

Hamilton City Open Space Plan Implementation Progress Report – July 2017



Hamilton City Council continues to focus on the following actions.

Short Term are projects that started within the first two years. Medium Term within the first five years. Long Term is beyond five years.

Goal	Action	Timeframe	Status	Comments
Open spaces meet with constantly changing needs of our people	Review current approach to Reserves Act Management planning.	Short-term	Completed	Review of approach to management plans complete and programme for review is being implemented. Review of Hamilton Lake Domain Management Plan completed in April 2017.
	Define a strategy for open space market research and visitor monitoring to better understand how our community use and value parks and open spaces.	Short-term	Completed	An approach to research and monitoring has been developed and is being implemented. An annual satisfaction survey is undertaken during Parks Week, a bi-annual key sports clubs and user survey is underway, and the implementation of more track counters in parks is being worked towards.
	Review service level agreements for maintenance of parks and open spaces.	Short-term	Completed	Service Level Agreement with City Parks implemented and signed in April 2016.
	Assess recommendations from Waikato Regional Sports Facility Plan and Winter Sports Field Demand Study and incorporate into Long Term Plan.	Short-term	Completed	Analysis of the capacity and demand for winter sports fields in Hamilton has been completed. A further study has been undertaken to determine approach to increasing field capacity to meet the predicted shortfall and associated facilities to meet user requirements for the next 30 years. These studies will inform the 2018-28 Long Term Plan (LTP).
	Complete Homes of Sport Project with Sport Waikato.	Short-term	In progress	Parks and Open Spaces are working with Sport Waikato to implement the Waikato Regional Sports Facility Plan and associated projects.
	Increase the capacity of the sports field network to provide for current and future demand.	Long-term	In progress	The capital programme will be delivered as funded in the LTP.
	Develop an open space acquisition and disposal plan.	Short-term	In progress	Progress has been made on investigating approaches to the provision and acquisition of open space. A Draft Council Policy is being developed to inform provision and acquisition of land for open space in existing urban areas and growth areas, which will be presented to Elected Members for adoption (2017/18).
	Deliver the Pooches and Parks Plan.	Short-term	In progress	Implementation of signage and bins at the following off-leash areas - Braithwaite Park, Days' Park, Claudelands Park, Tauhara Park, Porritt Stadium and Resthills Park – will be prioritised as signage renewal is undertaken.
Hamilton's green identity is upheld	Review species list for planting in public open spaces.	Short-term	Completed	Approved street tree species list has been developed.
	Develop significant tree maintenance programme and replacement programme.	Short-term	In progress	Tree survey and assessment undertaken on all significant trees on Council owned land which will inform the maintenance programme.
	Vegetation Management Plan to guide and identify tree thinning and vegetation removal areas, future planting strategy and protection of viewing places and overall vegetation management along the length of the river.	Short-term	In progress	Draft Vegetation Management Plan completed for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Area 1 (West side of the river from Anzac Parade to Claudelands bridge) Area 2 (Anzac Parade to Cobham bridge) and analysis is to be carried out to identify work programme Area 3 (Claudelands Bridge to St Andrews Golf Course) Area 4 (Peacockes Rd to Hillsborough Terrace)
	Identify priority planting areas to sustain and enhance Hamilton's ecological health.	Medium-term	Completed	Priority planting areas have been identified and incorporated into planting programmes for the next three years. Maintenance programmes have been amended to support the enhancement of priority planting areas.
Ecosystems and biodiversity are understood, protected and restored	Align Gully Reserves Management Plan priorities and programme with 10-Year Plan.	Short-term	In progress	Gully restoration planting continues. Gully development programme developed but unfunded in 2015/25 LTP. Opportunities are being explored for alternative funding.

