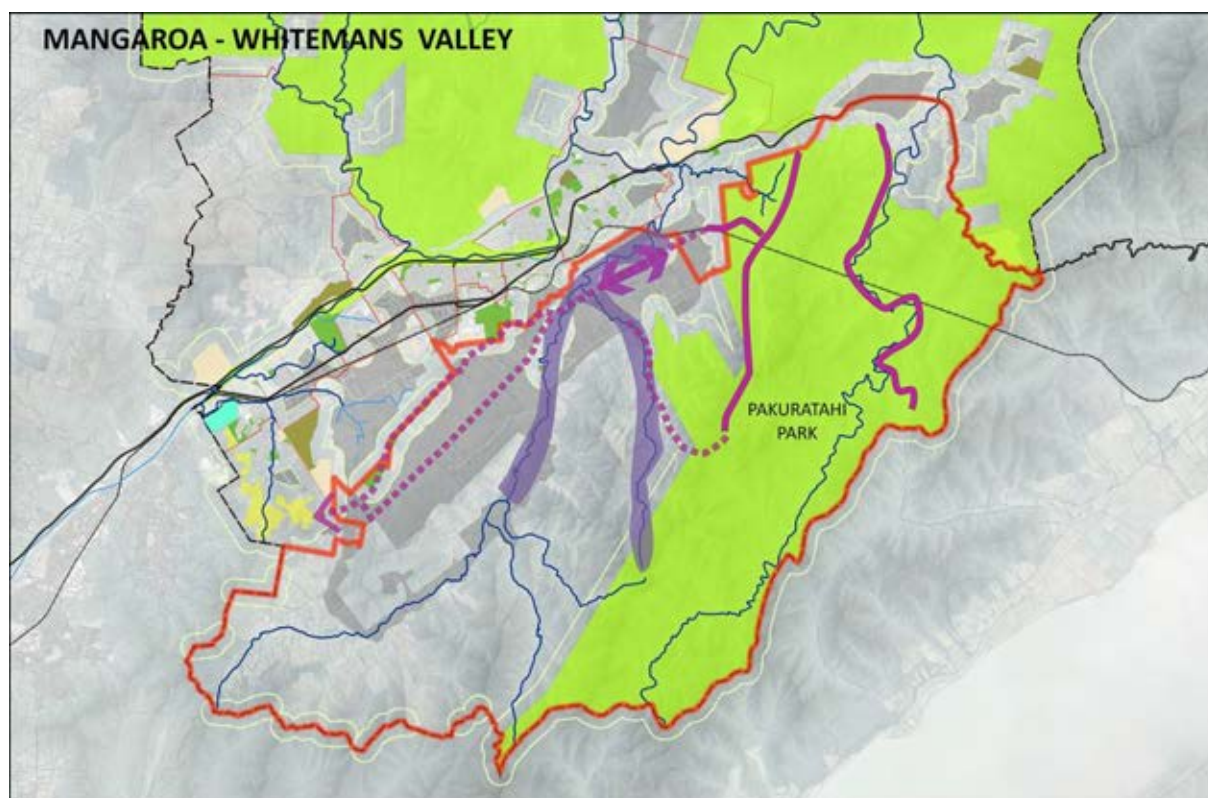
Mangaroa – Whitemans Valley neighbourhood is embedded in greenery and has the Pakuratahi Forest Park running along the eastern side. The rural lifestyle character of Mangaroa – Whitemans Valley tends to have dwellings on large lots and a feeling of space.

Pakuratahi Forest Park provides recreational opportunities as well as ecological values.

OPPORTUNITIES

Opportunities exist in the valley with the future to connect the stream and river corridors through acquisition of esplanade strips and reserves. This would enhance both recreational and ecological values for the valley and receiving environment.

An opportunity exists to develop a shared pathway with the valley floor along a paper road.



Refer to page 29 for map key.

Maoribank

ANALYSIS

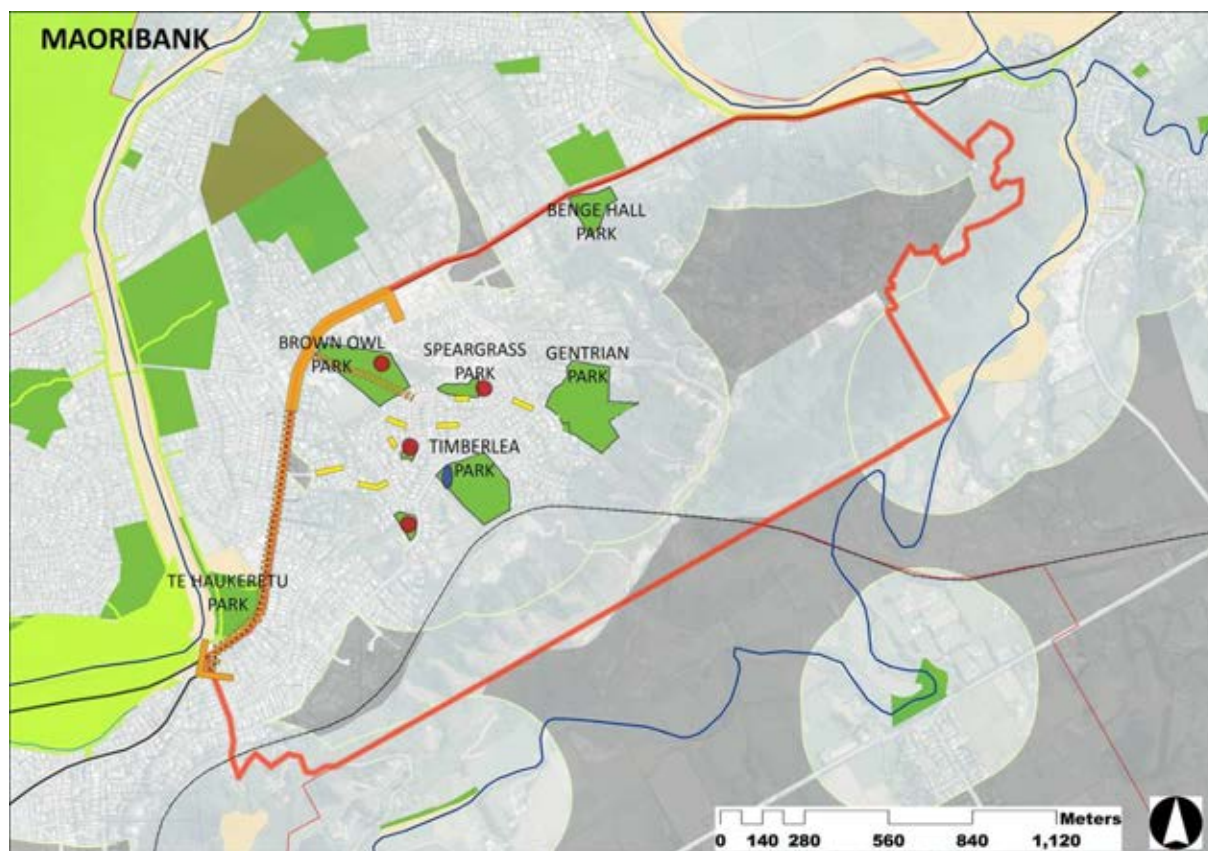
Most of Maoribank neighbourhood is within the 300 metre zone to an open space. The neighbourhood is well served with open spaces however, these reserves and open spaces vary in condition and type and the facilities appear to be in poor condition. There is a small area of dwellings to the south that are located within the gap zone. Some parks have poor visibility, access and passive surveillance issues.

