

JOINT COUNCIL POLICY

POLICY TITLE:	SUB-REGIONAL PARKS
Minute Ref:	Joint Governance – 4 April 2012 Tauranga City Council – 15 May 2012 Western Bay of Plenty District Council – 24 May 2012
Date of Adoption:	2000
Date of Review:	April 2012

1. POLICY OBJECTIVES

- To outline how Tauranga City Council and the Western Bay of Plenty District Council work together on the provision, development, management and use of sub-regional parks within the sub-region.
- To recognise that significant progress has been made on implementation of the Joint Council Policy since it was first adopted in 2000.

2. PRINCIPLES

Tauranga City Council and Western Bay of Plenty District Council share a strategic vision for the establishment of sub-regional parks in the Western Bay of Plenty Sub-region. The two Councils see the benefits of working together to achieve this vision.

Due to the significant progress made on implementation of the Joint Council Policy adopted in 2000, Tauranga City Council and Western Bay of Plenty District Council focus is on maximising the use and enjoyment of the existing sub-regional parks (TECT All Terrain Park and Huharua Park).

3. DEFINITIONS

Joint Committee is the Tauranga City Council/Western Bay of Plenty District Council Joint Governance Committee.

Sub-region is the area over which the Tauranga City Council and the Western Bay of Plenty District Council are responsible.

Sub-regional Parks are areas or categories of land that provide a diverse range of recreational opportunities, as well as protect significant landscapes, heritage, ecological and cultural features in the sub-region. For the purpose of this Policy these areas are TECT All Terrain Park and Huharua Park. A passive coastal park also falls under this definition but as at 2012 has not been secured.

4. BACKGROUND

Existing resource

Tauranga and Western Bay of Plenty are endowed with significant natural resources which provide their communities with a diverse range of recreational opportunities. Both areas are fortunate to have much of their significant open coastal land at Mount Maunganui and Waihi Beach protected as reserves as well as some other inland sites such as McLaren Falls Park. These reserves fulfil a regional role, not only catering for residents, but many of the visitors to the area.

The Crown also provides protected land within the sub-region. The Department of Conservation administers a vast amount of forest park land in the Western Bay of Plenty District and this is an important resource for residents in both areas.

Working in partnership

Co-operation between the Tauranga City Council and Western Bay of Plenty District Council is beneficial for a number of reasons. Firstly, sub-regional parks will benefit the people of both the Tauranga and Western Bay of Plenty. Secondly, co-operation ensures that there is integration in the actions of both Councils and therefore avoid duplication or omissions. Furthermore, combining the resources of the two Councils with other agencies and organisations has and should provide a greater ability to secure suitable land, along with securing funding from other sources.

Future growth pressures

The increase in visitors and residents to the area places significant pressure on the existing open space network. In order to cater for growth Tauranga City Council and Western Bay of Plenty District Council are building on the existing open space network and creating a diverse range of recreational opportunities, as well as protecting significant landscapes, heritage, ecological and cultural features and green areas in the area.

In 2000 when the Policy was first developed, the Councils identified several gaps in the network at that time. The Policy in 2000 outlined how the Councils will work together to fill those gaps, and the priorities, criteria and processes that the Councils have agreed on to reach that goal. Five categories of Park are identified in the Policy.

Progress as at 2012

Type of Park	Description	Progress
Cultural Heritage	To protect areas of cultural significance, and for education and passive recreation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Papamoa Hills Cultural Heritage Regional Park purchased in 2002.▪ Purchase funded by TCC, WBOPDC and BOPRC. TCC and WBOPDC jointly owned land.▪ Park opened to public in 2004.▪ BOPRC take over full ownership in 2006.▪ BOPRC continue to own and manage park.

Type of Park	Description	Progress
Passive Harbourside	Land adjoining the Tauranga harbour for passive recreation such as walking and picnicking.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Huharua Park purchased in 2004. ▪ TCC and WBOPDC jointly purchased Park. ▪ WBOPDC lead agency ▪ Park management plan adopted in 2006. ▪ Park opened to public in 2010.
Active Rural	A large rural park for active recreation, such as motorcross, shooting etc.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ TECT All Terrain Park purchased in 2004. Additional land purchased in 2008. ▪ TCC and WBOPDC jointly purchased Park (with TECT contributing as well) ▪ WBOPDC lead agency ▪ Park opened to public in 2010.
Rural Wilderness	A large area of rural and bush country for both active and passive recreation.	Not progressed. Former Regional Parks Working Group identified that the need for this park is likely to be met by Department of Conservation land.
Passive Coastal	A coastal landscape area primarily for passive recreation and ecological protection.	<p>Land identified as potential for passive coastal park in Te Tumu area.</p> <p>No funding is provided for this land purchase.</p>

5. POLICY STATEMENT

5.1 Partnerships

The Councils recognise the need for sub-regional parks and have and will continue to co-operate to secure, develop and maintain land to meet this need.

The Councils agree to develop partnerships with other agencies and organisations that have common interests in establishing and managing sub-regional parks.

5.2 Priorities

The Councils will focus on ongoing development and management of the TECT All Terrain Park and Huharua Park to ensure the parks are developed to their full potential over a period of time.

5.3 Sub-regional Park land purchase

The Councils will respond to opportunities for land purchase for subregional parks either identified in the Policy or not covered by the Policy on a case by case basis. Note that the passive coastal park is the only remaining park to be secured as per the Joint Policy adopted in 2000. The criteria in Schedule One will be used to provide an initial basis of assessment.

5.4 Governance and management of Sub-regional Parks

The Councils will continue to utilise the Joint Committee for strategic considerations with regard to sub-regional parks, and the TECT All Terrain Park Sub Committee as per the relevant form and delegations.

6. RELEVANT DELEGATIONS

Except as otherwise stated the implementation of this policy is delegated to the Chief Executives of Tauranga City Council and Western Bay of Plenty District Council.

7. REFERENCES AND RELEVANT LEGISLATION

Local Government Act 2002

Reserves Act 1977

SCHEDULE ONE - CRITERIA

The following criteria will provide guidance in the selection of sites for sub-regional parks:

- (a) Resource Value - Significance of natural, landscape, ecological or cultural values on the land.
- (b) Recreation Value - Suitability of the land for outdoor recreation (passive and/or active).
- (c) Availability - Potential threat from subdivision or development.
- (d) Site Suitability - Suitability for development as a sub-regional park.
- (e) Access - Quality of roading access (ie: would not require significant expenditure for road sealing or safety improvements).
- (f) Linkages with other reserve land or other significant natural, landscape or cultural features.