

## **SECTION 3      What Do We Want Our Spaces To Be Like In The Future?**

### **3.1              General Guiding Principles**

- 1.      Accessible and safe open spaces for all abilities and ages.**
- 2.      Open spaces that recognise the value of parks and open space in creating a positive economic and social environment for the region. These spaces contribute to the character and image of the district as a place to visit and reside.**
- 3.      Open spaces which express local character and identity, contributing to positive images, creating a sense of pride and belonging in the community.**
- 4.      Open space areas that are sufficiently diverse and appropriately located so as to meet the present and future needs of the community.**
- 5.      A transparent and equitable process to enable Council and the community to identify which existing areas of open space may or may not be needed to achieve the purpose of the Open Space Strategy.**
- 6.      An Open Space Strategy that is flexible enough to respond quickly to the communities changing needs as the City matures.**
- 7.      Open spaces that recognise and promote the importance of Gisborne's Maori and European heritage.**
- 8.      Recognition and promotion of ecology, natural character and landscape.**

#### **3.1.1          General Issues**

- ◆ Reserves on the Main Road linkages through the City have been mostly hidden away by residential housing (ie. Harry Barker Reserve and the Oval). This does not enhance the perception that the City has an ample supply of reserves or adds to the overall amenity of the City.
- ◆ Not all reserves convey a sense of safety for park users due to inappropriate planting, lighting or visibility into and within these reserves.
- ◆ Demands from some sectors of the community to sell open space that appears to be surplus to community needs, creates the risk that existing open space land may be disposed of in an ad hoc manner without proper consideration of future open space needs or other potential uses for the land.
- ◆ Some parks and open space are open and with little shading. Natural and permanent shading is vital to help protect the community against the increasing solar ultraviolet radiation.
- ◆ Teachers and pupils are undertaking to develop the outdoor spaces of their schools.

### **3.1.2 Strengths and Opportunities**

- ◆ Concentrating and developing reserves that can be easily seen from Main Road linkages will enhance visitors first perception and increase general amenity to the City. It will also encourage passive surveillance of the reserves from users of the road. This also alleviates conflict between residents and reserve users.
- ◆ Parks are generally open and provide good visibility. However suitable plant species could be planted to provide shade without enclosing or concealing areas of the reserve from sight. The Cancer Society have recommended guidelines to show where permanent and natural shading should be provided. Trees are a natural form of shading which can be utilised where people will congregate.
- ◆ The Open Space Strategy will provide the blueprint for a transparent process to guide Council to consider all the relevant matters prior to making any decisions on the purchase or sale of open space in the future.
- ◆ Ability to undertake consultation with people with disabilities to gain access and use new facilities.
- ◆ Ensuring open space needs are provided in an equitable manner.
- ◆ Encourage schools to undertake artworks and general enhancement of their outdoor spaces. Schools are also a good resource to develop open spaces outside of school grounds.

## **3.2 Sports Facilities and Recreation**

### ***Principles***

- 9. Maximise the future effectiveness of the limited resources to provide a range of active and passive recreational activities to cater to the needs of an ever-changing community. Ensuring these open space areas contribute to the identity and amenity of the surrounding area.**

### **3.2.1 Issues**

- ◆ The location of some reserves such as Barry Park, Harry Barker Reserve and The Oval are surrounded by houses and this makes them difficult to find. Historically there have been complaints from adjacent residents about noise, about sports fields activities and associated clubs. These types of reserves also allows people to enter the rear of adjacent residential properties.
- ◆ Single purpose sports facilities and reserves with significant maintenance costs are often under utilised and could easily support other compatible recreational activities including passive recreation.
- ◆ All junior sport takes place on Saturday morning placing a considerable strain on reserves for 4 hours/per week each season. Similarly so does senior sport on Saturday afternoons on different fields.
- ◆ Many clubs are finding it increasingly difficult to retain membership, fund and maintain their assets.
- ◆ Gisborne has a higher proportion of youth in the 15-19 year age bracket than the national average. They are participating more in non-traditional and new sports such as touch rugby, waka ama, surfing, basketball and

skateboarding. The effect of this is reduced support for traditional sports clubs whilst creating a changing demand for recreation facilities.

- ◆ There is no purpose built multipurpose outdoor stadium to train and promote elite sports players to a regional or national standard.
- ◆ There is no developed venue to promote, at a national level, multi-challenge/sports and endurance events. At present these events are sought but catered for in an ad hoc manner.
- ◆ Surfing is faced with a lack of support. Gisborne is referred to widely amongst surfers as the surfing capital of New Zealand, but this opportunity to promote the region has not been capitalised on.
- ◆ Churchill park is an under utilised area and its location is ideally suited to further promote the area.
- ◆ There are no club storage buildings for waka ama craft, which is a well supported recreational pursuit.
- ◆ There is no overall plan of where community buildings should be located in open spaces. This runs the risk of adhoc developments of limited purpose possibly sited in inappropriate locations.

