



Te Mata^{the}
Giant
among Us

Te Mata Park
Ours
forever

TE MATA O RONGOKAKO
NŌ TATAU, AKE, AKE



Te Mata Park
MANAGEMENT PLAN

MAY 2016

**Te Mata Park
is a **kōpua**
that draws
many visitors.**

**Let us create
a place for
information,
education
and manaaki.**

**Let it contain
and celebrate
knowledge**

**and stories from the
kōpua kānapanapa
of Te Mata o Rongokako and
Kahungunu whakapapa.**

TE MATA PARK : 2015 - 2025

This Management Plan sets out the vision, objectives, policies and priorities for Te Mata Park for the next ten years.

It also describes one of the most wonderful and precious places in Hawke's Bay.

Greatly cherished by ngā hapu o Heretaunga, the Park and its iconic Peak (maunga) are loved and actively enjoyed by thousands of locals and visitors year round.

In this document, the Te Mata Park Trust Board confirms its commitment to protecting and maintaining this vital community asset and explains the current pressures the Park is facing.

The Management Plan outlines the proposed priorities for development and improvements within the Park.

These are set carefully against the Trust's role as kaitiaki (guardian) of Te Mata o Rongokako and its commitment to ensuring the unique cultural and environmental heritage and attributes of the Park are preserved and celebrated into the future.

Te Mata o Rongokako Nō Tātau, Ake, Ake

Te Mata Park, Ours Forever

About This Document

The Te Mata Park Trust Board completed an extensive strategic review in 2014. This resulted in their decision not to proceed with the planned Visitor & Education Centre. However, the underlying pressures on the Park that were the catalyst for that project remain, and the Trust has since prepared and adopted this Management Plan for Te Mata Park.

- Part 1** Lays out the Trust’s vision for Te Mata Park and provides background to the challenges it currently faces. It then outlines the key priorities for improvements, as identified by the community, and explains the Trust’s proposed plans to address these.
- Part 2** Contains key background information on Te Mata Park, giving details of its legal status, history and an overview of its physical attributes.
- Part 3** Provides the formal objectives and policies for the management of the Park as part of the QEII Open Space Covenant.
- Part 4** Presents concept plans for the proposed improvements.

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PART 1

Vision & Priorities

**“Do we as a community
take the Park for granted?”**

How do we transform it

into a treasure

rather than a right?”

2015 Community Consultation
Response

Vision & Values

VISION

- Te Mata Park is a tāonga I tuku ihō (heavenly gift), and the iconic feature of Hawke's Bay.
- It will always be a place of cultural, scenic, recreational, scientific and educational significance for all New Zealanders.
- The Trust will sustain, protect and maintain Te Mata Park's outstanding natural features and open spaces.

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

- Establish Te Mata Park as a place of national significance.
- Establish significant financial resources in order to fund the annual operating cost of the Park.
- Provide and maintain facilities and an environment for the recreational, cultural and educational benefit of the public.

VALUES

- **Stewardship** - The Trust will be effective kaitiaki and vigilant stewards of the Park's cultural heritage, physical environment, open space values, and responsible managers of all resources.
- **Community** - The Trust will be responsive to the needs and interests of Park users. We will communicate openly and effectively and partner with the community to establish a strong volunteer support base. The Trust will actively share knowledge and information about the unique features of Te Mata Park.
- **Collaboration** - The Trust is committed to building positive and productive partnerships with Ngāti Kahungunu, local authorities and community organisations. We value their skills and capabilities and will plan with them how best to avoid duplication of services and resources and engage their support.
- **Sustainability** - The Trust will manage all the resources of Te Mata Park to ensure its preservation for the enjoyment of current and future generations – it will be 'Ours Forever'.
- **Integrity and accountability** - The Trust will be transparent and compliant with all reporting requirements and ensure all management decisions are made with integrity and caution.



Image courtesy Tim Whittaker

Consultation & Park Use

COMMUNITY CONSULTATION

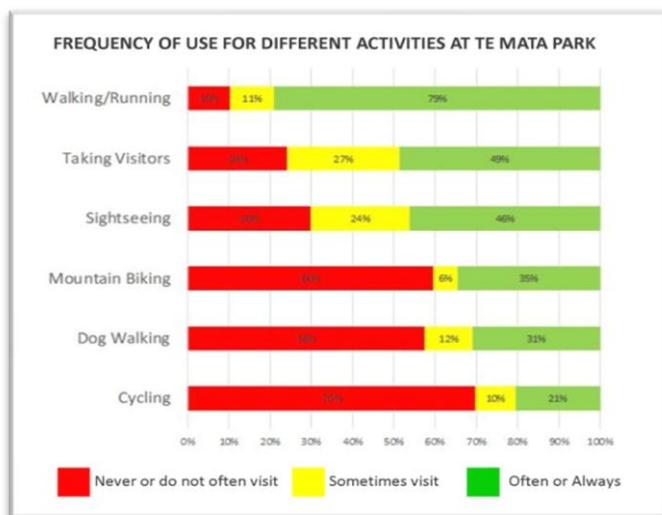
To explore the growing pressures on the Park and assess the community's views and concerns, the Trust held a consultation process in late 2015 seeking Park users' comments and suggestions.

Two consecutive Open Days were held at the Park in October 2015, and the community were invited to complete a survey. Over 400 individuals completed the survey on site during the Open Days. A further 261 submitted their feedback via an online survey in the following weeks, giving a total of **661 responses**. 92% of the respondents were from Napier/Hastings.

The survey was designed to help the Trust Board to better understand:

- ✓ Overall user satisfaction with the Park
- ✓ Satisfaction with different aspects of the Park
- ✓ Factors that influence visitor satisfaction
- ✓ Activities undertaken within the Park
- ✓ Users' suggestions for improvement.

Results confirmed that locals visit the Park for multiple activities, often several times a week. The Park is most commonly used for walking and/or running (79%) and is very popular for dog owners (31%). Mountain biking (35%) and road cycling (31%) are also significant activities.



Locals are using the Main Gates Carpark (48%) and the Tauroa Road Carpark (33%) as the starting point for their visits.

Sightseeing is an important drawcard for local Park users with 49% often or always bringing visitors. Of note is the frequency of use, with 49% using the Park at least once every five days in summer. Duration of stay is up to two hours, and the majority (79%) always visit with others.

The Trust was greatly encouraged that 92% of respondents are Satisfied or Very Satisfied with Te Mata Park. However, there are a number of factors that are of concern to users and affect their enjoyment of the Park.



With 57% respondents being dissatisfied or very dissatisfied with the toilets and drinking water at Te Mata Park (ie the lack of), 30% of all respondents felt a priority for improvement was to add toilets and 26% to provide drinking water.

ADDITIONAL SURVEY INSIGHTS

The majority of respondents to the survey also provided comments along with their responses to the quantitative questions. These confirmed that Te Mata Park 'does the basics very well' and is highly valued as a vital regional recreational asset with repeat visitation groups passing through each day in phases of activity and visitor types.

85% of respondents took the time to write their comments and suggestions for the Park. These provided significant insights and amplified the community's calls for greater amenities within the Park.

Local users are passionate about Te Mata Park as their favoured location for recreation. They are also passionate about not 'spoiling it'. They are wary of over-development and want the rugged, 'wild at heart' nature of the Park to be preserved.

The following are a few examples of the community's comments:

'Te Mata Park is a wonderful place that speaks for itself and has done for thousands of years. The best approach is to do as little as possible to molest it.'

'Please keep the area a little wild and natural – that, to me, is a huge part of its appeal.'

'I absolutely love this Park. We are so very lucky to have it. It is more than a park, it is spiritual for me and without it life would not be the same. Thank you for all your hard work.'

PROTECTING TĪKANGA

Mana whenua are increasingly regular users of the Park, and it is a place of great significance to all iwi. However, the Park's importance in Māori culture is currently not actively celebrated or communicated.

As part of the Visitor & Education Centre Project (now not proceeding), in 2012 the Trust was provided with an extensive Cultural Impact Assessment by Te Taiwhenua o Heretaunga (TToH).



This assessment highlighted the importance of Te Mata o Rongokako to local iwi, with the Peak providing a whakapapa that holds much mana and dates back a thousand years.

Te Mata Park and its Peak are waahi tapu (sacred places) for local iwi and currently there is no promotion of their tikanga (customary rights) and kawa (protocols).

In the consultations and hui held by TToH while preparing their report to the Trust, tāngata whenua expressed the desire for greater incorporation of tikanga in the management of the Park, as well as opportunities for mana whenua to re-connect to the Peak with wānanga.

Working with the Trust, mana whenua want to ensure the preservation and protection of mauri (Māori worldview) and the Park's precious ecosystems, and for the Trust to be an effective kaitiaki (caretaker) of Te Mata.

For non-Māori users and visitors of the Park, this rich cultural heritage and the sacred status of the area is currently not visible nor effectively communicated.

TOURISM IMPACTS

Another key segment of visitors to the Park are tourists. Te Mata Park is the Region's 'pinnacle' park and draws a large number of vehicle-bound tourists to the summit. Te Mata Peak has been consistently rated as the Bay's premier tourist activity and is ranked as the #1 Thing To Do in Hawke's Bay on Trip Advisor.

Hawke's Bay has a vibrant tourism sector that contributes over \$350 million to the local economy. There are over 350,000 international visits and about two million domestic visits with the average length of stay being just over two nights.

There is a growing cruise market and Napier was voted as New Zealand's #1 port by cruise passengers in 2015. Over 50 ships will arrive in Napier during 2015-16 season with 68 booked for 2016-2017. There are already 60 ships scheduled for the 2017-2018 season.

The New Zealand Regional Tourism Forecast for Hawke's Bay 2010-2016 is an overall increase of 1.5% to 2.55% million visits by 2016. Hawke's Bay tourism has a strong aspirational growth target of 5% increase in annual visits. While this growth is exciting, it brings fresh challenges for the Park in adequately managing the impacts of growing visitor numbers.

CURRENT PARK USE

Te Mata Park is predominantly used by Hawke's Bay residents. Other visitors include international tourists, mainly from cruise ships, and domestic visitors, mainly other North Islanders.

An informal assessment of visitor numbers to Te Mata Park was made in 2007, and showed an annual use figure of around 200,000 visitors.

At an estimated 20% of visitors to Te Mata Park (40,000pa), international visitors are made up of cruise ship passengers and independent visitors.

The cruise passengers visit as part of onshore tour groups for a short (30 minute) Te Mata Summit visit. This market is arriving in summer and during the day (between 10am-4pm).

The summit is the primary drawcard destination for tourism visitors. According to Nimon Transport, the dominant cruise passenger tour operator, the summit is the 'jewel in the crown' and 'never disappoints'.

The independent international visitors come from established and emerging (Asian) markets and this segment is projected to expand. These visitors are primarily sightseers, not active recreationalists. They seek car parking, views and information.

Domestic visitors are mainly from the North Island and are interested in the summit view and a range of outdoor recreation, including walking and increasingly cycling, and events. They are seeking car parking, toilets, viewing facilities, tracks and information.

The current walkways and viewing areas at the summit are limited in terms of accessibility (notably around the current Trig point), especially at busy times. The summit facilities have been deemed 'underwhelming' by Lonely Planet.



Increasing Pressures

The community and local authorities have acknowledged that Te Mata Park is under increasing pressure. The Park is the pre-eminent tourist attraction in Hawke's Bay and a highly valued and heavily used regional park.

The Te Mata Park Trust Board is facing growing tensions in terms of balancing the need for future development in response to these growing visitor and user demands against their responsibility to carefully manage the Park's highly valued character and its outstanding natural landscape.

The lack of stable operational funding for the Park is increasingly impacting on the Trust's ability to adequately maintain, protect and enhance the Park.

The last 10 years have seen a very significant increase in use and visitation. However, there is little community awareness of the Park's status as private land and reliance on volunteers. The majority of users and visitors assume it is managed and funded by local authorities.

The many pressures and tensions include:

- Lack of facilities (toilets, drinking water, picnic facilities).
- Absence of educational and interpretative information.
- Lack of cultural and historic insights available to visitors and users, and the loss of connection of mana whenua to the Park.
- Conflict between user groups (notably walkers and mountain bikers).
- Lack of accurate and current statistics on volume and type of Park visitation.
- Thefts from unattended parked cars.
- Vandalism, graffiti, antisocial behaviour (notably littering and 'burnouts' in parking areas) and deliberate lighting of fires and fireworks.
- Dumping of rubbish from the Summit, which has a particular impact on private landowners on the eastern face of the Peak.
- The growing impact of dog and human faeces within the Park.
- Significant enthusiasm from the mountain bike community for additional dedicated tracks.
- Lack of accessible tracks for those with limited mobility.

- Safety issues on the upper section of Te Mata Peak Road with high usage by road cyclists, walkers and vehicles.
- Insufficient way-finding signage and maps.
- Uncontrolled dogs around stock within the Park, and conflict with neighbouring landowners in the lower Chambers Walk area.
- Significant congestion and lack of capacity in the Main Gates Carpark.
- Security in the Main Gates, Tauroa Road and Summit car parking areas as well as ongoing issues with litter, graffiti and vandalism.
- Degradation of tracks and the unsanctioned formation of new mountain bike tracks.
- Poor standard of maintenance and landscaping of key parking and viewing areas.
- Limited accessibility and congestion issues at the Summit Trig point.
- Questionable viability of Peak House as a hospitality venue and lack of clarity on the most effective use of this important infrastructure asset for the future.
- Lack of connectivity between the Park and its wider environs.
- Impacts of new amendments to Health & Safety Legislation on all areas of the Park's management.
- Increasing community and stakeholder demand for information and proactive communication from the Trust.
- Lack of operational capacity with current staff resources limited to one part-time caretaker.



