

KING EDWARD PARK RESERVE MANAGEMENT PLAN 2024



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Executive Summary

The Stratford District Council (SDC) manages 20.7446 hectares of reserve land known as King Edward Park. The management and preservation of this reserve delivers, for both current and future generations, the following:

- Community use and enjoyment
- Recreational and sporting pursuits
- Protection of the environment

Section 41 of the Reserves Act 1977 requires the Stratford District Council (SDC) to prepare a management plan for King Edward Park. SDC is required to keep this management plan under continuous review. This document is the second edition of the King Edward Park Reserve Management Plan and supersedes all previous reserve management plans.

The King Edward Park Reserve Management 2024 will focus on goals and outcomes for this reserve. The preparation of this management plan allows Council, together with the community, to establish the desired mix of uses and values for this reserve and set in place a consistent policy to guide the day-to-day management, as well as the long-term development.

King Edward Park began its journey as a public reserve over 130 years ago when 21 hectares of Crown Land between Regan and Page Streets was reserved for recreation purposes under the provisions of the Land Act 1877. It has undergone many changes over time, including:

- A large portion being subdivided off in 1942 to establish the Stratford Primary School and other areas being added to the original reservation.
- The construction of the Malone Gates in memory of Lieutenant Colonel WG Malone in 1923.
- The development of Centennial Park to celebrate 100 years of the Treaty of Waitangi in 1940.
- The development of numerous sporting facilities, walking tracks and the McCullough Rhododendron Dell.

The Reserve Management Plan contains policies and objectives for effective management, which is aimed at maximising use, enjoyment, and continuing development, while balancing biodiversity and ecological sustainability. These objectives and policies are also guided by other planning documents and processes such as the Long Term Plan and the Parks, Reserves and Cemeteries Asset Management Plan.

1 Introduction

Section 41 (Reserves Act 1977) requires the Stratford District Council (SDC) to prepare a management plan for King Edward Park. SDC is required to keep this management plan under continuous review.

The result is the development of the Parks Activity Management 2006. A district wide Reserves Management Plan 2011 was developed, with the 1st King Edward Park Reserve Management Plan 2017 created to focus solely on the management and future development of King Edward Park.

This is the 2nd edition of the King Edward Park Management Plan.

1.1 Purpose

This management plan is a community document. It is intended to provide the community with certainty about the function and management of this reserve.

The King Edward Park Reserve Management Plan (the Plan) focuses on goals and outcomes for this reserve. The preparation of the Plan allows Council, together with the community, to establish the desired mix of uses and values for this reserve and set in place a consistent policy to guide the day-to-day management, as well as the long-term development.

Council has prepared the Plan to:

- Satisfy the statutory provisions of the Reserves Act 1977.
- Provide a comprehensive planning document with clear policies and objectives to enable it to manage the reserve for the purpose it is set aside for.
- Provide the community with an opportunity to have quality input into the future of the reserve.

1.2 Objective

The objectives of the Parks, Reserves and Cemetery Activity are to:

- Provide an attractive and functional reserve that satisfies community social and recreational needs.
- Provide appropriate, safe, accessible, and exciting outdoor areas that inspire people to undertake appropriate passive and active recreational activities.
- Plan for, and forecast, the cost-effective investment to anticipate demand trends that may affect this investment.
- Maintain adequate management systems for all matters to ensure King Edward Park is maintained to meet adequate service and safety standards.
- Provide for informed community consultation on all matters regarding King Edward Park.
- Include Iwi in any future development of King Edward Park.
- Protect any sites discovered within the park that potentially could be of significance to Māori and afforded appropriate protection as required by the Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga Act 2014.

1.3 Scope

The Plan addresses all activities that occur within the reserve. It is envisaged to read in conjunction with all of Council’s Activity Management Plans.

Activities and operations identified in this plan feed into the Parks, Reserves and Cemeteries Asset Management Plan and District Plan.

1.4 Strategic and Legislative Context

Stratford District Council has been appointed by the Crown to control and administer King Edward Park pursuant to the Reserves Act 1977. The Act empowers Council to carry out certain actions, impose rules relative to the use of the reserve and develop objectives and policies regarding its future development.

In 2011, in accordance with Section 41 of the Reserves Act 1977 (“the Act”), Stratford District Council prepared and adopted a District-wide Reserve Management Plan for all reserves owned and/or administered by Council. That plan outlined Council’s general intentions in respect of the use, development, maintenance, protection, and preservation of reserves. It also established policies in this regard and referred to the Parks Activity Management Plan 2006 for details of planned developments.

Section 41(4) of the Act requires Council to:

“Keep its management plan under continuous review so thatthe plan is adapted to changing circumstances or in accordance with increased knowledge”.

The Plan contains policies and objectives for effective management which is aimed at maximising use, enjoyment, and continuing development, while balancing biodiversity and ecological sustainability. These objectives and policies are also guided by other planning documents and processes, such as:

- Asset Management Policy
- Parks, Reserves and Cemeteries Asset Management Plan
- Taranaki Regional Council’s Regional Walkway and Cycleway Strategy for Taranaki 2007 (currently under review)

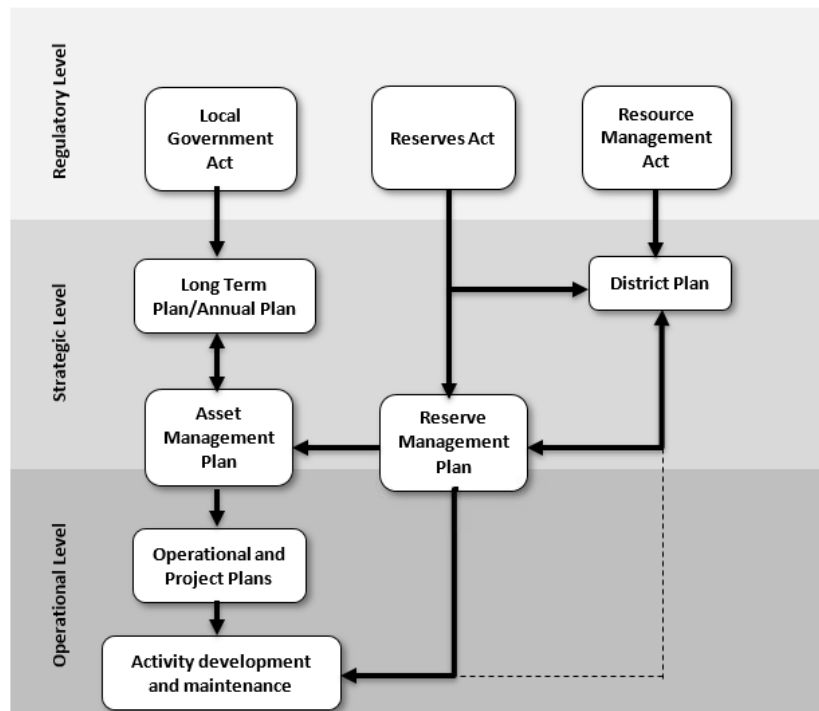


Figure 1: Reserve Management Strategic Framework

2 King Edward Park

2.1 Location and Access

King Edward Park (**Figure 2**) is bordered to the north by Stratford Primary School and Regan Street, to the east by Portia, Fenton, and Miranda Streets, to the south by Page Street and to the west by Brecon Road (formed and unformed). In total it comprises over 20 hectares and is the largest park in the Stratford township.



Figure 2: King Edward Park

King Edward Park is located approx. 250 metres from the retail centre of Stratford and contains the following features:

- Carrington Walkway
- Charlie Clemow Walk
- Malone Gates
- Page Street Playground
- Scout Hall
- McCullough Rhododendron Dell
- The Three Bridges Trail
- Wai o Rua (Stratford Aquatic Centre)
- Centennial Park
- Hockey Turf
- Netball & Tennis Courts
- Page Street Sportsground
- Stratford Holiday Park
- TET Multi Sports Centre
- Trees of Significance Trail
- Western Loop Walkway

Detailed description and usage of each space are provided in Section 4.