Timberlea Park offers sports fields, playground and community facilities (hall and garden). The park is open towards Norana Road making the park visible, accessible and with good passive surveillance.

OPPORTUNITIES

To create an attractive, safe and accessible open space network within the neighbourhood it would be beneficial to further investigate the supply and demand of open space within Timberlea and engaging with the community to address their needs and desires.

The neighbourhood is adjacent to Te Haukeretu Park (see Emerald Hill page 40). Improved, safe connections and access to this river side park would be ideal for the Maoribank community to use. The park sits well below SH2 and the adjacent residential dwellings to the north. The topography makes the park difficult to see and access, opening up views from SH2 into the park would be beneficial to this hidden park.



Refer to page 29 for map key.

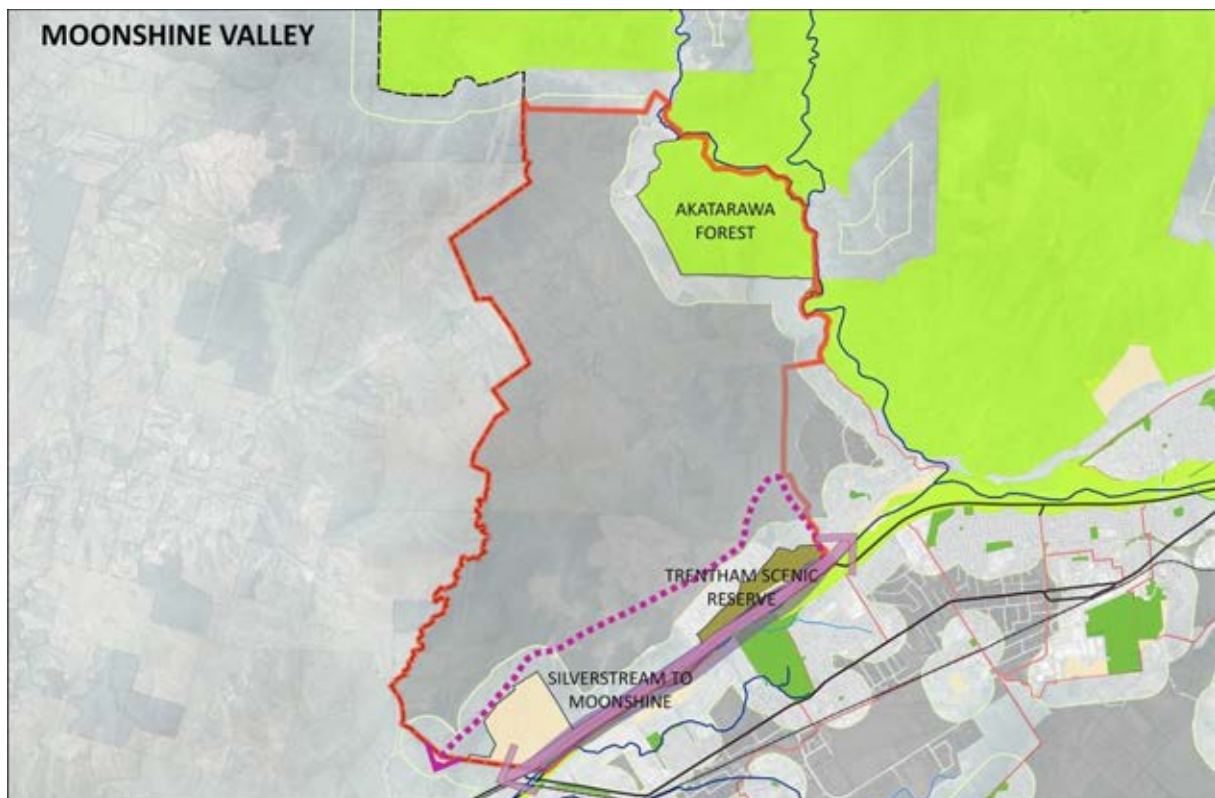
Moonshine Valley

ANALYSIS

Moonshine Valley is well connected to open space reserves where Silverstream to Moonshine and Trentham Scenic Reserve are both part of the Hutt River Trail.

OPPORTUNITIES

An opportunity exists to further enhance the recreational opportunities, ecological corridor, and biodiversity in this area.



Refer to page 29 for map key.

Pinehaven

ANALYSIS

Pinehaven is surrounded by green open spaces and there is only a small part of the neighbourhood that has a gap in the open space network. The gap does include a few residential dwellings.

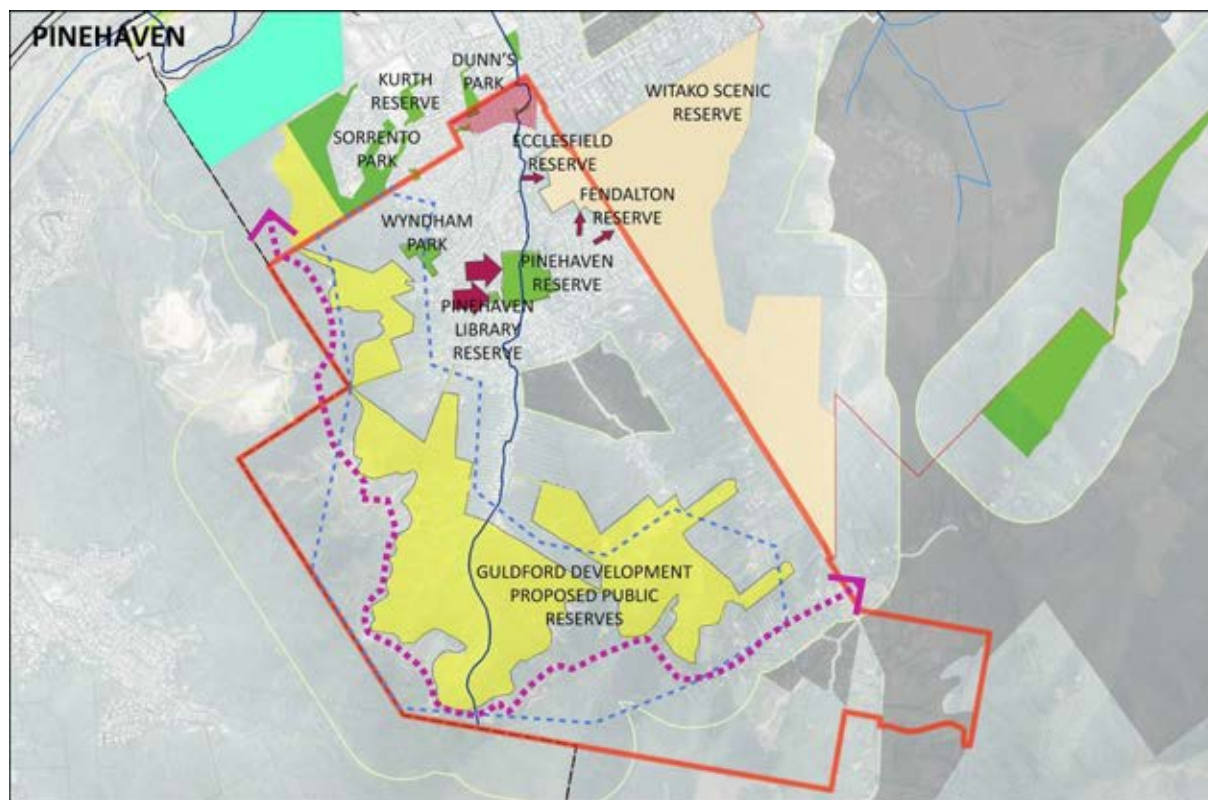
Pinehaven Reserve is a large open space with sports fields, tennis courts and playground. The park is facing Pinehaven Road making the area visible and easy to access. There is also a small reserve next to the Pinehaven Library, this park has a playground is visible and easily accessible with lots of passive surveillance.

