

## Thoughts and ideas of our parks and reserves located within Moutere-Waimea Ward

### Feedback Jan Heijs

As suggested at the website seeking this feedback, I had a look at the maps and the Moutere-Waimea Ward Reserves Management Plan - August 2000 - updated 2017.

My feedback is as follows:

#### General:

- To provide meaningful feedback it would be helpful to have a general assessment of all parks and reserves against the general objectives and policies as listed in sections 4-6 of this plan.
- I have the impression that such an assessment is not available / has never been done, which begs the question what the point is of setting objectives if these are not monitored and/or acted upon.
- The detailed specific “reserve descriptions and policies” section in the management plan (section 7) that is related to individual reserves is grossly out of date and there is no point in commenting on the specifics at this moment. It is unclear what ‘update 2017’ means as there is very little evidence of an update.
- Reserves – the maps show an extensive patchwork of reserves. It feels like many have been established by accident, not by design, probably with the exception of the esplanade reserves. I understand the legal process with the ability to take reserves as part of a development process or a compensation. I suggest that going forward, taking a compensation is strategically better because that enables council to have reserves based on a strategy which presumably will be based on a demand in a specific area.
- This does need an overarching strategy and implementation plan as to where future reserves provide the best outcomes / meet the objectives in the management plan. This would include a clear plan on how to provide for passive and active needs, including walking and cycling (off-road!)
- Esplanade reserves
  - It is great to see that council has taken many esplanade reserves over the years. Unfortunately, these are often not joined up.
  - It is noted that one of the purposes of Esplanade Reserves is *“To enable public access to or along the sea, a river, or a lake”*.
  - Many of the current esplanade reserves do not meet this purpose. If taking an esplanade reserve is not expected any time soon, I suggest the council should consider negotiating an easement, buying land (from the reserves contributions) to achieve this linkage in the short-medium future.
  - Many of the current esplanade reserves are not accessible, are not clearly marked so the community doesn’t do they have access which they should. It is public land.
  - Another purpose of Esplanade Reserve is *“Maintaining or enhancing the natural functioning of the adjacent sea, river, or lake”*. Future sea level rise should be used to identify the land that can (should) be taken as esplanade reserve. I suggest to use the 2m’ sea level rise as baseline because all indications are that that is the way we are heading. This also leaves the question how to manage and possibly expand the current esplanade reserves based on these predictions. Providing for this buffer can also assist in the adaptation, by providing a buffer, in response to sea level rise.

- An active management strategy and implementation plan is required to ensure esplanade reserves are joined up and future proof (sea level rise). This could include taking esplanade reserve or as strategic land purchases or as land-swap initiatives
- One of the general objectives of many reserve-types is to provide for biodiversity – protection of ecosystems, not limited to just SNA's. It is recommended to show SNA's and other areas of ecological value on these maps for information (contextual information).

### Maps

- Different shades of green have been used – not clear what these indicate
- The Reserve-type (classification) is not shown on the maps (as per section 2.2 of the plan) – please include
- Maps would benefit to also show other council owned land (e.g. land on corner Aranui and Tahurangi street in Mapua)
- As suggested above, the location of SNA's is requested.

### Local: Kina Bay to Ruby Bay

- Many reserves along the coast are disjointed
- Needs active policy to join-up preferable along waterfront. Could also provide buffer re sea level rise (adaptation).

### Local: Mapua / Ruby Bay

- Many need enhancement and improved access
- It is noted that 'maximum community benefit' is required as a general objective in the management plan. Many areas shown as reserve I do not know about. It is not clear how it is accessed and/or there is no provision for access. This doesn't meet TDC objectives. This includes not meeting the objective "Define reserve boundaries by fencing, planting, or other means, so that the extent of each reserve is clear to adjoining landholders and the public." (section 5.2 of current plan) and "Ensure that all reserves and open space areas have adequate signs" as a few examples.
- It is unacceptable that there is no formal ability to walk from Ruby Bay along the coast to holiday park. Some disjointed reserves with bits missing and landowners barring community from access. There is a need to establish easements and this should be part of the plan.

### Local: Mapua

- Another good example of the issue raised above is the Old Mills walkway along the stream. (4g-4f). No idea this was public reserve, no signage, not inviting.... Not clear how connectivity to Toru Street is / will be achieved.
- Access through the holiday park not mentioned but should be secured. Was there a RoW or easement? I suggest showing easements on the maps (this was also done for Stagecoach Walkway on map 10)
- We request to make space available and establish a community food forest. A part of Aranui Reserve would be an option.
- We also request to make available and help establish a community garden. It would be great if the Mapua community association is actively involved in this process.
- It is great to see reserves along the coast on Grossi point peninsular (no's 2 on map 15) but needs to be completed. It is not clear on the ground that these area are 'public' and accessible. Enhancement, connection (also during high tide), and sign posting needed

- Grossi Point (no 3 on map 15). This area needs a major rethink. It currently looks like a wasteland. Cars are allowed everywhere to the point they park up against your beach towel when you are staying at the waterfront. I suggest a clearly marked parking area and access only to the boat ramp. Other areas should be made inaccessible to cars. Improved landscaping is required. Consultation with iwi and community association is needed.
- The area around Dominion Flats and Higgs reserve are a great example of a successful approach between TDC and community.
- The access to Higgs (5) to be improved and new connection (walking / cycling) required between Higgs (5) and Waimea Inlet reserve (6)

### **Estuary South of Mapua**

- This access is to be continued along the estuary (see comments before re esplanade reserves). It is noted that many strips have already been secured (see map 17 and detail on maps 18 to 22).
- Having been to some of the reserves, these need (improved) signage and clear access so it is clear what the extent of public reserves is and how these can be accessed.
- The Waimea River park is shown and it is noted that it is 'not a reserve'. Is this indicating that this area is not gazetted as a 'reserve'? Regardless of this status improved access is requested.

Kind Regards

Jan Heijs

14 Lionel Place

Mapua