There are numerous pedestrian entrances into the park, the main being through the historic Malone Gates on Portia Street. Entrance can also be gained at various points off all the surrounding streets.

There are two public car parks within the park, these being off Regan Street servicing primarily the sporting facilities in this area, off Page Street servicing the sportsground.

2.2 Land Status and Legal Description

King Edward Park occupies land that is contained within three certificates of title as detailed **Table 1** below. All three areas are recreation reserve subject to the provisions of the Reserves Act 1977 and are zoned Protected Area under the Stratford District Council's district plan.

Table 1: Land Status and Legal Description

	Area 1	Area 2	Area 3
Legal Description	Lot 1 DP494685	Lot 2 DP494685	Sections 125 and 126 Block I Ngaere Survey District and Sections 470 – 484, 508 – 518, 781, 858, 935, 936, 1024, 1036 – 1038 Town of Stratford.
Area	1.2308 hectares	13.3554 hectares	6.1584 hectares
Status	Recreation Reserve – NZ Gazette 1982 p.184		
Zone	Protected Area		
Primary Use	Holiday Park	Bush, sportsfields and passive recreation	Sport and active recreation


2.3 History


King Edward Park began its journey as a public reserve over 130 years ago when 21 hectares of Crown Land between Regan and Page Streets was reserved for recreation purposes under the provisions of the Land Act 1877. It has undergone many changes over time, including:

- A large portion being subdivided off in 1942 to establish the Stratford Primary School and other areas being added to the original reservation.
- The construction of the Malone Gates in memory of Lieutenant Colonel WG Malone in 1923.
- The development of Centennial Park to celebrate 100 years of the Treaty of Waitangi in 1940.
- The development of numerous sporting facilities, walking tracks and the McCullough Rhododendron Dell.

Table 2 outlines the chronological history of King Edward Park.

Table 2: Chronological History

Date	Action
1885	Section 28 Block I Ngaere Survey District and Sections 781, 858, 935 and 936 Town of Stratford were reserved for recreation purposes by Gazette 1885 page 508.
1892	Sections 470-484 and 509-518 were brought under the Public Domains Act 1881 by Gazette notice 1892, page 1653 and the Stratford Town Board was named as the Domain Board.
1894	New athletics track developed on what was then known as the East Recreation Ground.
1897	Two oaks planted for Queen Victoria's 60 th jubilee.
1902	<p>By resolution of the Domain Board, on 10 July 1902, in commemoration of the coronation of King Edward VII, a variety of trees were planted, and a suspension bridge constructed to link the 'Page Street Reserves' with the town side of the Patea River. The planted area became affectionately referred to as 'King Edward's Park' and later the entire mass of reserved areas, both sides of the river, became collectively known as King Edward Park.</p>  <p>Figure 3: Workers using high pressure hose in King Edward Park (1902)</p>
1920 - 1921	Preparation of land and construction of the children's playground on Page Street.
1920's	Development of a camping ground on the site of the Stratford Holiday Park.
1923	<p>Malone Gates were officially opened on 8 August 1923, eight years to the day after the death of Lieutenant Colonel WG Malone at Chunuk Bair.</p> <p>Monument is thought to be one of the country's largest to an individual soldier and was paid for by the men of the Wellington Regiment.</p>
1930's	Development of playing fields in the northeast corner of King Edward Park by relief workers.
1937	Construction of the first Municipal Swimming Pool Complex (now the TSB Pool Complex).
1939	Decision made that Stratford's memorial for the centennial of New Zealand should be the constitution of a Centennial Park. The site chosen was an area straddling the Patea River, from Page Street to Fenton Street. The new park was to include play equipment, a bridge across the river and planting. Later in 1939 the Women's Rest Rooms were added to the proposal and given priority for funding.
1941	Learner's swimming pool was added to pool complex.
1942	15 acres subdivided off from the park for the new Stratford Primary School.
1945	Centennial Bridge (adjacent to the TSB Pool Complex) constructed as part of Centennial Park.
1948	Centennial Rest Rooms constructed at the entrance to Centennial Park on Fenton Street.

Date	Action
1951	Rugby grounds and clubrooms developed on Page Street.
1950's	Rhododendron plants from the Exbury Estate in Southampton were planted in the 1950s along with seeds from the Royal Botanic Gardens in Edinburgh.
1953	New netball / tennis courts developed adjacent to the Malone Memorial Gates on Portia Street on the site where, in earlier years, a rock crushing plant had been situated.
1953	A native arboretum was established and named the Charlie Clemow Walk.
1954	Kauri planted near the Swing Bridge in recognition of the visit to the town by Queen Elizabeth II and Prince Phillip.
1960's	Rhododendron Dell was formed during this period following the felling of old pine trees
1960	Parts of Hamlet and Portia Streets stopped and formally added to the park.
1966	Pine planted from a seedling taken off Lone Pine Hill in Gallipoli planted by Malone Gates in the presence of around 100 Gallipoli veterans from Taranaki and Wanganui.
1970	Rhododendron Dell was named after the former chairman of the Parks and Reserves Committee, Mr. Edward Wallace McCullough and to be known as "The McCullough Rhododendron Dell".
1973	Centennial Bridge replaced. 
	Figure 4: Centennial Bridge (2003)
1996	Development of the synthetic hockey turf on Portia Street.
2000	The TET Multi Sports Centre was constructed adjacent the synthetic hockey turf.
2015	Demolition of Page Street gymnasium (former rugby clubrooms).
2016	Re-development of the Stratford Holiday Park under new lease.
2017	Development of an amenities block at Page Street Sportsgrounds.
2017	Upgrade of netball/tennis courts playing surface.
2020	Refurbishment of Centennial Rest Rooms toilets and meeting rooms. Funding obtained through Provincial Growth Fund.
2021	New pool development commenced with the new location situated next to the Hockey Turf on Portia Street.
2022	Disestablishment of TSB Pool Complex and opening of Wai O Rua (Stratford Aquatic Centre).
2022	Management of the TET Multi Sports Centre transferred to a newly constructed Trust with a lease of 10 years.
2022	Trees of Significance trail incorporated into the King Edward Park walkways.

3 Progress So Far

This section sets out how we have progressed so far, including:

- What we have achieved since 2017.
- Review process
- Stakeholder feedback.

3.1 What have we achieved?

Table 3 provide a summary of our achievement so far in terms of actions that were identified in the King Edward Park Reserve Management Plan 2017.

Table 3: 2017 Actions and Progress Status

No.	Proposed Action	Who	Progress Status
1	Develop and formalise dual walking/cycling tracks	SDC	Ongoing
2	Develop and implement biodiversity plan	SDC/TRC	Complete
3	Replace Page Street Drinking Fountain	SDC	Complete
4	Upgrade Rhododendron Dell	SDC	Ongoing
5	Further development of TET Multi Sports Centre	SCSS/SDC	Ongoing
6	Refurbish Centennial Rest Rooms toilets	SDC	Complete
7	Upgrade Page Street playground slide	SDC	Complete
8	Upgrade Page Street sportsground lighting	SRC	Complete
9	Upgrade Netball lighting	NT	Not yet Started
10	Uplighting of Malone Memorial Gates	SDC	Complete
11	Pathway lighting through Rhododendron Dell	SDC	Project to be removed
12	Upgrade park and walkway signage	SDC	Complete
13	Seal Page Street sportsground car park	SDC	Complete
14	Develop wheelchair accessible track	SDC	Complete
15	Extend lime chip track into Rhododendron Dell	SDC	Complete
<p><i>SDC – Stratford District Council</i> <i>TRC – Taranaki Regional Council</i> <i>SCSS – Stratford Community Sports Society</i> <i>NT – Netball Taranaki</i></p>			

3.2 Review Process

The review process is outlined in Section 41 of the Reserves Act 1977 and summarised below:

Before preparing a management plan for any reserve, SDC Council shall:

- *Give public notice of its intention to do so.*
- *In that notice, invite persons and organisations interested to send to the administering body at its office written suggestions on the proposed plan within a time specified in the notice.*
- *In preparing that management plan, give full consideration to any such comments received.*

SDC has started undertaking the steps shown in the flow chart in **Figure 5**.

