

3.7 SECTOR 7

Melrose, Kilbirnie, Rongotai, Lyall Bay, Houghton Bay, Southgate, Island Bay, and Owhiro Bay

There are 18 suburban reserves in this sector. Parks and walkways along the south coast (covered by the South Coast Management Plan) and the Wellington Town Belt are accessible to residents in this area and provide several additional Neighbourhood and Sport and Recreation parks and opportunities for informal outdoor recreation and play. The sector can be divided into two open space character areas.

Coastal suburbs south of the Wellington Town Belt

Much of the “wild” character of the south coast suburbs comes from the areas of undeveloped open space on the steep hillsides and coastal escarpment with indigenous or regenerating vegetation and the rockiness of the coastline. Public open spaces are mostly located around the edge of Island Bay valley (on the slopes and hilltops) with the Wellington Town Belt to the north, Southgate to the east and the undeveloped hillsides to the west, providing a green backdrop to the built-up valley.

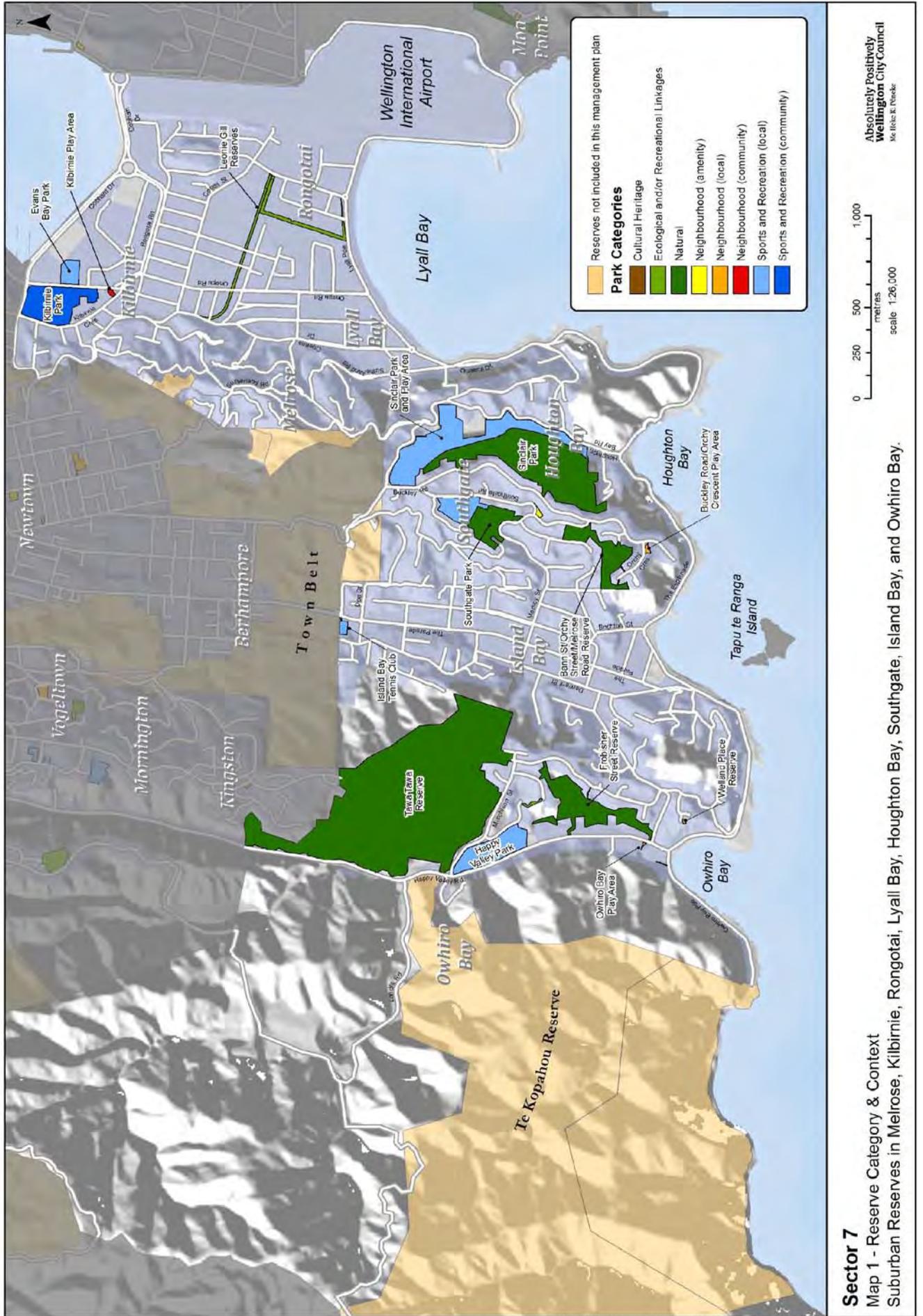
Houghton Bay is set in a narrow, steep-sided valley, with the regenerating indigenous vegetation of Sinclair Park on the western side of the valley. Owhiro Bay also has a small, somewhat isolated community. The undeveloped hills to the west of Happy Valley Road give this part of Wellington a particularly rural character. The eastern flanks of the valley form a continuous open space network between the south coast and the Wellington Town Belt.