Priorities For Improvement

PRIORITIES

In response to the Community Consultation process, and acknowledging the views of mana whenua and the growing importance of the tourism sector, the Te Mata Trust Board has identified the following priorities for the development and improvement of the Park and its facilities:

- Securing a significant increase in operational funding and support.
- Provision of toilet and drinking water facilities at central and accessible locations within the Park.
- Installation of additional rubbish bins and dog litter bag dispensers in several locations.
- Collection and dissemination of cultural, educational and environmental information to promote the Park's significance and importance.
- Development of new mountain bike tracks along routes designed to minimise visual and physical impact on the Park's existing natural character.
- Creation of a short accessible walking track for those with limited mobility and continued improvement and maintenance of existing walking track network.
- Major upgrades of the Park's key carparking facilities to provide increased parking numbers and picnic facilities with significantly improved landscaping that complements and augments the Park's natural beauty.
- Consolidation and active management of the Park's planting collections, ranging from exotic amenity planting to the endemic collections that are present on the Park's most elevated areas.
- Installation of way-finding information throughout the Park that complements the qualities and character of the landscape.

IMPLEMENTATION

To deliver these identified improvements, the Trust will implement the following, subject to securing funding support.

MAIN GATES DEVELOPMENT

The Main Gates carpark, which is the most popular parking area, is poorly laid out with limited spaces available. This area of the Park was selected as the site for the proposed Visitor & Education Centre (now not proceeding), and offers panoramic views over the Heretaunga Plains and topography with the potential to be developed as the key 'hub' for visitors to the Park.

The proposed upgrade of the carpark and surrounds at the Main Gates will provide an area that is functional, flexible and visually appealing to park visitors.

This upgrade will be the first priority for the Trust in terms of capital developments within the Park as it immediately addresses many of the community's key concerns.

The area will become 'the heart of the Park', providing a welcoming and informative point of arrival, and a gathering and meeting place, with amenities for park users.



The upgrade will include:

- Tiered car parking integrated with terraces suited to picnics that provide broad views of the Heretaunga Plains.
- An informal amphitheatre space that takes advantage of the site's natural bowl-like topography, designed to accommodate community performances and gatherings.
- A new amenities hub, including four public toilets, seating, a gathering space, drinking water (for humans and dogs) and further picnic areas.
- 41 car parking spaces, plus a dedicated bus parking area, and appropriately located disabled parking spaces.

- Signage for cultural and educational information and way-finding integrated into the area.
- Provision for power and water to be available for concession operators and community events.
- Bike racks, rubbish bins and dog bag dispensers.
- A new short accessible walking track loop created to provide for visitors with limited mobility.
- Further tree planting to screen and filter the view of nearby residential subdivisions.
- Removal of approximately four of the Himalayan Cedars along Te Mata Peak Road to accommodate access to the carpark.
- Car parking areas with a defined one-way system to improve pedestrian safety and traffic flow.

The amenities hub area will be a pedestrian-only area and will connect to the network of walking and biking tracks throughout the Park.

WALKING & MOUNTAIN BIKE TRACKS

The tracks within Te Mata Park offer exercise and leisure opportunities usually associated with more remote settings and are a key attraction of the Park.



The Trust's overall objective is to deliver tracks that provide separation of walkers and bikers, as far as practicably possible.

This will require minor amendments and additions to the walking track network, including the improvement of the Saddle to Summit track, and the creation of some new short sections.

The mountain bike track network plan has been finalised and approved by the Trust Board and QEII Trust after extensive consultation with the mountain bike community.

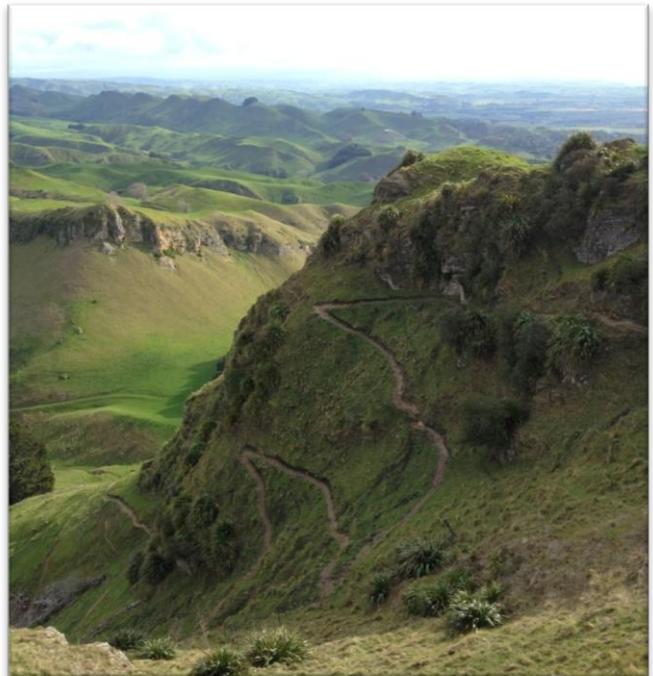
The creation of a range of new mountain bike tracks is included along with some additional sections to connect existing tracks. These will offer different degrees of difficulty, providing advanced, intermediate and 'all level' tracks.

The mountain bike tracks will also connect to the planned 17km loop circuit outside the Park. Designed for both walking and biking, this is an exciting project being led by Hastings District Council.

As part of the development at the Main Gates, a short loop walking track will be created suited to those with limited mobility and very young children.

While existing tracks will retain their unique wilderness characteristics, with minimal alteration of their current 'vernacular', remediation of poorly formed sections will be undertaken to improve surface integrity, drainage and camber.

A new system of track signage, ratings and marking protocols will be developed and installed. The Trust will establish a clear code of conduct for all track users.



TE MATA PEAK ROAD

The community consultation identified that road cycling is a significant activity in the Park, with 31% of respondents giving it as their reason for visiting.

There are also many walkers who prefer to use the road to the summit as their preferred route, rather than the off-road tracks.

The potential conflict between cyclists, road walkers and motorists on this narrow and winding road creates a significant safety issue.

In 2014, Hastings District Council reduced the speed limits on Te Mata Peak Road and installed timber containment safety barriers on the upper section of the road. These have improved vehicular and road cyclist safety but increased the risk to those walking on the road as there are no longer any 'margins'.

In collaboration with Hastings District Council, the Trust will explore options to improve the off-road walking tracks on the upper sections of Te Mata Peak Road. If it is possible to provide walkers with an alternative path, the Trust may consider prohibiting foot traffic on the road above the Saddle Carpark.

SUMMIT REDEVELOPMENT

The summit carpark and lookout upgrade is another key capital development priority.

The summit of Te Mata Peak has been recognised as one of the Bay's most popular attractions, including a top ranking by Lonely Planet and Trip Advisor.

However, the Lonely Planet reviewers noted that the summit viewing area "was still awaiting a makeover". The Trust recognises that the current hard landscaping and limited public information displays at the summit require improvement.

New carpark layouts will provide better access for buses, an increased number of carparks and significantly improved paths to the summit lookout.

A full concept plan will be developed for this upgrade and it is envisaged that the existing hard landscaping, stone retaining walls and signage will be removed. Any stone removed will be re-used on site.



The lookout (Trig Point) will be reconfigured with a new viewing platform/area created. Seating areas and garbage bins will be appropriately located.

Educational and interpretative information will be provided, enhancing the visitor's experience and appreciation of the physical, cultural, agricultural and geological uniqueness of the Peak and the wider Hawke's Bay region.

The Trust does not plan to install toilets at the Summit as this is precluded under the District Plan, which prevents any structures being built above the 240m mark on the Peak.

TAUROA ROAD CARPARK & LOWER CHAMBERS WALK IMPROVEMENTS

The Tauroa Road Carpark is a key entry point to Te Mata Park, predominantly used by local residents for exercise (running, walking and mountain biking) and for exercising dogs. In 2014/15, with assistance and funding from Hastings District Council, the parking area was extended with an additional 30 parking spaces provided.

The prevalence of dog faeces in the lower Chambers Walk area is of significant concern to the public.

The Trust does not envisage any further major capital investments in this area of the Park. Planned improvements that address community concerns are:

- Perimeter planting will be completed to improve the visual impact of the parking area.
- Provision of drinking water (for humans).

- Access to the existing stream, enthusiastically used by dogs, will be improved with the formation of timber steps.
- The Trust has revised its policy for Dog Owners to require all dogs to be on-lead in this 700m section of Chambers Walk at all times. All dog faeces must be picked up and bagged.
- Garbage bins and dog bag dispensers will be installed in the Tauroa Road carpark.
- A garbage bin will also be installed at the gate/stile at the 700m mark where visitors enter the main body of the Park. At this point, dogs will be allowed off-lead.
- New way-finding signage, maps and cultural and educational information will be installed.
- The flowering cherries planted along Chambers Walk are listed as an invasive species by DOC and will be removed and replaced with appropriate amenity trees.



The Trust has carefully considered whether Tauroa Road is an appropriate location for toilets. Construction costs are high (estimated at \$150,000 for a double toilet block) and park management best practice shows that toilet blocks in remote, road-end locations are a magnet for antisocial behaviour.

In new park developments toilets are located well away from adjoining residential properties, in open, well-lit positions and, if possible, at some distance from parking areas. For example, the recently installed public toilet at Pakowhai Country Park is located 500m into the park away from the carpark.

The Park and neighbouring landowners are already dealing with litter, 'boy racer' activity, and significant car security issues in the Tauroa Carpark. It is relatively isolated from the main body of the Park, and does not transect any of the main track networks.

The Trust believes the significant proposed investment in toilet facilities (four units) at the Main Gates, along with the re-commissioning of the two toilets at Peak House and installation of two composting toilets in the Giant Redwoods, represent a considerable improvement to the public facilities available for all Park users. Clear way-finding signage will be installed from Tauroa Road, which is approximately 900m from the Main Gates.

It is anticipated that an additional block of toilets in the Park may be needed as visitor numbers continue to grow. The Trust will monitor usage patterns and the impact of the new toilets at the Main Gates Carpark and Peak House and determine if, and when, additional toilets may be required and the optimal location within the Park.

SADDLE CARPARK IMPROVEMENTS

There are currently seven formed car parking spaces at the Saddle Lookout. A garbage bin and dog bag dispenser will be installed in this area.

EDUCATION INFORMATION & TRACK SIGNAGE

Educational & Cultural Insights

Te Mata Park is part of the land associated with the ancestor Te Rehunga of Ngāti Ngarengare, a sub-tribe of Ngāti Kahungunu.

The Park has a rich human history of over 1,000 years and has strong cultural importance to Māori.

The Trust will collaborate with local iwi and historians to develop content to provide visitors with access to these cultural insights and historical information.

Similarly, there is much to tell about the Park's unique landscape, geology, vegetation, flora and fauna, as well as the wider Hawke's Bay region. The Trust will invest in the collection and curation of this information for the benefit of Park users.



Delivery and Communication

With the support and engagement of iwi, local schools and subject matter experts, the Trust will develop appropriate resources and events to share information and insights with the community.

It is envisaged that maps, directional signage and key educational and cultural information will be displayed at appropriate locations within the Park (notably Main Gates hub, Summit, Tauroa Road).

The Trust will also develop web-based content and digital applications that will provide visitors with a significantly enriched experience. These will also include interactive maps for walkers and mountain bikers.

Information, Maps and Track Marking Materials

The community has indicated a clear desire for significantly improved signage and educational information within Te Mata Park.

The Trust will ensure that the natural character of the Park is not compromised or unnecessarily cluttered by excessive signage elements.

All walking and mountain biking tracks will be clearly marked with a coherent, functional and durable set of directional signage. Track maps and descriptors will also include information on track conditions, level of difficulty and required fitness levels.

In keeping with the park's natural and cultural character, the design of all elements, including park furniture and amenities, will reflect the following qualities: weathered, robust, simple, timeless, of this place.

It is envisaged that the collection of materials, furniture and signage will:

- respond to the Park's physical and cultural character
- provide amenity and comfort, while minimising maintenance
- employ simple, but refined design details that endure and remain appealing over time
- provide functional and sustainable solutions to Park user's needs
- present a distinctive family of elements that is recognisable as unique to Te Mata Park.

GIANT REDWOODS

The grove of Giant Redwoods is one of the most popular destinations within Te Mata Park. Planted in 1927, there are over 220 Redwoods (*Sequoia sempervirens*) which are now more than 40m tall, providing a breathtaking natural environment.



Image courtesy Tim Whittaker

This area is particularly heavily used by large numbers of primary school groups and is also a popular wedding venue. There is an existing picnic table and shelter in the Giant Redwoods.

The Trust is planning to install two composting toilets in the Redwoods, carefully sited to minimise visual impact.

The Trust will monitor user impacts on the Redwoods and is exploring the long term viability of providing a more accessible pedestrian track to this area of the Park, and the development of a wetlands walkway at the lower end of the Redwoods.

This significant project is dependent on the gifting of additional land to the Trust and negotiations with neighbouring private landowners.