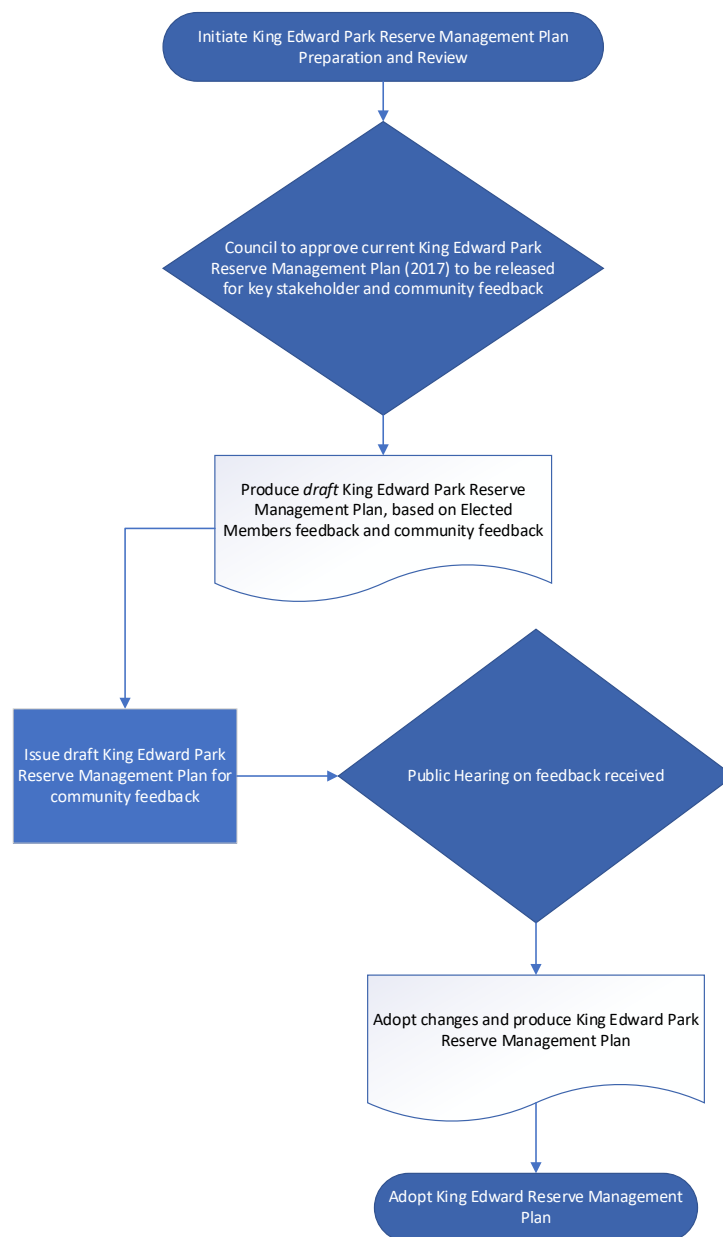


Figure 5: Review Process

3.3 Stakeholder Feedback

Stakeholder feedback includes:

- Feedback from Iwi as per the engagement of 27 April 2023.
- Community feedback sought in July and August 2023.
- Feedback from Elected Members obtained in a Council workshop on 10 October 2023.
- Community Survey requests over the years.
- Officer recommendations.

This feedback has informed the proposed Levels of Service for different spaces within the reserve, as outlined in Section 4 of this report.

3.3.1 Iwi Feedback April 2023

Summary of Iwi includes:

- To provide feedback on the first *draft* and provide submissions/input into the plan review

3.3.2 Community Feedback through July and August 2023

Summary of Community Feedback includes:

- Collaboration with Partners
The consideration of how the new 2023 Collaborating for Active Spaces and Places Taranaki strategy can align to the Plan.
- Cycling:
There is a need for more challenging trails for mountain bikers - make existing wide tracks for dual usage.
- Dog Control:
Please keep some of the park dog friendly; Refillable water bowl for dogs; dog playground in a fenced off area.
- Entertainment
More concerts in the park.
- Facilities / Amenities:
Provide more seating in park and in Western Loop walkway; toilet on the north side of the river, behind the primary school; electric BBQs for families to enjoy; provide areas for recreation, sporting activities, physical welfare, and enjoyment of the public (exercise stations); more lighting in the reserve.
- Natural Beauty.
Planting of new native plants; remain as natural as possible, that is the beauty, attraction, enjoyment, and peacefulness of it.

- **Walkways:**
Make more pathways non-slip; maintaining walkways and structures; Western Loop to have an access point in Elizabeth Grove; bridge connection at the top of the track to access the other side of the river.
- **Weed Control:**
Remove / reduce the use of Glyphosate, serious weed management.

3.3.3 Elected Members Feedback October 2023

Summary of feedback from Elected Members includes:

- Future of the green space (next to Wai o Rua – Aquatic Centre)
- Future of Page Street Playground (Elephant Park)
- Use and maintenance of chemicals within King Edward Park
- Potential location of Dog Park

3.3.4 Community Survey Feedback over the Years

Summary of feedback from Elected Members includes:

- Request of a Dog Park
- Lighting throughout Three Bridges Trail
- Upgrade of current sportsgrounds
- Replace the current footbridge between the Centennial Rest Rooms and old TSB Pool

3.3.5 Officer Recommendations

Officer Recommendations includes:

- Replace the old staircase on the Regan Street/Brecon Road walkway
- Re-route of walkway to include the Trees of Significance
- Obtain power connection - from Three Bridges lighting trail and add power box to space
- Install up-lighting to enhance the Malone Gates
- To create an accessible walkway on the Three Bridges Trail

4 Management Levels of Service




4.1 Introduction

The different spaces in King Edward Park are described in detail within this section. Policies and Objectives for each of those spaces are also noted.

Management Levels of Service for King Edward Park are described under five categories and future projects identified to achieve the proposed Levels of Service are identified for the spaces in each category:

- **Walkway Grading**

To assess user needs, walkway tracks are graded using the Australian Walking Track Grading System. The grading system assesses a walk's difficulty based on several criteria, including experience required, steps, gradient, path quality and signage. The walk's final grade is based on the most difficult of these 5 criteria, rather than an average.



	Grade 1	No bushwalking experience required. Flat even surface with no steps or steep sections. Suitable for wheelchair users.
	Grade 2	No bushwalking experience required. The track is hardened or compacted surface and may have a gentle hill section or sections and occasional steps.
	Grade 3	Suitable for most ages and fitness levels. Some bushwalking experience recommended. Tracks may have short steep hill sections, a rough surface, and many steps.
	Grade 4	Bushwalking experience recommended. Tracks may be long, rough, and very steep. Directional signage may be limited.
	Grade 5	Very experienced bushwalkers with specialised skills, including navigation and emergency first aid. Tracks are likely to be very rough, very steep, and unmarked.

- **Cycling Control**

As per the Council's Parks and Reserves Bylaw, cycling is prohibited within any of Council's parks and reserves "... except where special approval is granted and then on those areas set aside specially for such purpose."

