



The Whakatane River Greenway

Whakatane River Greenways Concept Plan

The Whakatane River Greenway

The Whakatane River Greenway and the adjacent reserves provide a unique experience rich in cultural and heritage, landscape, recreational and ecological values.

The Whakatane River Greenway extends approximately 8 km from the Te Haehaenga Reserve at the Whakatane Heads past the bustling central business district to the rural and suburban settings of Whakatane South and Awatapu.

The Aims and Objectives of the Whakatane River Greenway Development Plan

- To maximise the benefit of a unique asset for residents and visitors to the Whakatane District.
- To provide **connectivity** and **continuity** between and access to the Reserves and between communities
- To encourage public enjoyment and participation by providing different experiences and highlighting unique features as part of the Whakatane Greenway by:
 - Providing **recreational** activities for a wide range of users.
 - Improving the **amenity**, functionality and **ecology** of the reserves.
 - Celebrating the rich **cultural** and **historical** values of the reserves.

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Key Elements of the Whakatane River Greenways Development Plan

- Enhancing the **Recreational** qualities of the reserves by planning for improvements that enhance the recreational experience and cater for a variety of interests and ages in a quality environment.
- Enhancing the **Landscape** qualities of the reserves by providing for the unique landscape characteristics through design and implementation.
- Enhancing the **Ecological** qualities of the reserves by identifying and enhancing areas of ecological value.
- Enhancing the **Cultural and Historical** qualities of the reserves by celebrating diversity and history.

Strategic Context of the Whakatane River Greenway Development Plan

The Whakatane River Greenway Development Plan links to a number of Council Strategic Documents including:

- ⇒ Whakatane District Council Operative District Plan
- ⇒ Whakatane Town Vision Plan
- ⇒ Whakatane Ports Operational Plan
- ⇒ Whakatane Walking and Cycling Strategy 2007
- ⇒ Whakatane Walking and Cycling Implementation Plan 2013-2023

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Whakatane River Greenway Reserves

Te Haehaenga Reserve.

This reserve is located at the Whakatane Heads and connects Whakatane to the sea. As a vantage point the reserve provides extensive views of all major land features in the Whakatane area including Whakaari, Moutohora, Rurima's, Mt Tarawera, Mt Putauaki and the Whakatane Escarpment. Two Pouwhenua stand sentry at the entrance and the exit to the Whakatane River. The reserve has high cultural and heritage values for Ngati Awa and the Wairaka community and is a popular destination for residents and visitors. A place recognising the contribution of Te Hau o te Rangi Tutua a renown local Ngāti Awa Kaumātua and carver is erected in the reserve. Recreational activities include picnicking, swimming, fishing and kayaking.

Mataatua Reserve

This reserve extends from Wairaka Centennial Park to Commercial Wharf and includes the Whakatane Boatramp and Big Game Wharf. The reserve has high cultural and heritage values for Ngati Awa and the Wairaka community. The reserve is home to the Mataatua Waka shelter and Muruwai's cave and a number of sacred rocks located in the Whakatane River can be observed from the reserve. The reserve provides expansive openspace for community events and is the hub of recreational and sport fishing.

Wairaka Centennial Park

This reserve extends from the Te Haehaenga Reserve to the Whakatane Boatramp. The linear park provides a number of recreational activities including the Heads Playground, swimming area and picnicking.

The Promenade

This section extends from the Commercial Wharf to the Whakatane Yacht Club and includes Pioneer Park and Otuawhaki. These reserves connect the CBD and the Whakatane River at Quay Street. The reserves provide easy pedestrian access to the CBD, the Whakatane Information Centre and the Whakatane River. At this point visitors can follow the promenade as it extends east and west along the river.

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River Edge Park

This reserve extends from the Whakatane Yacht Club to the Whakatane Gardens. The reserves provide a diverse range of recreational activities including the Tracks Skatepark, Ocean Playground, the Eastern Bay Model Railway, the Amphitheatre and the popular Whakatane Gardens.

Awatapu and Whakatane South Reserve

This reserve extends from the Whakatane River Bridge along the stopbank to Awatapu Lagoon. The Whakatane Rowing Club is located south of the Whakatane River Bridge. Proposed major connection points from this reserve includes links to James Street, Ferry Road, Riverside Drive and Awatapu Drive.