Should this project progress, the impacts on property owners in the immediate vicinity, increased parking requirements in Tauroa Road, and the need for additional amenities and infrastructure will be carefully considered.

IMPROVED TRACK CONNECTIVITY

Working with Hastings District Council, the Trust will progress plans for the integration of the mountain bike and walking track network within Te Mata Park with new sections that will connect to Havelock North via a 17km loop.



This 17km connectivity track will link in with the wider Hawke's Bay cycle trail network and provide both walkers and bikers with an exceptional and exciting experience.

Additional positive outcomes of this integration to district track networks will be a reduction in pressure on the Park's tracks and car parking facilities.

The Trust will also support the Hastings District Council initiative to create a 12.5km walking trail that forms a loop starting and finishing in Havelock North Village.

It is envisaged that this trail will provide an attractive activity for locals and visitors, combining urban/street sections and the experience of the open spaces offered within Te Mata Park.



Image courtesy Tim Whittaker

REVENUE RAISING INITIATIVES

The Trust will develop a revenue strategy to provide for the Park's ongoing operational management and capital developments. These will include:

- Commercial concessions, venue hire, leases and licenses.
- Grants from foundations, community organisations and central government.
- Proprietary merchandise, fundraising events and community campaigns.
- Partnerships with local authorities.
- Income share arrangements with tourism operators and third party event organisers.
- Commemorative planting program.
- Acknowledgment and naming rights for specific facilities, services, infrastructure and events.

The Trust will ensure that all revenue initiatives are consistent with its vision, strategic objectives and values.

PEAK HOUSE

Located within Te Mata Park, approximately 1km from the Main Gates entrance, Peak House is the most valuable built asset within the Park.

Constructed in 1967, Peak House has spectacular views across the Heretaunga Plains and enjoyed considerable success as a restaurant and cafe for several decades after opening.

The lease income has been a vital source of revenue for the Trust over the past 50 years.

The property includes a restaurant and a dwelling and comprises a two story building with a north-facing deck and a large flat grassed area sitting alongside the building. There are two car parking spaces at the entrance to Peak House and a larger parking area 50m below the building that accommodates approximately 20 cars.



Since the early 2000's the café/restaurant has had a chequered history, with the facility being under-utilised for long periods. After a successful refurbishment and re-opening in 2013, the current tenant has since experienced financial difficulties and the facility is currently not open to the public. The current lease expires in 2017.



The site is challenging for operators in terms of its distance from Havelock North and the intense competition from the abundance of similar establishments within the village, along with the seasonality of the tourist market.

As it is an asset of significant value and potential, the Trust will seek independent advice on the potential for alternate, commercially sustainable uses for Peak House. This will be completed prior to the expiration of the current lease.

Immediate improvements at Peak House will be:

- Provision of drinking water and a rubbish bin.
- Refurbishment of the two existing toilets in the basement level for public use.

IMPROVEMENTS TO SECURITY & SAFETY

Car Security

The community has expressed concerns about the security of vehicles in the parking areas due to ongoing problems with break-ins and thefts from unattended vehicles.

The Trust believes that introducing a concession operator in the Main Gates Carpark as part of the upgrade project will reduce the number of these incidents at that location.

The very significant decrease in car break-ins at Pakowhai Regional Country Park has been directly attributed to the presence of a coffee cart operator in that parking area.

The Tauroa Carpark remains vulnerable, not only to thieves, but also to unsociable 'boy racer' activity after daylight hours.

The Trust will work with local residents and Hastings District Council to identify initiatives to reduce these incidents.

Littering and Vandalism

In 2014, as a result of two fatal car accidents, and to address the dumping of rubbish from the Summit and

the intentional lighting of fires, the Trust and Hastings District Council agreed that Te Mata Peak Road would be closed to vehicles between 10pm and 5am above Peak House.

Hastings District Council arranged for gates to be installed and manages the daily locking/unlocking process. This has gone some way to reducing incidents, but has not eliminated these risks. In February 2016 the gates were destroyed by vandals and are currently being replaced.



Engaging Park Users

Te Mata Park belongs to the community and the Trust will more actively encourage local users to take a proactive role in monitoring and reporting incidents of littering, vandalism and other inappropriate or illegal behaviour. Emergency contact numbers will be clearly displayed in key areas as will the Terms Of Access to the Park.

PARK USER SURVEY

A limited user survey was undertaken by the Trust in 2007. This involved a number of volunteers and assistance from Hastings District Council in terms of vehicle counts. This survey estimated visitor numbers to Te Mata Park at that time to be around 200,000 a year.

The Community Consultation process undertaken in October 2015 generated 661 responses. These provided insights into activity/usage patterns and the community's concerns about a range of aspects of the Park's management and amenities.

However, the Trust does not have data that defines current levels of usage.

Park users are aware of the steadily growing popularity of the Park. There is daily evidence of increased use in terms of the number of vehicles, the volume of walkers and bikers on tracks, and the popularity of the Summit with both tourists and locals. The growing pressures being faced by the Trust are also testament to the increase in use of the Park.

Without credible statistics on public use of Te Mata Park, it is difficult for the Trust to manage current impacts, plan for the future and balance the needs and expectations of users against the long-term

preservation of the unique landscape and features of the Park.

As custodians of Te Mata Park, the Trust, along with its many stakeholders, needs to know as much as possible about its constituency. Accurate measures of Park use are vital to inform decisions about capital improvements and infrastructure developments.



In addition, knowledge of visits by out-of-town tourists provides an important measure of how much Te Mata Park contributes to the region's economy and will also serve as a barometer of the Park's value to the region as one of its largest public greenspace assets.

The Trust will undertake a detailed survey of usage of Te Mata Park, partnering with schools, educational institutions and local authorities, to ensure a robust methodology is in place.

Additionally, the exercise of measuring the use of a facility such as Te Mata Park provides a hugely valuable opportunity to mobilise the community and build their sense of ownership and connection.

Similar surveys undertaken by institutions such as New York's Central Park Conservancy have shown that the involvement of volunteers, not only makes such a labour-intensive exercise possible, but proves to be a powerful community-building exercise.

HEALTH & SAFETY

The Trust will complete a Health and Safety review and develop a revised policy in response to the additional responsibilities and requirements of the amendments to the Health & Safety in Employment Act 1992 that came into effect in April 2016.

PART 2

Background & Description

**“The Park is
an outstanding resource
for the community.
We must do everything
to protect it.”**

**2015 Community
Consultation**

Background & Description

Te Mata Park is unique in many ways. Not only because of its landscape, ecology and cultural significance, but also its status as private land, managed by the Te Mata Park Trust on behalf of the community. The 99 hectare Park is protected in perpetuity by an Open Space Covenant through the Queen Elizabeth II Trust, which ensures that the land and its open space values are always preserved.

SITE & LOCATION

Te Mata Park is located within the South East Coastal hills which define the southern extent of the Heretaunga Plains. The majority of the park lies between Te Mata Peak Road and Tauroa Road, with a narrow strip extending to the edge of the escarpment, east of Te Mata Peak Road.

The main access to the Park is via Te Mata Peak Road which winds and climbs its way from the top of Simla Avenue to where it terminates at a lookout that gives 360° panoramic views of the Hawke's Bay region.

The land generally has a moderate to steep slope and altitudes range from 100 to 399 meters. Several U-shaped valleys run west towards the Heretaunga Plain, draining into the Te Kahika Stream. There are no permanent streams, but a wetland area in the southwestern part of the Park is fed by springs.

The 99 hectare Park is surrounded by private land. The majority is currently grazing pasture, but there are growing rural residential developments and exotic forestry blocks.

The majority of the Park is designated as an Outstanding Natural Landscape in the Hastings District Plan, representing one of the most significant features in the Hastings District. Protection of the present landscape is given the highest priority in the District Plan, which defines it as:

“the single most significant landscape icon in Hawke’s Bay, having District, Regional and National significance. It is the most prominent landmark in the eastern Heretaunga Plains with a distinctive silhouette skyline. It is a source of identity for both Hastings and Havelock North residents and Ngāti Kahungunu.”

The contributing elements, patterns and character pertaining to such significance include:

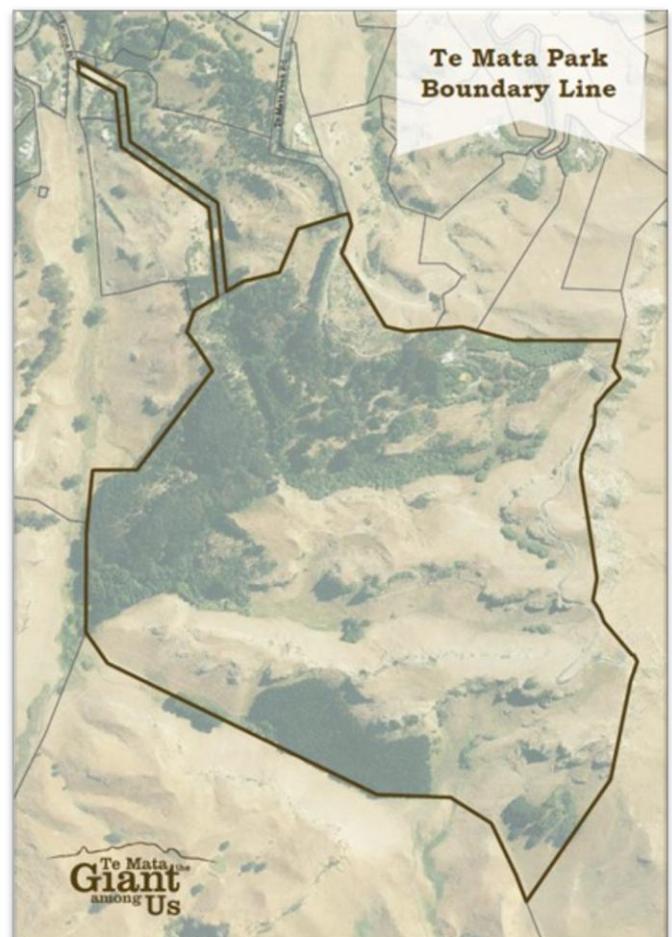
- Open Character
- Visual integrity of landform
- Un-developed, natural landform character
- Visual continuity of skyline ridge
- Coherence of the ‘Giant form’.

LEGAL DESCRIPTION

The legal description of the land is: Lots 1 and 2, DP 12317, and Part Lot 3, DP 4149, Blocks IV and VIII Te Mata Survey District and Block IV Kidnapper Survey District, being all the land contained on Certificates of Title H1/156, 41/201 and 111/292 (Hawke's Bay Land Registry), having a total area of 99.5 hectares. The Peak House Restaurant, located on Lot 1, DP12317, is leased.

TENURES

The land is held in freehold title in the name of the Te Mata Park Trust Board. The open space covenant covering all of the land in the Park was registered against the land titles on 17 November 1997. The land on which the restaurant is sited is covered by the covenant.



TE MATA PEAK ROAD

Te Mata Peak Road is a public road which is maintained by Hastings District Council.

HISTORY

Māori legend has it that Te Mata Peak is the body of an ancestor, Rongokako. Although given to warfare, Rongokako was swayed from his plan to attack the peaceful Heretaunga people when he saw the beauty of the Heretaunga chief's daughter, Hinerakau. Hinerakau set Rongokako a series of difficult tasks to provide his worthiness. He completed all but the last: to eat his way through the hill.



Looking towards the Park from Hastings, the gargantuan bite that choked the chief can be seen, as can his body, which forms the skyline.

It is also told that in the early 1800s, the Waikato Maori invaded Heretaunga, defeating the local Ngāti Pare tribe. The local Māori were decimated. Their few surviving women and children fled to the top of Te Mata and there held a tangi, cutting their faces and hands with “mata”, or fossilized shells.

“Mata” can also mean face, point, edge and headland, making the actual origin of the Peak’s name obscure.

Evidence of people of the past has been found in several places in and near the Park. This includes midden material, charcoal from fires, pa sites, pits and terraces. There is a magnificent circle of large karaka trees in the head of Te Hau Valley; it may well be an old plantation, and if so is a living link with the former occupants.

Te Mata Peak sits within the lands associated with the ancestor Te Rehunga of Ngāti Ngarengare, a sub-tribe of Ngāti Kahungunu.

Te Mata Park is part of lands originally leased from Māori in 1854, then purchased in 1862 from the Crown by John Chambers. Chambers farmed in the area and his holdings included land that now encompasses the Te Mata Estate Winery and land along the Waimarama Road and Tuki Tuki River.

In 1927, John Chambers’ sons John, Bernard and Mason gifted a 99 hectare reserve on the upper Havelock North hills, including Te Mata Peak, to the people of Hawke’s Bay in particular, and to the public in general. They felt it would furnish a fitting memorial to their pioneer father, while providing the public with a superb recreational area.

A charitable trust was set up for the benefit of all citizens of the provincial district of Hawke’s Bay and to ensure the Park was kept as a recreational reserve in perpetuity.

The Trust Deed specifies that a male descendant of the original grantors must be a member of the Trust and to date the family representatives on the Trust have been Thomas Mason Chambers, (1927-1939), John Mason (Jack) Chambers (1952-1968), Mason Robert Chambers (1969-2000) and currently Brian John Mason (Bruno) Chambers (2000-present). All have held the office of Chairman of the Trust.