Currently there is no special approval in place for cycling within King Edward Park, nor is there any area specially set aside for such purpose. However, various trails are used on an ad hoc basis by cyclists which warrants a measure of coordination and regulation. Both walking, jogging, and

cycling have many health benefits, however cycling can also create conflicts with other users and may adversely impact areas of a reserve.

	Cycling Permitted	Walking paths that are deemed to be suitable for cycling.
	Cycling not recommended	Walking paths that are not suitable for cycling due to terrain, tree roots, stairs etc

- **Dog Walking**

The Stratford District Council Control of Dogs Bylaw 2020 addresses the control of dogs in public places. Amongst others, the bylaw recognises the need to:



- Minimise danger, distress, and nuisance to the community.
- Avoid the inherent danger in allowing dogs to have uncontrolled access to public places frequented by children, whether or not children are accompanied by adults.

	Unleashed	Dogs may be unleashed but under Continuous control in this area.	
	Leashed	Dogs must be controlled on a leash in this area.	
	Dog Prohibited	Dogs are not permitted in this area.	

Figure 6: Walking the dog in King Edward Park

- **Seating**

This assesses whether there is seating in the reserve.

	No Seating	Accessible seating is unavailable
	Seating	Accessible seating is available (back rest, arms etc.)

- Weed and Pest Control**

Pest Traps are located throughout the Carrington Walkway and checked, emptied and re-set monthly. This trapping programme works in conjunction with the Taranaki Regional Council's Biodiversity Implementation Plan for King Edward Park and Carrington Walkway

Stratford District Council uses the following methods for control of weeds and pests.

Table 4: Weed Control

Name of Chemical	What is it used for?	Frequency of Application
Agpro Green Glyphosphate 510	General weed control in gardens, reserve & footpath edges & walkways	Spot application – Weekly Main application - Quarterly
Agpro Picloram Gel	Stump gel used for cut & pasting on selective weed trees	Monthly
Agpro Moss & Mould Killer	Control the growth of moss & mould mainly on hard surfaces such as paved areas	Quarterly
Agpro Organosilicone	Help plants absorb chemicals (useful for hard to kill weeds such as gorse & broom)	Quarterly
Agpro Terbutylazine 500	General weed control in reserve & footpath edges & walkways	Quarterly
Agpro Terminate	General weed control in reserve & footpath edges & walkways	Quarterly
Agpro Haloxyfop	Control selective monocotyledon weeds such as bamboo	Twice yearly
Agpro Lawnclean	Control selective dicotyledon weeds in lawns such as thistles (usually only sports fields)	Twice yearly
Agpro Triclop 600	Control woody dicotyledons such as gorse or broom	Twice yearly
Ken-Zon Herbicide	Control selective dicotyledon weeds in lawns such as thistles (usually only sports fields)	Twice yearly
Kiwicare Lawnguard	Control selective dicotyledon weeds in lawns such as thistles (usually only sports fields)	Twice yearly
Dupont Acelepryn Insecticide	Control grass grub in sports turfs namely the croquet green.	Annually

FUTURE PROJECTS

- Weed Control – phase out the current use of chemicals within KEP, to a natural weed control option. Further investigations and costings will be required in the first instance.

4.2 Walkway Level of Service

Walking through King Edward Park could range from simply strolling undefined paths admiring the gardens, exercising a dog, walking, or jogging the network of bush trails for exercise or using the paths or trails as a route from one end of town to the other. The paths throughout King Edward Park are maintained to their natural condition, in keeping with the surroundings. Walkway materials also range from lime-chip to concrete shared paths, where safety requirements are needed.

4.2.1 The Carrington Walkway



Figure 7: King Edward Park Walkway Sign

The Carrington Walkway is approximately 12 km long, of which, 4 km is within King Edward Park. The walkway starts on Regan Street to the northwest and meanders through the park to Page Street, linking with:

- The Carrington Walkway west extension (Regan Street to Brecon Road).
- the Three Bridges Trail (Brecon Road to Page Street Playground).
- the River Walk (Portia Street to Page Street) - through Centennial Park

POLICIES

This walkway is governed by the Parks and Reserves Bylaw and the Control of Dogs Bylaw.

Irrespective of any stipulation found in the Dog Control Bylaw, dogs shall only be permitted, if controlled by a leash or lead on the areas around the Netball Courts.

OBJECTIVES

- Provide and maintain a walk and cycle way network within King Edward Park consistent with Taranaki Regional Council's Regional Walkway and Cycleway Strategy for Taranaki.
- Protect and preserve, as much as possible, the indigenous flora and fauna within the reserve.
- Remove, as far as practicable, the immature exotic species of tree that have established themselves naturally within the indigenous forest areas and discourage the growth of further exotic seedlings and saplings.
- Take all practicable steps to eradicate all pest plants and animals that threaten the ecological values.

LEVEL OF SERVICE

Current	Proposed
<p>The Carrington Walkway west extension (Regan Street to Brecon Road) – Grade 3.</p> <p>Suitable for most ages and fitness levels. Some bushwalking experience recommended. Tracks may have short steep hill sections, a rough surface, and steps. Cycling is prohibited, dogs are required to be on leashes, and no seating is available along this walkway.</p>	<p>The Carrington Walkway west extension (Regan Street to Brecon Road) – Grade 3.</p> <p>Suitable for most ages and fitness levels. Some bushwalking experience recommended. Tracks may have short steep hill sections, a rough surface, and steps. Cycling is prohibited, dogs are required to be on leashes, and no seating is available along this walkway.</p>
<p>Three Bridges Trail (Brecon Road to Swing Bridge) – Grade 2</p> <p>Suitable for all ages and fitness levels. Mixture of lime chip and natural surfaces. Cycling is allowed, dogs can be unleashed, and seating is available along this walkway.</p>	<p>Three Bridges Trail (Brecon Road to Swing Bridge) – Grade 1</p> <p>Suitable for all abilities. Mixture of lime chip and natural surfaces. Cycling is allowed, dogs can be unleashed, and seating is available along this walkway.</p>
<p>The River Walk (Swing Bridge to Page Street, including Centennial Park) – Grade 2.</p> <p>Suitable for all ages and fitness levels. Mixture of grass, lime chip, and concrete surfaces. Cycling is allowed, dogs can be unleashed except for around the Netball Courts, where dogs are required to be on a leash. Seating (picnic tables) is available in Centennial Park.</p>	<p>The River Walk (Swing Bridge to Page Street, including Centennial Park) – Grade 1.</p> <p>Suitable for all abilities. Mixture of lime chip and concrete surfaces. Cycling is allowed, dogs can be unleashed except for around the Netball Courts, where dogs are required to be on a leash. Seating (picnic tables) is available in Centennial Park.</p>

FUTURE PROJECTS

- Replace lime chip path to concrete from Netball Courts to Rhododendron Dell, ensuring path will not wash away, or be a risk to users.
- Replace the old staircase on the Regan Street/Brecon Road walkway.
- Provide alternative mobility access where required for all users.
- Weed Control – phase out the current use of chemicals with a natural weed control option.

4.2.2 The Three Bridges Trail



The Three Bridges Trail links Brecon Road with the TET Multi Sports Centre and weaves its way across three footbridges and both sides of the Patea River.

The trail also extends to the Playground on Page Street.

This stunning walking track provides visitors of all abilities a chance to escape the hustle and bustle of urban life.

POLICIES

This walkway is governed by the Parks and Reserves Bylaw and the Control of Dogs Bylaw.

OBJECTIVES

- Encourage and maximise the public use of King Edward Park in accordance with its reserve classification as a Recreation Reserve.
- Maintain and enhance access to and along the Patea River and the Paetahi Stream where practicable.
- Maintain the existing network of paths and bush trails in a safe, clean, and readily accessible state.
- Preserve for future generations all known significant cultural, historical, heritage or commemorative features.

