

CATEGORIES

The purpose of grouping our existing and future reserves and open spaces into categories is multi-faceted. It recognises the diversity of our District's open spaces and what types of community needs exist for open spaces.

The seven categories provide an overall structure for the development of management plans for individual reserves to be grouped together; based on their use, character and common management needs, to allow for more efficient and effective planning and management activities.

Grouping reserves into management categories is a common approach to managing an extensive and diverse network. Council has considered the New Zealand Recreation Association's (NZRA) categories, in developing the following categories:

- Premier
- Sports Park
- Neighbourhood
- Cemetery
- Kaipara Moana
- Ripiro Beach
- Rural





PREMIER

A premier park provides a unique experience that people will travel to and spend more time at. These parks are usually larger and meet the needs of both residents from across the District, and visitors to the region as they provide a unique experience or point of difference to other parks. People make a special trip just to get there, often driving past other reserves and open spaces on the way.

Premier parks may enjoy a particularly advantageous location (such as incorporating a significant natural feature), have extensive recreational opportunities, or contain significant heritage values. Premier parks or reserves are likely to receive the majority of use from visitors and they are to be designed managed and funded with this in mind, to provide a high level of service.

A premier park would typically have:

- networks of walking circuits and trails
- destination and/or multiple play spaces and specialised recreation facilities
- distinct natural or heritage features
- multiple places for gatherings and socialising such as BBQ and picnic facilities
- an individual reserve management plan or master plan.

Kaipara District Council currently operates three premier parks:

Kai Iwi Lakes (Taharoa Domain)

Pou Tu Te Rangi and Harding Park

Mangawhai Community Park

As all three parks are managed by their own governance committees, service levels will be defined on a case-by-case basis through the recommendations of the committees, and informed by their individual reserve management plan or master plan.



SPORTS PARK

Sports Parks provide playing fields or other facilities for sports, including netball courts, equestrian facilities or stock-car racing tracks. This category specifically recognises those facilities which provide for competition level sport and service the wider District or region, as well as their local communities and are maintained to an appropriate standard for the relevant sports code.

Sports parks sometimes also provide other neighbourhood recreational facilities such as playgrounds as ancillary activities but the primary function is to accommodate organised sporting activities.

Sports Park Examples include:

Northern Wairoa Memorial Park

Dargaville Speedway

Ruawai Sports Grounds

Paparoa A & P Showgrounds

Kaiwaka Sports Complex

Hakaru Domain

Mangawhai Golf Course



NEIGHBOURHOOD

Neighbourhood reserves and open spaces are primarily for the use of the local residential community. They may provide an open grass area suitable for informal recreation and social and leisure activities as well as other complementary values such as landscape amenity and playgrounds.

Some neighbourhood reserves and open spaces may contain buildings, such as community halls, used for local community and recreation functions.

A neighbourhood park typically provides the following experiences:

- multiple kick-around or play spaces
- socialising areas, including picnic and BBQ facilities
- walking and cycling links.

These parks have a high standard of provision and often these park types have the most multi-use potential. Neighbourhood reserves and open spaces should be located in prominent positions within a suburb/neighbourhood and have easy access, particularly cycling/walking access.

In many cases, neighbourhood parks have been developed in esplanade areas to enhance connection to and enjoyment of the coast.

Neighbourhood Examples include:

Jaycee Park, Dargaville

Paparoa Village Green

Maungaturoto Playground

Kaiwaka Settlement Road or Playground



CEMETERY

In addition to their primary functions of providing space for interment, mourning and remembrance, cemeteries can provide amenity and ecological values as well as passive recreation opportunities.

This category excludes Old Mount Wesley Cemetery as this is included in Pou Tu o Te Rangi and Harding Park as well as privately owned cemeteries such as those owned and managed by Churches or Marae.

Council cemeteries include:

Mt Wesley	Redhill
Arapohue	Tokatoka
Mangawhai	Kaiwaka
Tutamoe	



KAIPARA MOANA AND RIVERS

Council owns or administers many esplanade reserves and strips and other land along the shores of the Kaipara Moana and the rivers of the District. These areas are often in remote and rural locations, sometimes only accessible via private land or by boat. For these areas, Council's primary management focus is on ecological and biodiversity matters.

These areas have a high value in providing ecological linkages, nesting habitat for native birds and indigenous vegetation. In addition, they provide a valuable buffer between activities on the land and the aquatic environment.

Some of the reserves and open spaces in this category provide for recreational activities such as fishing, eeling and duck shooting. These locations often include public infrastructure such as stop-banks and drainage works, and these can provide opportunities for walking, cycling and equestrian trails.

This category does not include harbour or river edge reserves and open spaces which are in urban (residential and commercial) areas, and have a strong recreation element. Instead, reserves matching this criteria are included in the Neighbourhood category.



RIPIRO BEACH

This category covers those reserves and open spaces which adjoin Ripiro Beach. This separate category is required to ensure appropriate and consistent planning for, and management of, sand dunes and beach protection actions. Generally, reserves and open spaces in this category will remain undeveloped in order to preserve their existing natural states.

The management focus for these reserves and open spaces will be protecting and enhancing scenic and ecological values, while offering opportunities for appropriate outdoor recreation.



RURAL

This category addresses reserves and open spaces in rural areas, which do not fall into any of the other categories. They tend to be larger sites, often capturing large blocks of countryside providing amenity and high ecological values together with informal recreation opportunities. These include land bequeathed to Council because of its high natural values as well as former local purpose quarry and landfill reserves. The character of these sites varies, including outstanding natural landscapes, farm land, rocky bluffs and native bush. Recreation opportunities may include mountain biking, horse riding, rock climbing, walking and hiking.

Often a high level of protection and restoration is appropriate for rural reserves and open spaces.

Rural Examples include:

Maungaraho Rock

Hamlyns Bush

Naumai Domain

Purpose Reserve

Turiwiri Bush Scenic Reserve

Whenuanui Domain

Mapau Domain

Omana War Memorial Local

Omaru River Conservation Area

Tutamoe Domain Recreation Reserve