



**Western
Bay of Plenty**
District Council

Arawa Road recreation opportunities decision story

April 2023

Introduction

Arawa Road and Penelope Place is a small settlement in Pongakawa located off State Highway 2, with approximately 70 homes adjacent to orchards and dairy farms.

The Arawa Road Reserve is an unformed paper road often used by the local community and grazed by an adjacent landowner.

During 2022 we engaged with the Arawa Road/Penelope Place community to see what recreation

opportunities they would like to see provided.

This was in response to feedback received through development of the Te Puke-Maketu Reserve Management Plan in 2021/2022.



Engagement with the community

Between 10 February and 14 March 2022 we asked the community for their ideas on the provision of recreation opportunities in the local area. Letters were sent to the residents of Arawa Road and Penelope Place with a short survey.

18 responses were received with support for an increase in recreation and open space provision in the neighbourhood.

A feasibility study was undertaken to get a better understanding of where improvements could be made to increase recreation and open space opportunities based on the survey feedback, and estimated costs.





Feedback on draft plan

In August 2022, a draft concept plan was adopted for community engagement with ideas of what could be developed, mainly utilising the existing road reserve.

This included:

- A “rural inspired” playground using natural materials for play features
- BMX trail or “pump track”, utilising existing soil in the area
- Enhance the road reserve as a walking and cycling trail
- Potential for a community garden

Other elements included:

- Re-purpose the Arawa Road reserve into a linear park
- Historical and cultural information
- Directional signage
- Planting
- Extending the walking and cycle trail to Wharere Road, Kaikokopu Road and Waerenga Road

Feedback on the draft concept plan was received from 27 September to 21 October. Letters were sent to Arawa Road/Penelope Place residents inviting them to have their say. A community “have your say” drop-in event was held at the end of Arawa Road on 9 October 2022. This gave the local community an opportunity to see the plans up close, talk with Council staff, and share their thoughts, ideas or concerns in detail.

38 pieces of feedback were received

This feedback consisted of the following:

- **15** responses through the online survey
- **Four** feedback forms and emails
- **19** comments from the Have Your Say event on 9 October 2022

Most of the feedback supported the provision of recreation opportunities as shown on the draft concept plan.

management of the road reserve which have been taken on board in the final concept plan.

There were also several improvements suggested, such as removal of the community garden from the concept plan and improved

Feedback, findings, and recommendations were presented for decisions and adoption of a final concept plan on 7 March 2023.

Key decisions

Following community feedback and input, Council agreed to adopt the final concept plan, and to the following actions. This recognised the community support for improving recreation experiences in this area.

In the short term (next one-two years), we will enhance the use of the road reserve for recreation purposes including:

- Development of natural play features
- Maintain the existing pumice track for walking and cycling, including periodic mowing and removal of grazing
- Working with the adjacent property owner to realign the fence with the correct road reserve boundary

We have included funding in the proposed Annual Plan 2023/24 for these actions to be progressed.

In the medium to long term (three + years), we will undertake a project to further enhance the road reserve as a recreation and ecological corridor, with planting and wider walking and cycling linkages towards Pukehina, and a potential pump track. This will be included for consideration in the 2024-34 Long Term Plan.

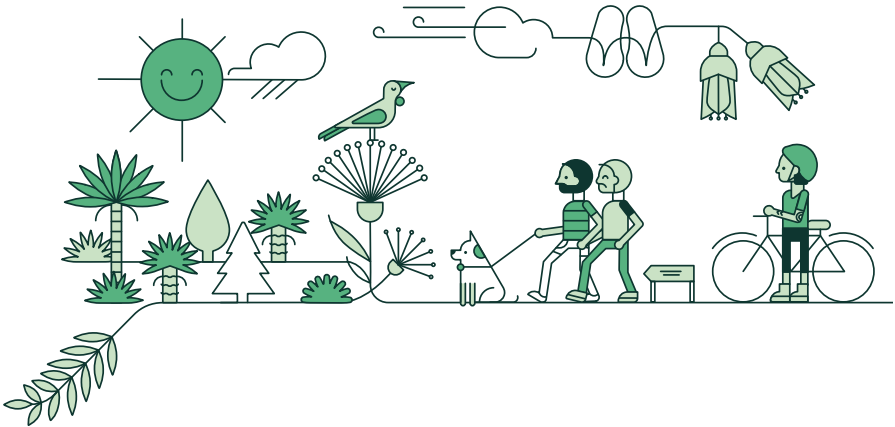
Arawa Road recreation opportunities plan

To view the final concept plan, please visit our [Have Your Say](#) page.

For further information on the community feedback provided to the draft concept plan and Council's response to this, please see our report to the Strategy and Policy Committee on 7 March 2023.

Next steps

A staged approach of implementation is intended to be used, with the first stage being the development of the play features, planned for 2023/2024.



Overview of recreation improvements





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