Wyndham Park is located on top of a hill and is steep bush and largely inaccessible.

Ecclesfield Reserve and Fendalton Reserve are located in the North-East part of the neighbourhood and has three points of access from Blue Mountains Road and Fendalton Crescent. The reserves offer walking tracks.

OPPORTUNITIES

With a future urban intensification zone in this area (see the Land Use Strategy for details), an opportunity presents to further investigate and address open space gaps in this neighbourhood.



Refer to page 29 for map key.

Poets Block

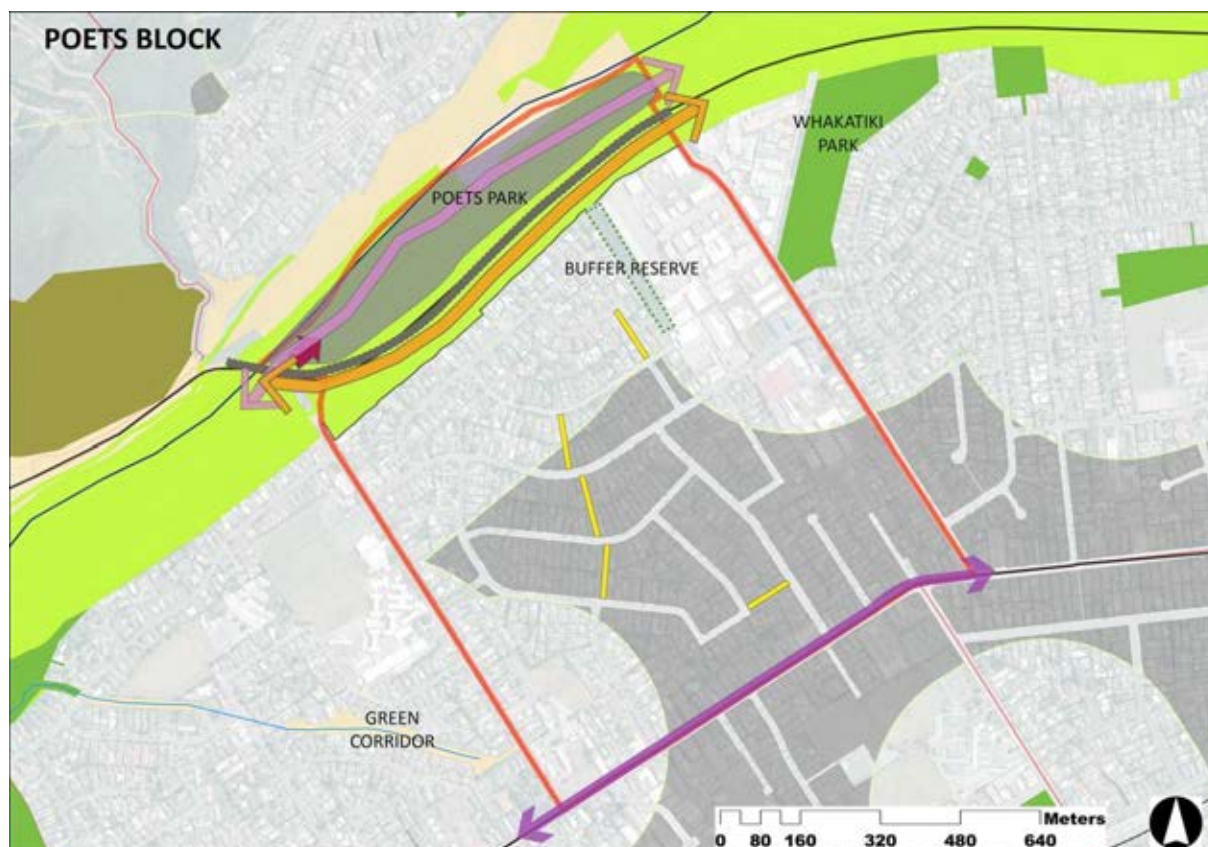
ANALYSIS

A large part of the Poets Block neighbourhood is located within a gap in the open space network. A significant number of dwellings are located more than 300 metres to an open space. SH2 and the river bank create a barrier between Poets Park.

Poets Park provides both recreational and biological values and connects to the wider network along the Hutt River. Whakatiki Buffer Reserve runs along the north-western edge of the industrial zone, screening the residential neighbourhood from the industrial activities. This reserve has not been included as part of the open space resource within the neighbourhood due to the purpose of the reserve being a screen. However, this strip could potentially provide a link to the stop bank shared pathway. This neighbourhood has no easy access to a quality open space within its precinct.

OPPORTUNITIES

Further investigation is required because a good opportunity exists to provide good, safe access to open spaces, including across SH2 to the river. Whakatiki Park is located outside the neighbourhood (see Elderslea on page 39). Poets Park could be enhanced for its recreational and biological values, and connections to the wider network along the Hutt River.



Refer to page 29 for map key.