LEVEL OF SERVICE

Current	Proposed
<p>Grade 2</p> <p>Suitable for all ages and fitness levels. Mixture of lime chip and natural surfaces. Cycling is allowed, dogs can be unleashed, and seating is available along this walkway.</p>	<p>Grade 1</p> <p>Suitable for all abilities. Mixture of lime chip and natural surfaces. Cycling is allowed, dogs can be unleashed, and seating is available along this walkway.</p>



Figure 8: King Edward Park swing bridge.

FUTURE PROJECTS

- Bridge replacements x2 – from wooden (which have deteriorated over time) to aluminium and widen.
- Upgrade trail where necessary to remove tripping hazards caused by tree roots.
- Provide an alternative route for accessibility users to the stairs at the Page Street Playground.

4.2.3 Charlie Clemow Walk



The Charlie Clemow Walk (named after Charles Clemow, Stratford County Councillor - 1938-1956) is in the northwest corner of King Edward Park. It is and acts as an entry point into the McCullough Rhododendron Dell from Brecon Road.

Other minor off-shoots link these main trails that are either natural or metalled and meander through a mixture of native and exotic bush, planting of which commenced in the 1890's.

POLICIES

This walkway is governed by the Parks and Reserves Bylaw and the Control of Dogs Bylaw.

Any trees that need to be removed due to failing health from areas primarily in native forest cover will be replaced with, or the areas left to revert to, appropriate native vegetation.



Figure 9: Charlie Clemow Walk

OBJECTIVES

- Ensure the ecological values and the Key Native Ecosystem Inventory ranks the parks.
- Continue to note all flora and fauna in terms of rarity and distinctiveness, noting that it contains indigenous vegetation classified as “acutely threatened”.
- Maintain the existing network of paths and bush trails in a safe, clean, and readily accessible state.
- Developing native species that is in keeping with the rest of the Reserve.

LEVEL OF SERVICE

Current	Proposed
<p>Grade 2</p> <p>Suitable for all ages and fitness levels. Mixture of grass, lime chip, and natural surfaces. Cycling is allowed, dogs can be unleashed, and seating is available along the walkway.</p>	<p>Grade 1</p> <p>Suitable for all abilities. Mixture of lime chip and natural surfaces. Cycling is allowed, dogs can be unleashed, and seating is available along this walkway.</p>

FUTURE PROJECTS

- Install compacted lime chip path, joining Brecon Road to the McCullough Rhododendron Dell.

4.2.4 McCullough Rhododendron Dell



The McCullough Rhododendron Dell (the Dell) is in the northwest section of King Edward Park. It is named after Edward Wallace (“Ted”) McCullough, Stratford Borough Councillor from 1947 to 1953 and 1956 to 1968 and former chairman of the Parks and Reserves Committee.

The Dell includes a small lake, a selection of rhododendron hybrids, azaleas, and hydrangeas around the edge of the dell with other assorted shrubs and trees, both native and exotic. It is a more intensively gardened area than the rest of the park and includes under plantings with perennials such as hostas.

There is also a small but outstanding grove of Redwood (*Sequoia sempervirens*) and Cryptomeria trees with a selection of specimen trees planted on the lawn area and along the lake edge. A Japanese cedar (*Cryptomeria japonica*) is also located within the Rhododendron Dell that is considered to be the best-known specimen in the district.

The Dell also features annually in the Taranaki Rhododendron Festival. While providing an attractive setting within the centre of the reserve and featuring a duck pond, there is scope for its further development.

As the premier park within Stratford, King Edward Park holds high cultural significance to the community. The park features prominently in the history of Stratford, and this is reflected in the number of commemorative features within the reserve that contribute to a vibrant local culture.

The park is also developing into a social hub for summer activities such as the Summer Nights Movies and the Summer Nights Music events. Events such as these, whether organised by Council or privately with Council approval, contribute to the diversity and vibrancy of the community.



Figure 10: McCullough Rhododendron Dell & Lake



Figure 11: Summer Nights Event

POLICIES

This walkway is governed by the Parks and Reserves Bylaw and the Control of Dogs Bylaw.

Public or private events in the park will always be subject to Council’s approval and conditions of use will be imposed on private events to minimise disruption to the general public’s use of the reserve.

Opportunities will be taken to enhance views of Mt Taranaki and both waterways from within the reserve provided this does not involve the removal of native flora. No further development of the reserve will be approved that impacts negatively on the view of Mt Taranaki from within the reserve.

OBJECTIVES

- Permit the use of passive recreation areas within the park for social/cultural events subject to any policy/bylaw relative to the use of public places contained in the Reserves Act 1977.
- Preserve and maintain the existing mature native and exotic specimen trees and to consider landscape implications and planting opportunities as trees are removed from time to time due to their failing health.
- Maintain the Dell as a public garden and further develop it in accordance with the concept development plan attached to this plan.
- Maintain the existing surfaces to a safe, clean, and readily accessible state.
- Prevent activities from occurring that have an adverse impact on the natural environment and amenity values of King Edward Park or detract from the enjoyment of other park users.
- Enhance the scenic value of both waterways by creating view shafts in appropriate locations through the removal of exotic tree and pest plant species.
- Ensure any building development, earthworks or future plantings do not compromise any outstanding natural landscapes.

LEVEL OF SERVICE

Current	Proposed
<p>Grade 2</p> <p>Suitable for all ages and fitness levels. Grass surface. Cycling is allowed, dogs can be unleashed, and seating is available along the walkway.</p>	<p>Grade 1</p> <p>Suitable for all abilities. Mixture of grass and lime chip surfaces. Cycling is allowed, dogs can be unleashed, and seating is available along this walkway.</p>

FUTURE PROJECTS

- Compacted lime chip path on northern side of lake to connect to the Charlie Clemow Walk.
- Obtain power connection (from Brecon Road) and add power box to space.
- Add stairs to section of walkway, to eliminate slips and trip hazards – from Rhododendron Dell to the river (alternative route is available for accessibility users).

4.2.5 Trees of Significance Trail



The newly created Trees of Significance Trail is located within the park starting at the swing bridge and looping around a section of the walkway, which then runs parallel to the Page Street Sportsground. These trees signify the importance of their stature and highlights what the trees were utilised for historically.

The main forest canopy comprises the following tree specimens:

- Tawa
- Totara
- Miro
- Kamahi
- Kahikatea
- Rimu

Below the canopy, the forest comprises of:

- Lacebark
- Pate
- Mahoe
- Climbing rata
- Kiekie
- Variety of ferns.

This provides a habitat for resident native forest birds such as:

- Grey Warbler
- Fantail
- Native Pigeon
- Tui
- Bellbird
- Silvereye.



Figure 12: Trees of Significance

Other birds witnessed in the area include the bush falcon, North Island rifleman and black shag.

In terms of ecological values, the Key Native Ecosystem Inventory ranks the parks, flora, and fauna “medium” in terms of rarity and distinctiveness and “high” in terms of representativeness, noting that it contains indigenous vegetation classified as “acutely threatened”. The native species within the park could provide an important nucleus for restoring a riparian ecological corridor along the Patea River to reconnect Egmont National Park with eastern Taranaki reserves.

POLICIES

This walkway is governed by the Parks and Reserves Bylaw and the Control of Dogs Bylaw.

OBJECTIVES

- Provide further paths and trails or upgrade the existing where Council is satisfied there is a demand for more or better facilities.
- Protect and preserve the large, mature exotic trees of cultural significance. Specimen native and exotic trees will be inspected regularly by a qualified arborist and to ensure their ongoing health.
- Maintain the existing network of paths and bush trails in a safe, clean, and readily accessible state.
- Maintain and, where practical, further develop the existing formal cultivated areas in keeping with established or carefully considered new landscape themes.
- Protect, preserve, and highlight any known cultural, historical, heritage or commemorative features.