### **3.2.2 Strengths and Opportunities**

- ◆ The Recreation Plan (1998-2003) identifies what Gisborne people like to do in their recreation time. In turn this determines what open space and national facilities are used and demanded. Population trends such as a high proportion of youth, suggests the provision for recreation should be targeting these groups.
- ◆ Passive recreation in some instances may be combined effectively with sports grounds, encouraging a diverse and continuous use of these open spaces. This would include providing playgrounds, seating, picnic areas and gardens, where appropriate. Areas providing shade and enjoyment for spectators as well as opportunities for informal recreation and even spaces for quiet contemplation would ensure multiple use of these areas.
- ◆ Different codes such as junior rugby and soccer could play on the same reserve at different times increasing reserves capacity and reducing maintenance, which could lead to improvements to the sports fields being used.
- ◆ Consider developing a multi purpose outdoor arena to hold large events such as rugby, athletics, soccer, cricket, league, hockey, concerts, and exhibitions to national and international standards. Co-operation of all the sporting codes will be required to work together in developing the facility and promoting its use. Possible reserves include the Awapuni Stadium, Rugby Park and the Harry Barker Reserve. A proposed site should be located away from residential areas while ensuring ample parking is available. The Awapuni stadium has a natural amphitheater providing adequate facilities for spectators and media coverage. It is also supported by the Outdoor Theatre located immediately adjacent.
- ◆ Encouraging clubs and groups to make multiple use of the reserves, buildings and facilities.
- ◆ Council could promote the most suitable location of community buildings to meet the on-going infrastructure of the City by determining footprints in appropriate open spaces.
- ◆ The YMCA is currently in the process of reviewing the feasibility study completed by Strategic leisure Ltd in 1998 with the objective to develop a multi-purpose indoor stadium at the corner of Childers Road and

Roebuck Road. The multi-purpose stadium will cater to the needs of an ever changing community and will further be promoted as a venue to cater for national level sporting events. The multi-purpose stadium will provide an improved community facility enhancing the Gisborne region (See also 4.3.5 Civic Centre for use of the building for cultural purposes).

- ◆ Churchill Park is ideally suited for a multi-purpose outdoor recreation facility and venue for national multi-sports and endurance events, motor home camping ground for overflows from Waikanae Camp, a high ropes course, abseiling course, surfing camp and water based institute of sports, promote out of town school camps and tourism. It is in close proximity to the Olympic Pool and beach. Currently triathlons use this area utilising Beacon Street car park as a change station.
- ◆ A hierarchy of facilities throughout the City could result in both equity and quality at least cost.

### **3.3 Neighbourhood Reserves**

#### ***Principle***

- 10. Open spaces for play equipment and active recreation, as well as areas for quiet contemplation and passive recreation located within walking distance of every home within the city.**

#### **3.3.1 Issues**

- ◆ There are a few residential areas that do not have access to neighbourhood reserves.
- ◆ Arterial Roads are barriers to reserve access unless pedestrian crossings or traffic light crossings are provided.

#### **3.3.2 Strengths and Opportunities**

- ◆ Neighbourhood reserves are already accessible for most residents. Rugby Park and Harry Barker Reserve are located in the vicinity of the residential area which most lacks access to a neighbourhood reserve.
- ◆ The Neighbourhood Reserves Strategy Map No. 4 will enable Council to acquire neighbourhood reserves in appropriate areas through the subdivision process and to ensure reserves are not acquired where they are not needed.

### **3.4 Harbour Area**

#### ***Principles***

- 11. Open spaces should be developed and maintained where people can relax and enjoy the regionally significant maritime activities and history of the area.**
- 12. Use of the port areas for recreational activities in clearly recognised spaces, in a manner and in locations which are compatible with port operations.**