The Rongotai Isthmus

The Rongotai isthmus is a low-lying flat area between Cook Strait and Wellington Harbour with very little significant vegetation due in part to the exposed conditions and a history of significant landscape modification to facilitate original development of that area including the airport. The hill slopes are typified by a more “natural”, informal, unmanaged open space (including the Wellington Town Belt). On the flat, open space is provided in the form of coastal reserves, sportsfields, and parks.

The open space network in this sector is made up of the following.

- One community sport and recreation park (Kilbirnie Park), comprising two playing surfaces, clubrooms for Poneke Rugby Football Club and Eastern Suburbs Cricket Club, and the Kilbirnie Bowling Club. The park is part of a much larger community and recreation hub that includes the Wellington Regional Aquatic Centre, Kilbirnie Recreation Centre, Ruth Gotlieb Library, and a community play area.
- Five local Sport and Recreation parks, including Happy Valley Park, Sinclair Park, and Evans Bay Park, with a site each leased to Island Bay Tennis and Squash Club and Kilbirnie Bowling Club.
- Three neighbourhood parks - Buckley Road/Orchy Cres Play Area, Welland Place Reserve and Owhiro Bay Play Area. Shorland Park and Lyall Parade have play areas on the edge of this sector managed under the South Coast Management Plan.
- Five natural reserves including Tawatawa Reserve, which is a large nature reserve with ecological values and valued informal recreation spaces. It also provides strong connections between the inner city suburbs and the south coast. In addition, the slopes of Sinclair Park are a significant area of natural landscape reserve as is Frobisher Reserve in Owhiro Bay.
- Four ecological and recreation linkages including Rongotai (Plantation) Reserve, which is a long, continuous strip of Council land (associated with drainage infrastructure) that extends from Kilbirnie through to Rongotai and down to the coast at Lyall Bay.



3.7.1 ASSESSMENT OF THE NETWORK

Map 1 shows all of the parks (by category) in the context of the built development and other Council-owned and managed open space such as the Wellington Town Belt and south coast.

Map 2 shows specific use including playgrounds, leases on reserves, dog exercise areas, and the track network. Schools are also shown to help complete the picture of play areas and sometimes other outdoor recreation opportunities. Ecological sites of significance and heritage trees are not mapped but have been assessed in determining the range of values each park holds.

Quality assessment of the Neighbourhood and Sport and Recreation parks shows that they are generally of good quality. There are a few minor opportunities to improve the use and value of some parks.

There are a number of issues impacting on the future use and development of Kilbirnie Park and the wider hub that includes the Kilbirnie Bowling Club, Wellington Regional Aquatic Centre, Kilbirnie Recreation Centre, Ruth Gotlieb Library, and a community play area.

- The possible widening of Wellington Road and its intersections with Kilbirnie Crescent and Evans Bay Parade as a result of the NZTA airport to Mount Victoria Tunnel project and the Greater Wellington Bus Rapid Transport (BRT) study. Both projects could impact on the northern end of the park.
- Future expansion of WRAC with a standard pool.
- Plans for the development of the Poneke Rugby Club facilities.
- Future of the Kilbirnie Bowling Club given the declining membership.
- Future renewal and location of the community playground at the southern part of the hub.
- Increased casual use given the proposed increase in medium-density housing in Kilbirnie under the draft Urban Growth Strategy.
- Associated infrastructure and car parking.

Coastal suburbs south of the Wellington Town Belt

Analysis of a 10-minute or 600-metre walking distance on the street network shows gaps in provision in central parts of Island Bay, especially given track access to both the City to Sea and Southern walkways is limited to the Wellington Town Belt or from the south coast.

Owhiro Bay is well served with open space with good access to playgrounds and tracks into the Town Belt or South Coast. The Welland Place reserve is a small grassed area, affording elevated views to the south coast and valued by the local community.