Warren Cole Walkway

This reserve extends from the Whakatane Gardens to the Whakatane River Bridge. The Eivers Road and Amber Grove Reserves are located within this walkway. The reserves along the walkway provide recreational activities including walking and cycling and water based sports. The Whakatane Dog Agility Course and access to a recreational boatramp at the end of Eivers Road for Canoeing, Kayaking and Waka Ama clubs.

Awatapu Lagoon Reserve.

This extensive reserve is surrounded by Hinemoa Street, Awatapu Drive and Riverside Drive. The large lagoon has ecological values as an important sanctuary for wading birds, habitat for fish and other aquatic life and riparian and aquatic plants. The Awatapu causeway is the primary pedestrian link between the Whakatane South communities. The reserve is popular for walking and exercise.

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Enhancing *Recreational Qualities*

Facilities enhance the recreational experience and cater for a variety of interests and ages in a quality environment.

The Whakatane Greenway provides connectivity between the ocean and the land; the CBD and the suburbs. This popular recreational facility provides linkages and connections to neighbourhoods; links a number of primary reserves and provides access to the Whakatane River.



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Enhancing *Recreational Qualities*

Enhance the recreational experience and cater for a variety of interests and ages in a quality environment through the provision of suitable facilities.

Facilities enhance visitor attraction and participation. Provision of facilities extends the time that visitors spend in the reserve. The provision of seating, drinking fountains, barbeques, shade and picnic envisaged.



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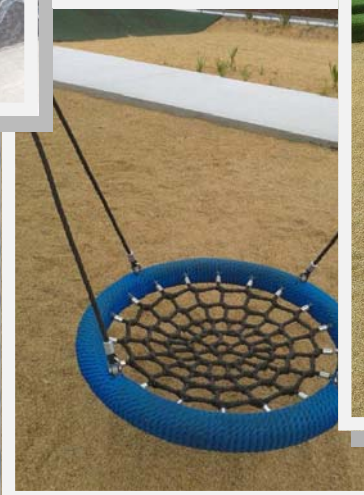
Enhancing *Recreational Qualities*

Facilities that enhance the recreational experience and cater for a variety of interests and ages in a quality environment.

Upgrading and developing new and exciting playgrounds and water parks that celebrate the Whakatane climate and connect us to the river and the sea.

Upgrade and extension to the Wairaka Centennial Park Playground and upgrades at Ocean Playground and the Whakatane Gardens are envisaged.

The installation of fitness equipment along the walk and cycleway will increase recreational opportunities.



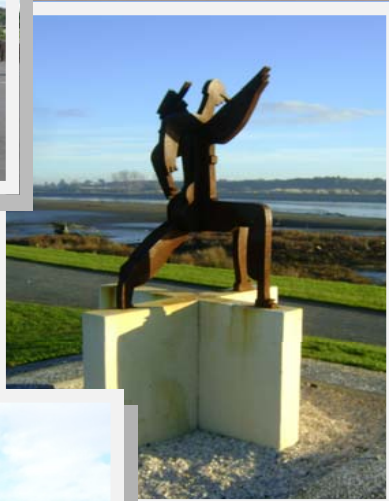
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Enhancing the *Landscape Qualities*

By providing for the unique landscape characteristics through design and implementation.

The incorporation of Art and Sculpture in the landscape creates a sense of place, reflects our values, creates excitement and vibrancy.

Locations identified along the Whakatane River Greenway to display art include the Whakatane Bridge Park, the Promenade, Mataatua Reserve, Te Haehaenga and Awatapu Lagoon.

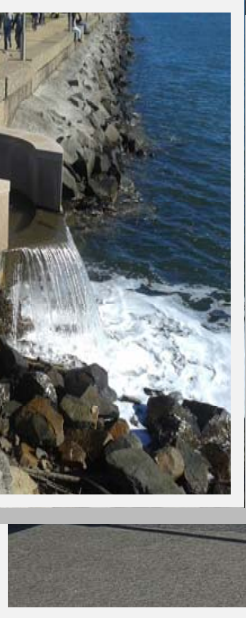


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Enhancing the *Landscape Qualities*

By providing for the unique landscape characteristics through design and implementation.

