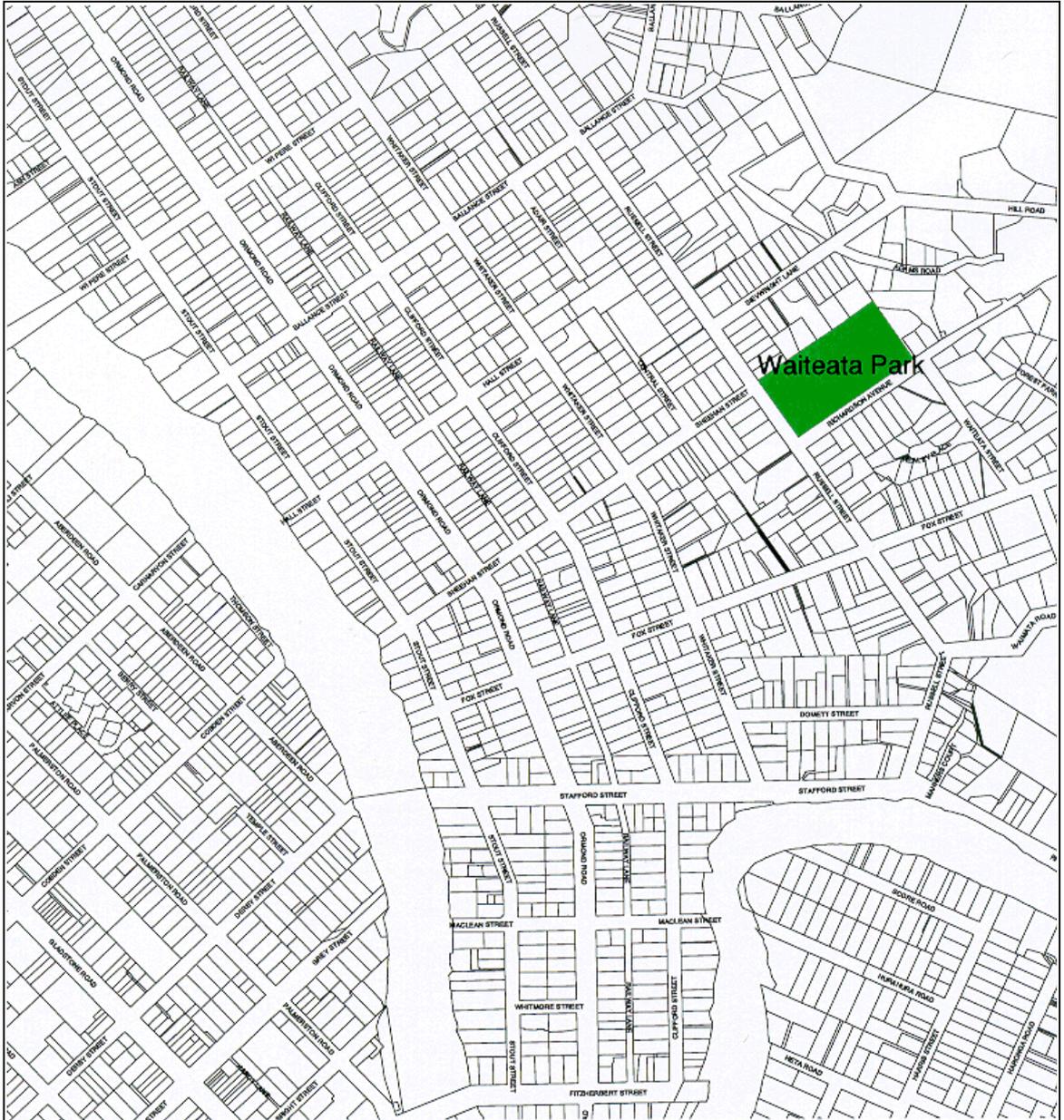


2.0a Waiteata Park - Gisborne



## 2.1 Introduction

Waiteata Park is situated on the northwest corner of Russell Street and Richardson Avenue in Whataupoko, Gisborne, New Zealand. Waiteata Park takes its name from the stream which runs diagonally through it. The Maori name Wai-te-ata translated into English means “*the clear gently flowing water*”.

The Waiteata Park resource has had a history of various recreational uses since it was purchased by the Gisborne District Borough in 1909. Waiteata Park is classified as a Recreation Reserve under the Reserves Act 1977, and is zoned as a Neighbourhood Reserve in the Proposed Gisborne District Combined Regional Land and District Plan. Waiteata Park now functions primarily as a neighbourhood reserve (although Waiteata Park is also popular with the wider community) providing open space for passive and informal active recreation. The park is also used as a Dog Exercise Area. The preservation and use of this open space provides important social, mental, and physical benefits for the local residents and wider community at large.

Waiteata Park has a natural division by means of a small stream. The park contains children’s play equipment in the corner, where the two street frontages meet. This is an appropriate site within the reserve for play equipment as it is easily accessible from surrounding residents houses. The play equipment is also visible to neighbours of the reserve and the people passing. This adds an element of safety. The play equipment is *structurally* safe (complying with the New Zealand Play Equipment Safety Standards), but the position of the play equipment also helps eliminate undesirable behaviour, such as bullying, vandalism, and the loitering of unsavoury people.

The rest of the park provides open space with seating and picnic tables in various high use areas of the reserve. There is a small area of trees (some of which are native) at the most northern point of the stream which periodically habitat native wildlife.

The park includes a carpark with six parking spaces. This is an adequate parking area for the number of users who drive to the park. At present people are parking on the grass under the trees along the Russell Street frontage instead of parking in the designated car parking area. This is having an adverse effect on the vegetation and appearance of the park. Presently there is full pedestrian access along both street frontages.

