

## **3.0 Vision for Open Space and Recreation Facilities**



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A vision for open space and recreation facilities provision within the Kaimai Ward over a 20 year time frame horizon was developed in the first Kaimai Ward Reserves Management Plan. The vision was prepared in the context of projected population growth and the scenarios which were emerging from the SmartGrowth process. Those scenarios showed substantial growth being accommodated in the Kaimai Ward. The current population projection figures for the sub region are shown in the table below.

#### Population Projection in the Tauranga and Western Bay Districts:

	Actual Census Data		NIDEA Population Predictions					
	2006	2013	2013	2018	2028	2033	2038	2048
<b>Tauranga City</b>	103,881	114,789	117,280	126,860	150,156	161,565	171,429	184,173
<b>WBoP District</b>	41,826	43,692	46,110	48,858	55,004	57,516	59,083	59,903
<b>Total</b>	145,707	158,481	163,390	175,718	205,160	219,081	230,512	244,076

Tauranga City Council's current and planned reserve development projects includes the Wairoa Active Reserve, formerly Parau Farms for sports field development with linkage along the Wairoa River to Bethlehem College. The sharing of facilities is anticipated. These sports fields, whilst technically located in Tauranga, will provide sports venues for Western Bay of Plenty District residents and need to be factored into the demand / provision considerations for the District. Similarly the development of Moore Park in the Katikati Ward is relevant to assessing the Kaimai Ward needs.

Key aspects of the open space and recreation facilities vision:

- The Ward is well supplied with natural lands for recreation primarily the Kaimai Forest Park owned and administered by the Department of Conservation (DoC). However better and multiple access points were required.

- Non WBOP DC open space contributes significantly to the Ward e.g. DoC lands and McLaren Falls Park (TCC).
- Given the significant part that DoC plays in the ownership of open space and recreational lands in the Ward more formalised communication between DoC and WBOP DC is required.
- Coastal reserves and walkways are a prime recreation / open space asset, enhancement and expansion of these should be a priority while preserving archaeological and cultural values in this sensitive environment.
- Improved linkage – open space, cycleway and pedestrian links – between reserves are desirable for example linking the Minden reserves and Te Puna Quarry Park (a significant open space not covered within this Reserves Management Plan).
- Improved access to the Wairoa River is desirable through the provision of additional reserves with improved parking and limited facilities. The creation of a full walkway linking along the river from the Harbour to McLaren Falls and thereby into the Kaimai Ranges could occur when all linkages is in public ownership.
- Maramatanga Park in Te Puna, and the Omokoroa Sports Ground, Western Ave, Omokoroa are important community sports grounds. They should be seen as local ‘sportsville’ (collection of sports facilities) parks with facilities for active / organised recreation clustered in these locations. Population growth will generate the need for additional local sports fields. Development of open space for recreation on the Omokoroa Peninsula will also be in accordance with structure planning.
- Where structured growth occurs the multiple shared use of new and existing facilities such as school grounds should be planned as part of the open space planning. In addition due consideration will be required across the district for the provision of indoor sports facilities, swimming pools, designated dog exercise areas, aged friendly activities and changing demographics.

- There will be a focus on the potential to develop cycle trails to form part of the greater cycle trail network linking to Tauranga City;
  - Waihi to Waihi Beach,
  - Omokoroa to Tauranga,
  - Tauranga Eastern Link (TEL) to Maketu and Paengaroa AND,
  - Local cycle ways in Waihi Beach, Katikati and Omokoroa.

### **Omokoroa to Tauranga Cycle - Walkway**

A cycleway under the urban cycleway programme will link Omokoroa and Tauranga city and will provide commuter opportunities, recreational exercise and health benefits. The route, scheduled for completion by 2018, will give practical access between Omokoroa and Plummers point. The cycleway will be used by a mixture of walkers and cyclists, locals and visitors and TCC residents. It will be located on public land comprising reserves, esplanades, roads and Kiwi rail land. It is shown in more detail in the individual reserve plans.