*Paving detail suggests and provokes thought and imagination.
Paving upgrades to a minimum of 3m wide will create shared paths for
pedestrians and cyclists promoting and inviting action and
participation.*

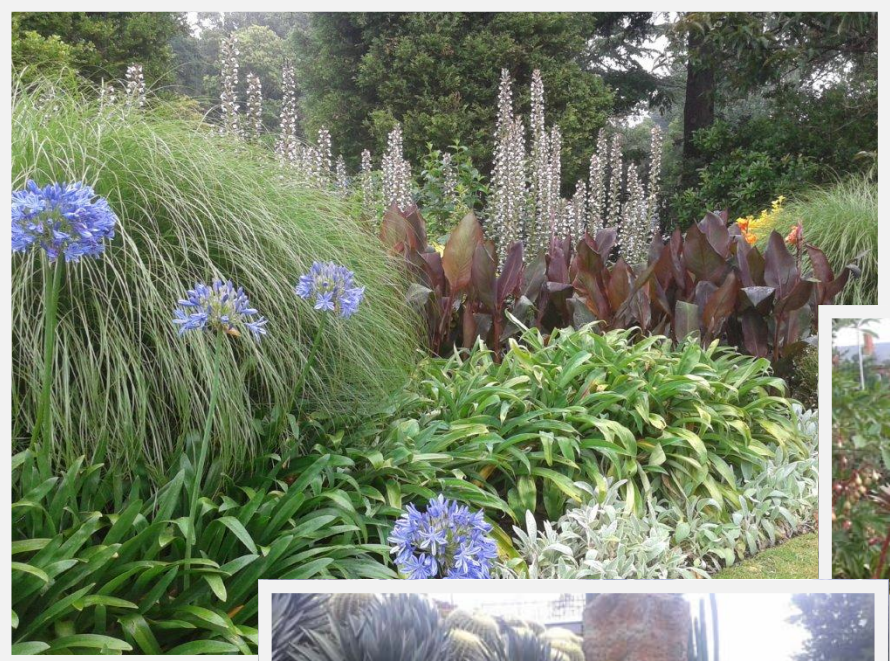


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Enhancing the *Landscape Qualities*

By providing for the unique landscape characteristics through design and implementation.

Amenity and soft Landscaping aesthetically enhances our parks and public places. Themed gardens and planting provide horticultural interest and opportunities for education and cultural experiences such as the NZ Native and Kamagaya Japanese Garden. Reserves identified for amenity planting enhancements include the Whakatane Gardens and reserve entrances.



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Enhancing the *Landscape Qualities*

By providing for the unique landscape characteristics through design and implementation.



Signage and Interpretation provides education and information to the public. Interpretation of places of cultural and historical importance, places of high ecological values and general information and direction signage enhance the visitor experience.

Opportunities for cultural and ecological interpretation are numerous.



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Enhancing the *Ecological* qualities of the reserves

By identifying and enhancing areas of ecological value.

Recognise areas and habitats for ecological enhancement.

Areas of ecological importance are the Apanui Saltmarsh, the Paru Historic Site, The Strand Canal, the outlet of the Awatapu lagoon, Awatapu Lagoon and a potential development in Amber Grove Reserve.

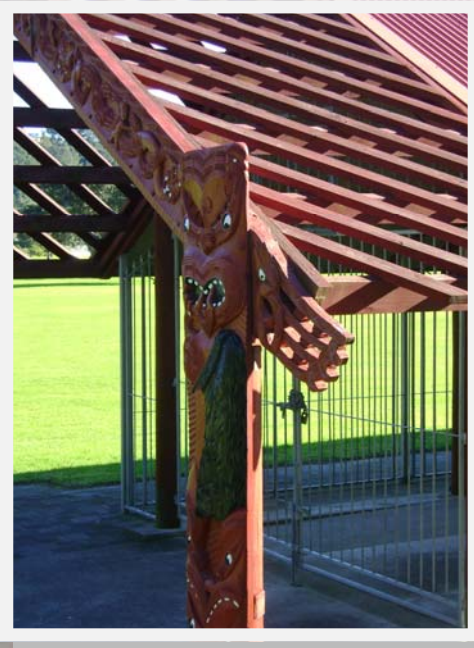


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Cultural and Historical qualities

Acknowledge the Cultural and Historical qualities of the reserves.

Celebrate the rich cultural and historical heritage of the river, the reserves and the surrounding landscape. Identifying key landmarks and sites of cultural importance to inform and educate the community and visitors.