The Rongotai Isthmus

Analysis of a 10-minute or 600-metre walking distance on the street network shows gaps in provision in the middle of the suburb with the only open space provided by Leonie Gill Reserves and the playing fields of Rongotai College. The size and location of these playing fields and access to Leonie Gill Reserves provide opportunities to explore more public use of these areas.

Lyllall Bay beach provides an important open space for Rongotai and Lyall Bay managed under the South Coast Management Plan.

3.7.1.1 Actions

- a) Develop a long-term master plan and associated recreation plan for Kilbirnie Park.

3.7.2 PLAYGROUNDS

Island Bay has one neighbourhood park and play area at Shorland Park on the south coast (managed under the South Coast Management Plan). There are no neighbourhood park play areas within the suburb. There is the need for a community playground in Wakefield Park to service the northern part of Island Bay and the southern part of Berhampore.

There is a gap in playground provision in the middle and east of Lyall Bay and Rongotai (around Endeavour Street and Tirangi Road). Given the limited opportunities to acquire additional open space and the reduced need associated with non-residential use of part of the area, the Council should work with partners such as local schools to explore the provision of play space in their grounds. The development of the Leonie Gill Reserves¹⁹ walkway could provide for elements of play to help fill the formal play provision gap.

3.7.2.1 Actions

- a) Construct a community playground in the vicinity of Wakefield Park.
- b) Continue to contribute to development plans for the Leonie Gill Reserves with provision of formal play in mind.

3.7.3 DOG EXERCISE AREAS

There are four dog exercise areas in this sector with adjacent areas managed under the South Coast Management Plan and Wellington Town Belt Management Plan.

3.7.4 TRACK NETWORK

The track network is unevenly spread in this sector. It is very accessible to Melrose, Houghton Bay and Lyall Bay but less accessible to the wider communities of Island Bay and Happy Valley.

The Leonie Gill Reserves have been developed as a key commuting link with improved signage seating and planting. This will add character to these suburbs and diversify recreation opportunities.

3.7.5 ECOLOGY AND INDIGENOUS BIODIVERSITY

Tawatawa Reserve at the northern boundary of the sector is a large 64-hectare reserve with significant ecological and indigenous biodiversity value. It contains a forest remnant, with kohekohe, mamaku, wharangī, akiraho, and kānuka. It also contains streams and a wetland. Other sites of significant ecological value in this sector are located on coastal land not included in this management plan.

In the late 1990s, the Southern Environmental Association (SEA) started work in Tawatawa Reserve. They now run a large nursery growing eco-sourced plants and carry out restoration work within the reserve. SEA works with other local groups including Friends of Owhiro Stream (FOOS).

The Manawa Karioi and Island Bay Charitable Trust groups both allow public access to their land that has significant ecological, landscape, and cultural value.

There is currently horse grazing on public reserve land in this sector. No additional area for grazing licences will be supported due to impact on ecological values.

¹⁹ Council approved officially naming the *Rongotai (Plantation) Reserves* the *Leonie Gill Reserves* in December 2014.

The Sinclair Park reserves and Houghton Bay Play Area are situated in a gully that has a terraced landform associated with historic landfill use. There is ongoing work in managing the quality of the stream through this modified landform.

Sinclair Park, Southgate Park and the other hillside coastal reserves in this area have a significant coverage of monoculture karo forest. Further work needs to be done on how to manage this issue in a practical way.

In the Kilbirnie and Lyall Bay area there is only one series of reserves (the Plantation Reserves) across the flats to support ecological connectivity. This makes the street tree network important in providing both amenity and ecological connectivity.

3.7.5.1 Actions

- a) Establish large trees through street planting and planting around sportsfields to encourage ecological connectivity and birdlife in the suburbs.
- b) Continue planting storm damaged areas within Tawatawa Reserve and begin an environmental weed control programme in this area.
- c) Under-plant karo monoculture forest with indigenous species for the long-term managed reversion to indigenous coastal forest.

3.7.6 COMMUNITY GROUPS AND PARTNERSHIPS

There are community restoration groups enhancing the ecological values in all of the larger reserves in this sector.

There are further opportunities to work with the schools in this sector to enhance the formal play space network and access to sportsfields for informal play.

The Wellington City Light Horse Club currently has grazing licences at Tawatawa Reserve and at Sinclair Park. Club members use tracks for riding through both these reserves and as provided for by the Open Space Access Plan²⁰.

