



Making progress

One of the key responsibilities of your Council is to nurture and create places of special interest. We are blessed in our district with such places, some natural and some that have been developed over time. In the past few years - a relatively short time - we have made great progress toward enhancing our key parks and reserves for the people of Papakura.

Always popular, Central Park is coming back. This special space in Papakura's town centre is being "opened up" to the community. Its new playground has already made a statement, and there's much more to come. This is a place for families and children to own and enjoy.

In Takanini, Bruce Pulman Park is a place where all ages can take part in many types of sport and recreation. At Redhill, the children's forest is maturing from early plantings. Keri Downs Park is receiving attention as community efforts clean up the waterways and plant alongside them.

In Pahurehure, the work has begun to clean up the inlet and form it into a great amenity, again with the help of the community. And in the Drury area, work around streams and reserve acquisition is underway. This issue tells you of some special places to explore. Enjoy them.

John Robertson
Mayor



Getting active in Papakura

Papakura district has an abundance of well-located playgrounds, parks and facilities.

Whether it's a friendly game of kilikiti, touch rugby practice and competition, athletics, soccer, rugby or a pleasant morning or evening walk, Papakura's parks cater to the community's interests and needs.

Our parks and playgrounds are developed and maintained by Papakura District Council staff and contractors. As the district develops and population grows, the Council's planning staff ensure the residents of each new neighbourhood and community have adequate and appropriate parks and recreational facilities.

There are two district reserves, 49 neighbourhood reserves and 14 sports parks throughout the district, with a further two sports parks proposed for Drury and Hingaia to cater for growing populations in these areas.

Among the range of playgrounds, parks and sports grounds in the district, a few are worth special mention.

Central Park is a district reserve and has perhaps the highest profile and widest range of community uses among all Papakura's parks and open spaces. It is a major asset for the district, home of the annual Carols in the Park event, Papakura District Council's popular free Movies in the Park series and soon also to be the location of Papakura's new Arts and Culture Centre.

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► Planning is under way to build a new outdoor event facility to replace the recently demolished stage at the southern end of the park.

Central Park is home to Papakura's newest children's playground, which was opened in June and has proven immensely popular.

The other district reserve is the popular Village Green where Great South Road and Queen Street meet. Here a children's playground, picnic tables and toilets set in a pleasant grassed open space provide a relaxed environment where people meet and linger.

Massey Park is the district's premier track and field sports ground, home to rugby in winter and the perfect venue for Papakura's spectacular annual fireworks display each November.

Bruce Pulman Park is a popular venue for a wide range of sporting codes from netball and gymnastics to Blokart land yachts. In Progress Papakura, the 2006-2016 Long Term Council Community Plan, the Council committed \$2 million for development of a new covered netball facility at the park to enable play in all weather conditions.

Ray Small Park is home to touch, tag and rugby league all year round, and also features a skate park officially rated "awesome" by its many users. A new toilet block has just been completed alongside the skate park.

A new skate bowl has been completed at Keri Downs, offering skaters fresh challenges.

Walkways are becoming a recreational feature of Papakura, with the completion of the Coles Crescent-

Wharf Street walkway and plans to extend a network of coastal walking opportunities from central Papakura to Hingaia.

Few remnants of native bush remain in Auckland. Fewer still stand in an urban environment, with boardwalks and gravelled paths leading through them. For these reasons Kirks' Bush is a true Papakura treasure. Likewise, Margan's Bush features pleasant walking tracks established as a joint Council-community project.

Papakura has also begun work on enhancements to the Pahurehure Inlet under a comprehensive management plan that sets out a range of major projects that enhance the appeal and interest of the inlet for local people and visitors – without compromising the natural values that have long attracted people to the area.

Key projects around the inlet include walkways, picnic areas, historic and natural heritage information areas and a proposal to install tidal gates where the inlet's waters pass out under the motorway into the greater Manukau Harbour.

Already, a joint project to remove juvenile mangroves has made a measurable difference to the area, removing more than a million mangrove plants in a series of weekday and weekend working bees that have attracted up to 40 local volunteers at a time.

With such a wide range of open spaces dedicated to recreation and leisure, Papakura provides the perfect answer for the complaint "there's nothing to do" with a place for every kind of recreational activity from casual and relaxed to formal and organised.

Parks and reserves



Papakura District Council is working to create a system that tells people what features and facilities they can expect to find at a particular type of park and categorises the parks we now have.

The categories we are suggesting are: neighbourhood, area and district reserves and a separate category for sports parks. Through this system we want to create a minimum standard of service for each type of reserve. More information is available at www.papakura.govt.nz and at the Sir Edmund Hillary Library.

Between 9 July 2007 and 10 August 2007 we are inviting local people to tell us their thoughts on these categories and what should be in our parks and open spaces. You can comment on the web site (www.papakura.govt.nz) or write to us at Parks and Reserves, Papakura District Council, Private Bag 7, Papakura.