Figure 13: Trees of Significance

LEVEL OF SERVICE

Current	Proposed
<p>Grade 2</p> <p>Suitable for all ages and fitness levels. Mixture of lime chip and natural surfaces. Cycling is allowed, dogs can be unleashed, and seating is available.</p>	<p>Grade 1</p> <p>Suitable for all abilities. Mixture of lime chip and natural surfaces. Cycling is allowed, dogs can be unleashed, and seating is available.</p>

FUTURE PROJECTS

- Re-route walkway to include the Trees of Significance.
- Compacted lime chip path – parallel to Page Street sportsground.

4.2.6 Western Loop Walkway



The bush walking tracks which includes the Western Loop Walkway, are substantially developed, and most have good, metalled surfaces. The path goes along private grazing land and provides views of Taranaki Maunga in many places.

Any replacement or new plantings within the remnant forest area will be of indigenous species only, sourced and planted where possible in accordance with the Taranaki Regional Council publication “Restoration Planting in Taranaki: A Guide to the Egmont Ecological District”.



Figure 14: Western Loop walkway

POLICIES

This walkway is governed by the Parks and Reserves Bylaw and the Control of Dogs Bylaw.

Management for this walkway is guided by the agreement conditions between Council and the Department of Conservation.

Council has a signed agreement with the Department of Conservation, as they are the owners of this land. Within the Agreement it stipulates that all dogs must be on leashes, while in this area of the walkway.

OBJECTIVES

- Existing paths to be kept in a natural state rather than being paved as this is more in keeping with the environment. Walkway materials also range from lime-chip and metal to concrete shared paths, where safety requirements are needed.
- Maintain the Biodiversity Plan for the preservation of this key native ecosystem and implement that plan accordingly.
- Protect and preserve, as much as possible, the indigenous flora and fauna within the reserve.
- Remove, as far as practicable, the immature exotic species of tree that have established themselves naturally within the indigenous forest areas and discourage the growth of further exotic seedlings and saplings.

LEVEL OF SERVICE

Current	Proposed
<p>Grade 3</p> <p>Suitable for most ages and fitness levels. Some bushwalking experience recommended. Tracks may have short steep hill sections, a rough surface, and many steps. Cycling is prohibited, dogs are required to be on leashes, and no seating is available along this walkway.</p>	<p>Grade 3</p> <p>Suitable for most ages and fitness levels. Some bushwalking experience recommended. Tracks may have short steep hill sections, a rough surface, and many steps. Cycling is prohibited, dogs are required to be on leashes, and no seating is available along this walkway.</p>

FUTURE PROJECTS

- Addition of retaining walls to certain areas of walkway to stop the disintegration of the walkway into the river.

4.2.7 Centennial Park



As part of New Zealand’s Centennial celebrations in 1940, Stratford developed the Centennial Park – containing the facilities of a swing bridge, play area, the pools, rest rooms, and the scout den. The area around the den has been identified as an outdoor entertainment pavilion.

POLICIES

Trout fishing in the Patea River is an approved activity, however the taking of any native fish species will remain a prohibited activity.

No activity on the reserve will be approved if there is any possibility of any measurable adverse effect on water quality and/or aquatic ecosystems.



Figure 15: Centennial Park

OBJECTIVES

- Maintain the existing network of paths and surfaces to a safe, clean, and readily accessible state.
- Ensure that any additions or alterations to any existing buildings are justified in terms of demand for them, the design and scale is suited to the environment and appropriate to facilitate public recreational use of the reserve and their location and construction is such that they do not impact adversely on any landscape features and natural, social, or cultural values.

LEVEL OF SERVICE

Current	Proposed
<p>The River Walk – Grade 2.</p> <p>Suitable for all ages and fitness levels. Mixture of grass, lime chip, and concrete surfaces. Cycling is allowed, dogs can be unleashed except for around the Netball Courts, where dogs are required to be on a leash. Seating (picnic tables) is available in Centennial Park.</p>	<p>The River Walk– Grade 1.</p> <p>Suitable for all abilities. Mixture of lime chip and concrete surfaces. Cycling is allowed, dogs can be unleashed except for around the Netball Courts, where dogs are required to be on a leash. Seating (picnic tables) is available in Centennial Park.</p>

FUTURE PROJECTS

- Replace Centennial Bridge and widen to 2.4 m.
- Regrade approach from Fenton Street to a maximum of 1 in 14.

4.2.8 Historical Trees



An Aleppo Pine (*Pinus halepensis*) located adjacent the walking track between the Malone Gates and the TET Multi Sports Centre that was planted in 1965 on the 50th anniversary of the ANZAC landings at Gallipoli. A Kauri (*Agathist australis*) located adjacent the TET Multi-sports Stadium that was planted in 1954 in honour of Queen Elizabeth II.

POLICIES

In view of its historical importance, in the event of its demise, the Aleppo Pine will either be replaced with another propagated from cuttings or seeds from the same tree in accordance with Council’s Notable Tree Management Plan if appropriate or another specimen of the same species or provenance stock if known elsewhere in New Zealand.

No encroachments into King Edward Park beyond the legal title boundaries will be permitted other than the one minor existing encroachment by the Stratford Primary School discus circle.

Use of the driveway off Regan Street by staff of the Stratford Primary School may continue as long as it does not impact adversely on the public use of King Edward Park or unless the land is required for some other purpose relative to the reserve.

OBJECTIVES

- Preserve the amenity value of King Edward Park by preventing unnecessary and/or inappropriate encroachments beyond the legal boundaries.

LEVEL OF SERVICE

Current	Proposed
<p>The River Walk – Grade 2.</p> <p>Suitable for all ages and fitness levels. Mixture of lime chip, and concrete surfaces. Cycling is allowed, dogs can be unleashed except for around the Netball Courts, where dogs are required to be on a leash. Seating Is not available. The condition of the trees is recorded annually.</p>	<p>The River Walk– Grade 1.</p> <p>Suitable for all abilities. Mixture of lime chip and concrete surfaces. Cycling is allowed, dogs can be unleashed except for around the Netball Courts, where dogs are required to be on a leash. Seating Is not available. The condition of the trees is recorded annually.</p>

FUTURE PROJECTS

- No projects planned.



Figure 16: Kauri Planted in 1954

4.3 Facilities

The public facilities within King Edward Park serve to cater to the multifaceted needs of the community. These facilities stand as symbols of Stratford’s community spirit.

4.3.1 Wai o Rua (Stratford Aquatic Centre)

Wai o Rua is Stratford’s newly developed aquatic centre and is located on Portia Street, next to the Hockey Turf. Please refer to the Wai o Rua Management Plan for the management of this facility.



Figure 17: Wai o Rua – Stratford Aquatic Centre

Within the reserve, the lawns and gardens surrounding Wai o Rua are maintained by contractors under the Open Space Maintenance Contract.

POLICIES

This area surrounding Wai o Rua is governed by the Parks and Reserves Bylaw and the Control of Dogs Bylaw. In approving any future developments within the reserve, due consideration will be given to the principles outlined in the National Guidelines for Crime Prevention Through Engineering Design (CPTED).

OBJECTIVES

- Provide additional facilities where Council is satisfied there is sufficient demand, and it is clear they will be of benefit to the



Figure 18: Empty Green Space next to Wai O Rua

LEVEL OF SERVICE

Current	Proposed
<p>This open space adjacent to the Wai o Rua is currently unused open spaces shown in Figure 17. Landscaping in front of the Wai o Rua, currently maintained as part of the OSM contract.</p>	<p>To maintain the open space adjacent to the Wai o Rua to a standard that meets the recreational needs and aspirations of the community, in accordance with an appropriate master plan.</p>

FUTURE PROJECTS

No projects planned.