3.7.6.1 Actions

- a) Contact local schools to discuss informal public access to their fields and play areas.
- b) The Council will continue to work with the Southern Environmental Association and support their restoration planning.

²⁰ The Wellington City Council Open Space Access Plan (2008) prohibits horse riding in reserves with a schedule outlining reserves that are the exception to this rule.

Sector 7 Melrose, Kilbirnie, Rongotai, Lyall Bay, Houghton Bay, Southgate, Island Bay, and Owhiro Bay							
Reserve	Park Category	Land Area Sqm	Legal Description	CT Reference	Reserve classification	Proposed change	Actions
Evans Bay Park	Sport and Recreation (local)	12,564.00	Lot 2 DP 45771	16C/204	Recreation Reserve		Develop a long-term master plan and associated recreation plan.
Kilbirnie Park	Sport and Recreation (community)	54,464.00	Pt Lot 2 DP 11975, Lot 1 DP 11975 & Pt Lot 2-3 DP 11975	21C/306	Reserve for Local Purposes (Community Purposes) & Recreation		Protect large trees at these parks and plant more to support birdlife and ecological connectivity where formal recreation use will not be compromised. Plan for potential impact of NZTA proposals.
Kilbirnie Play Area	Neighbourhood (local)	6,217.00	Pt Lot 2 DP 11975, Lot 1 DP 11975 & Pt Lot 2-3 DP 11975	21C/306	Reserve for Local Purposes (Community Purposes) & Recreation		
Rongotai Reserve	Ecological and/or Recreational linkage	20,982.00	Pt Sec 8 Evans Bay District	230/187 pt cancelled	Fee Simple		Consider opportunity for formal play provision to address identified gaps in the network. Play opportunities could be multi-use, eg a beam to sit on/walk along/stretch at. Take opportunities to plant large trees for amenity and ecological connectivity where underground infrastructure allows.
Leonie Gill Reserves	Ecological and/or Recreational linkage	6,557.00	Pt Lot 61 DP 21360	43C/786	Recreation Reserve		
		Unknown	Pt Sec 8 Evans Bay District	230/187 pt cancelled	Fee Simple		
		306.00	Sec 173 Evans Bay District	16B/354	Fee Simple		

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Reserve	Park Category	Land Area Sqm	Legal Description	CT Reference	Reserve classification	Proposed change	Actions
Sinclair Park Sinclair Park and Play Area	Natural and Sport and Recreation (local)	582.00	Lot 69 DP 1467	476/65	Pleasure Ground		<p>Sinclair Park - Review signage for park and track links. There is a community led "lifting the creek" proposal (the "Putawai Project") for this reserve that is currently in the development phase to consider feasibility of stormwater runoff management options to enhance water quality entering the sea. This type of community led proposal would fit with the current values of the park. It would require cross-Council collaboration with landfill, stormwater and parks management implications.</p> <p>Continue to investigate options for long-term replacement of karo monoculture.</p>
		2,959.00	Lot 280 DP 171	460/198	Fee Simple	Recreation Reserve	
		4,124.00	Pt Lot 57-61 DP 17066	639/72 pt cancelled	Fee Simple	Recreation Reserve	
		104.00	Lot 59 DP 1467	45C/301	Pleasure Ground		
		2,025.00	Lot 7 DP 21629	877/9	Fee Simple	Recreation Reserve	
		27,502.00	Lot 218, 220, 288-290, 292, 294 & Pt Lot 287 DP 171 & Pt Lot 1-2 DP 9018	748/7 pt cancelled	Fee Simple	Recreation Reserve	
		2,615.00	Lot 43-51, 56-69, 79-82 & 119, 125-129 DP 1467	Proc 4606	Pleasure Ground		
		2,912.00	Lot 120-124 DP 1467	572767	Recreation reserve		
		11,103.00	Lot 205-208 DP 171	107/62 (Proc 4606)	Pleasure Ground		
		22,806.00	Lot 211, 213, 282, 284 & 286 DP 171 & Lot 2-3 DP 19203	780/98 pt cancelled,	Fee Simple	Recreation Reserve	
		8,094.00	Lot 215, 217 & 219 DP 171	22B/332	Pleasure Ground		
		1,089.00	Lot 1-2 DP 8768	391/34	Fee Simple	Recreation Reserve	
6,550.00	Lot 277, Lot 279 & Pt Lot 276 DP 171	648/41	Fee Simple	Recreation Reserve			