In the late 1920s the first chairman, Thomas Mason Chambers, surveyed the road to the top of the Peak and oversaw the planting of the large stand of Redwoods. With over 220 trees now more than 40 metres tall, the Redwoods have become a noted landmark within the Park and a popular destination for walkers, as well as a venue for weddings.

In 1954, memorial gates designed by Eric Phillips were erected at the entrance to the Park. In 1967 the Trust built Peak House higher up Te Mata Peak Road.

GUIDING DOCUMENTS

There are four foundation documents that underpin the management and protection of Te Mata Park. These are:

- [Te Mata Park Trust Deed](#)
- [QE11 National Trust Open Space Covenant](#) (1996)
- [Te Mata Park Open Space Covenant Management Statement](#) (1999) *
- [Ecological Management Plan \(2006\)](#) Geoff Wall, Ecologist

A number of other assessments and reports commissioned by the Trust provide useful background information and history, including:

- Te Manaaki Taiao, Te Taiwhenua o Heretaunga. *Cultural Impact Assessment, Report of the Te Mata Park Visitor Information Centre Development*, October 2012
- Pishief, Elizabeth. *Te Mata Park Trust; Historic Heritage Landscape Report*, December 2011
- Wraight & Associated Ltd. *Te Mata Trust ‘Headquarters’ Landscape Design Report for Resource Consent*, June 2011
- Hudson Associates Landscape Architects. *Landscape Report for Te Mata Park Trust Proposed Mountain Bike Tracks*, October 2014
- Geoff Canham Consulting. *Te Mata Park Asset Management Plan, December 2015*

* Section 3 of this Management Plan, Policies & Objectives, now supersedes this document and provides the Park’s updated Open Space Covenant Management Statement.

Te Mata Park Trust Deed

Signed in 1927, this deed sets out that the land is to be used as a public park and recreation ground known as Te Mata Park, and established the Te Mata Park Trust Board.



The Trust Deed is extensive and, while the law generally requires that trustees should not delegate their responsibilities, the Trust Deed confers on the Trust Board wide powers and discretions. The Trust Board makes all policy decisions, and this Management Plan outlines the objectives and policies within which the Trust and staff may operate.

Te Mata Park is managed by a board of trustees made up of seven voluntary members. Under the Trust Deed, the Board must include a male descendant of the original grantors, with the remaining six being residents of Hawke's Bay and including two councillors of Hastings District Council.

The objectives of the Trust Board are to:

- Retain the special character of the Park and protect it for future generations.
- Balance preservation, conservation and sustainability with the interests of Park users and visitors.
- Offer all Park users the opportunity to explore and experience the Park.
- Promote the cultural, historical and environmental significance of the Park.

QEII Open Space Covenant

The QEII National Trust was established in 1977 in terms of the Queen Elizabeth the Second National Trust Act 1977, with the task of encouraging and promoting the provision, protection and enhancement of open space for the benefit and enjoyment of the people of New Zealand.

Section 2 of the Trust Act defines "open space" as: "any area of land or body of water that serves to preserve or to facilitate the preservation of any landscape of aesthetic, cultural, recreational, scenic, scientific, or social interest or value."

To add further protection to the Park in perpetuity, the open space covenant under the QEII Trust covering all of the land in the Park was registered against the land titles on 17 November 1997.

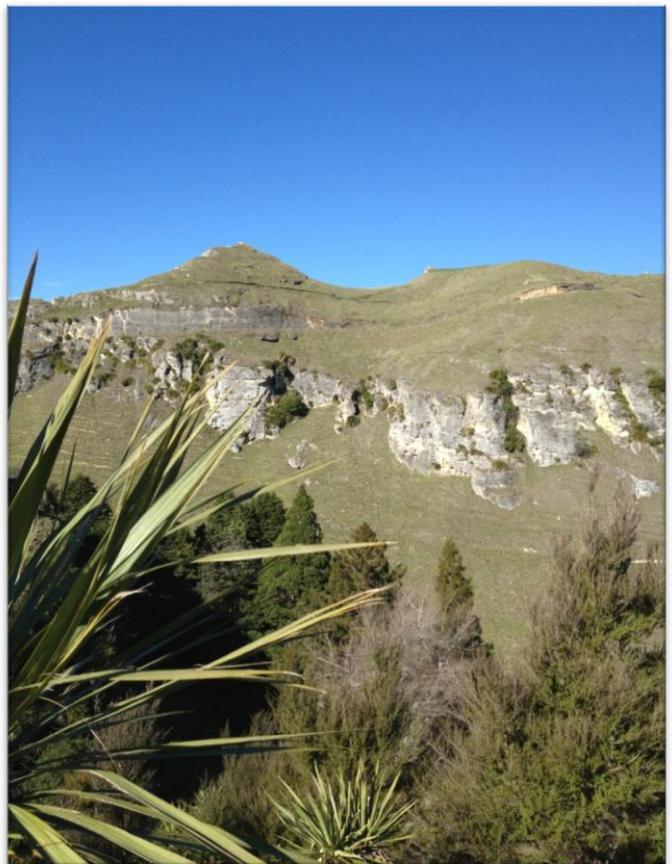
The broad objectives for the management of Te Mata Park, as specified in the covenant document, are:

- a) To protect and maintain the open space values of the land.
- b) To protect the native flora and fauna on the land.
- c) To assist in protecting the landscape integrity of Te Mata Park.

This Management Plan identifies management issues, and outlines policies agreed between the Te Mata Park Trust Board and the National Trust for its future management.

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION

Te Mata Park is a significant area of open space in Hawke's Bay and is loved by locals and visitors for its unspoiled beauty. Its famous Peak stands at 399 metres above sea level at the eastern boundary of the Heretaunga Plains. The Park lies on the edge of uplifted limestone hill country, cut through by the Tukituki River. From the summit, with its spectacular views, a series of scarps, spurs and valleys drop away.



There are large rock cliffs and outcrops, studded with fossils of marine shells. Native vegetation is found on the upper cliffs and several of the plants on these cliffs are unique to Te Mata Park. Bush remnants and wetlands remain nestled in the valleys.

The location has been important to the inhabitants of the region for many centuries. The well-developed Karaka forests, especially the grove in the Te Hau Valley, suggest intensive settlement by Māori in the past. Moa bones found on the slopes may also be associated with their occupation and there are archaeological remains and other earthworks. The original forest canopy has been reduced to pockets in secluded valleys, following hundreds of years of Māori and European settlement and major weather events.

Geology & Soils

The surface geology of southern Hawke's Bay comprises some of New Zealand's youngest sedimentary sequence, and one of the best places to observe the sequence is from the top of Te Mata Peak. Throughout southern Hawke's Bay, the tertiary sequence has been folded and faulted with a pronounced NNE-SSW structural trend.

Immediately to the east of the Park, the Tukituki River has cut through the core of the NNE-trending Elsthorpe Anticline, exposing a complete sequence of Eocene to Pliocene sediments.

The youngest rock in this sequence is the resistant limestone of the Te Aute Formation, which was laid down under the sea during the Waitotaran time (2-3 million years ago). The dramatic bluffs of Te Mata Peak have been shaped from a massive tilted block of this previous limestone. The limestone is composed of broken shell fragments cemented together – especially barnacle shells. Whole shells present in the rock are generally oysters, scallops, and other bivalves, while there are also some bryozoans and sharks' teeth.



The soil within the Park has developed mainly from Te Aute Limestone. Termed a Te Mata sandy loam, it is light, dries out fairly rapidly and has variable fertility. On the ridge crest, the soils are shallow, well-drained and moderately fertile yellow-brown or yellow-grey earths, derived from limestone and prone to slipping. The valley soils are deeper, slightly leached, colluvial yellow-grey earths, derived in part from loess. The stature and composition of the forest remnants suggest these soils are fertile and not particularly drought-prone. Traces of volcanic ash showers exist through the Park.

Vegetation

Te Mata Park lies at the Northern extremity of the Eastern Hawke's Bay Ecological District. The district was originally vegetated by broadleaved podocarp forest on rolling hills, with tall podocarp forest (matai, kahikatea, totara) on terraces. Within what is now the Park area, the pre-human vegetation was a reflection of this pattern; tall dense forest, abounding with wildlife on most slopes and valleys; rich communities of smaller plants on the bluffs.

There was much modification of the Park area during Māori occupation, including forest clearance, earthworks and planting of karaka groves. By the time Europeans arrived, the vegetation consisted of a mosaic of forest patches, shrublands, bracken and indigenous grasses. The bluff vegetation probably remained more or less intact.

The vegetative cover is now dominated by rough grazed pasture, with remnants of coastal forest and limestone bluff communities. A variety of introduced production and amenity tree plantings are present.



The main area of remnant forest is the Te Heu valley, dominated by secondary mahoe, ngaio, titoki, karaka, karamu, cabbage tree and lacebark. The sub-canopy includes rangiora, mapou, kawakawa and some of the more than 30 varieties of fern in the Park.

The bluff communities consist of shrubs, small trees and mountain flax. The principal woody species are akepiro, karamu, kowhai, koromiko, and Ralph's *Pittosporum* sp. Between the larger plants, and scattered in crevices over the more open parts of the cliffs, are some 35 species of herbaceous plants.

South and west of the summit on some south-facing cliffs, the large tussock grass shares dominance with flax. Grasses, rushes and sedges dominate seepages on the floors of the U-shaped Te Hau valley running west. Below the wetland area is an exotic redwood grove, one of three in the Park. There are many different exotic conifers, including plantations of *Pinus radiata*, macrocarpa and Douglas fir. A variety of eucalypts are also present, some now very large trees.

Weed control is a critical management issue within the Park with the weeds of most concern being Mexican daisy, valerian, pink ragwort, variegated thistle, horehound, Salvation Jane, fennel, blackberry, banana passionfruit, old man's beard and Cotoneaster. In addition there are small infestations of a wide variety of other weeds, some potentially serious. The Friends of Te Mata Park have provided many years of voluntary service to the Park, with a particular focus on weed management, predator control and revegetation of key areas with eco-sourced seeds.



Image courtesy Tim Whittaker

Many significant native plants, some of them threatened species, can be found in the Park. These include *Senecio banksii*, Te Mata Peak snow tussock (*Chionochoila flavicans f. temata*), white fuzz weed, *Celmisia gracilentia*, native angelica and turnip rooted geranium (*Geranium retrorsum*).

Te Mata Park is the only place in New Zealand where the native Daphne (*Pimelea mimosa*) grows in the wild. Listed as nationally threatened, there is a total population of less than 100 plants in the Park, many of them propagated and returned.



Fauna

Te Mata Park is of enormous importance to native nectar-feeding birds in Hawke's Bay. Tui and bellbirds travel up to 30 kilometres to feed on the flowering eucalypts in winter, and DSIR Ecology Division studies showed this to be critical to their survival. Kowhai, lacebark, cabbage trees and flax are almost as important for these birds. Tree lucerne is important winter food for kereru.

Other native birds present in the Park are grey warbler (riroro), silveryeye (pihipihi), fantail (piwakawaka), pipit, spur-winged plover, kingfisher (kōtare), shining cuckoo (pīpīwharauoa), Australasian harrier (kēurangi) and morepork (ruru). Kākā and New Zealand falcon (kārewarewa) have been recorded as very rare winter visitors.

In 2014, a North Island robin (pītoitoi) and a tomtit (hōmiromiro) were sighted within the Park, species that have been absent from the area for decades. Kakariki have also been heard.



Introduced birds present include blackbird, thrush, house sparrow, hedge sparrow, Californian quail, pheasant, magpie (both white and black backed), Indian myna, greenfinch, chaffinch, goldfinch, yellowhammer, redpoll, skylark, rock pigeon, rook, starling, mallard and paradise duck.

Common skinks and common geckos are present in reasonable numbers but are seldom seen.

As part of the Park's management of rank vegetation and fire hazard reduction, domestic sheep graze much of the Park.

Rabbits, hares, possums, stoats, ferrets, weasels, hedgehogs, rats, mice and feral cats are also present. Friends of Te Mata Park service a trap system targeting feral cats, rats and mustelids (weasels, stoats and ferrets).

Moa bones have been found in Te Mata Park. No studies of invertebrates have been carried out.

PART 3

Objectives & Policies

**Kaitiakitanga:
The deep kinship
between
humans and the natural world
that requires
guardianship,
care and
wise management.**

1.0 Park Ecology

1.1 LANDSCAPE

Te Mata Park comprises 99 hectares and includes Hawke's Bay's iconic Te Mata Peak. The Peak summit lookout offers 360 degree panoramic views.

Rising to 399m at its summit, Te Mata Peak is a 'Hog's Back' ridge of erosion-resistant limestone dropping steeply to the east. These sedimentary rocks, originally deposited in horizontal layers on the seabed, have been tilted and bowed upward by the geological forces of the Pacific and Australian tectonic plates.

The 99 hectare Te Mata Park lies on the edge of dramatic uplifted limestone hill country, cut through by the Tukituki River. From the summit, with its spectacular views, a series of scarps, spurs and valleys drop away. Visitors enjoy views of massive rock cliffs and outcrops, studded with fossils of marine shells, while bush remnants and wetlands remain nestled in the valleys. These cliffs and valleys of the Park are classic limestone features built from the remains of billions of sea creatures that lived and died near the coast between two and three million years ago.