4.3.2 Stratford Holiday Park

The site has provided holiday accommodation since the mid-1920's, starting out as simply a camping ground before being developed over time into what we know today as a holiday park. It has recently undergone a major upgrade of facilities including new accommodation units and an indoor heated swimming pool.



Figure 19: Stratford Holiday Park

The Stratford Holiday Park is in the southwest corner of King Edward Park on Page Street. Although incorporated within King Edward Park, the campground facilities are privately owned, and it is operated under a long-term ground lease. Council is not involved in the management of this part of the Reserve, therefore no levels of service are discussed, and no future projects are proposed.

4.3.3 Malone Gates

The Malone Memorial Arch and Gates forms the main entrance to the park at the junction of Portia and Fenton Streets. This was constructed in 1923 and opened on 8 August of that year, eight years to the day after the death of Lieutenant Colonel W G Malone at Chunuk Bair. This monument is thought to be the country’s largest to an individual soldier and is included in the Heritage New Zealand List as an “Historic Place – Category 2”.

The Malone Memorial Arch and Gates, the Aleppo Pine and the lone Kauri, and the swing bridge feature in the Stratford Heritage Trail, a walk that incorporates 23 heritage structures throughout the town.

POLICIES

Ensure the gates are in keeping with Heritage New Zealand List as an “Historic Place – Category 2”.

OBJECTIVES

- Ensure that any further development of King Edward Park does not impact adversely on any landscape features, natural values or built heritage, meets the needs of reserve users while having no adverse effects on neighbouring properties and is environmentally sustainable in terms of its design, construction, long term maintenance and intended function.

LEVEL OF SERVICE

Current	Proposed
To maintain the Malone Gates ensuring they are well-preserved and continue to meet Heritage New Zealand standards.	To maintain the Malone Gates ensuring they are well-preserved and continue to meet Heritage New Zealand standards.

FUTURE PROJECTS

- Install up-lighting (originally from the Bell Tower on Miranda Street) to enhance the gates.



Figure 20: Malone Gates

4.3.5 TET Multi Sports Centre

The Stratford Community Sports Society Lease expired on 30 June 2019 at which time, in accordance with the terms of the lease, ownership of the building reverted to Council. Management of the TET Multi Sports Centre transferred to a newly constructed Trust with a lease of 10 years.



Figure 21: TET Multi Sports Centre

POLICIES

This area surrounding the TET Multi Sports Centre is governed by the Parks and Reserves Bylaw and the Control of Dogs Bylaw.

OBJECTIVES

- Maintain facilities to a service that meets public expectation.

LEVEL OF SERVICE

Current	Proposed
To maintain the landscaping around the TET Multi Sports Centre to a standard that meets the needs of the community.	To maintain the landscaping around the TET Multi Sports Centre to a standard that meets the needs of the community.

FUTURE PROJECTS

- No projects planned.

4.3.6 Centennial Restrooms

New Zealand celebrated its centennial in 1940, and as part of these commemorations, Stratford developed the Centennial Park – containing the rest rooms.

The Centennial Rest Rooms building was officially opened in 1948, and its conveniences were (and still are) much used and enjoyed by the women of Stratford district. The rooms became not only an equipped and much needed area, but also a place where women could meet and socialise.



Figure 22: Centennial Rest Room & Front Gardens

POLICIES

This area surrounding the Centennial Restrooms is governed by the Parks and Reserves Bylaw and the Control of Dogs Bylaw.

OBJECTIVES

- Maintain facilities to a service that meets public expectation.

LEVEL OF SERVICE

Current	Proposed
To maintain the landscaping around the Centennial Restrooms to a standard that meets the needs of the community.	To maintain the landscaping around the Centennial Restrooms to a standard that meets the needs of the community.

FUTURE PROJECTS

- No projects planned.

4.3.7 Scout Den

New Zealand celebrated its centennial in 1940, and as part of these commemorations, Stratford developed the Centennial Park – containing the Scout and Guide Den.

The Scout and Guide Den is owned by the Scout and Guides Association jointly, with no formal lease currently in place relative to this. The management of the Reserve is incorporated within Centennial Park.



Figure 23: Scout and Guide Den

4.4 Playgrounds

Public playgrounds are vibrant, inclusive spaces that foster creativity, physical activity, and social interaction among children. They provide a safe and stimulating environment where kids can explore, play, and learn while promoting community engagement and a sense of belonging for families. These dynamic spaces offer diverse and well-designed equipment that encourages both fun and development, promoting physical fitness, imaginative play, and the development of essential social skills in a joyful and inclusive setting.

4.4.1 Page Street Playground



A children’s playground is in the southeast section of King Edward Park on Page Street. The playground is accessible from Page Street and from Fenton Street by way of Centennial Bridge across the Patea River. This is the only Council-owned playground on the western side of SH.3.



Figure 24: Page Street Playground

There are currently six pieces of play equipment. It is intended that this facility will remain with the play equipment maintained, replaced, upgraded, or added to as appropriate and in accordance with use demand.

Located within the reserve are the old stock ford across the Patea River near the bend in the river below the Page Street playground and the bubble water fountain constructed in 1946 near the playground.

This latter structure however is not considered particularly significant, has not been operative for some years and has fallen into disrepair. Investigations into its restoration are currently being carried out, however the cost of repairing and recommissioning it may be disproportionate to its significance, and it may be replaced with a more functional drinking fountain.

POLICIES

All play equipment shall be maintained to meet the requirements of New Zealand Standard 5828 as updated.

The Page Street playground shall be maintained and developed in such a manner to provide a challenging and interesting environment for children and to encourage community use.

Dogs are not permitted within 20 metres of children’s play equipment (but are permitted within the park), provided they are under the continuous control of a responsible handler.

OBJECTIVES

- Ensure that the play equipment in King Edward Park meets the needs of reserve users and is maintained in safe working order.
- Provide a variety of play equipment as appropriate to meet the demands of reserve users.

CURRENT LEVEL OF SERVICE

Current	Proposed
To maintain the playground to a standard that meets the needs of the community.	To maintain the playground to a standard that meets the needs of the community.

FUTURE PROJECTS

- Replace older playground equipment that no longer meets playground standards or has aged.
- Provide accessible seating in key locations.

4.5 Sports Fields

Providing sports fields in public areas is an invaluable investment that encourages community health, fitness, and social interaction. These fields offer versatile spaces where individuals of all ages can engage in a wide array of physical activities and team sports. They serve as vibrant hubs for friendly competition, fostering a sense of community and inclusivity.

4.5.1 Page Street Sportsground



The Page Street Sportsground currently comprising of two rugby grounds with some minimal lighting for evening training and a new amenity building incorporating toilets, changing and storage rooms.

These fields are secondary to those provided at Victoria Park; however, they are required both for training and match purposes to mitigate over-use of and the resulting damage to the Victoria Park facilities.



Figure 25: Page Street Sportsground

Permits are granted seasonally to the Stratford Eltham Rugby Sports Club for the use of the Page Street Sportsground (winter).

Season permits may also be issued to any other sport that is considered appropriate. On-off permits may also be issued to organisations or individuals for privately organised activities that are considered appropriate to the primary purpose of the reserve.

Fees and charges for these permits are determined by Council on an annual basis.

POLICIES

Liaison will be maintained with sporting organisations at local, regional, and national levels to ensure the use of the current sports fields is optimised or to determine whether it is appropriate that an alternative code be given use of any facility.

Current sports fields will be maintained to ensure the requirements of sporting organisations to, at least, a local level is met.

Liaison will be maintained with sporting organisations at local, regional, and national levels to determine what, if any, ancillary facilities are necessary to optimise the use of the current sports fields and to explore funding opportunities for such developments.

