South Waikato District Council

Strathmore Park - Tokoroa

Reserve Management Plan

June 2010

Adopted by the South Waikato District Council

(date)

Strathmore Park

TABLE OF CONTENTS	Page Number
Introduction	**1**
Reserve Description	**2**
History	**3**
Significant Features	**3**
Heritage Sites	**3**
Location	**3**
Purpose	**4**
Use	**4**
Legal description	**4**
Classification	**5**
User Groups	**6**
Lessees	**6**
The Future of the Reserve	**6**
Bibliography	**9**

Introduction

The Management Plan for Strathmore Park has been prepared to enable clarification of the overriding management objectives and policies for the protection, development and ongoing maintenance of the Reserve over the long term. The Plan is a tool by which information on the current development of the Reserve can be summarised, and future development proposals and maintenance requirements set out clearly.

General policies of relevance to all reserves, including Strathmore Park are detailed in the document "South Waikato District Reserves Policy 2010" which needs to be read in conjunction with this Management Plan.

Reserve Description

Strathmore Park is one of Tokoroa's premier reserves and a key recreational facility within the district. Of moderate visual appeal the land consists of two flat blocks of land which can be divided into three distinct areas. Its facilities include six standard fields, training lights, grass tracks, long jump pit as well as two clubrooms situated at either end of the reserve.

Situated on the south west end of the reserve is the Football Club which overlooks the main soccer fields. Near the Balmoral entrance of the reserve is the Athletics Club which overlooks the athletics track and field facilities. Parking areas are located adjacent to the Athletics Club and another large car park situated in the middle of the reserve. The eastern boundary of the reserve is adjacent to railway tracks whilst on the western boundary is residential housing and farmland.

Photograph One: View of a football field and part of the athletics track and club in the distance.

Strathmore Park has an open space, active recreation landscape character. The development of level playing fields, athletic field, carparking and two sports pavilions confirm this theme. The large scale of the sporting facilities, range of different sporting codes and its visible location on Balmoral Drive provide a sense of scale which is consistent with a sports ground for the wider South Waikato District as well as the local community.

History

In 1971 the Tokoroa Parks and Reserves Committee agreed to recommend to the County Borough Council that an offer from NZ Forest Products Limited to sell the land adjacent to Strathmore Park be accepted. The company had asked $18,000 for the 18 acres inclusive of buildings (*South Waikato News* 1971). This was to be the site of Strathmore Park. The park takes its name from the Strathmore District in Scotland and was named by Scottish-born, Sir David Henry.

The Tokoroa Amateur Radio Club was situated adjacent to the railway tracks on the reserve for some time in an old concrete building. Because of the high level of vandalism it attracted, in 1988 the Club relocated to Ireland Reserve on Baird Road. The former Radio Clubrooms were demolished in 1995.

From 1995 to 2002 the South Waikato District Council promoted the relocation of the Football Association to the Tokoroa Memorial Sportsground. However due to the renewed level of interest in soccer and the subsequent increase in the use of the park, this proposal was abandoned.

In 2007 the existing timber post and wire fence along the Balmoral Drive frontage of Strathmore Park was replaced. This new fence includes a pedestrian access at the western end to improve public access to the park. At the same time, Council removed and pruned some of the trees to improve the views into and out of the park.

A residential subdivision is planned for the area adjacent to the park to the west. The park will become a little more hemmed in but will also attract more informal use. The entrance road to the soccer club building will be shared with the entrance to the subdivision.

Significant Features

The wide expanse of level mown grass for the sports fields and the surrounding mature trees are the most significant landscape features. Mature trees also line the entry road and carpark and provide some definition within the larger area of the park.

Heritage Sites

There are no heritage sites located within Strathmore Park.

Location

Strathmore Park is located on the southern outskirts of Tokoroa and can be accessed via Balmoral Drive or Benalder Crescent.

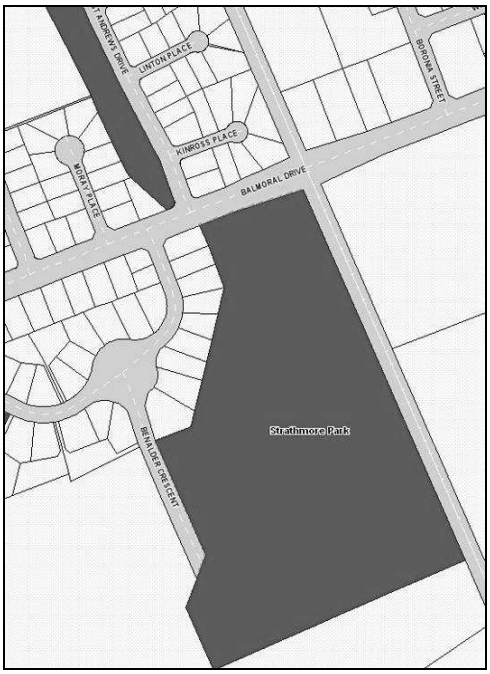

Figure One: Location of Strathmore Park, Tokoroa.

Purpose

The park and facilities within provide an area for active sport, providing a large area of open green space for informal active and passive activity for nearby residences.

Use

The formal use of the reserve has been primarily by soccer and athletics as well as school sports such as cross country events. The current use remains high. The Football Association has approximately 400 children involved in Saturday soccer which subsequently puts strong pressure on the carpark facilities. There are also three adult teams, a summer league and coaching clinics. The Athletics Club is the other main user especially over the summer.