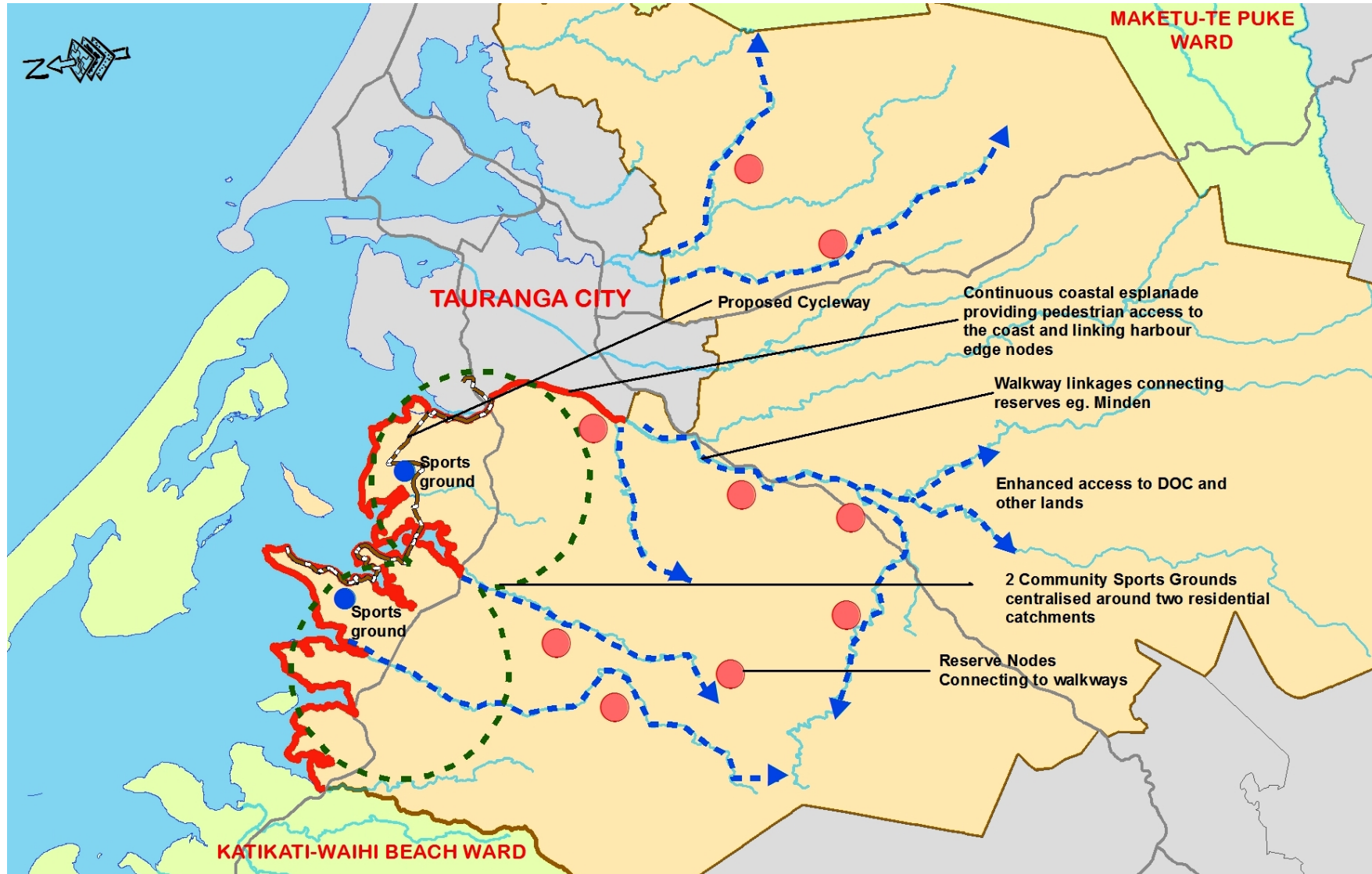
**These concepts are expressed graphically in the attached vision.**

The community identified the dual and in some ways conflicting priorities of the need to;

- i) improve access to, develop / enhance, better manage / maintain and service existing reserves;  
  
as well as
- ii) progress land purchase for future reserves in advance of current demand to assist the affordability particularly of what will in the future be prime coastal or development land.