Riverstone Terraces

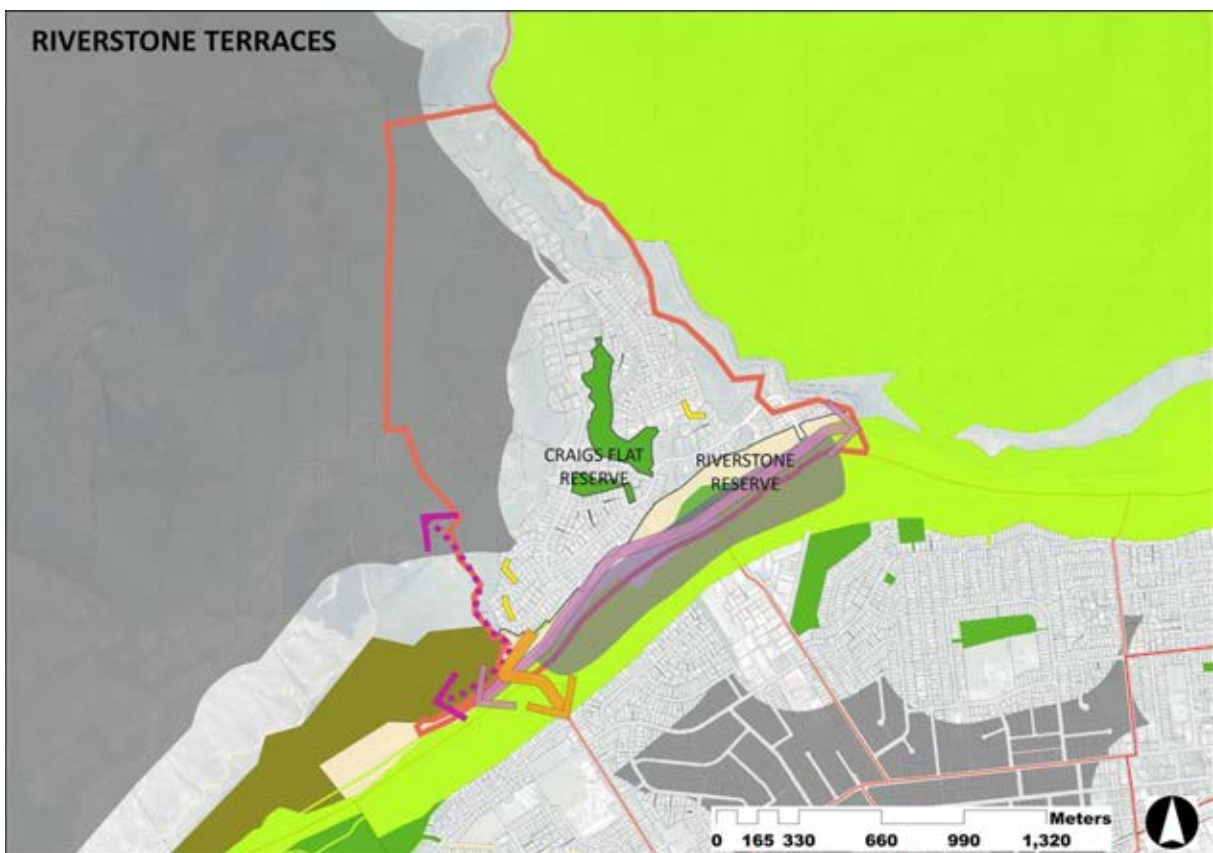
ANALYSIS

Riverstone Terraces is located on an escarpment above Riverstone Reserve and the Hutt River. The neighbourhood is surrounded by green open spaces with a vegetated gully through the middle.

Craigs Flat Reserve provides an open space with a playground and space to kick a ball. The neighbourhood is reasonably isolated from the residential neighbourhoods on the valley floor and has the additional barrier of the River and SH2 to cross to access the open space network on the true left bank of the river.

OPPORTUNITIES

Informal walkways have the potential to be formalised and linked to the wider network.



Refer to page 29 for map key.

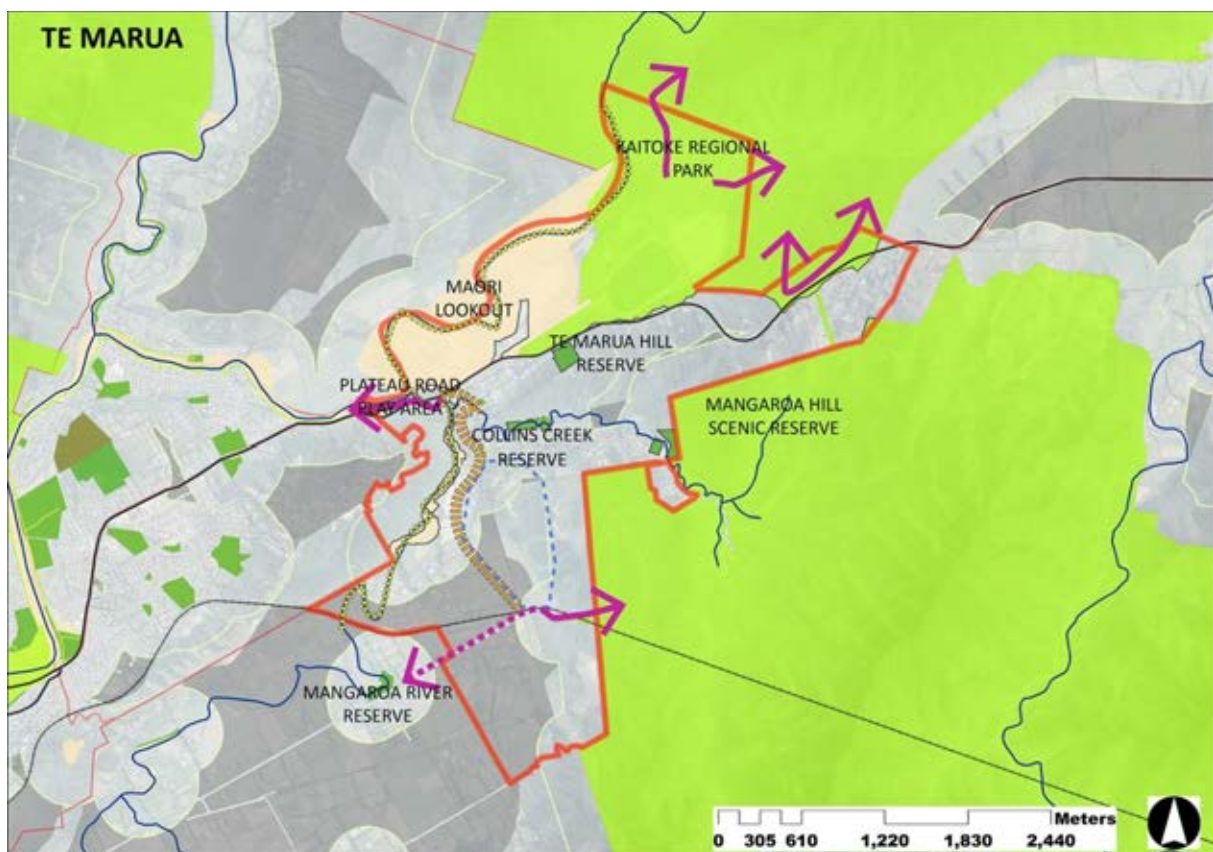
Te Marua

ANALYSIS

Te Marua neighbourhood is located in between Kaitoke Regional Park and Mangarua Hill Scenic Reserve.

OPPORTUNITIES

Future growth in the way of urban expansion is forecast for this area (see the Land Use Strategy for details). As part of the new urban form access and connectivity of open spaces should be considered to enhance the network and make it easy for the community to connect with each other and nature.



Refer to page 29 for map key.