### **3.4.1 Issues**

- ◆ Open space, pedestrian opportunities and car parking around the harbour are limited with the exception of the boat ramp and associated grassed areas. It is expected there will be further development in the inner harbour area, especially commercial recreational activity. There are no public facilities such as toilets and rest areas in and around the inner harbour area. Most of this land is in private ownership and development may be limited.
- ◆ The Bulmer Harvest site is proposed for redevelopment as a cultural open space and recreational area. Future development of open space around the harbour relies on the retention of the Bulmer Harvest site.
- ◆ There is little physical story telling such as plaques, storyboards or information describing the abundant Maori and Pakeha history and settlement of the area. As many of these stories centre around or near to the harbour area, it is appropriate that they be told in the harbour vicinity.
- ◆ There is a lack of pedestrian friendly walkways and sign-posting in or around the inner port area. There is no connection between the western side of the harbour to the eastern side of the harbour. There is also no defined walkways to surrounding open spaces such as Titirangi/Kaiti Hill, Te Po O Rawiri Marae and Kaiti Beach.
- ◆ Future Port development and reclamation may compromise open space.
- ◆ Port operations compromise and restrict the location of water recreation activities such as fishing off the end of the wharf, breakwaters or diversion walls separating the Turanganui River from the Port.
- ◆ Port activities have obscured the 'visual link' between the Cook monument and the sea looking towards Young Nicks Head.

### **3.4.2 Strengths and Opportunities**

- ◆ There is an opportunity to create a vibrant busy inner harbour theme utilising all the mixed uses, developing existing open space and creating linkages to other open space areas. Although most of the Port area may be in private ownership, road reserve areas can be further developed. Commercial activities such as cafes and restaurants are increasing. Visitors can relax and watch the hustle and bustle of the harbour activities. The proposed new hotel and residential development on the ex-Watties site has capitalised on the busy waterfront theme, which will include vistas of the shipping operations.
- ◆ Council could continue the development of the CBD walkway and continue this theme around both sides of the harbour connecting with Titirangi/Kaiti Hill and the beaches.

#### Harbour Walkway

The demolition and development of the ex-Watties site on the western side of the harbour creates an opportunity to establish a promenade/connection around the harbour from the beach to the City.

The Midway Beach Reserve Management Plan (November 1999) identifies the need to continue the riverside walkway developed in 1996 from the CBD, to the beach area. Recreational assets could be enhanced by extending this walkway from Reads Quay through to and around the ex Watties site, across the Waikanae stream (through the provision of a

footbridge) and along the Waikanae cut area past the replica statue of Young Nick and through to the Waikanae Beach Reserve.

The Railway Bridge, owned by the Port Company may become redundant and could be developed as a pedestrian link from one side of the harbour to the other.

The Bulmer Harvest site is considered an important site for open space development as it will provide the ability to develop local hapu themes based on art works, gardens, first contact with Cook and discovery of local maori culture. This open space area off-sets the development of the Watties site which constricts open space along the harbour waterfront to a width of approximately 10 metres at one point. The Bulmer harvest site will enhance the promenade of the harbour connecting with the Cook statue and the beach. It also provides a link to Waikanae Stream which could later be developed as a walkway.

Maori and European history could be relayed in stories about significant places around the harbour. These can be shared with the community and visitors by providing accessible information on the site.

Council could encourage, with development of a new wharf and reclamation works, the development of open space in the following ways:

1. Consistent with promoting Gisborne City as the surfing capital of New Zealand, provide a surfable wave along the outer reef part of the reclamation. The site is ideally suited to receive occasional large southerly swells. This reef can be designed at the appropriate angles to ensure the wave rolls down the edge of the reclamation instead of reflecting off it. The swell will roll down the reef dissipating wave energy evenly instead of reflecting the wave energy back into the bay adjacent to the beach area.
2. A new dry dock is envisaged as part of the longer term redevelopment proposals. The existing dry dock is probably the closest piece of land to the rock known as Te Toko a Taiau where the two cultures first met and Captain Cook had the 'first hongī' and could be used to locate a large artwork or sculpture commemorating this.
3. Provide a recreational yachting harbour along Kaiti Beach with provision for a public fishing area.
4. The Cook Landing Site is a national monument which has the potential to be redeveloped to reflect the theme of 'Arrival' in Aotearoa/New Zealand in both Maori and European.

### **3.5 Titirangi/Kaiti Hill**

#### ***Principles***

- 13. Recognition of the landmark significance and cultural heritage attached to Titirangi and the harbour area.**

#### **3.5.1 Issues**

- ◆ There is no physical connection of Kaiti Hill with the CBD and the visual connection from Kaiti Hill across the City is slowly being obscured by tree growth. The hill once provided complete vistas of the city and the bay. These "viewing corridors" have been reduced over many years by the growth of mostly exotic trees.
- ◆ Titirangi/Kaiti Hill has significant cultural importance to many Gisborne people. Iwi/Hapu groups request consultation prior to any earthworks or disturbance due to the cultural significance and waahi tapu of Titirangi.

- ◆ There is no walkway from the eastern end of Titirangi Road/Memorial Drive linking the end of Kaiti Beach Road. This could create a circuit connecting back to the Inner Harbour and the city. Active recreational users have identified the need for this link, which would create a larger exercise circuit.
- ◆ Lighting, signs, and track maintenance are in a state of disrepair, potentially to the point of being dangerous.
- ◆ Weeds, noxious plants and exotic trees are established and areas are prone to vandalism.
- ◆ The history of Maori migration and relevant history of the hill and surrounding area is under represented.