From outside the Park, it is the distinct 'Sleeping Giant' topographical feature which is central to the views valued by the wider catchment. The important components of these views include:

- An uninterrupted identifiable skyline (from both sides of the range).
- The 'Giant' form of Te Mata Peak when viewed from the north-west.
- The dramatic craggy appearance of Te Mata Peak when viewed from the south east.
- The expansive open rural character and coherent land cover of the upper slopes contrasted with the numerous rocky outcrops.

Objective

- 1.1.1 To protect the landscape, open space values and natural character of Te Mata Park from inappropriate land use and development.

Policies

- 1.1.2 Identify the range of landscape, vegetation and geological features within the Park and heritage areas of significance to mana whenua and the community.
- 1.1.3 Manage and protect all features within the Park from inappropriate development and land use.
- 1.1.4 Protect and maintain vistas from within the Park.

1.2 VEGETATION

Vegetation Management

Vegetation serves numerous functions throughout the Park including ecological, visual amenity, shade, shelter and spatial definition.

Vegetation enhancement and management is therefore critical within the Park. Habitat restoration, enhancement and maintenance through planting and revegetation programmes help to restore indigenous habitat, which will be balanced with recreational use.

The Park includes various areas with vegetation types which have specific enhancement and management requirements.

The Park can be categorised into three key vegetation groups, A) Indigenous & Endemic Ecologies, B) Māori Settlement Planting; and C) European Settlement Planting.

Within each of these groups key management zones have been identified, as shown on the Park Concept Plan. The Park supports a range of plant communities. In broad terms the lower ranges comprise primarily cultural plantings (evidence of both Māori and European settlement) and low lying wetlands. The upper slopes support a mix of pastureland and endemic cliff top communities. Recent practice ensures that new planting within the Park at 240m or more above sea-level is derived from seed stock sourced on site.

Vegetation groups are:

A. Indigenous & Endemic Ecologies

- i) Limestone Cliff Vegetation
- ii) Open Grassland
- iii) Wetland
- iv) Coastal Forest.

B. Māori Settlement

- i) Karaka Stand.

C. European Settlement

- i) Open Grass Land | Pasture
- ii) Forest
 - Production Forest
 - Selection Forest.

A. Indigenous & Endemic Ecologies

Limestone Cliff Vegetation : The native vegetation on the steep limestone bluffs and scarps is of considerable ecological significance. Accordingly, management practices will ensure full protection for these features. It is intended that the existing vegetation will gradually improve in condition through natural regeneration. Some enhancement planting may be undertaken to assist in re-establishing indigenous flora. The current waratah and netting fences will be improved to make them completely stockproof.

Open Grassland : Closely associated with the Limestone Cliff ecologies, the site's upper, less steep slopes support native grass and herbaceous species that are endemic to the site. It is intended that ecologies identified in this group will be encouraged to naturally regenerate through the implementation of strategic fencing and some targeted planting of species grown from seed-stock harvested on site.

Wetland : The wetland areas are created by natural seepages. This wetland system is dynamic, and the water level fluctuates naturally, according to rainfall and evaporation rates. Protection and enhancement of the existing wetland values are key considerations in management of the property. Every endeavour will be made to maintain the quality of the water resources.

Drainage or other development work that could compromise the existing wetland habitat, or cause increased run-off, nutrient change or slippage, will be avoided. Existing native wetland vegetation will be protected, and enhancement planting may be undertaken to assist in re-establishing indigenous flora.

Coastal Forest : This includes Webb's Bush, located in the northern half of the Park, and small patches of remnant bush within the Open Grass Land that will be fenced off.

The indigenous vegetation present within Webb's Bush is of considerable ecological significance. Accordingly, management practices will ensure full protection for these features. It is intended that the existing vegetation will gradually improve in condition through natural regeneration. Some enhancement planting may be undertaken to assist in re-establishing indigenous flora.

B. Māori Settlement

Karaka Stand : Located to the east of the Park's native wetland in the Te Hau valley this circular grove of Karaka trees is identified as a Māori Heritage Place. It is of purposeful cultivation by the land's Māori settlers possibly as a food source or a sacred place for the tohunga to consult his atua. It is intended that this historically and culturally significant plantation is retained in its current state.

Further consultation with mana whenua will be undertaken to develop a better understanding of its origins and a strategy for the ongoing protection and management of this culturally significant landscape feature.

C. European Settlement

Open Grass Land / Pasture

The open pasture over the majority of the Park area including hill tops, upper slopes, rounded ridges and valleys, accentuates the landform. It is considered that much of the appeal of Te Mata Park lies in these pasture areas and the rock scarps and bluffs, and the ability to walk around them or simply to view them.

It is intended that the existing open land will be maintained by grazing so as to preserve the rural character and open space values. The bluffs, with ecologically significant or interesting vegetation, have been fenced off to prevent stock access to these areas.

Forest

Production Forest

In general, forestry and farm forestry using exotic species are regarded as serious threats to the landscape quality of Te Mata Peak. They may compromise the silhouette of the ridge-line and the rugged landform which give the Peak its distinctive appearance.

Production forestry within the Park will be restricted to a strip along the southern boundary. Within that area, the Trust Board may, in consultation with the National Trust, manage and log exotic trees on a commercial basis. Income from such production forestry will provide revenue to assist with management expenses for the Park generally.

There is approximately seven hectares of millable timber adjacent to the Giant Redwoods overdue for removal. When harvested, the Trust does not plan to replant with production forest, but to select appropriate species as amenity planting.

Selection Forest

This includes the Giant Redwoods grove, the stands of eucalypts on either side of the Main Gates, and the mixed planting next to Chambers Walk. These areas are intended to provide recreational and aesthetic benefits.

Objectives

- 1.2.1 To ensure that all vegetation enhances the landscape characteristics of the Park.
- 1.2.2 To ensure that any new plantings or vegetation management does not compromise the landscape characteristics of the Park.

Policies

- 1.2.3 The three plantings of Redwoods (Giant and Small Redwoods Groves and to the left of the Main Gates) will be exempt from milling.
- 1.2.4 Give priority to planting and replanting locally-sourced, native vegetation for any enhancement plantings.
- 1.2.5 Require consideration of the potential impact on the landscape amenity, views and native vegetation when selecting exotic species for planting within the Selection Forest zone.
- 1.2.6 Manage grass and low shrub vegetation on the hill tops and areas surrounding rock outcrops in order to maintain the view from the Park and the landscape values of the land.
- 1.2.7 Allow amenity forestry plantings in designated areas, in consultation with the National Trust.
- 1.2.8 Progressively fell the existing areas of ageing production forest and replace with amenity and native plantings.
- 1.2.9 Maintain the fencing of cliff areas and allow regeneration of native vegetation.
- 1.2.10 Expand the native forest areas with appropriate native plantings, including the re-establishment of plants that were formerly present.
- 1.2.11 Showcase rare and distinctive plants of the Hawke's Bay region.

- 1.2.12 Maintain the natural character of the regenerated wetland areas of the Te Hau Valley with rushes, sedges, manuka, harakeke, cabbage trees and clumps of kahikatea.
- 1.2.13 Remove introduced plants for ecological purposes, unless they contribute towards the characteristics of the Park or are of historic or cultural importance
- 1.2.14 In selection forest areas leave exotic fallen trees, branches and foliage in situ to avoid potential damage caused by their removal. Ensure that the stripped logs are in full contact with the ground to encourage composting. Ensure logs are located in stable positions in relation to site slopes.
- 1.3.7 Actively control plants and animal pests as identified in the Te Mata Park Pest Plant and Animal Control Strategy where practicable, to assist the recovery of indigenous ecosystem.
- 1.3.8 Provide additional levels of pest management in those areas where pests pose the greatest threat to the open space values of the Park.
- 1.3.9 Control pest plants and animals using the most effective, efficient and affordable techniques available.
- 1.3.10 Provide clear notification of pest control to ensure the safety of the public and dogs when undertaking pest management programmes.
- 1.3.11 Investigate better on site storage of stormwater in ponds for fire fighting.
- 1.3.12 Maintain wetlands for biodiversity.

1.3 BIODIVERSITY & ECOSYSTEMS

The Trust recognises that the Park has an important role to play in the enhancement and protection of indigenous species and ecosystems. The Trust will therefore encourage biological and ecological diversity and control pests and weeds within the Park.

Plant pests can reduce the ability of native and amenity plants to establish and regenerate. A number of troublesome plant species exist in the Park, including pink ragwort, hieracium, old man's beard, cotoneaster, variegated thistle, horehound, mexican daisy, and privet. In addition, a close watch is maintained on fennel and blackberry.

Animal pests such as possums, rabbits and hares can damage the native plant habitat and increase erosion in some areas if their populations are allowed to reach high levels. Other pests, particularly rats, stoats, and ferrets, are a direct threat to the birdlife, native lizards and large native invertebrates.

The co-operation of the neighbouring landowners and the Hawke's Bay Regional Council is vital for the success of pest animal control activity within Te Mata Park.

A Pest Plant and Animal Control Strategy has been prepared for the Park. The strategy is reviewed every three years and appropriate adjustments made.

Objectives

- 1.3.3 To provide for biodiversity and ecosystems by restoring, enhancing and maintaining significant ecosystems and indigenous biodiversity.
- 1.3.4 To control pest plants in accordance with the requirements of the Regional Pest Plant Management Strategy and the Biosecurity Act 1993.
- 1.3.5 To review the Te Mata Park Pest Plant and Animal Control Strategy every three years.

Policies

- 1.3.6 Identify and protect significant indigenous or exotic systems.

2.0 Cultural Landscape

2.1 HISTORIC & CULTURAL HERITAGE

Te Mata Park is a complex cultural landscape with many layers of cultural importance associated with it by many different groups of people in Hawke's Bay.

This is a landscape with high heritage values and includes places with archaeological, historic, scientific, social and cultural values.

Te Mata Park is part of the land associated with the ancestor Te Rehunga of Ngāti Ngarengare, a sub-tribe of Ngāti Kahungunu. There is physical evidence of Māori occupation of the land comprising Te Mata Park: a raised rim pit and another possible pit or indentation about 40m from the first, are the only physical evidence of Māori occupation actually within the Park.

Nevertheless, there are other signs of Māori use of the area in the form of karaka groves and possible dendroglyphs. In addition, numerous heritage places on the outskirts of the Park, confirm the land and its prominent geological formations are part of the wider cultural landscape that is very important to mana whenua.

The following sites are identified in the New Zealand Archaeological Association's database ArchSite, and recorded in the Historic Heritage Landscape Report prepared for the Te Mata Trust Board by Elizabeth Pishief in December 2011.

Māori Heritage Place No.1 (V21/183)

This heritage place was recorded in 1988 and identified in the New Zealand Archaeological Association's database ArchSite as: V21/183, NZTM: E: 1934344; N: 5598640. It is located on a steep ridge on the north western side of Te Mata Peak, and consists of one pit with a raised rim with dimensions of 5m x 4m.

Māori Heritage Place No.2 (V21/184)

This heritage site located just outside the Park boundary, was recorded in 1988 and identified in the New Zealand Archaeological Association's database ArchSite as: V21/184, NZTM: E: 1935244; N: 5598756. It is located just north of Te Mata trig and consists of a group of depressions on top of a hill.

Māori Heritage Place No.3: The Karaka Grove

Karaka trees are generally an indication of settlement in an area. The Karaka Grove is of purposeful cultivation by the land's Māori settlers either as a food source or a sacred place for the tohunga to consult his atua.

Māori Heritage Place Nos.4&5 (V21/399)

Two karaka trees with unusual carved forms (dendroglyphs) on their trunks are located in Webb's bush. While the dendroglyphs do not resemble any recorded to date in the North Island, they are rare and unusual objects in Hawke's Bay and therefore identified in the New Zealand Archaeological Association's database ArchSite as: V21/399, NZTM: E: 1934500; N: 5598400.

Park Memorial Gates

The Park Memorial Gates were erected in 1954 by the children of the three sons of John Chambers who purchased the land from the Crown in 1854. In 1927 these three sons: John Chambers of Mokoheka; Bernard Chambers of Te Mata ; and Mason Chambers of Tauroa gifted 242 acres of this land to be a park for the enjoyment of the people of Hawke's Bay in perpetuity. For that reason the gates were donated to commemorate both this event and the people who made Te Mata Park possible. These gates are at the entrance to Te Mata Park.

Anzac Pine

The Anzac Pine was planted to commemorate the people of the district who served in the War of 1914-18. The tree is situated on the final bend before the first carpark at the Summit.

As the current tree is reaching the end of its natural life, a direct descendent of the Lone Pine of Gallipoli (*Pinus brutia*) has been planted close by.

Lennon Memorial Cairn

This cairn commemorates W.J. Lennon, a prominent figure in the early history of the Park. It is built from limestone boulders, but there is also several very large obsidian boulders included in the structure. Obsidian is not found in Hawke's Bay and must therefore have been brought from some other area, perhaps Taupo, or White Island is another possibility.

This cairn is located beside the Chambers Walk near the entrance on Tauroa Road.

Home-Guard Look-out Post (V21/398)

The Home Guard Look-out Post (V21/398) is a pit dug into the side of a ridge from which it is possible to see east to the sea through a gap in the main line of the edge of Te Mata ridge. It has a piece of railway line at the bottom of it, which may have formed part of a floor. It is said to be a look-out post used by the Home Guard during World War II.

It is identified in the New Zealand Archaeological Association's database ArchSite as: V21/398, NZTM: E: 1935014; N: 5598645.