	Complete restoration of Mangaiti Gully with assistance of Project Watershed.	Short-term		Funding has been secured and the programme is underway. Due for completion in 2022.
	Undertake detailed habitat assessment for Mangakotutuku Gully and develop a restoration Plan.	Long-term		Being undertaken in conjunction with Southern Links Roding Project. Funding and work programme has been identified and underway.
	Assess recommendations from The River Plan.	Short-term		River Plan adopted and being implemented. New actions developed within implementation plan.
	Continue to protect riparian areas through requiring esplanade reserves and strips along the river and lakes as part of subdivision and development.	On-going		On-going as opportunity arises.
	Investigate options to improve water quality at Hamilton Lake.	Medium-term		A monitoring programme is being undertaken in partnership with Waikato Regional Council, University of Waikato, and Hamilton City Council to investigate the current state of water quality, and specifically the source of high e.coli levels. The findings will inform any future restoration projects, as funding allows.
	Develop a local indigenous biodiversity strategy to identify opportunities to restore and enhance biodiversity in Hamilton City in partnership with Waikato Regional Council.	Medium-term		Development of the LIBS is being developed with input from Parks and Open Spaces.
	Continue to restore Waiwhakareke Natural Heritage Park and implement the Management Plan.	Long-term		Progressive planting of Waiwhakareke Natural Heritage Park continues, with 78,856 native plants planted at the previous four Arbor Days by 6,603 volunteers. No funding allocated in 2015-25 LTP for further development of Waiwhakareke Natural Heritage Park. Alternative methods of funding continue to be explored and implementation of the Management Plan is subject to funding.
	Work with other agencies to investigate Hamilton's open space contribution to climate change and impact of climate change on Hamilton's open space. Develop an implementation plan including initiatives to minimise risks, improve resilience and maximise opportunities as a result of research, findings and recommendations.	Long-term		Yet to commence.
Open spaces bring people together and celebrate our cultures and historic heritage	Improve promotion of the value of parks and open spaces.	Short-term		Parks Week 2016 was celebrated in 2016 and 2017 with Parks an Open Spaces offering a range of opportunities for the community to connect and learn about the open space network.
	Develop an annual events calendar for open space.	Medium-term		Yet to commence in conjunction with the City Events Manager.
	Improve signage in open spaces, including development of a signage family for parks and open spaces.	Short-term		Signage family currently being rolled out as funding allows.
	Develop interpretation strategy for parks and open spaces.	Medium-term		Yet to commence.
	Identify key historic heritage sites for conservation planning.	Long-term		A Conservation Plan has been completed for Hamilton's heritage cemeteries. Conservation planning for key historic heritage sites on parks yet to commence.
	Review Nga Tapuwae O Hotumauea Maori Landmarks on Riverside Reserves Management Plan.	Short-term		Discussions with iwi and hapu have commenced regarding a future review of Nga Tapuwae O Hotumauea Maori Landmarks on Riverside Reserves Plan. The review of this plan will be undertaken in conjunction with a review of the Riverside Reserves Management Plan, with timing aligned with the requirements of the Ferrybank development process.
Open spaces are safe, well-designed and distinctly Hamilton	Develop guidelines for network utilities on parks and open spaces.	Medium-term		Guidelines and process for utilities on parks developed and being implemented as applications are received.
	Develop design guidelines that encourage best practice in development and design of parks and open spaces.	Short-term		Yet to commence.