Totara Park

ANALYSIS

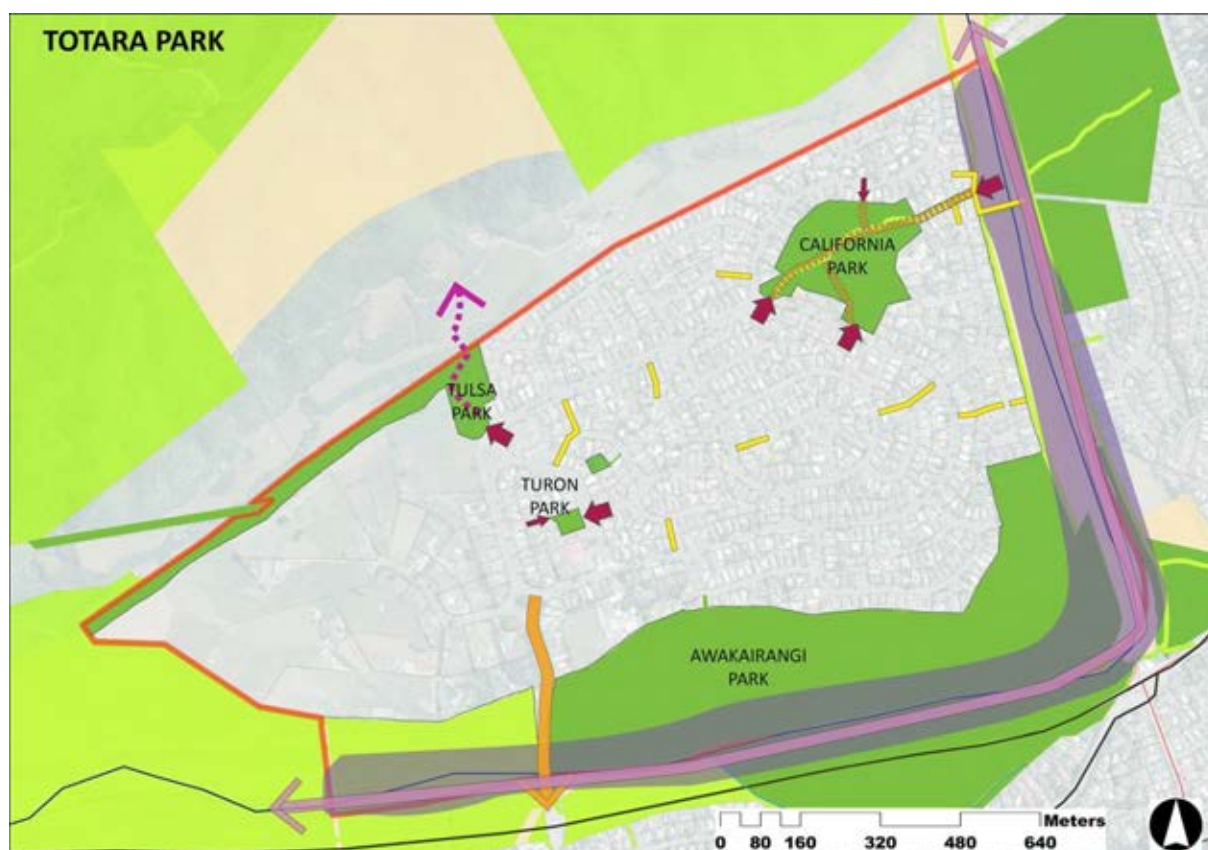
Totara Park has a range of different open spaces which provides the whole neighbourhood with parks within the 300 metre zone.

Awakairangi Park is located along the Hutt River and offers sports fields and other sports clubs. There is a walking and biking track running through the park, creating a recreational corridor along the river together with the other parks and reserves along the water. California Park is located along California Drive and has generous entry and egress points making the park accessible. The visibility also creates good passive surveillance.

Tulsa Park is located just beneath Cannon Point providing carparking facilities for walking, hiking and mountain biking. Turon Park is a neighbourhood park with one generous entry point towards Turon Crescent and a narrow entrance point at Laredo Grove. The park has good access and passive surveillance from adjacent residential buildings.

OPPORTUNITIES

A further review of the quantity and quality of the open spaces within the neighbourhood would help define the open spaces types and demand for these.



Refer to page 29 for map key.

Trentham North

ANALYSIS

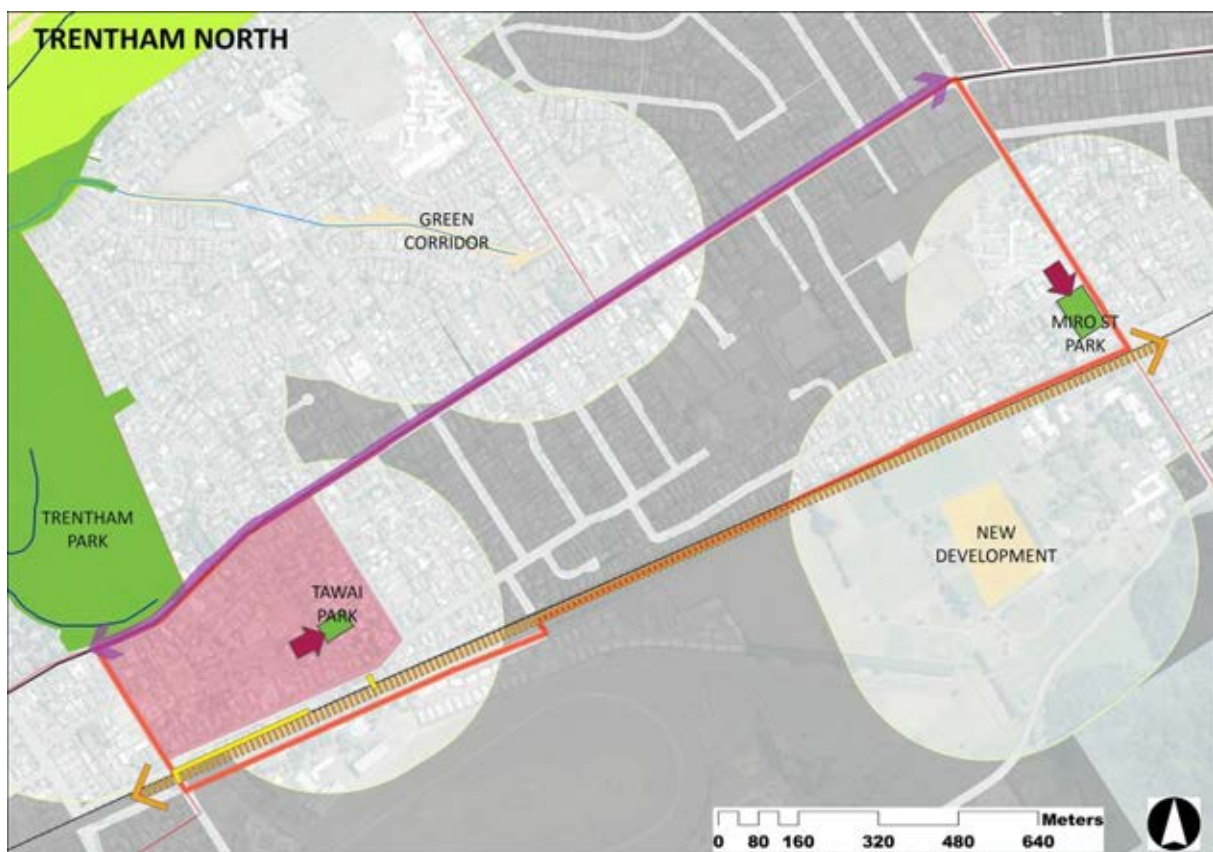
The central and eastern area of Trentham North sits outside the 300 metre zone to an open space. Located between Fergusson Dr and the railway line presents a major barrier for people accessing open space in this neighbourhood. Both Trentham Memorial Park and the newly developed park sit outside of this neighbourhood and are less walkable for this reason.