Toilet and storage facilities are approved for construction at the Page Street Sportsground for use by sports clubs in association with the sports fields.

OBJECTIVES

- Encourage the optimum use of developed sports fields by local clubs, associations and regional and national sporting bodies in a manner that does not negate any informal uses of such facilities.
- Provide fit for purpose sports fields for both senior and junior sport.
- Maintain the current provision of sports fields providing the current demand levels are at least maintained.
- Allow codes to develop facilities ancillary to the current sports fields such as storage facilities, changing rooms and/or toilets and sports field lighting.

CURRENT LEVEL OF SERVICE

Current	Proposed
To maintain the sportsground to a standard that meets the needs of the community.	To maintain the sportsground to a standard that meets the needs of the community.

FUTURE PROJECTS

- Upgrade Page Street Sportsground facilities (Stratford Eltham Rugby Sports Club).
- Replace Field 1 turf (Stratford Eltham Rugby Sports Club).

4.5.2 Netball and Tennis Courts



Netball enjoys the use of six hard courts that during the winter months are used to capacity, particularly on weekends. This creates a few issues around parking notwithstanding the adjacent reserve carpark is supplemented by on-street parking and the public carpark across the road. However, at this stage, there is no indication from hockey or netball organisations



Figure 26: Netball & Tennis Courts

that playing and/or parking capacity will be exceeded in the foreseeable future, as concluded by the Sport and Recreation Facilities Strategy. Two of the courts have lighting for evening use but Netball Taranaki has indicated a desire to light further courts in the future.

Tennis is catered for in summer with the use of four of the netball courts which are dual marked for both codes and four synthetic courts that are available all year round. The Sport and Recreation Facilities Strategy determined that this is ample provision for tennis's needs into the foreseeable future, however there would be benefit to the sport if the dual-use netball courts were floodlit for evening play and practice.

The lighting of the dual netball/tennis courts is old, inefficient, and insufficient for adequate training let alone competition play. The Stratford netball satellite competition is strong with over 70 teams competing on weekends and requiring good quality training facilities mid-week. This lack of adequate floodlighting has been identified as a factor holding back the development of the sport in Stratford with the result that Netball Taranaki proposes upgrading the lighting soon.

The land on which the synthetic tennis courts have been laid is leased to the Stratford Tennis Club for a term of 15 years, expiring on 30 April 2028 with a right of renewal in favour of the lessee for a further term of 15 years.

Permits are granted seasonally for the use of the Portia Street sports fields (summer), the Stratford Tennis Club for the use of the four front hard courts (summer) and the Taranaki Netball Association for the use of the four front hard courts (winter) and the two back courts (winter and summer).

Season permits may also be issued to any other sport that is considered appropriate. On-off permits may also be issued to organisations or individuals for privately organised activities that are considered appropriate to the primary purpose of the reserve.

Fees and charges for these permits are determined by Council on an annual basis.

POLICIES

Liaison will be maintained with sporting organisations at local, regional, and national levels to ensure the use of the current courts are optimised or to determine whether it is appropriate that an alternative code be given use of any facility.

Current courts will be maintained to ensure the requirements of sporting organisations to, at least, a local level is met.

Liaison will be maintained with sporting organisations at local, regional, and national levels to determine what, if any, ancillary facilities are necessary to optimise the use of the current courts and to explore funding opportunities for such developments.

Dogs are not permitted at this facility (service dogs are allowed).

OBJECTIVES

- Encourage the optimum use of the developed courts by local clubs, associations and regional and national sporting bodies in a manner that does not negate any informal uses of such facilities.
- Provide fit for purpose courts for both senior and junior sport.
- Maintain the current provision of courts providing the current demand levels are at least maintained.
- Develop or allow codes to develop facilities ancillary to the current courts such as storage facilities, changing rooms and/or toilets and sports field lighting.

CURRENT LEVEL OF SERVICE

Current	Proposed
To maintain the Netball and Tennis Courts to a standard that meets the needs of the community.	To maintain the Netball and Tennis Courts to a standard that meets the needs of the community.

FUTURE PROJECTS

- Upgrade of lighting (Netball Taranaki).

4.5.3 Hockey Turf



A synthetic hockey turf of international standards to the south of the playing field with lighting for evening training and competition play.

Four synthetic tennis courts to the west of the multi-sport centre with lighting for evening play, also used as a “warm-up” facility for the hockey turf.



Figure 27: Hockey Turf

The land on which the synthetic hockey turf has been laid is leased to the Taranaki Synthetic Turf Trust for a term of 21 years, expiring on 31 January 2038. This lease is a renewal of the original lease granted in 1996.

Dogs are not permitted at this facility (service dogs are allowed).

These courts are maintained by the Taranaki Hockey Federation to support hockey local, national, and international tournaments.

5 Proposed Levels of Service

No.	Categories	Description of Space	Proposed Levels of Service	
			Maintenance	Increased
1	Walkways	The Carrington Walkway west extension (Regan Street to Brecon Road).	✓	
2		Three Bridges Trail (Carrington Walkway)		✓
3		The River Walk (Swing Bridge to Page Street, including Centennial Park)		✓
4		Charlie Clemow Walk		✓
5		McCullough Rhododendron Dell		✓
6		Western Loop Walkway	✓	
7		Trees of Significance Trail		✓
8	Facilities	Wai o Rua – landscaping		✓
9		Malone Gates	✓	
10		Historical Trees	✓	
11		TET Multi Sports Centre	✓	
12		Centennial Restrooms – landscaping	✓	
13	Playgrounds	Page Street Playground	✓	
14	Sports Fields	Page Street Sportsground	✓	
15		Netball and Tennis Courts	✓	

6 Action Plan

The following proposed actions do not commit Council or any other organisation in any way but simply “flag” them as developments approved in principle in terms of the Reserves Act 1977, enabling public input and discussion and subsequent Annual and Long-Term Plan processes.

No.	Proposed Projects / Actions	Priority Status
1	Replace lime chip path to concrete from Netball Courts to Rhododendron Dell.	P2
2	Replace the old staircase on the Regan Street/Brecon Road walkway.	P1
3	Provide alternative mobility access where required for all users.	P1
4	Weed Control – phase out the current use of chemicals with a natural weed control option.	P1
5	Bridge replacements x2 – from wooden to aluminium and widen.	P2
6	Upgrade trail where necessary to remove tripping hazards.	Status Quo
7	Provide an alternative route for accessibility users to the stairs at the Page Street Playground.	P1
8	Compacted lime chip path in the Charlie Clemow Walk	P2
9	Compacted lime chip path on northern side of lake in Ted McCullough Rhododendron Dell.	P2
10	Obtain power connection - from Three Bridges lighting trail and add power box to space.	P1
11	Add stairs to section of walkway from Rhododendron Dell to the river	P2
12	Re-route of walkway to include the Trees of Significance.	P1
13	Compacted lime chip path – Trees of Significance (parallel to Page Street sportsground).	Status Quo
14	Addition of retaining walls along the Western Loop Walkway	P1
15	Regrade approach of path in Centennial Park from Fenton Street to a maximum of 1 in 14.	P1
16	Install up-lighting to enhance the Malone Gates.	P1
17	Replace older playground equipment that no longer meets playground standards or has aged.	Status Quo
18	Upgrade Page Street Sportsground facilities (Externally Funded – User Groups)	
19	Upgrade of lighting (Externally Funded – User Groups)	
20	Replace Field 1 turf at the Page Street Sportsground (Externally Funded – User Groups)	
Status Quo – Ongoing; P1 – Priority for 2024 – 2034 LTP; P2 – Priority for 2027 – 2037 LTP		

Appendix 1 – King Edward Park Plan