### **3.5.2 Strengths and Opportunities**

- ◆ Kaiti Hill is a significant physical and cultural feature of the Gisborne urban environment. Although existing public facilities have slipped into disrepair, there is the opportunity now to review and redevelop this site.
- ◆ The Harriers Club and members of the public have identified the need for a link to Kaiti Beach Road creating a larger circuit and with sign posting to provide tourists with a circuit that returns to the City.
- ◆ Involvement by local groups such as Kaiti School and Te Poho O Rawiri and other interested schools, clubs and general users may help to cut down on vandalism and graffiti.
- ◆ Iwi educational groups may be willing to participate in on-going maintenance of the reserve e.g. this may involve forestry trainee groups cutting out pine trees and other exotic species.
- ◆ A general landscaping plan of the area could be developed by staff, iwi and interested people which includes the use of native species for educational purposes. Examples could include: landscaping to attract native birds; learning about edible native plants; discovering their medicinal uses; and growing endangered species. The different varieties of flax could be further established and maintained by weavers and other community groups.

## **3.6 City Centre**

### ***Principles***

- 14. Linked urban open space and green areas which provide a relaxed lifestyle and improve the quality of the urban business and retail environment.**

### **3.6.1 Issues**

- ◆ New Year celebrations and performances such as the Tuia Festival have grown and become a nationally recognised event. However, the effects and suitability of locations for these and other annual events now warrants detailed investigation.
- ◆ There are many important walkway linkages throughout the town centre identified as the Arts and Crafts Trail, Mural Trail including stained glass windows and the Historic walk. These could be developed to capitalise on the proximity of the beaches, harbour, CBD and rivers along with the numerous cultural and historic items of interest. To date city trails have tended to be developed in isolation of each other.

- ◆ The view shafts of Grey Street and Customhouse Street provide visual amenity and connections with the city. It is important that future enhancement of these streets recognises this and ensures that these views are protected and not compromised.
- ◆ Inadequate signage along various junction points of network linkages means that the public is not offered or informed of the diversity of choice of paths and activities that already exist within the town centre.
- ◆ There is little funding available to develop open space and to commission sculptures, murals and art works. Council needs to consider innovative schemes to obtain such funding.
- ◆ There have been outstanding issues with the Flea-market located in Alfred Cox Park. This is mostly due to the early starting hours, noise generated, restrictions to other potential users and on-going maintenance costs to the reserve as a result.

### **3.6.2 Strengths and Opportunities**

- ◆ There is the potential to link the different walkways/trails to form an integrated single walkway in the urban area.
- ◆ Vandalism is a highly visible and expensive problem in the town centre. Reserve staff aim to minimise the potential for vandalism to occur.
- ◆ To increase funding for open space art Palm Springs request an art contribution for developments. Over time this has improved amenity values and increased property values.
- ◆ The outdoor theatre is currently the only venue in the City that provides room for over 1200 people to enjoy performance.
- ◆ There is the potential to identify and designate areas in the District Plan for New Year celebrations such as the Tuia Festival.
- ◆ The Gisborne Flea Market has become a Gisborne Icon representing the East Coast flavour of the area. It is centrally located in the City and on the most travelled tourist road apart from Gladstone Road.

## **3.7 Civic Centre Area**

### ***Principles***

- 15. Civic Centre open spaces which are forums for cultural and artistic performance and which express the city's identity, cultures and the natural environment, to enhance the quality of life for residents and visitors.**

### **3.7.1 Issues**

- ◆ The Civic Centre Area does not have an overall plan for future development and is therefore subject to one off development proposals that could adversely alter this unique area.
- ◆ Pedestrian access from the CBD to the Civic Centre Area is limited to Peel Street which can be restrictive for pedestrians during larger events
- ◆ There are no designated areas set aside for outdoor community fairs or events.
- ◆ There have been complaints from surrounding residential areas in respect to outdoor performance, particularly relating to noise. Council needs to clarify what noise levels are considered suitable at each location

such as Kelvin Park, Wi Pere monument, Lawson Field verandah and the Marina Park.

- ◆ There is no adequate indoor performance building in Gisborne City that can cater for over 500 people.