Miro Street Park is located by the corner of Ward Street and Miro Street. The park's location on the busy street provides good passive surveillance and good access.

Tawai Park is a neighbourhood park located along Tawai Street supplying the southern part of Trentham North with an open space.

OPPORTUNITIES

With a future urban intensification zone in this area (see the Land Use Strategy for details), an opportunity presents to further investigate and address the gaps in this neighbourhood and improve the open space provision.



Refer to page 29 for map key.

Trentham South

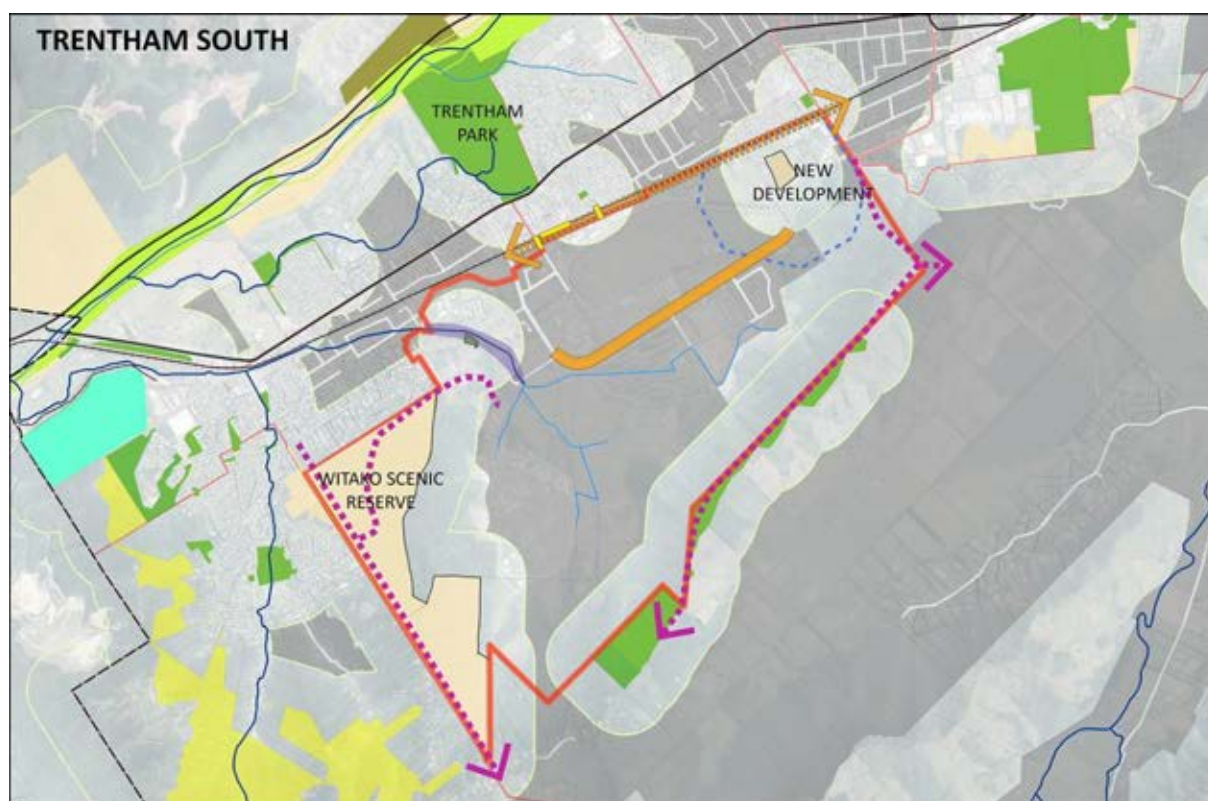
ANALYSIS

Trentham Racecourse (Wellington Racing Club) and Trentham Military Camp occupy large land holdings within the neighbourhood.

A new housing development is underway at the eastern end of the neighbourhood, with a new open space area being developed around a stand of indigenous trees. This open space will provide good access to open space in this part of the neighbourhood.

OPPORTUNITIES

Future growth in the way of urban expansion is forecast for this area (see the Land Use Strategy for details). As part of the new urban form open spaces should be considered to enhance the corridor network and address gaps. There is great potential to create shared pathways and ecological corridors, linking Witako and Maidstone reserves.



Refer to page 29 for map key.

Upper Hutt Central

ANALYSIS

Upper Hutt Central has two open spaces within the neighbourhood: Savage Park and a space on Brown Street behind the main Council building. Visibility and accessibility to both parks is limited due to their location behind other buildings. Both spaces are located on the edge of the city centre.

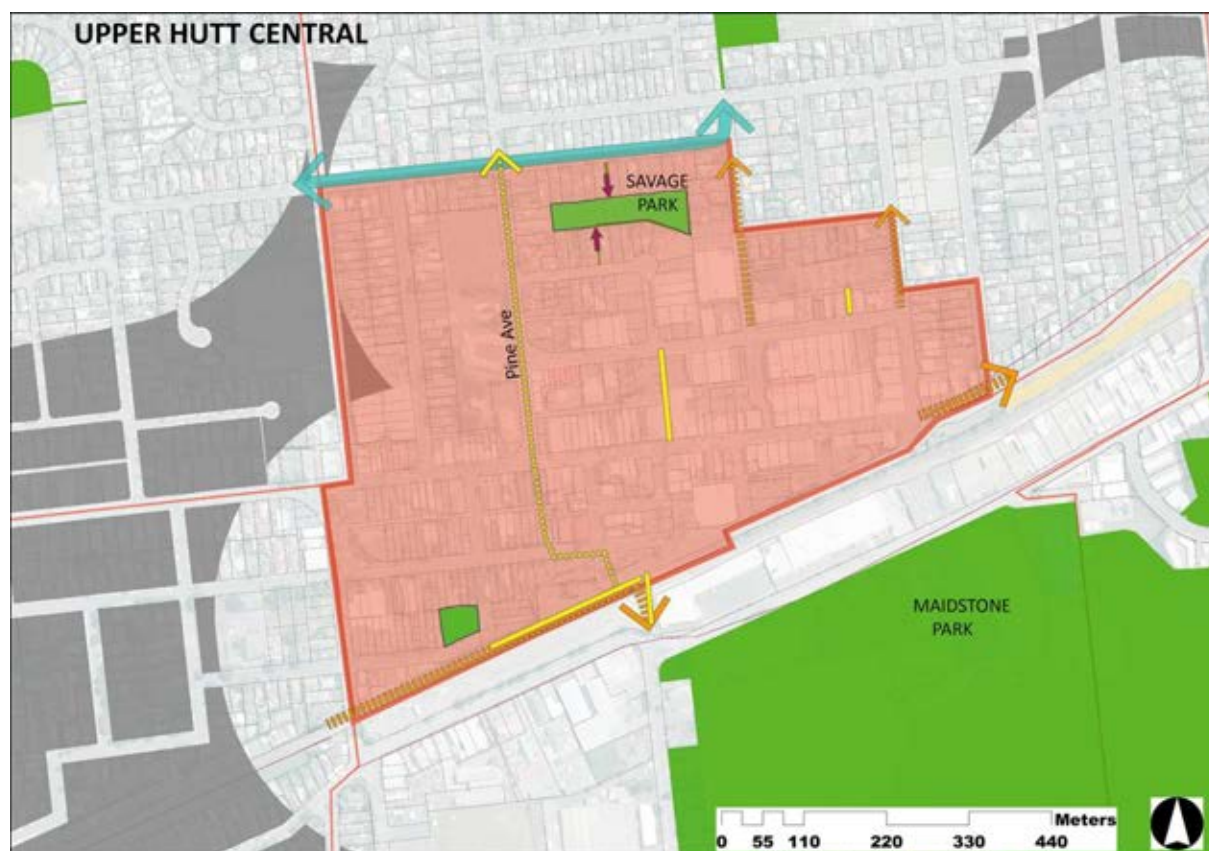
Savage Park Hall is located within the park and Upper Hutt Kindergarten is on the western boundary with the park. There is driveway access from McParland Street and a narrow pedestrian thoroughfare from Savage Crescent to the park, building and activities.