Objectives

- 2.1.1 To be effective kaitiaki of Te Mata Park and ensure the protection and conservation of identified historic heritage places and items within the Park.
- 2.1.2 To acknowledge and adhere to tikanga and promote the spiritual importance of Te Mata Park to Māori.
- 2.1.3 To adhere to protocols of Ngāti Kahungunu.
- 2.1.3 To support the request of mana whenua to re-connect to Te Mata with wānanga.
- 2.1.3 To ensure that mana whenua cultural traditions are woven into the management and use of the Park, including harvest of useful plant materials so long as it is sustainable.

Policies

- 2.1.4 Comply with relevant legislation.
- 2.1.5 Enter into an Accidental Discovery Protocol agreement with mana whenua.
- 2.1.5 Working with mana whenua, relevant experts and stakeholders, undertake further archaeological, historic and cultural research to improve the information about, and understanding of, the archaeological, historic and cultural values of the Park.
- 2.1.6 Ensure that appropriate protocols at formal events and tikanga are observed.
- 2.1.6 Develop resources to effectively communicate the important historic and cultural heritage and protocols to all Park users and visitors.
- 2.1.7 Mana whenua will form a Working Group with a representative membership of up to seven people, dedicated and committed to giving effect to objectives 2.1.1 and policies 2.1.4 to 2.1.6. The Group's mandate will include identifying issues, actions required, and the timeline for developing implementation proposals or plans to be progressed in partnership with the Trust.

3.0 Recreation & User Experience

3.1 VISITOR USE & MANAGEMENT

The Park is open to the public throughout the year. Thousands of people visit the Park each week for sport and recreation, including numerous schools in the district that use the Park for activities such as orienteering, abseiling and walking.

The Park offers an accessible 'remote' experience which contrasts from that available in a normal urban environment, providing opportunities for exercise, the experience of a range of natural environments and views over the Heretaunga Plains and Hawke's Bay.

While the steep topography of the Park is challenging for those with more limited mobility, future developments and improvements will consider, where practicable, providing improved access for all.

Objectives

- 3.1.1 To protect the characteristics and values of the Park, while enabling visitors to enjoy a wide range of outdoor recreation activities.
- 3.1.2 To encourage responsible visitor behaviour through design, signage, education and monitoring to prevent littering, dumping of rubbish and other antisocial behaviour.
- 3.1.3 To ensure the Park provides recreational opportunities for all members of the community, including, where practicable, those with disabilities.
- 3.1.4 Actively monitor and manage user and visitor impacts.
- 3.1.5 Actively engage the community through volunteerism to achieve sustainable management and development of the Park.

Policies

- 3.1.6 Provide for recreation activities that do not compromise the open space and landscape characteristics of the Park.
- 3.1.7 Promote visitor responsibility to Park users by establishing a 'leave only footprints' culture.
- 3.1.8 Where improvements to the Park are undertaken, particularly at the Main Gates, the Summit and Peak House, disabled access will be provided, where practicable.

3.1 WALKING TRACKS

There are a number of walking tracks that transect the Park and provide access to the native and exotic plantings, fossil-rich limestone cliffs and stunning vistas across Hawke's Bay.

The value of connecting the Park's inner circuits to the district's broader network of walking trails and cycleways has been recognised. As a result key entry

points into the Park, Tauroa Road Carpark and Main Gate Carpark have been identified as important nodes from which the Park will be keyed into the broader district network.

The 30km of tracks within the Park offer a huge range of recreational activities. To facilitate improved navigation for Park users, the Top 5 Walking Tracks were developed in 2014 providing a variety of options to explore some spectacular areas of the Park on foot. Each of the tracks is a different loop route, which can be travelled in either direction.

The Top 5 Tracks are accessed via the Main Gates Carpark or Tauroa Road Carpark.

- Piwakawaka Loop (1.3km)
- Big Redwood Track (2.7km)
- Karaka Wander (4.0km)
- Rongokako Trail (5.5km)
- Giant Circuit (5.4km).

The Trust is collaborating with Hastings District Council to develop a 12km loop from the centre of Havelock North village that will take walkers through Te Mata Park via a network of local urban areas.

The Trust is also planning to create a short accessible loop track in the vicinity of the Main Gates Carpark.

Track Standards

The walking tracks within the Park are substantially reliant on raw ground for the trail surface of compactable silt/limestone mix. The bare earth appearance belies excellent surface performance in dry conditions, however, additional care is needed when wet. The Asset Management Plan prepared in 2015 rates the walking tracks as ranging from excellent to good condition, with some requiring minor work.

Objectives

- 3.1.2 To provide walking tracks of various distances, challenge and surface quality within the Park, to recognise the diversity of ages, fitness levels, choice and physical abilities of Park users.
- 3.1.3 To connect the Park's interior track circuits to the district's broader network of walking trails and cycle ways.

Policies

- 5.1.3 Maintain the existing network of walking tracks throughout the Park.
- 5.1.4 Provide easy to moderate walking tracks close to Park entrances and the Summit, to allow greater opportunities for the elderly, families and people with disabilities.
- 5.1.5 Partner with local authorities to optimise track connectivity from within the Park to the broader district networks.

- 5.1.6 Facilitate use and way-finding along the tracks by the provision of quality and informative signage.
- 5.1.7 Provide separation of mountain bike tracks and walking tracks, as far as practicably possible.

3.4 MOUNTAIN BIKE TRACKS

Te Mata Park is popular for mountain biking, with approximately 5km of mountain bike tracks currently within the Park. The mountain bike community has consistently expressed the desire for a greater variety of tracks within Te Mata Park.

As a region, Hawke's Bay has invested heavily in cycleways with over 200km of trails. The expansion of the Park's mountain bike network will further enhance the district's reputation as a premier biking destination.

Working with local mountain bike clubs, the Trust will develop an extended network of varied and challenging bike tracks within the Park that will also connect to wider regional cycle way networks.

In 2014, Hudson Associates were engaged by the Te Mata Park Trust, in association with the QEII Trust, to provide an independent report on the landscape and visual implications of proposed additions to the mountain bike network within the Park.

An important factor of the landscape and visual assessment was the requirement that there would not be any vertical cut into the landform greater than 1 metre when above 240m. Any cuts greater than 1m would trip the activity into a Non-complying Activity under the district plan.

The assessment concluded that the overall level of landscape and visual effect of the proposed upgrades and additional tracks on the character and values of the Park were very low. This was primarily due to their placement in a relatively confined valley, which significantly reduces adverse visual effects.

In March 2015 the QEII National Trust Board approved the proposed new and modified existing mountain bike tracks over the Covenant Area of Te Mata Park. These proposals will add approximately 8.5km of new mountain bike tracks within the Park.

Objectives

- 3.4.1 To provide for mountain biking within Te Mata Park in designated areas where the activity does not create unnecessary conflict with other Park users or have adverse effects on the environment.
- 3.4.2 To provide for the development of mountain bike tracks to accommodate and encourage recreational use of Te Mata Park, while protecting its unique landscape values.

Policies

- 3.4.3 Allow the formation and maintenance of mountain bike tracks as approved by the QEII National Trust.
- 3.4.4 Require that all new mountain bike tracks are built with a maximum of 1m vertical cut when above 240m.
- 3.4.5 Facilitate permitted use and way-finding along the tracks, by the provision of quality and informative signage.

3.5 DOGS

Te Mata Park provides excellent areas of open space for people to walk their dogs off lead. Te Mata Park is the largest public off-lead area within the Hawke's Bay region. However, dogs can pose a health and safety threat to people and stock if not under control.

There are ongoing incidents with uncontrolled dogs chasing and attacking grazing stock.

Park users have expressed increasing concern regarding the volume of dog faeces throughout the Park, which is having a negative impact on the environment and users' enjoyment. This is a particular issue in the upper and lower sections of Chambers Walk where many owners and dogs start their walks.

The Trust's Terms of Access for Dog Owners has been revised and outlines the requirements and responsibilities of all dog owners.

Objective

- 3.5.1 To allow users to exercise their dogs off lead within the Park (with the exception of designated on-lead areas) providing the dogs are under their owner's direct control and all dog faeces are picked up and removed.

Policy

- 3.5.2 Provide adequate signage and information regarding the Terms of Access for Dog Owners within Te Mata Park.
- 3.5.3 Provide dog bag dispensers and additional rubbish bins at appropriate locations throughout the Park.

3.6 HUNTING

The Park is intended to be available as a place of recreation. The casual or unauthorised use of firearms and hunting dogs within the Park would have a serious detrimental impact on the values protected and create a hazard for recreational users.

It may be necessary for authorised persons to use firearms to aid in the control of unwanted animals (such as rabbits and possums) from time to time, with the approval of the Trust.

Objective

- 3.6.1 To prohibit hunting within the Park, unless specifically approved by the Trust as a means of pest control.

Policies

- 3.7.2 Hunting or shooting of gamebirds is not permitted within the Park.
- 3.6.3 Hunting of possums or rabbits within the Park will not be permitted without the prior authorisation of the Trust.

3.7 ABSEILING & GLIDING

Abseiling is limited to one small area, and there is little hazard to other members of the public or the open space values.

The rock bluffs are vulnerable to vandalism and graffiti. Permanent anchorages for abseiling lines fixed into the overhanging faces may deface and weaken the rock.

There are two gliding take-off ramps just beyond the boundary fence by the Trig at the summit. Paragliders launch from many areas within the Park, but the main launch is in the bowl above the cliffs in front of the Summit Carpark.

Gliders can be seen from the centre of Hastings and many visitors to the Park enjoy the spectacle and proximity of these aviators.

Objective

- 3.7.1 To allow for abseiling and gliding within the Park in specific areas, as identified and approved by the Trust.

Policy

- 3.7.2 Ensure the safety of Park users by restricting launch areas for abseiling and gliding to approved areas only.

3.8 PROHIBITED ACTIVITIES

Objective

- 3.8.1 To prohibit the following activities at all times within the Park:
- Camping, including overnight stays by campervans.
 - Horse riding and off road motor biking.
 - Rock climbing and fossicking.
 - Fires and fireworks.
 - Dumping of rubbish and littering.
 - Willful damage to land, vegetation or signage.

Policy

- 3.8.2 Ensure public compliance with all prohibited activities and provide signage outlining the Terms of Access to Te Mata Park in appropriate locations throughout the Park.

3.9 ROADS & ACCESS

There are two points of access to the Park: Tauroa Road and Te Mata Peak Road. Park users are able to park at a carpark at the end of Tauroa Road and enter the Park via Chambers Walk. Alternatively, Te Mata Peak Road is a sealed public road leading up to the summit carpark.

Te Mata Peak Road is a public road, managed by the Hastings District Council. Additional vehicle trip generation is anticipated along this road, due to development and enhancement of existing recreational and tourism attractions in the Park.

A Corridor Management Plan was prepared by Hastings District Council in 2015, the purpose of which was to provide an overall strategy for the future of the road corridor from the roundabout intersection of Te Mata Road to the Summit Carpark. The high level areas of focus for the Corridor's development were to:

- Improve the road's level of service for recreational and tourism related users of the route.
- Upgrade road safety related assets in line with identified issues.
- Improve pedestrian connectivity.
- Implement new cycling facilities and improve the existing (on and off road).
- Ensure the corridor is future proofed for anticipated changes in levels and types of development.

In response to this, a series of required upgrade works have been identified in line with existing maintenance programmes. These works will be the first stage in providing a unified corridor for the whole route.

While the current number of private and commercial traffic movements to the summit is manageable, this is actively monitored to ensure public safety. Should numbers increase significantly in the future, there may be occasions (for example peak cruise ship visiting days) when some vehicle limits will be applied. Council's Roding Engineers will also monitor the stability of the road, notably in the upper sections, that may be degraded by heavy traffic and large vehicle use.

In terms of large tourist coach movements, the Trust and Hastings District Council will work with tourism operators to monitor the safety and traffic management impacts of high volume visitor days (generated by the cruise ship industry).

It must be recognised by intending visitors that there are potential hazards within the property, and there may be dangers inherent in venturing into Te Mata Park. All visitors should acquaint themselves with potential dangers and accept responsibility for their own actions.

Objectives

- 3.9.1 To provide continued public access to Te Mata Park.

3.9.2 To provide and maintain safe vehicle access to the Summit.

Policy

3.9.3 Monitor the impact of public use of Te Mata Peak Road and Te Mata Park and restrict public access where this access is having a detrimental impact on the values and features protected by the covenant.

3.10 VEHICLE PARKING

There are currently five vehicle parking areas within the Park:

1. Summit Carpark
2. Saddle Carpark
3. Main Gates Carpark
4. Tauroa Road Carpark
5. Peak House Carpark.

The Community Consultation survey (November 2015) identified that 48% of users parked at the Main Gates, with 33% at the Tauroa Road carpark.

The Tauroa Road Carpark was upgraded and sealed in 2015 and has a current capacity of 40 vehicles within the Te Mata Park boundary. There is informal parking provision on the Tauroa Road cul-de-sac head. There is minimal potential to further increase the capacity within this area, without significant structural works and encroachment into the Park.

The Summit Carpark currently provides capacity for approximately 25 vehicles in unmarked carparks. There is also a turning bay for buses. The Trust proposes to increase the capacity of this carpark to cater for increased visitor numbers.

The Saddle Carpark currently provides capacity for 7 vehicles in formed carparks.