### **3.7.2 Strengths and Opportunities**

- ◆ The Heart of Gisborne report sets the scene for potential Civic Centre open space development and describes this unique scene as:

.... The water (rivers) which represents 'movement and life' surrounded by a large expanse of green punctuated by trees softening the effect of the building mass of the CBD; the Council offices complement the green surroundings as a pleasant focal point. The contrast between openness and enclosure is also evident in tightly grouped buildings and the relaxed meandering river space. This immediate natural relief adds, by its availability and contrast, a quality to the enjoyment of City Life that most citizens hold in high esteem. The further successful development of this space therefore deserves skilful and sensitive attention (p.19).

- ◆ Marina Park provides access to water recreation, principally recreational boating and waka activities which is compatible with passive recreation of quiet and restful landscaped surroundings.
- ◆ Significant development of the river theme has already been undertaken which includes the placement of coloured lights against the bridges and landscaping.
- ◆ The Heart of Gisborne report identifies limited pedestrian access from the CBD and recommends two arched footbridges across the Taruheru River. One at Lowe Street and the other at Bright Street. This may be worthwhile if the Civic Centre Area is further developed.
- ◆ The Civic Area could continue to be developed as an area for daytime and evening activity.
- ◆ The location of civic buildings and facilities are integral to the development of the Civic Area. Ensuring that each project is not carried out in isolation but evaluated against the overall concept will help to avoid ad hoc planning, clarify confusion and more clearly reveal the important planning issues (Heart of Gisborne p.20). A management plan would clarify what these open spaces can be used for and what is acceptable to the surrounding residential zoned areas.

### **3.8. Rivers and Coastal Margins**

#### ***Principles***

**Provide for recreational use of coastal and river margins which are accessible to the public where such activities will not compromise the preservation and protection of the ecological, conservation and amenity values of these open spaces and would not compromise the safety and security of adjacent residents.**

### **3.8.1 Issues**

#### Conservation

- ◆ The Resource Management Act 1991 requires Council to safeguard wildlife habitats and maintain healthy ecosystems along coastal and river margins. This sometimes causes conflict with the community expectation that they will continue to have access to the coastal and riparian margins commonly referred to as the Queen's Chain.
- ◆ The area west of Stanley Road along the Waikanae Stream banks to the area south of the Airport is mostly managed by Department of Conservation as a Conservation Area and is to be developed for the promotion of wildlife.
- ◆ Stormwater run off is rarely treated to improve water quality before it reaches the river or sea.
- ◆ There is a lack of trees along riverbanks, such trees are needed to provide shade and encourage wildlife.
- ◆ Invasive exotic plants and weeds are a threat to existing trees and vegetation.
- ◆ There are many species that have extensive rooting systems and excellent soil binding qualities which can assist in minimising damage caused by flooding. Riverbank areas often need restoration with appropriate species to provide for the conservation of ecosystems functioning and biodiversity values.

#### Acquisition/Walkways

- ◆ In urban areas walkways along rivers can create a perceived security risk for adjacent residential properties.
- ◆ The acquisition of esplanade reserves and strips from the subdivision process is slow and is achieved on a piece meal basis through regulation. The development of complete esplanade reserves for walkways will only be achieved in the long term.
- ◆ Development of a continuous track along the Taruheru river closer to the City is not likely to occur as smaller residential sites are unlikely to subdivide.
- ◆ Maintenance of individual esplanade reserves can be considered costly when they are often under utilised by the public.
- ◆ People maintaining adjoining reserves as part of their own property can become upset when development of tracks for public use is proposed, as undertaking maintenance gives them an expectation that they can retain it for their own use.
- ◆ There is no continuous pathway along Waikanae Stream between Grey Street and Stanley Road. The western end of Alfred Cox Park could be connected with Fraser Lane by a footbridge, which is located across the stream and provides access to Awapuni School from Stanley Road.
- ◆ Sympathetic plantings that do not compromise or obstruct river flood areas could be undertaken to enhance the biological functioning and biodiversity of the riparian and aquatic values.

### 3.8.2 Strengths and Opportunities

#### Conservation

- ◆ Available and willing community groups supporting restoration projects and sponsors who are willing to support open space projects associated with river and coastal margins.
- ◆ Restoration of river margins for wildlife habitat, stormwater infiltration, bank stability, sediment control and visual amenity could be achieved by appropriate planting that is compatible with flood control works.
- ◆ Silt runoff could be reduced to a minimum by improving stormwater quality by ensuring outlets are not too steep and are oversown with appropriate grasses.
- ◆ The northern bank of the Taruheru leading out from the City has traditionally had small width esplanade reserves and strips set aside specifically for conservation purposes. This can be recognised and further encouraged as continuous areas are acquired over the long term.
- ◆ Department of Conservation advised that public access to Waikanae Stream is possible, as habitats are already modified and effected by surrounding activities, and could be made available from its mouth to the airport, except for a short length of railway land east of Stanley Road where access is not provided

#### Acquisition/Walkways

- ◆ Educate and encourage community groups and residents to take ownership of the on-going maintenance of esplanade reserves/strips.
- ◆ When all individual esplanade reserves have been acquired on the northern bank of the Waimata River from the start of Riverside Road to the City boundary there will be the potential to develop a walking track.
- ◆ The development of Esplanade reserves areas closer to the City will only be acquired over the long term as these smaller residential sections are unlikely to subdivide. The northern bank along the Taruheru was originally identified for conservation purposes only. The southern side of the bank has however always been identified to develop a walkway. The south bank of the Taruheru between Derby and Cobden is unlikely to be acquired in the near future.