The large open green space is available for a range of passive uses such as walking the dog and family recreation.

Legal Description

Section/Lot	Area	Classification	NZ Gazette Reference
Lot 1 DPS 13001	3.283	Recreation Reserve	N/A
Lot 1 DPS 16787	6.9621	Recreation Reserve	N/A
Lot 1 DPS 20143	0.4445	Recreation Reserve	N/A

Total: 10.6896 Hectares

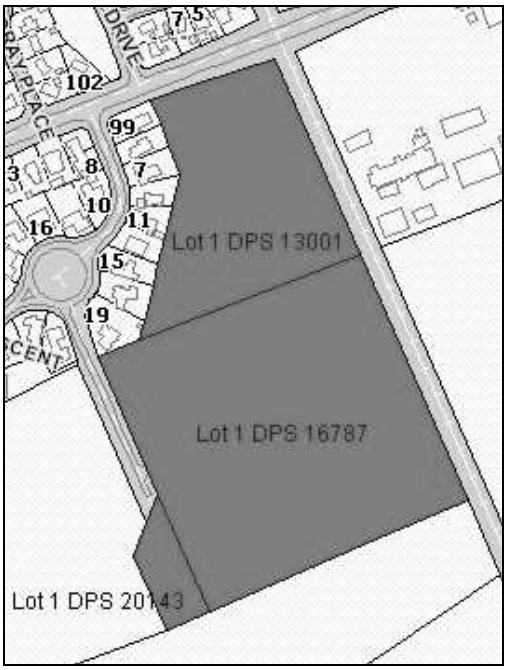

Figure Two: Strathmore Park and its legal appellations.

Classification

The Reserve has been classified for recreational purposes pursuant to the Reserves Act 1977.

Reserves Act 1977: Section 17. Recreation Reserves
"Recreation reserves are for the purpose of providing areas for the recreation and sporting activities and the physical welfare and enjoyment of the public, and for the protection of the natural environment and beauty of the countryside, with the emphasis on the retention of open spaces and on outdoor recreational activities, including recreational tracks in the countryside."

Strathmore Park is zoned as "Reserve" under the South Waikato District Plan.

Photograph One: Users of the Park; the Tokoroa AFC Clubrooms and the Tokoroa Athletics Club.

User Groups

Currently, those that remain formally utilising the Park are the Tokoroa AFC and the Tokoroa Athletics Club. Other users have included

- Tokoroa Track Club (now the Tokoroa Athletics Club)
- Tokoroa Harrier Club
- Tokoroa Junior Soccer Association
- Amateur Radio Club
- Kinleith Soccer Tournament

Lessees

Lessee	Term	Expiry	For
Les O'Leary	Grazing lease is annual commencing on the 1/06 each year; Total area of 1.274 Ha (east of reserve)	01/06/08	Grazing
Tokoroa AFC	No lease in place at this time, currently have a month-by-month tenancy.	31/03/2021	Club Use
Tokoroa Athletics Club	For a period of 21 Years	31/03/2021	Club Use

The Future for the Reserve

The medium term use is not largely planned to change apart from more informal use from the residential subdivision that is proposed. Council plans to maintain this reserve at its current level as a community asset. The medium term strategies consist of encouraging usage by developing safer access and parking, and enhancing the visual qualities of the park.

During peak times for the Athletics Club cars park on Balmoral Drive rather than park at the carpark in the centre of the reserve. There is only enough parking next to the Athletics Club building for 5-6 cars. It is recommended to create more parking at the southern end of the athletics pavilion by running a drive from the end of the central carpark along the railway line. This would keep people and children off Balmoral Drive, and may encourage more people to park at the central carpark.

The following developments are proposed:

Strategy	Options	Benefits to the Community	Priority
• Investigate the possibility of an extension to the existing central road to access new carparks along the railway line closer to the athletic track and pavilion. • Investigate the possibility of a one-way traffic circuit with entry off Balmoral Drive and exit on Benalder Crescent. The one way road would continue along the boundary behind the existing pavilion and link with the existing central park roading and main carpark. • A one way system allows for an economic search pattern and could encourage the use of the existing carparks in the park rather than the road edge on Balmoral Drive. • To upgrade the appearance of the park, paint/stain all the timber fencing black for a cost effective way to provide an instant upgrade to the visual quality of the park. • Plant additional specimen trees along the boundaries to replace any degraded trees.	• Retain open space and sports fields and facilities for local community and wider district use. • Upgrade the physical appearance and enhance the visual qualities of the park to increase the amenity value for local community and other potential users. • Review overall vehicle access and carparking parking to encourage better use of the existing central carpark. • Market and promote the park and facilities as a venue for community events and informal use by adjacent residential areas. • Ensure ongoing general maintenance of the sports fields, roading and carparking, for appropriate use and safety for community use. • Work with the sports codes to upgrade their facilities to encourage better use and participation in the management of the park.	• An attractive open space passive and active recreational facility for community use and enjoyment. • Relatively minor, cost effect re paint of the existing post and rail fence to upgrade the dated appearance of the park. • Potential for better vehicle access, less traffic congestion on Balmoral Drive and more use of the existing carparking.	Medium

KEY
Strathmore Park
Reserve Management Plan
Map the Future
Sue Arthur
South Wairarapa District Council
Landscape

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SWDC Spring Events Newsletter: o6 or 07

South Waikato District Council File notes

Parks and Reserves Strategic Recreation Plan 1994