Situated approximately 50 metres below Peak House, there is an unsealed area which can currently accommodate up to 20 cars. This area has the potential to be upgraded and to accommodate an increased number of vehicles.

The Main Gates Carpark currently provides capacity for around 20 vehicles. Being the most popular carpark within the Park, it is frequently full, requiring overflow to park on the sides of Te Mata Peak Road. There is the potential to significantly increase the capacity, usability and safety of this area for cars and buses, and this is proposed in the Concept Plan.

Objectives

3.10.1 To provide vehicle parking facilities in the park where this will address demand, without impacting on the landscape values of the park or result in loss of valuable open space.

Policies

3.10.2 Reconfigure the existing carpark at the Main Gates to increase capacity and improve the safety of this area.

3.10.3 Reconfigure the existing carpark at the Summit to increase capacity and improve the accessibility and safety for tour buses.

3.10.4 Reconfigure the unsealed parking area below Peak House to increase its carparking capacity.

3.10.5 Monitor usage patterns and demand and ensure that any proposal to increase parking capacity within the Park takes into account the following:

- a. easy pedestrian access to significant Park features
- b. avoid areas of highest recreational or natural quality
- c. the use of suitable landscape forms, planting and materials
- d. provision of disabled car parking spaces.

3.11 STRUCTURES & BUILDINGS

Te Mata Park has high natural and open space values, with very few built structures. Existing structures in the Park are limited to Peak House, the entrance gateway, and a cellular telecommunications tower on top of Peak House.

Further development within the Park has the potential to seriously damage the integrity of the landform and compromise its natural character. Intensified residential subdivision is a major threat to the recreational landscape values of the Park. Cellular towers and other such structures would be extremely detrimental.

Future development of the Park will be restricted to toilets, signage, pathways, improved carparking facilities and similar developments that facilitate management and public enjoyment without detracting from its open space values.

The visual impact of any structures or developments will be kept to a minimum. This will be achieved by the use of local natural materials, natural colours, sympathetic shapes/textures, minimal dimensions and associated plantings.

The Park Trust Board will seek the advice of the National Trust before undertaking any action that will result in a major change in the appearance or use of the land.

Objective

3.11.1 To only allow development within Te Mata Park necessary for management of the Park or to facilitate educational, interpretation and recreational use.

Policy

3.11.2 Require the site, design and materials used in any new construction to be approved by the National Trust.

3.12 TOILETS

There are currently no public toilet facilities within Te Mata Park. The community consultation identified that 57% of users were dissatisfied or very dissatisfied with the lack of toilets, and 30% saw the provision of toilets as a main priority for improving the Park.

The Trust Board recognises that there is an urgent need for toilet facilities within the Park, and therefore the Concept Plan included in Part 4 includes the provision of four toilets at the Main Gates Carpark, the re-commissioning of two toilets at Peak House, and the installation of two composting toilets in the Giant Redwoods.

The Trust will continue to monitor visitor numbers and will determine whether further toilets are needed elsewhere in the Park.

Objectives

3.12.1 To provide well-designed and appropriately located public toilets to meet the needs of Park users, while minimising the impact of such structures on the environment.

Policies

3.12.2 Provide public toilets (4) at the Main Gates Carpark.

3.12.3 Ensure that the structures are of high quality design to compliment the amenity of the area.

3.12.4 Refurbish the existing toilets (2) at Peak House to be available for public use.

3.12.5 Install two (2) composting toilets in the Giant Redwoods.

3.12.6 Monitor the use of these toilet facilities and consider additional appropriate locations within the Park should further facilities be required.

3.13 DRINKING WATER

Community consultation showed that the provision of drinking water is a key priority for Park users.

Objectives

3.13.1 To provide access to drinking water for both park users and dogs in appropriate locations within the Park.

Policies

3.13.2 Provide drinking fountains at the Main Gates Carpark, Tauroa Road Carpark and Peak House.

3.13 EDUCATION & INFORMATION

Currently there is very limited information available within the Park to explain its special ecological, geological, archaeological, cultural and historical features.

In 2006, the Trust commissioned an Ecological Management Plan, which pointed out that there is a significant opportunity to explain the special features of the area to stimulate public interest in the protection and management of the Park.

In addition, there is insufficient signage and information to guide and inform visitors of the layout of the Park, location of facilities and track layout.

Strategically located education signage interpreting the natural and ecological processes of the Park, as well as its rich cultural history and characteristics, would enhance visitors understanding and experience of the Park, as well as raising public awareness.

The Trust will develop information signs in appropriate locations and develop a range of maps and directional signage to provide complete clarity for all users, including walkers and bikers.

Objectives

3.13.1 Working with mana whenua and educational and subject matter experts, develop relevant content on the special features and significance of the Park.

13.13.2 To develop consistent signage and information to guide visitors around the Park.

3.13.3 To provide a range of learning opportunities for locals and visitors to promote cultural, ecological, and geological awareness.

3.13.4 To provide effective maps, way-finding and directional signage for walking and mountain bike tracks.

3.13.5 To develop web-enabled delivery of cultural, educational and way-finding information.

Policies

3.13.6 Develop a signage strategy that specifies hierarchy, location, style, materials and construction style for all physical signs.

3.13.7 Optimise the use of web-enabled applications to provide cultural, educational and way-finding information.

3.14 PARK FURNITURE

Park furniture provides a range of opportunities and settings for Park users, and can enhance their experience by providing facilities for rest, picnicking and services. Park furniture may include picnic tables, seating, rubbish bins and drinking fountains.

The current quality of furniture throughout the Park is varied, with an adhoc collection of bins and seats of various design, quality and materials.

It is the intention of the Te Mata Park Trust to adopt a standard park furniture design that will give consistency to all furniture being installed and improve amenity values. All new and replacement furniture will be in the standard design, that incorporates suitable

materials for endurance and robustness that reflects the character and features of the Park.

In addition, it is important that all park furniture provided is at a level appropriate to the use and purpose of the Park and installed in appropriate locations that will ensure maximum use.

Objective

3.14.1 To provide new and replacement park furniture where there is an identified need to facilitate public use and enjoyment of the Park.

Policies

3.14.2 Ensure that all new and replacement furniture is of the approved standard design, except where an alternative has been specifically agreed by the Te Mata Park Trust.

3.14.3 Ensure that any new and replacement park furniture facilitates the use and enjoyment of the Park.

3.14.4 Ensure that the design and placement of all furniture is in keeping with the environment and does not detract from the amenities of the Park.

4.0 Commercial Activities

4.1 PEAK HOUSE

Peak House, built in 1967 is the single most valuable asset in the Park and covers 480m². It is built on an elevated position on the northern face of Te Mata Park, on sloping contour land. The building currently is designed to serve two purposes: a restaurant and a dwelling and is split over two levels.

Objective

4.1.1 To utilise Peak House to enhance visitor enjoyment.

Policies

4.1.2 Commission an independent review of Peak House to provide recommendations on its future use prior to the expiration of the lease in 2017.

4.1.3 Repair and refurbish the two basement level toilets for public use and install a drinking fountain at Peak House.

4.2 EVENTS

Te Mata Park is used for a wide range of outdoor sporting events throughout the year. These include the very popular annual Peak Trail Blazer and Triple Peaks Challenge.

The Trust has recently updated the Terms of Access for the Park, and these are included on the website. Any sporting or community event organised by third parties must have prior approval from the Te Mata Park Trust. This also applies to private events involving more than 30 people. The Trust requires a minimum of 14 days notice prior to the proposed event and there are terms and conditions that apply. This information is included on the Te Mata Park website.

Objective

4.2.1 To enable the use of Te Mata Park by sporting clubs or the community for events.

Policy

4.2.2 Require any sporting or community event organised by a third party to have the prior written approval of the Trust Board, with a minimum of 14 days notice prior to the proposed event.

4.2.3 Develop and adopt a schedule of fees and charges for events, concessions, commercial use and private bookings, such as weddings, held in the Park.

4.3 LEASES & LICENCES

Some appropriate commercial use of Te Mata Park is desirable. As a general policy, the Te Mata Trust will only approve concessions or entrepreneurial activity after each proposal has been assessed to determine whether it is likely to have a detrimental impact on the open space values present.

Objective

4.3.1 Allow for commercial ventures within the Park where they will not detract from the open space values present or unduly limit public use of the Park.

Policy

4.3.2 Identify and charge for all leases and licences issued within the Park for consistency and transparency to assist in the cost of processing the applications and maintenance of the Park.

4.4 NETWORK UTILITIES

Open spaces are often seen by Utility Operators as convenient places to locate infrastructure. Such utilities include drains, water supply, electricity and telephone wires and electricity substations. However, such infrastructure can have an adverse impact on the character of the Park and its open space qualities.

All existing leases between the Trust and network utility operators will be honoured.

Objective

4.4.1 To only allow new network utilities to locate within Te Mata Park where there will be no impact on the outstanding natural character values of the landscape.

Policy

4.4.2 Require that any necessary network utilities to be located within the Park are located underground, where possible to minimise the impact on the character of the Park.

4.5 GRAZING

Grazing is a particularly important management tool, especially in respect to the control of weeds and rank grass. However, the landscape and habitat values of the Park are vulnerable to damage by trampling, pugging and erosion, especially by cattle or horses. All native vegetation is vulnerable to uncontrolled browsing animals, particularly goats.

The hill tops and the areas around the rock bluffs should be kept tidy by grazing sheep, as they have the least impact on soil and vegetation. Fencing will be

monitored and maintained in order to protect sensitive bluff areas from grazing sheep.

All grazing must be the subject of regular monitoring to ensure there are no adverse impacts from this activity.

Objective

4.5.1 To allow for the grazing of pasture areas within Te Mata Park as a method of weed control and reducing fire risk, while protecting the landscape and ecological values of indigenous plant species in sensitive areas from uncontrolled browsing animals.

Policies

4.5.2 Permit the grazing by sheep on all existing pasture areas of the Park.

4.5.3 Prohibit lambing within the Park.

4.5.4 Maintain fences to protect sensitive areas from sheep.

4.5.5 Prohibit goats, horses and cattle in Te Mata Park.

5.0 Governance & Management

5.1 GOVERNANCE

Te Mata Park was created in 1927 by the Chambers family as a public park and public recreation ground. The Te Mata Park Trust Board was established to own the Park. The Trust Deed defines the governance structure to oversee the strategic and operational activities of the Park, but it also sets limits on what the Trust may do and how it may act.

In order to enhance and protect the Park for future generations, the Trust entered into an arrangement with the Queen Elizabeth II Trust in 1997 under an Open Space Covenant. The broad objectives of the Covenant are to: a) protect the open space values of the land; b) protect native flora and fauna on the land; and c) assist in protecting the landscape integrity of Te Mata Peak.

This Management Plan outlines how the objectives of the Covenant are to be achieved. It clearly identifies the resources within the Park, management issues and outlines agreed policies for the future management of the Park.

The Management Plan's objectives and policies are separate to, but not conflicting with, the Covenant Agreement. These are: a) To provide facilities and an environment for the recreational and cultural benefit of the public; and b) Utilise the commercial assets of the Park to provide an income to assist with maintenance.

The Trust Board establishes the Trust's objectives, strategies and the overall framework for the management of Te Mata Park in order to realise the Trust's purposes set out in the Trust Deed. The Board must work within the powers and constraints of the Trust Deed and Charities Act 2005.

The governance structure supports the Trust's responsibility to set a clear vision and strategy for Te Mata Park that advances the Trust purposes, as set out in the Trust Deed.

THE TE MATA PARK TRUST BOARD

The Board of Trustees govern the Trust. The Trust Deed currently specifies a board of seven trustees, one of which is a male member of the Chambers Family. The remaining six members of The Board of Trustees are appointed by Hastings District Council.

Under the Trust Deed, the Chambers family representative can hold the position of Trustee for life. Hastings District Councillors appointed as Trustees can hold their position until the expiry of their term on Council and, if re-elected to Council are eligible for re-appointment.

Trustees will normally be appointed for a term of up to three years. Subject to a review of the Trustees performance, the term may be renewed for two further

terms of up to three years (maximum of 9 years). Trustees can resign at any time.

Trustees are required to attend all Trust Board meetings. The Trust Board meets on average six times throughout the year and meetings typically last two hours.

The Trust is by definition a Council Organisation. Under the requirements of Local Government Act 2002 the Hastings District Council has adopted a policy for the appointment of Trustees. This policy sets out the requirements and appointments process, and confirms that the key functions carried out by the Trust Board to realise its charitable purposes include:

1. Defining, within the relevant legal and constitutional framework, the purpose, direction and priorities for Te Mata Park, ensuring that these are valued and worthwhile.
2. Specifying key outcomes or results, approving the resourcing to be available for the achievement of those results.
3. Reviewing and approving Te Mata Park's annual budget, audit reports, and material business decisions; being informed of, and meeting all, legal and fiduciary responsibilities.
4. Regularly scanning the environment beyond Te Mata Park to ensure that what the Trust is attempting to achieve remains both relevant and achievable.
5. Communicating with the Te Mata Park's 'owners' and other stakeholders to ensure that they have input into the determination of direction and goals and that they are kept informed about organisational performance.
6. Developing a governance policy 'umbrella' which guides all operational activities.
7. Establishing a risk management framework for the control and mitigation of risk.
8. Appointing and supporting staff and evaluating their performance.
9. Monitoring the activities and results achieved by those involved in day-to-day management and administration and hold them to account.
10. Ensuring Te Mata Park complies with statutory and contractual requirements and with the Board's own policies.
11. Setting standards for, and evaluating, the Board's own governance performance.
12. Ensuring there is appropriate succession planning to ensure a balance between replenishment and continuity on the Board and revitalisation of the Trust's direction.
13. Compliance with the Local Government Act and its reporting requirements where applicable.