However the opportunity exists to develop the adjacent two blocks of Aberdeen Road connecting to the Botanical Gardens (See Linkages under Implementation Section).

- ◆ If a footbridge is installed across the stream connecting the BMX track at the western end of Anzac Park to Fraser Lane, there will be access from Grey Street to Stanley Road along the Waikanae Stream. With the installation of a footbridge Awapuni School will create a walkway along its eastern boundary. This will also create a link with Roebuck Road providing direct beach access to people in this part of the City.
- ◆ If the link between the CBD walkway is connected with the start of Aberdeen Road it will create the following network:

A circuit to the Stafford Street footbridge back to the museum, civic and municipal buildings which could cater for people of all ages.

A circuit with Grey Street to the beach and back around the harbour.

A link to the Botanical Gardens along Aberdeen Road

Minimal effort and expenditure would be involved in comparison with the benefits that would be generated would be required to create this network of linkages.

### **3.9 City Beaches**

#### **3.9.1 Issues**

- ◆ Beaches in the City provide a major attraction for residents of Gisborne and are equally important to welcome our visitors.
- ◆ Continued landscaping is required of the City Beaches which includes Kaiti beach, which should create definite links with Customhouse, Grey Street and Stanley Road. Consideration should also be given to continuing the CBD walkway from the harbour and along the beachfront.
- ◆ Trees are required for shading and amenity however there are often complaints with residents losing their sea views.
- ◆ There has been little effort to provide shaded areas or structures for sun protection in and around Gisborne beaches. There is a lack of shading and public amenities on the route that links the beach to the City.
- ◆ There is no comprehensive plan for beach planting, this process appears to be ad hoc with little record of established plantings or consideration of what should be planted and where.
- ◆ Council owns and maintains several beachfront sections along Salisbury Road for the purpose of providing future carparking areas. This was originally identified in the Turbott Report. Carparking facilities have recently been provided elsewhere and now Council should determine the future of these sections remaining for the purpose of future beach amenity needs. The beach end of Grey Street gets congested during peak 'user' times.
- ◆ There is no formal outdoor national multi-sports and endurance events area or facility where endurance sports can be based and promoted.
- ◆ The safety of Poverty Bay for the combination of swimming, fishing, boating, sailing, surfing, diving, jet skiing, water skiing and surf life saving activities requires careful consideration.

Both water skiing and jet skiing within the bay need designated areas. Jet skiing has little beach access and usually launch at the Marina and travel out into the bay and then travel some 2km to the designated Jet Ski zone.

- ◆ Kaiti Beach has been used in the past to dump rocks and excess spoil. Sand from the beach has also depleted through beach erosion. Maintenance and enhancement is required for this beach.

#### **3.9.2 Strengths and Opportunities**

- ◆ Planting of the City beaches has been carried out through grants which Council staff has been responsible for obtaining.
- ◆ Extensive public consultation has already been undertaken in developing the City beaches in preparing the Midway and Waikanae Management Plans which identified informal walkways along the beachfront as being preferred.
- ◆ Landscaping of the city beaches will allow for development to be undertaken in stages with a vision for the final outcome. The City beaches of Waikanae and Midway already have substantial trees planted

along the beachfront. The opportunity exists to continue this planting (including dune planting), enhancing Gisborne and promoting the safety of the great beaches through adequate provision of amenity and shade.

- ◆ The sea views of residents can be preserved in the long term by adequate consultation and planting of trees that do not obscure views but provide shading when mature. Species like the Norfolk Pine already established along the beachfront meet such objectives. However the trend of planting exotics can be curtailed. Appropriate native trees can be used and with education of affected residents, their loss of views does not need to be an issue. Native trees have additional benefits of providing habitat and food for wildlife. DOC have significant experience with Councils in the Bay of Plenty where areas with pohutakawa, Karaka and other species now line the coastline.
- ◆ Existing and recently formed car parking areas along the city beachfront may provide suitable parking areas now and in the future. Some of the Salisbury Road sections acquired for future carparking areas from recommendations of the Turbott Report may now be surplus to Council's needs.
- ◆ The natural features of the City and immediate environs lends itself to the potential development and hosting of national multi-sports and endurance events.