The eastern end of the Savage Park is bounded by the Upper Hutt Cosmopolitan Club's car park, which is screened by a solid timber fence. Residential properties bound the northern and southern sides of the park. The location and narrow entry points give the park limited accessibility and passive surveillance.

Maidstone Park is located right next to the city centre, but the railway with only one pedestrian crossing limits the access to both parks.

OPPORTUNITIES

The whole neighbourhood area is designated for urban intensification (see the Land Use Strategy for details). Retaining, improving and acquiring accessible open spaces in this area will be crucial to create an attractive, liveable neighbourhood.



Refer to page 29 for map key.

Wallaceville

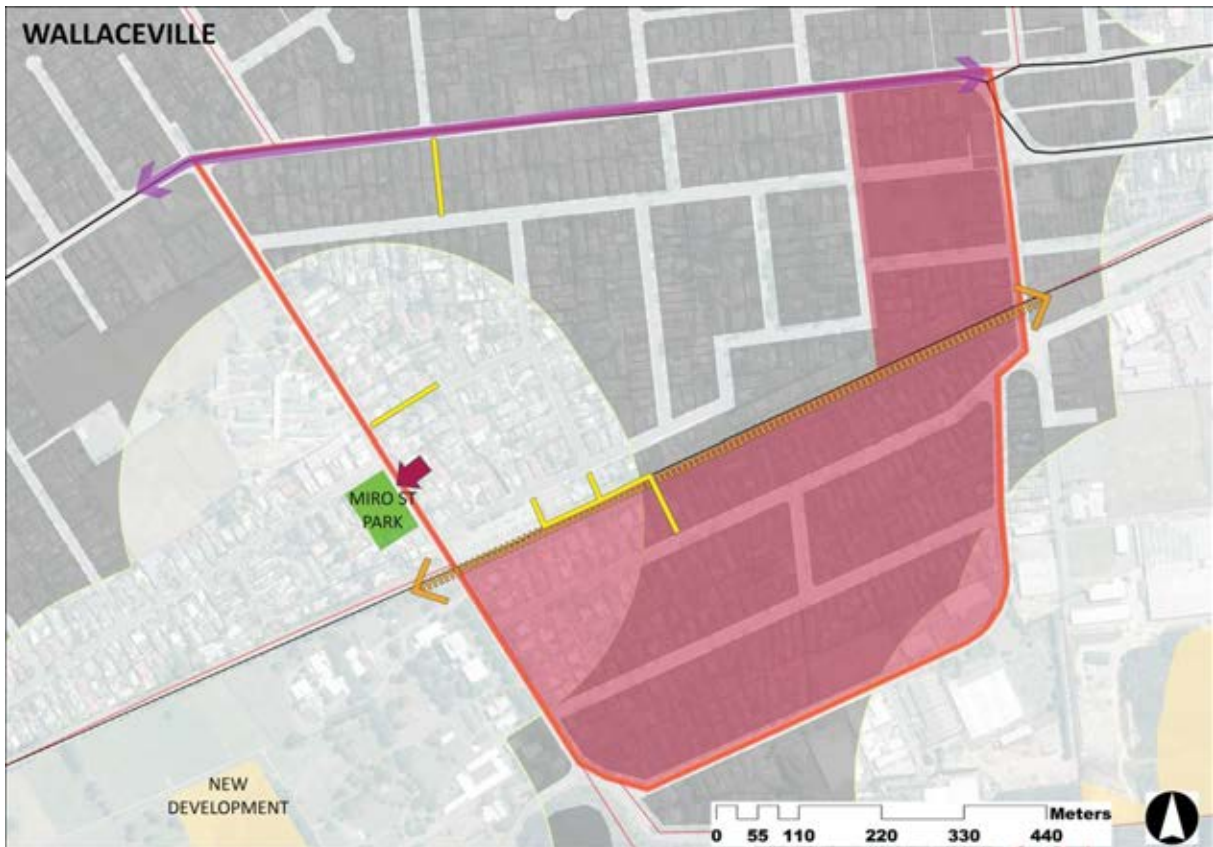
ANALYSIS

Wallaceville does not have any open spaces within the neighbourhood. The western part of the neighbourhood has access to Miro Street Park, located right outside the neighbourhood boundary.

The railway divides the area in two and creates limited access between the two parts and surrounding open spaces.

OPPORTUNITIES

The neighbourhood is subject for urban intensification (see the Land Use Strategy for details) which will provide a great opportunity to investigate where additional open spaces can be located. However, access is an issue now without the future development and increased numbers. This neighbourhood would benefit from further analysis of open space acquisition in the near future.



Refer to page 29 for map key.

Esplanade strips and reserves

There is an opportunity within Upper Hutt to further develop access along our waterways through a series of contiguous esplanade strips and reserves. These linear corridors provide both ecological and recreational values to the community and environment. Council will endeavour to protect these values if public access to waterways increases.

Public access to rivers and streams is a ‘matter of national importance’ under the Resource Management Act 1991. Currently, access to streams and rivers is by way of formed roads, paper roads, council reserves, esplanade strips and esplanade reserves.

The Upper Hutt District Plan identifies a number of rivers and streams that require an esplanade strip or reserve to be created alongside when a property owner is undertaking a subdivision on a site that shares a boundary with the identified stream or river.

This esplanade strip or reserve can then be used by the public to access the stream or river, adding to the open space network and providing opportunity for recreation. Knowing which streams and rivers contribute most effectively to the open space network would ensure future corridors are identified and created.