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OPPORTUNITIES FOR IMPROVEMENT

Reserve	Landscape Enhancements	Ecological Enhancements	Cultural and Historical Enhancements	Recreational Enhancements
Te Haehaenga	Feature lighting of the Whakatane escarpment and Pouwhenua Themed lighting in carpark		Identification of cultural and historical landmarks Interpretation and signage.	Signage and picnic tables
Wairaka Centennial Park	Feature lighting of specimen trees		Identification of cultural and historical landmarks Interpretation and signage	Barbeque facilities, picnic tables and improved signage Upgrade walk and cycleway to 3m wide standard Barbeque facilities, picnic tables and
Mataatua Reserve	Feature lighting of Waka shelter		Identification of cultural and historical landmarks Interpretation and signage	Waterpark and swimming area development Upgrade walk and cycle ways to 3m standard Inclusion of Fitness equipment.
The Promenade	Public art		Identification of cultural and historical landmarks Interpretation and signage	Upgrade walk and cycle ways to 3m wide standard Construction of a boardwalk into Apanui Saltmarsh

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OPPORTUNITIES FOR IMPROVEMENT

Reserve	Landscape Enhancements	Ecological Enhancements	Cultural and Historical Enhancements	Recreational Enhancements
<p>River Edge Park</p>	<p>Public art</p>	<p>Enhancement of the Paru Historical site, The Strand Canal and the Apanui Saltmarsh</p> <p>Educational and interpretation signs</p>	<p>Educational and interpretation signs</p>	<p>Install additional play equipment at Ocean Playground</p> <p>Shade structures, Barbeque facilities, signage and picnic tables</p> <p>Allow for extension of the EBOP Model Railway.</p> <p>Inclusion of fitness equipment.</p>
<p>Warren Cole Walk and Cycleway</p>	<p>Themed LED lighting on the Whakatane River Bridge.</p> <p>Lighting of the bridge structure and feature lighting of Pouwhenua and specimen trees.</p> <p>Extension of carparking on Landing Road South</p> <p>Public art</p>	<p>Enhancement of the Apanui Saltmarsh and a wetland at Amber Grove Reserve</p> <p>Removal of Pest plants and selective removal of Chestnut trees</p>	<p>Investigate cultural and historical values</p>	<p>Create a link from the Warren Cole Walk and cycleway through Amber Grove Reserve to link to the Warren Park Bike and Pump Track</p> <p>Barbeque facilities, signage and picnic tables</p> <p>Inclusion of fitness equipment.</p> <p>Establish an edible Orchard and community garden</p> <p>Possible provision of a dog exercise area</p> <p>Allow for storage facilities for Waka Ama and Canoeing in Eivers Road Reserve</p>

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OPPORTUNITIES FOR IMPROVEMENT

Reserve	Landscape Enhancements	Ecological Enhancements	Cultural and Historical Enhancements	Recreational Enhancements
Awatapu and Whakatane South Reserve	Public art	Enhancements to the Whakatane River margins, the Awatapu Lagoon outlet and the Awatapu Lagoon	Investigate cultural and historical values	<p>Directional signage</p> <p>Education and interpretation signs</p> <p>Extension of the walk and cycleway from the Whakatane River Bridge to Awatapu lagoon to Awatapu Drive. Provide connections to James Street, Ferry Road and Riverside Drive in accordance with the Whakatane District Walking and Cycling Implementation Plan 2013-2023</p>
Awatapu Lagoon	<p>Create a sense of arrival with entrance features and reserve and accessway signage</p> <p>Increasing the vistas and sightlines through the reserve</p> <p>Amenity lighting to promote connectivity between communities</p> <p>Earthworks and reclamation to increase functionality of the reserve</p> <p>Implement the recommendations of the Awatapu Lagoon CPTED Report 2013</p> <p>Public art</p>	<p>Enhancements of the lagoon margins and the development of floating islands</p> <p>Identification and management of primary tree species within the reserve in conjunction with selective thinning and management of pioneer species</p>	Investigate cultural and historical values	<p>Construct a walk and cycleway along the northern stop bank to link the River Walkway to Hinemoa Street and to the Wainui Te Whara link to King Street in accordance with the Whakatane Walking and Cycling Implementation Plan 2013-2023.</p> <p>Dog exercise area on the Wainui Te Whara Delta.</p>