An event could be developed using and promoting our rivers, land and sea for a multi challenge event to compare with many of the current endurance ventures such as the coast to coast or the Motu challenge. Such ventures could bring to the district, promotion, tourism and economic potential.

- ◆ Gisborne City has the uniqueness of having good swimming and surfing City beaches within close proximity to the City. This aspect could be further promoted.
- ◆ Kaiti Beach is a popular protected beach when a strong north easterly is blowing as it is the only beach offering protection from the wind and should be maintained for public use. It offers unique character as a popular beach for families due to lack of waves, reefs to explore, and sailing under the landscape of Titirangi Hill.

## **3.10 Wainui**

### **3.10.1 Issues**

- ◆ The pressure for additional residential development on open space and rural areas is expected to continue. Such developments should be off-set with appropriate native plantings where possible.
- ◆ Increasing volumes of logging traffic on SH 35 heightens existing concerns about traffic safety for cyclists, runners and walkers into the City. Cyclists, runners and walkers have no alternative route from Makarori to Gisborne.
- ◆ The Chalet and Pines carparking areas are used by Gisborne public and tourists placing additional pressure on open space and facilities.
- ◆ Wainui Beach is nationally recognised in the surfing community as one of the best surfing beaches in New Zealand but has not been promoted as a unique open space of Gisborne City.
- ◆ People, horses and vehicles can cause extensive damage to sand dune areas, if they are permitted to roam freely on the dunes, especially if there is no dune vegetation.

- ◆ Views from residences on Moana Road across Lysnar Reserve are being restricted by tree growth on the reserve. Some residents want specific tree planting at Wainui while others want to retain sea views. Soft options to encourage dune systems are largely undeveloped.
- ◆ A potential wildlife corridor along the hills extending from the northern end of Wainui to Lysnar Street and Hamanatua Stream is recognised for its potential to enhance the area by encouraging native bird populations.

### **3.10.2 Strengths and Opportunities**

- ◆ Landscaping could concentrate on the original species of natives further enhancing the wildlife corridor.
- ◆ The reserves administered by DOC at the northern end of Wainui and increasing native plantings on peoples sections in Lysnar Road are encouraging native bird populations. Additional native plantings with recent lifestyle subdivisions is further enhancing the development of wildlife corridors.
- ◆ A cycleway and walkway from Makorori to the City, which creates an extension to the Heritage Trails has been investigated (Ref W95/9 Works Consultancy Services). This covers a distance of approximately 10-km from Makorori settlement to the City and is principally aimed to remove cyclist, runners and pedestrian from SH. 35 to avoid conflict with increasing forestry trucks. Six separate areas connecting Makorori Settlement to the City at Tyndall Road intersection have been identified. Up to 3 options have been shown for each area.
- ◆ The Wainui School is using local artists to educate the children by together creating significant works of outdoor art at the school, which will further enhance the area. In the longer term the school is aiming to target the wider area of Wainui and possibly aspects of the coast to further enhance the area.

## **3.11 Entranceways and Linkages**

### ***Principles***

- 17. Gateways to Gisborne and Linkages that maximise the visual amenity values of significant open spaces.**

### **3.11.1 Issues**

#### Road Linkages

- ◆ Recent street tree planting has tended to focus on the replacement of old, dying and noxious species such as Oleanders and requests from the public. Some of the main road links and other important entranceways such as the route from the airport not been planted to date and do not create a good impression when entering the City.
- ◆ The sale of open space may threaten open space that contributes to the visual amenity of the Main Road Linkages. These open space areas enhance the perception that Gisborne is a beautiful place to visit and reside.
- ◆ Overhead power lines and infrastructure can restrict the planting of street trees.

- ◆ Some urban streets planted in the past have created maintenance problems and incurred costs to the community. Trees such as the Plane Tree (*Platanus x acerifolia*) requires significant maintenance.
- ◆ The road linkage to Kaiti Hill is the most visited site in the district with roads in a poor state of repair.

#### Walkways

- ◆ There is no defined Strategy for developing a network of walkways in and around the City, which makes the coordinated development of such activities difficult.
- ◆ Reserves have not been promoted for a diverse range of recreation activities, which often results in limited use of reserves.

#### Airport

- ◆ Macrocapa and other trees can interrupt the view of Young Nicks Head from the airport terminal. This is a dramatic reminder that passengers have arrived in Gisborne.
- ◆ The East Coast Museum of Technology located in Makaraka is isolated in respect to public transport.