Population growth will necessitate securing additional recreational land and open space whilst from the point of view of managing the existing resource, a higher level of service delivery is desired.

## Kaimai Reserves Management Plan - Vision for Open Space and Recreation Facilities



### Harbour Access

A number of Planning documents affecting the management of the harbour and the coastal margins are continually being developed and reviewed. They provide the framework for ensuring the harbour and coastal environments are properly managed, protected and monitored for future generations to enjoy. It is therefore appropriate to record some of those Plans in this Reserve Management Plan;

NZ Coastal Policy Statement	Department of Conservation
BOP Conservation Management Strategy	Department of Conservation
Tauranga Harbour Integrated Management Strategy	Bay of Plenty Regional Council
Tauranga Harbour Recreation Strategy	Bay of Plenty Regional Council

### Population Statistics

The table below gives an indication of the population growth projections of the Kaimai Ward.

Year	1996	2001	2006	2013	Increase from 2006 to 2013
<b>Western Bay of Plenty District</b>	<b>34,800</b>	<b>37,992</b>	<b>41,826</b>	<b>43,692</b>	<b>4.5%</b>
<b>Omokoroa</b>	1764	1965	2205	2547	15.5%
<b>Te Puna</b>	2199	2304	2466	2439	-1.1%
<b>Minden</b>	3126	3675	4248	4401	3.6%
<b>Kaimai</b>	3666	4479	4974	5286	6.3%
<b>Ohauiti-Ngapeke</b>	498	564	648	711	9.7%

Census Area	2006	2013	2018	2023	2028	Assumptions
<b>Omokoroa</b>	2267	2688	3040	4100	5700	Growth spread out over a longer period
<b>Te Puna</b>	2535	2574	2600	2620	2630	Limited growth because of lack of demand for new properties (ie churn of existing developed properties)
<b>Minden</b>	4367	4645	4950	5250	5550	Steady growth initially because of proximity to Tauranga then tapering off as subdivision opportunities dry up.
<b>Kaimai</b>	5114	5579	6000	6400	6550	Steady growth initially because of proximity to Tauranga then tapering off as subdivision opportunities dry up.
<b>Ohauti/Ngapeke</b>	669	750	780	820	850	Steady limited growth initially because of proximity to Tauranga then tapering off as subdivision opportunities dry up.

*Source: Smartgrowth CAU Projections April 2014*

## Omokoroa

As a result of the future growth at Omokoroa, Council developed Structure Plans for the area between State Highway 2 and the existing village. The aim of these Structure Plans is to ensure that growth is managed in an orderly manner and that an appropriate level of service for the provision of open space for recreation, leisure and connectivity purposes is achieved. Storm water reserves will be utilised for recreation and walkway purposes.



Although “residential” is the predominant land use in Omokoroa, the objective is to develop commercial and industrial areas to ensure the Smartgrowth vision “live, work play and learn”. The Structure Plans make provision for the development of an additional 27.1 hectares of active reserves and approximately 1 hectare of passive reserve. More information regarding these reserves can be obtained from **Plan Change 69 – Omokoroa Urbanisation**.

## Te Puna

The Kaimai RMP aims to contribute to the Te Puna Community Plan completed in March 2007, currently in the process of being reviewed, which contains the following vision statements;

- Strong governance and planning process to give effect to community aspirations.
- Te Puna should be characterised by small lifestyle blocks, orchards and farmlands co-existing with tolerance and understanding. - This ‘rural character’ includes the dominance of natural vegetation and primary production regimes over urban development.
- Diverse range of work opportunities are available.
- Retain Te Puna as a rural area by limiting industrial and commercial areas to current locations and focusing on local services.
- Provide necessary infrastructure that meets community needs for transportation, water, wastewater, stormwater, utilities and leisure in a way that is sensitive to the natural environment.
- Develop a brand or theme for Te Puna that distinguishes the community from others through recognising local history, landscape, built form and people and their activities.
- Protect and enhance wetlands, riparian margins, significant landscapes and natural environment ‘opportunities’.