	Promote and manage Hamilton's parks and open spaces as smoke-free environments, in accordance with Council's Smoke Free Environments Policy.	On-going		Smoke Free Environment Policy prohibits smoking in parks and open spaces.
	Develop an open space network plan that prioritises actions for improving parks and open spaces.	Medium-term		Yet to commence. Will be developed after the adoption of the Open Space Provision Policy
	Review the Parks, Domains and Reserves Bylaw to assist with the control of inappropriate use of parks and reserves.	Medium-term		A review of the bylaw is being scoped for completion before September 2019.
	Implement the Playgrounds of the Future Plan.	Short-term		Implementation started with the opening of the Hamilton Lake Domain destination playground in December 2014, followed by the completion of a destination playground at Minogue Park in August 2015. Works is underway for the development of destination playgrounds at Hamilton Gardens and Dominion Park, including \$250k external funding obtained for Dominion Park; to be completed in Year 2 of the LTP. A substantial renewal programme has commenced at existing destination and neighbourhood playgrounds.
	Develop a Skate Park Plan to identify approach to skate parks in Hamilton.	Medium-term		An audit of the City's skate park facilities has been completed, which is informing a investigation report
	Develop concept plans for the following parks in consultation with the community: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Te Manatu Park • Mangaiti Park • Hamilton East Town Belt • Rototuna North Sports Park • Hare Puke Park • Rotokauri Sports Park 	Short-term		<p>Concept plans have been developed for Te Manatu Park, Mangaiti Park, Rototuna North Sports Park.</p> <p>Development of a concept plan for Flynn Park is being undertaken concurrently with relevant roading works under the Designation for Wairere Drive extension/Cobham Drive interchange. A concept plan for the Hamilton East Town Belt will be developed concurrently with the review of the Sports Park Management Plan.</p> <p>Hare Puke Park concept plan is being developed.</p> <p>Rotokauri Sports Park is yet to commence.</p>
Open spaces are accessible, connected and make Hamilton easy to get around	Develop Biking Plan.	Short-term		The Hamilton Biking Plan was adopted in August 2015, and the actions are currently being implemented.
	Develop networks of walkways and cycleways through open spaces including the following Biking Plan projects: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Western Rail Trail – Providing an off road connection from the south west suburbs to the central city, parallel to the rail track. • Te Awa River Ride South – Completing the Te Awa River Ride from Cobham Bridge through to the South of the city. • Te Awa River Ride, Hamilton River Path – Upgrade the existing cycleway to provide a 3 metre shared path with appropriate bike friendly facilities. 			<p>Construction of the Western Rail Trail (WRT) completed in December 2016.</p> <p>HCC representatives working with NZTA and Te Awa on the southern section.</p>
	Undertake accessibility audits as part of park development projects.	Long-term		Accessibility audits being undertaken as part of park developments in partnership with CCS Disability Action.
Open spaces are enhanced by community partnerships	Continue to work with volunteer groups and organisations on community plantings to improve natural habitats and increase the city's biodiversity.	Short-term		We continue to work with community groups and residents, with 85,153 planted in 2014/15, 48,675 planted in 2015/16 and 35,824 planted in 2016/17 through the community planting programme.
	Develop policy relating to commercial activities on public open space.	Short-term		A mobile trader trial at Swarbricks Landing was launched in 2014 and continues to work successfully. Guidelines are being developed to guide staff in decision making on applications.
	Develop community gardens guidelines.	Medium-term		Guidelines under development.
	Develop a Sponsorship Policy for open space.	Short-term		Generic sponsorship policy considered and discussed by the External Funding Sub-committee. Decision was made not to proceed further.

	Establish formal community partnership agreements with key community groups where necessary e.g. Friends Groups.	Medium-term		Discussion held where approached by resident groups.
	Establish Joint Use Agreements with other open space providers where appropriate.	Medium-term		We are partnering with the Ministry of Education to create a blue print policy for shared facilities, such as playgrounds within Hamilton City.
	Investigate what a community education and engagement programme could be for our open space.	Long-term		Yet to commence.
	Work with our neighbours; Waipa District, Waikato District and Waikato Regional Council to optimise our open space network and maintain its sustainability.	Medium-term		Quarterly meetings have been initiated to discuss strategic parks and open spaces matters.
	Establish formal partnership with the Department of Conservation.	Medium-term.		Yet to commence.
	Establish Friends Groups for appropriate parks and open spaces.	Medium-term		Yet to commence.
Our open space network is world class	Complete annual national industry benchmark reporting.	On-going		Yardstick survey completed for 2017.
	Submit nominations for industry awards.	On-going		Hamilton Gardens won Outstanding Park Award, and Hamilton City River Plan achieved a merit award for Outstanding Research, Planning and Policy Award at the New Zealand Recreation Association Awards 2016.
	Achieve Green Flag Award Accreditation.	On-going		Green Flag Award Accreditation is being re-launched in New Zealand following the demise of Parks Forum. Staff will seek consider potential parks for Green Flag accreditation.