



# **APPENDICES**

**Strategy, Operations and Finance  
Committee Meeting  
Under Separate Cover**

**Thursday, 19 October 2023**



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Figure 1 Mazengarb Reserve

## Districtwide and Destination Parks Te Kaiwhakahaere Tiakitanga

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# 1 About this Activity

## 1.1 Strategic alignment

Public parks have been around since ancient times. The idea of creating green spaces for public enjoyment can be traced back to the Hanging Gardens of Babylon, one of the seven wonders of the ancient world. While in Kapiti we don't have one of the seven wonders, we do have six wonderful districtwide or destination parks.

While the early parks in ancient history were predominantly created by monarchs and nobility to flaunt their wealth and consisted of elaborate gardens and parks designed by renowned landscape architects, these parks were not accessible by the general public. Thankfully, modern parks have evolved as inclusive and increasingly accessible community assets created and developed for the enjoyment of all. A forefather of modern public parks, Frederick Law Olmsted, believed that parks should be open to everyone, providing respite from the hustle and bustle of life and promoting physical and mental wellbeing. His vision paved the way for numerous public parks around the world, shaping urban form and enhancing the quality of life for millions of people.

Public parks offer a multitude of benefits that contribute to the wellbeing of individuals and communities. Spending time in public parks has been proven to reduce stress levels, improve mental health, and enhance the overall feeling of wellbeing. Public parks play a crucial role in promoting physical fitness and healthy lifestyles, offering opportunities and space for recreational activities while providing environmental and biodiversity benefits for communities that are facing increasing urbanisation and densification.

Kāpiti Coast District Council's districtwide and destination parks provide facilities such as playgrounds, sports fields, gardens, and fitness equipment, encouraging people of all ages to engage in play and exercise. Parks are inclusive spaces where individuals can participate in any number of activities, fostering community cohesion and social interaction; parks are quiet spaces, offering areas to relax and unwind by yourself or with those special to you. Public open spaces provide for the protection of important cultural, biodiversity and environmental values. Our destination parks are popular with the district's tourists and visitors and are key in ensuring Kapiti maintains its unique character and reputation as a great place to live and play.

The vision for the community is a Kāpiti with a thriving environment, vibrant economy, and strong communities. Toitū te whenua, toitū te wai, toitū te tāngata – toitū Kāpiti: the lifestyle choice. Public parks contribute directly to the vision for a strong community and thriving environment which in turn leads to a vibrant economy.

The provision of quality parks and open spaces is integral to the ten strategic priorities developed through Vision Kapiti, across all three of the streams; "Place", "People" and "Partnership".

Figure 1 Council's Vision



















































































































































































































































































































































