Key waterways for recreation access

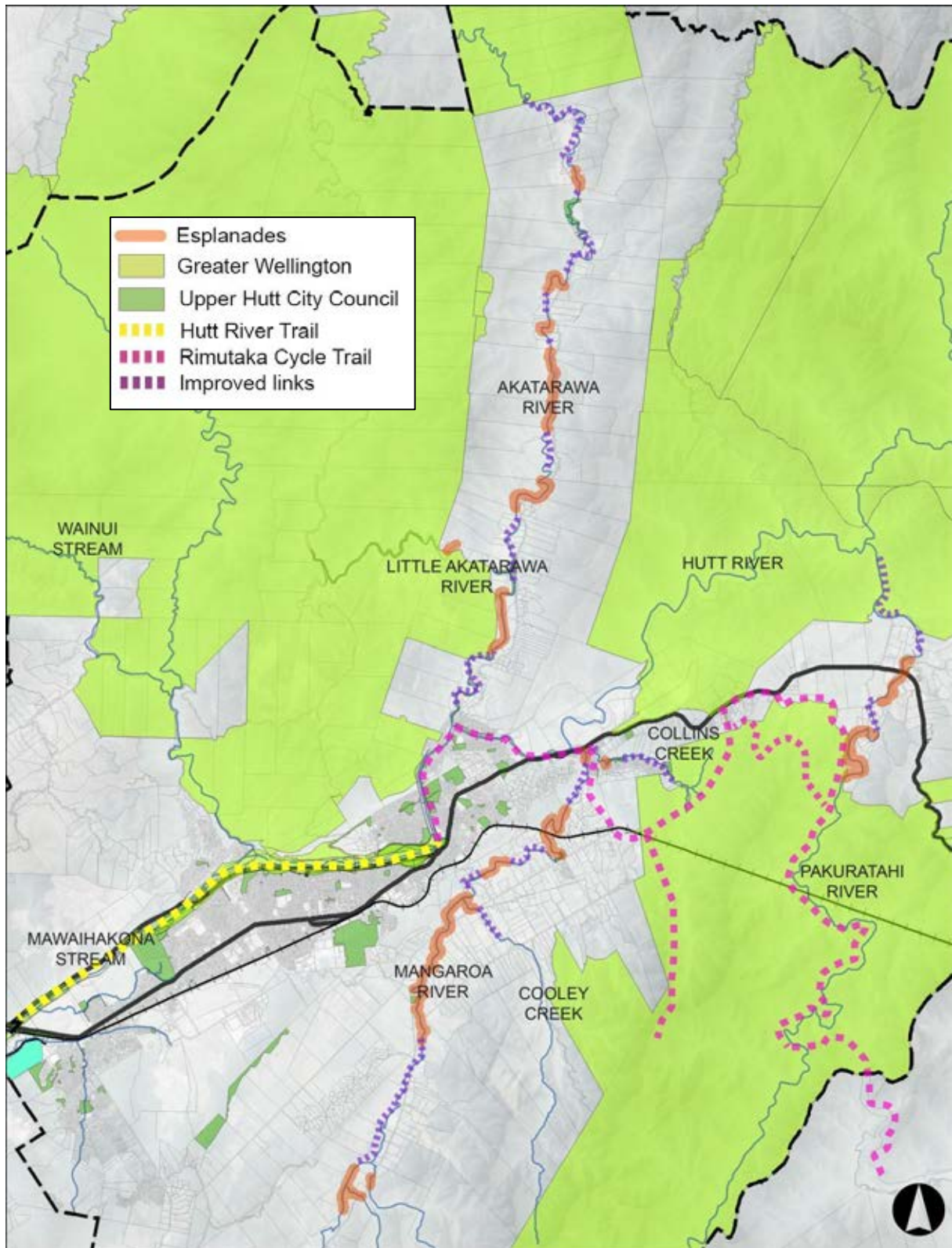
Upper Hutt has a number of waterways that offer important recreation access to the community. The map on the next page shows the current esplanade strips and reserves along these rivers and streams and highlights areas where connections can be improved.

The Hutt River/Te Awa Kairangi has an esplanade strip along both sides; this is owned and managed mainly by Greater Wellington Regional Council.

The Mangaroa River flows into the Hutt River/Te Awa Kairangi east of Birchville, SH2 runs alongside the true left bank of the Hutt River and then crosses the Mangaroa River. There is an opportunity to link the esplanade reserves from the Hutt River up the Mangaroa River and its tributaries.

The Pakuratahi River flows from the Pakuratahi Forest through farmed river flats at SH2 and into Kaitoke Regional Park where it joins the Hutt River at Rivendell. The Rimutaka Rail Trail follows the upper reaches of the river. There is an opportunity to link the two regional parks by a contiguous esplanade reserve along the river.

The Little Akatarawa River flows into the Hutt River/Te Awa Kairangi north of Birchville, there is an opportunity to link the esplanade reserve from the Hutt River up the Little Akatarawa River, the QEII reserve and existing esplanade strips into a contiguous reserve.



Action Plan

The Open Space Strategy Action Plan sets out what needs to happen to implement the Strategy over the next 10 years.

Through policy and planning, management and development, partnership and advocacy, and research and monitoring, we can work towards achieving multi-wins for our parks and open spaces.

The actions set out what Council will focus on. It will influence, and is influenced by a range of other strategies and planning documents that determine how we develop and manage the open spaces network.

The Strategy's success can be further evaluated by relevant performance measures set in the Long Term Plan.

Timeframes used in the action plan are:

- Short: 1 – 5 years
- Medium: 5 – 10 years
- Long: 10+ years

Action	Time frame	Strategic Goals
1. Integrate the ideal open space guidelines		
• Consider the guidelines in decision-making on opportunities to optimise existing open space resources.	Ongoing	1, 2, 3, 4, 5
• Consider the guidelines in decision-making on acquisition or disposal of open space resources.	Ongoing	1, 2, 3, 4, 5
• Provide the guidelines to developers to ensure new developments contribute to the goals and objectives of the Strategy.	Ongoing	1, 2, 3, 4, 5
2. Open space audit		
• Complete a condition audit using the guidelines for ideal open space to review each open space, taking account of the needs of present and future users.	Short – medium	1, 2, 3, 4, 5
• Monitor open space use on a neighbourhood and city-wide basis.	Short – medium	1, 2, 3, 4, 5

Action	Time frame	Strategic Goals
3. Address major gaps in the walkable open space network		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Quantify the types of open space and review supply and demand across the network. 	Short – medium	1, 2, 3, 4, 5
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Investigate opportunities to develop city centre open space(s). 	Short – medium	1, 2, 5
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Address major gaps within urban neighbourhoods to provide walkable access to an open space within 300 m. 	Medium – long	1, 2, 3
4. Investigate opportunities for enhanced connectivity of the open space network		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review wayfinding to link places and open spaces. 	Short – medium	2, 3, 5
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review current esplanade strips and reserves requirements and undertake a District Plan review to determine future qualifying waterbodies. 	Medium	2, 3, 4
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enhance accessibility and connectivity along waterways through a series of linked esplanade strips and reserves, where appropriate. 	Medium – long	2, 3, 4
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contribute to completing actions in <i>Wellington Regional Trails for the Future: a strategic framework for trails in the Wellington Region</i>. 	Short – medium	1, 2, 3, 4, 5
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work with our partners e.g. other councils, community groups, mana whenua, and Department of Conservation. 	Ongoing	2, 3, 4
5. Investigate opportunities to increase the use and vibrancy of open spaces		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support and/or enable new opportunities for one-off, pop-up or regular events and/or activities that enhance the open space experience. 	Ongoing	2, 5





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