WORK PROGRAMME UPDATE

This column sets out Papakura District Council's major roading, water and other work - recently completed, in progress and planned. It will be a regular feature of District News to help keep the residents of Papakura up to date with what the Council is doing.

Roading work completed in May and June 2007

- Rehabilitation of Beach Rd surface west bound from Great South Road/Beach Road Intersection
- Kerb and channel improvement works – 340 metres

Roading work in progress

- Streetscape town centre enhancement programme
Broadway revitalisation: storm water upgrades are now under way with new road surfacing to be started once the stormwater work is complete
- Traffic flow: as part of the Streetscape enhancement programme, the section of Broadway that is currently one-way will be changed to a two-way flow to improve traffic circulation and access to town centre businesses
- Great South Road/Beach Road intersection is being upgraded with work on road surfaces and a traffic signal upgrade to improve southbound traffic flows through the intersection

Roading work programmed for July and August 2007

- Hingaia Road/Hinaiu Road intersection improvements
- Rail overbridge repairs at Broadway and Onslow Road (road closures and detours required)
- Construction of a new entrance to the park and ride car park at Ron Keat Drive

Parking and Traffic Bylaw approved

Papakura District Council has ratified its new parking bylaw and parking staff are now enforcing the new rules.

The Papakura District Council Parking and Traffic Bylaw 2007 restricts parking on berms, around public gardens and footpaths and covers a range of other issues not previously addressed.

The bylaw is now available for viewing on the Council web site, www.papakura.govt.nz

- Porchester Road/Ingram Street intersection improvements
- Popes Road/Mill Road intersection improvements
- Footpath renewals – 700 metres

Stormwater work completed in May-June

- Pipe renewals and upgrades in East Street and Elliot Street

Stormwater work currently under way

- Pipe renewals, upgrades and connections in Broadway

Stormwater work programmed for summer 2007/08

- Continuation of stormwater upgrade in town centre area
- Construction of a pond in the "Drury Triangle" area (next to Slippery Creek). This project is to support residential development in Drury

Parks and recreation work completed in May-June

- Central Park Playground
- Mangrove removal at Pahurehure Inlet
- Chichester Reserve Playground
- Public toilets at Ray Small Park

Parks and recreation work currently under way

- Walkway at Gills Ave Esplanade in partnership with Rotary
- Street tree planting in Great South Road
- Wharf Street-Coles Crescent walkway
- Conifer Grove link from boardwalk to Walter Stevens Reserve
- Hingaia Stream erosion stabilisation

Parks and recreation work planned for coming months

- Upgrades at Don Street Housing for the Elderly
- Installation of a basketball hoop at Keri Downs Park
- Upgrade at Village Green including new toilets as part of the Streetscape enhancement of town centre

All kinds of activity, all of the time, for everyone



Lance Watene, left, and Willie Iosia

Spreading the good news about physical activity to Papakura people is the mission of Willie Iosia and Lance Watene. A double act usually found at the heart of the action at Papakura events, these two have been helping keep Papakura active and having huge fun along the way.

Originally working for Counties Manukau Sport helping get at-risk youth off the street and into sport, Willie moved three years ago into a role as District Co-ordinator.

Willie helps nurture the development of sport in the district and is responsible for developing and promoting physical activity opportunities in Papakura.

He works with Papakura schools, sport clubs and community-based groups to build networks that break down barriers to activity.

"It's great to find government and community organisations willing to work together on this for the community and especially for the young people who make up a quarter of our population."

Willie says opportunities for activity in Papakura are many, and parks such as Ray Small Park, Prince Edward Park, McLennan Park, South Park, Mansell Senior grounds and the Army Camp are well used by sport clubs, local schools and other community organisations.

"At Ray Small Park, Papakura District Council has worked with local sports groups to establish facilities for touch, tag and rugby league. Even better, in consultation with young people the council built an awesome skate park and basketball court, ensuring the park has a year-round community focus. We are keen to support more developments like this."

He highlights Papakura Recreation and Fitness Centre – "a hub of activity and a central recreation venue for the whole community of Papakura" where sport and recreation programmes are running regularly with good numbers and very high participation for age groups from pre-school to adult.

Lance Watene describes himself as the "back seat driver" behind much of the physical activity work undertaken. During the day he is National Junior Development Manager for Touch New Zealand and says he got involved in the Papakura physical activity scene as a volunteer.

An early motivator for him was helping organisations and activity programmes that his children are involved in either through their schools or after-school club memberships.

Nothing's too hard for Lance. He willingly turns his hand to anything from coaching and event organisation to "sweeping the floors and keeping the toilets working!"

New Central Park playground opens



Waicare Keri Downs community planting



2007 Children's Forest planting