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Reserve	Park Category	Land Area Sqm	Legal Description	CT Reference	Reserve classification	Proposed change	Actions
Houghton Bay Play Area		114,981.00	Lot 227, 229, 231, 233, 235-237, 239, 241, 243-245, 299, 301-320, 322 & Pt Lot 228, 230, 232, 234, 238, 240, 242, 246-247 DP 171 & Lot 248-250, 253, 255, 321, 324, & Pt Lot 251-252, 254, 256, 258 DP 172	662/99 pt cancelled	Fee Simple	Recreation Reserve	<p>Sinclair Park and Play Area - Review signage for park and track links.</p> <p>Houghton Bay Play Area A fully-fenced dog exercise area is proposed on the terrace between the school and the play area. This would be subject to external funding and ensuring other park users can still move through the park unimpeded.</p>
		4,948.00	Lot 1 DP 28874	5D/1200	Fee Simple	Recreation Reserve	
		7,883.00	Lot 223 & Lot 225 & Pt Lot 221 DP 171	Proc 4606	Pleasure Ground		
		135.00	Pt Lot 2 DP 10046	Proc 4606	Pleasure Ground		
		35,815.00	Sec 15 Town District	842/65	Fee Simple	Recreation Reserve	
Southgate Park	Natural	734.00	Lot 20 DP 9761	551/132 (Proc 4606)	Pleasure Ground		
		604.00	Lot 19 DP 9761	493/252 (Proc 4606)	Pleasure Ground		
		529.00	Lot 31 DP 1892	317/21 (Proc 4606)	Pleasure Ground		
		645.00	Lot 30 DP 1892	529/298 (Proc 4606)	Pleasure Ground		
		1,047.00	Lot 31A & Lot 32 DP 1892	395/97 (Proc 4606)	Pleasure Ground		
Southgate Park	Natural and Sport and Recreation (local)	56,495.00	Pt Lot 25 DP 34252	11C/1144 (Proc 4606)	Pleasure Ground		

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Reserve	Park Category	Land Area Sqm	Legal Description	CT Reference	Reserve classification	Proposed change	Actions
Island Bay Tennis Club	Sport and Recreation (local)	109.00	Pt Sec 24 Town District	48A/527	Recreation Reserve		This site is part of the Wakefield Park Hub area identified within the Wellington Town Belt Management Plan.
		3,077.00	Pt Sec 10 Town District	48A/526	Recreation reserve		
Welland Place Reserve	Neighbourhood (local)	357.00	Lot 2 DP 58958	29C/640	Recreation Reserve		
Esplanade Reserve	Ecological and/or Recreational linkage	139.00	Lot 6 DP 87078	54D/168	Local Purpose Reserve (Esplanade)		
Owhiro Bay Play Area	Neighbourhood (local)	304.00	Lot 1 DP 22815, also known as Lot 1 DP 3548 as shown on the CT	406/112	Fee Simple	Recreation Reserve	
Frobisher Street Reserve	Natural	269.00	Lot 3 DP 75139	42D/417	Local Purpose Reserve (Neighbourhood)		Explore /track connections.
		3,105.00	Lot 57 DP 75796	42D/307			
		66,420.00	Lot 1 DP 81196	47C/673	Fee Simple (for housing purposes)	Scenic B Reserve	
Recreation Reserve	Ecological and/or Recreational linkage	1,583.00	Lot 31 DP 87964	55C/467	Recreation Reserve		
Happy Valley Park	Sport and Recreation (local)	47,837.00	Lot 55 DP 75796	42D/306	Recreation Reserve		
Tawatawa Reserve	Natural	19,142.00	Pt Lot 1 DP 66635	34D/658 pt cancelled, not to be converted	Scenic Reserve 1(b)		Enhance track connections between Tawatawa Reserve

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Reserve	Park Category	Land Area Sqm	Legal Description	CT Reference	Reserve classification	Proposed change	Actions
		281,643.00	Lot 1, 3 & Pt Lot 2 Blk VII DP 1855 & Pt Sec 20 & Pt Sec 23 Owhiro District	52A/851	Scenic Reserve 1(b)		and adjoining privately-owned land of Manawa Karioi and Island Bay Charitable Trust.
		299,361.00	Pt Lot 1 DP 9934 & Lot 4-5 DP 23322	47C/674	Scenic Reserve 1(b)		Continue planting of storm damaged areas within Tawatawa Reserve and begin an environmental weed control programme in this area.
		68,797.00	Lot 610 DP 817	529/181	Scenic Reserve 1(b)		Support SEA in the implementation of its restoration plan.