### **3.11.2 Strengths and Opportunities**

#### Main Road Linkages

- ◆ Council could continue consultation with Eastland Network Ltd and other utilities with regard to undergrounding services. The hierarchy of streets in the Strategy can be used to prioritise the undergrounding as part of a street enhancement program.
- ◆ Recognise the importance of beautifying main roads through Gisborne as a place of destination appeal and a place to reside.
- ◆ The opportunity exists to further develop the City's entrances. A connection with the rock garden theme established at the Town Clock creating a sense of arrival when visitors reach the City centre could be developed. The Gisborne Inner City Report, 1995 discusses the possible use of poupou as design elements.
- ◆ Street trees are already established in some streets. This is usually undertaken when requested from residents of that street.
- ◆ Gisborne currently has over 4,000 street trees of varying sizes, species, age groups and condition. Historically, exotic trees have been planted within City streets. Issues such as size, growth patterns and rate of establishment have dictated planting regimes. There is however scope for further native plantings within the City especially in key open space linkages areas and those reserves which border major pedestrian routes. Different situations (including the consideration of utilities and other services) will direct the adoption of different landscape solutions in various areas.
- ◆ Marked-out cycle lanes along certain roads will provide a measure of safety for the people using them.

### Walkways

- ◆ There is a lot of open space owned by the airport, and there are safety considerations when using the runway. However it may be possible to create walkway over land leased for grazing, which is located away from the runway to the north east.
- ◆ It may be possible to link a walkway from the Campion Road footbridge south through the eastern side of Gisborne Park Golf Course and along the northeastern part of the airport currently leased to grazed stock. This walking track could then connect with the Waikanae Stream networking with other walkways.

### Airport

- ◆ An unobstructed view of Young Nicks head from the airport terminal creates a dramatic landscape and creates a good first impressions for people entering Gisborne.
- ◆ A riverbank railway could be established which would provide public access to East Coast Museum Of Technology and a tourist attraction.

### **3.12 Principles in Summary:**

#### *General Guiding Principles*

- 1. Accessible and safe open spaces for all abilities and ages.**
- 2. Open spaces that recognise the value of parks and open space in creating a positive economic and social environment for the region. These spaces contribute to the character and image of the district as a place to visit and reside.**
- 3. Open spaces which express local character and identity, contributing to positive images, creating a sense of pride and belonging in the community.**
- 4. Open space areas that are sufficiently diverse and appropriately located so as to meet the present and future needs of the community.**
- 5. A transparent and equitable process to enable Council and the community to identify which existing areas of open space may or may not be needed to achieve the purpose of the Open Space Strategy.**
- 6. An Open Space Strategy that is flexible enough to respond quickly to the communities changing needs as the City matures.**
- 7. Open spaces that recognise and promote the importance of Gisborne's Maori and European heritage.**
- 8. Recognition and Promotion of ecology, natural character and landscape**

#### **Sports Facilities and Recreation**

##### *Principles*

- 9. Maximise the future effectiveness of the limited resources to provide a range of active and passive recreational activities to cater to the needs of an ever changing community. Ensuring these open space areas contribute to the identity and amenity of the surrounding area.**

#### **Neighbourhood Reserves**

##### *Principle*

- 10. Open spaces for play equipment and active recreation, as well as areas for quiet contemplation and passive recreation located within walking distance of every home within the city.**

#### **Harbour Area**

##### *Principles*

- 11. Open spaces where people can relax and enjoy the regionally significant maritime activities and history of the area.**
- 12. Use of the port areas for recreational activities in clearly recognised spaces, in a manner and in locations which are compatible with port operations.**

## **Titirangi/Kaiti Hill**

### *Principles*

- 13. Recognition of the landmark significance and cultural heritage attached to Titirangi and the harbour area.**

## **City Centre**

### *Principles*

- 14. Linked urban open space and green areas which provide a relaxed lifestyle and improve the quality of the urban business and retail environment.**

## **Civic Centre Area**

### *Principles*

- 15. Civic Centre open spaces which are forums for cultural and artistic performance and which express the city's identity, cultures and the natural environment, to enhance the quality of life for residents and visitors.**

## **Rivers and Coastal Margins**

### *Principles*

- 16. Provide for recreational use of coastal and river margins which are accessible to the public where such activities will not compromise the preservation and protection of the ecological, conservation and amenity values of these open spaces and would not compromise the safety and security of adjacent residents.**

## **Entranceways and Linkages**

### *Principles*

- 17. Gateways to Gisborne and linkages that maximise the visual amenity values of significant open spaces.**

**Note: Liaison should continue with Keep Gisborne Beautiful Committee and Transit NZ's Adopt-A-Highway programme.**