Objective

- 5.1.1 To adhere to the legal requirements of the Te Mata Park Trust Deed.
- 5.1.2 To provide a governance structure and policy that serves the objectives of the Trust Deed and ensures the Trust Board realises its charitable purposes.

Policies

- 5.1.3 To fully define and adopt a formal governance structure, including the formation of subcommittees.

5.2 OPERATIONAL MAINTENANCE

The Trust Deed defines the governance structure to oversee the strategic and operational activities of the Park. Asset management functions and everyday maintenance and operational activities for the Park are supported by the Park Caretaker.

Te Mata Park Trust operates on extremely limited finances.

Historically, the Park has been managed by volunteers (including the Trustees), and it is only since 1998 that that Trust has received an annual contribution from the Hawke's Bay Regional Council to fund a part-time caretaker. Otherwise the Park has relied solely on donations, grants and volunteer contributions.

The Trust has developed capital and operational budgets that give effect to the priorities and strategic direction identified in this Plan. The Trust will seek funding support from various agencies to enable the Plan to be implemented, and to ensure the effective day-to-day operation of the Park.

The Trust will work with local authorities to identify activities and inputs that could be effectively delivered by Council on behalf of the Trust (for example, servicing of toilets, rubbish, and weed management programs).

Objective

- 5.2.1 To maintain Te Mata Park to a standard that meets the recreational needs of the community.

Policy

- 5.2.2 Secure funding and service support from local authorities to meet the ongoing costs required for the effective management and maintenance of the physical environment, amenities and infrastructure within the Park.

5.3 HEALTH & SAFETY

Visitor Safety

The Trust seeks to implement appropriate methods and procedures for ensuring visitor safety and well-being in the Park. This includes providing appropriate information about any likely risk and promoting self-reliance and self-responsibility in the Park. It must be noted that given the outdoor wilderness environment, not all risks can be eliminated, and individuals and groups are expected to take responsibility for their own behaviour and safety within the Park.

Fire

The scenic, habitat and educational values of the Park are threatened by the risk of fire. Wild fires can put back the regeneration process by many years. Every endeavour will be made to prevent fire damage to the native vegetation. A Fire Response Plan was prepared in 2015.

Fireworks have, from time to time, been a particular problem, starting several wild fires. Imposing strict fire bans during dry periods will reduce the risk of fires. However, it is appreciated that such fire bans are difficult to enforce.

Objectives

- 5.3.1 To ensure the safe use of the Park.
- 5.3.2 To enable visitors to enjoy the Park safely and in a manner that promotes self-reliance and self-confidence.
- 5.3.3 To encourage responsible behaviour in the Park.

Policies

- 5.3.4 Prepare a Health & Safety Plan for the Park that is reviewed every three years.
- 5.3.5 Advise and educate visitors about hazards or management practices that may pose a risk to health and safety through signs, public notices, and on the Trust website.
- 5.3.6 Limit vehicular access to the Park at night.
- 5.3.7 Advise visitors that they are responsible for their own health and safety while undertaking recreational activity within the Park.
- 5.3.8 Should an incident occur, respond and liaise with emergency services and affected persons, in a timely and effective manner.
- 5.3.9 Establish appropriate procedures for risk auditing, monitoring, assessment and mitigation and develop appropriate response procedures to address emergency incidents.

5.4 FUTURE LAND ACQUISITION

The Trust will carefully consider every opportunity that arises to acquire any adjoining land that will further enhance the visitor experience and improve access and amenities.

Objective

- 5.4.1 To pursue the acquisition of land where it will enhance the visitor experience and improve access and amenities.

Policy

- 5.4.2 Consider the acquisition of adjoining land to the Park where this will enhance the benefit, enjoyment and use by the public, improve public access, enhance recreation opportunities, rationalise boundaries to achieve better linkages, or protect important environmental or cultural values.

5.5 COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

Partnerships and volunteering promote community ownership and make a valuable contribution to the maintenance of the Park.

Objective

- 5.5.1 To promote community understanding of, and support for, the Park through partnership and volunteer programmes.

Policies

- 5.5.2 Support a wide range of opportunities to volunteer in the Park where activities support the values identified by the Trust.
- 5.5.3 Continue to recognise the importance of volunteers through a range of activities.

5.6 MONITORING & REVIEW

The Trust Board will monitor the progress and desired outcomes of this Plan, and review it every five years to ensure it meets the changing needs of the community.

Objective

- 5.6.1 To monitor and review the Plan every five years.

Policies

- 5.6.2 To ensure the current plan is effectively implemented.
- 5.6.3 To consult with the community on any projects or developments of significance.
- 5.6.4 To monitor the community's satisfaction with the management of the Park.

PART 4

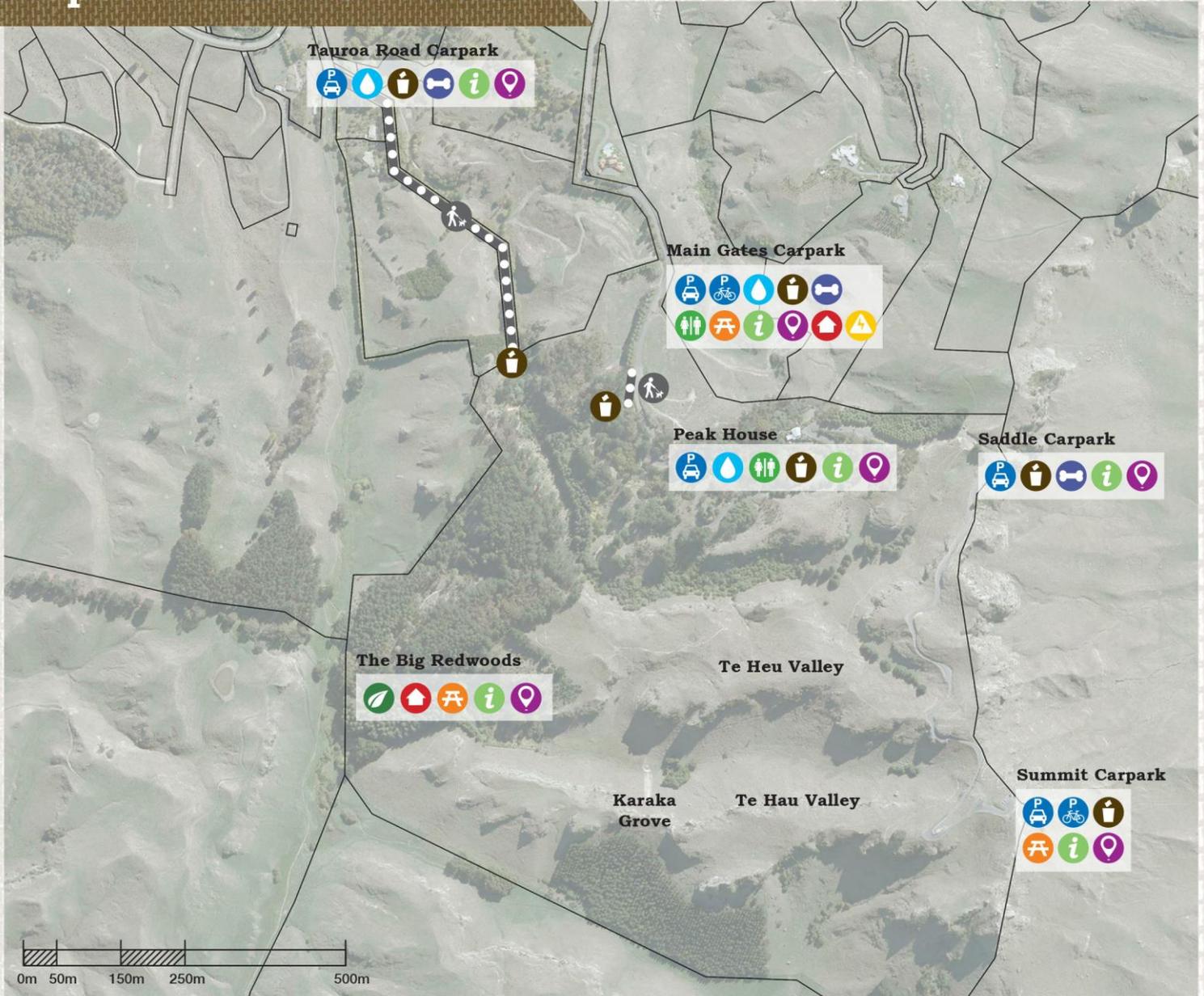
Concept Plans

A group of five people (three women and two men) are running on a dirt path through a dense forest of tall, thin trees. The ground is covered in brown pine needles. The scene is captured with a slight motion blur, suggesting movement. A large, semi-transparent circular graphic is overlaid on the lower half of the image, containing the text.

**Whāia te iti kahurangi ki
te tūohu koe me he maunga teitei.**

**Seek the treasure you value most dearly:
if you bow your head, let it be to a lofty mountain.**

Proposed Amenities Plan



Toilets



Composting Toilet



Picnic Area



Rubbish Bin



Drinking Fountain



Dog Bag Dispensers



Car Parking



Bike Parking



Power Outlet



Educational Signage



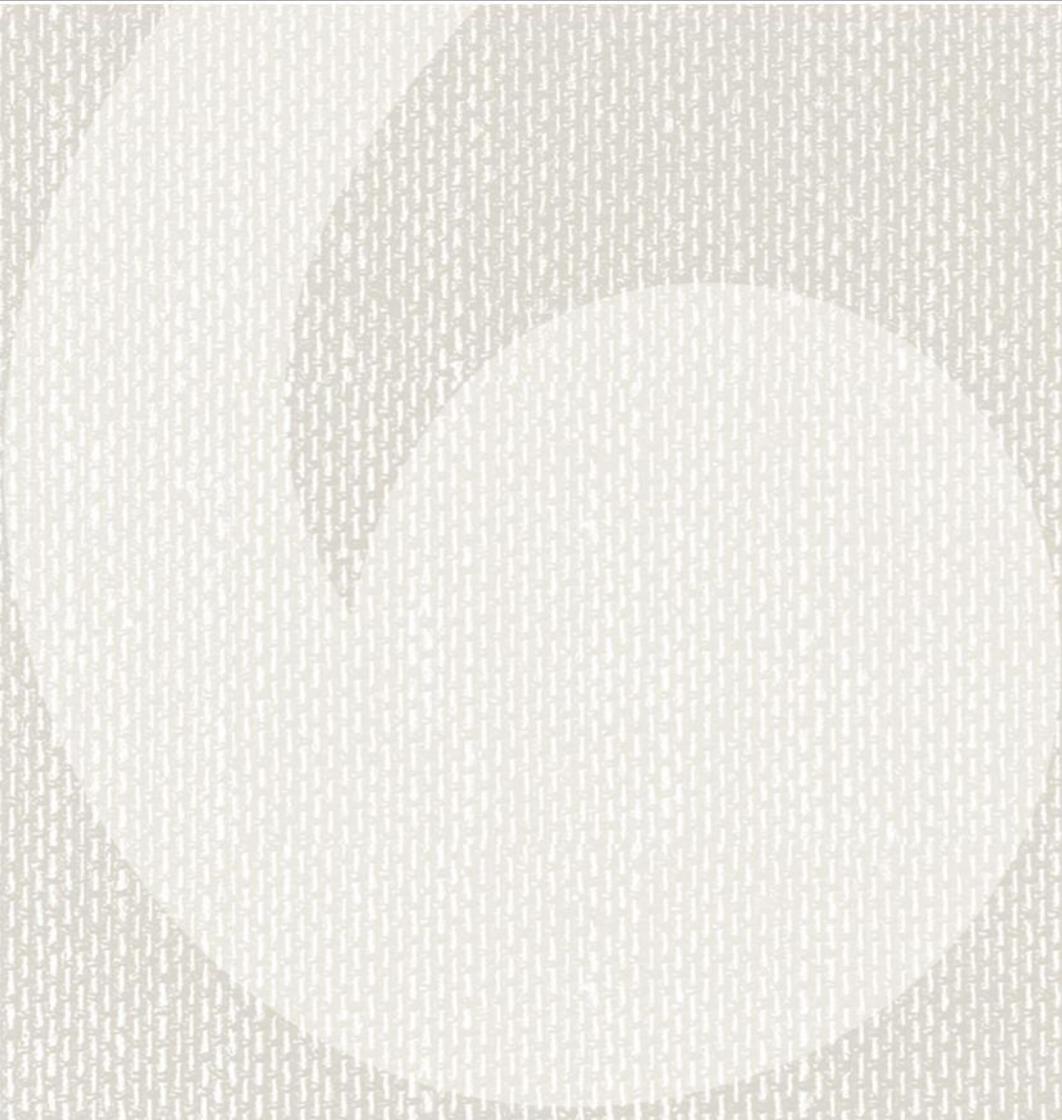
Way Finding Signage



Shelter



There will be two short on-lead sections in Chambers Walk for all dogs. The remainder of the Park is an off-lead area. All faeces must be picked up by owners and disposed of in bins.



The Te Mata Park Trust Board
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