## 2.2 Status/Area

The total area of Waiteata Park is 2.0234 hectares. Its legal description is Lot 1 on Deposited Plan 1623. This Park is highly valued by the immediate residents of Whataupoko and is very popular with the general public of Gisborne.

## 2.3 Classification

Under the Reserves Act 1977 Waiteata Park is classified as a **Recreational Reserve**. The purpose of Recreation Reserves under the Act is to provide areas for recreation and sporting activities for the physical welfare and enjoyment of the public. Special emphasis is placed on retaining open spaces for outdoor recreational activities. Waiteata park is zoned as a **Neighbourhood Reserve** in the Proposed Gisborne District Combined Regional Land and District Plan. This zoning encourages passive and informal active recreation with an emphasis on open space.

## 2.4 Relationships To Other Reserves In The Area (see 2.4a for map)

Waiteata Park is one of a series of neighbourhood reserves in the Gisborne District. Mangapapa Reserve is the nearest *neighbourhood* reserve which is 2.5 km away. Mangapapa Reserve is on Hospital Road off Ormond Road. This neighbourhood reserve has toilet facilities, play equipment, and picnic tables. Mangapapa Reserve has a large area of open space, and trees which run along either side. Another reserve near Waiteata Park is the Langford/Fallon Reserve. This land has been planted in trees to increase land stability. This land has not been developed as a Recreation Reserve, but there is an informal track which runs up the hill. The Langford/Fallon Reserve is 0.8km from Waiteata Park.

The Botanical Gardens is within close proximity to Waiteata Park. In the 1996 Urban Neighbourhood Reserve survey carried out by Reserves Planning during the writing process of the Gisborne District Council's Recreation Plan 1998 — 2003, the Botanical Gardens was voted top Gisborne Reserve. It has attractive garden themes based on the origins of Gisborne's Sister Cities in Japan and Australia. There is also a bird sanctuary. The Botanical Gardens has play equipment which is close to the car park, seating, and picnic tables. The fact that these facilities and furniture are near to each other is an attraction to the reserve for young families whose recreational activities generally revolve around the use of the play equipment and picnic facilities. The Botanical Gardens is 2.3km by car, and 1.3km by foot. The pedestrian route crosses the Hall Street walk bridge, which is situated at the end of Hall Street.

Gisborne has many reserves to enhance residential amenity in the built environment. Waiteata Park is well used by local residents and the general public. Waiteata Park was identified by community members in the 1996 survey mentioned above as one of the top five reserves in Gisborne. This amplifies the importance of successful management, development, use, enjoyment, preservation and protection for the local residents and wider community.

**2.4a Reserve Linkages from Waiteata Park**



## 2.5 Historical Analysis

The Gisborne District Borough purchased the land area now known as Waiteata Park in September 1909, for the sum of 1,800 pounds. Over the years the park has been used for various activities. During World War II the land was used for grazing and cropping. Netball was played at the park in 1921, and children's play equipment was erected in 1946.

Wai-te-ata Scout group replaced an old hut that was on the park in 1966 with their new Scout Hall. The Wai-te-ata Scout group used the hall and park as their headquarters. The Scout group held their field and gala days there until the hall was severely damaged by fire in 1997. The hall was demolished in January 1998.

## 2.6 Site Characteristics

Waiteata Park is a barely modified site where natural character and open space are its finest assets. The park contains a gentle undulating landscape, a meandering stream, and a small dense grouping of native and exotic trees next to the stream at the northern end of the park. The grouping of trees provides a wilderness ambience. Landscaped gardens would not be appropriate for this particular reserve which would detract from the reserve's natural character.

The stream is a prominent characteristic of Waiteata Park. The stream once had flax and toitoi which grew along either side of the stream. This provided habitat for Weka. Weka were once common native birds of the East Coast. Since Cyclone Bola in 1988 they have become a rare sight. The vegetation along the side of the stream also provided nesting areas for ducks which would return there annually.

The species of trees in Waiteata Park at present are as follows;

- |            |                |               |
|------------|----------------|---------------|
| - Ash      | - Pittosporum  | - Rimu        |
| - Cabbage  | - Beech        | - Titoki      |
| - Fir      | - Mahoe        | - Kowhai      |
| - Karaka   | - Matai        | - Oak         |
| - Miro     | - Laurel       | - Liquidambar |
| - Privet   | - Silver Birch | - Cedar       |
| - Willow   | - Redwood      | - Silky Oak   |
| - Magnolia | - Olearia      |               |

## 2.7 Development

### A. Landscape Work:

Maintaining the trees in Waiteata park includes keeping them pruned back off the pedestrian track that runs along the stream. The track also needs some work. The path should be boxed and covered with small stones (perhaps river stones) to allow for drainage, to provide a safe pedestrian route through the park, and to stop the banks eroding into the stream.

The flax and toitoi which once grew along either side of the stream should be replaced under section 42 of the Reserve Act 1977, and comply with rules 5.12 of this Management Plan. This will encourage the return of Wekas and nesting ducks which once inhabited this vegetation in Waiteata Park. Any new planting of trees should (where appropriate) be natives.

### B. Signs:

The park needs new signs to notify the public of permitted and prohibited activities within the park boundaries. This will encourage appropriate activities within the reserves intended purpose.

### C. Furniture:

More picnic tables and seating are needed. New furniture should be placed on the eastern (play equipment) side only. The western side should remain an open space area free of furniture. This side is constantly used for active recreation. On the eastern side a picnic table should be placed in the corner of Russell Street and Richardson Avenue next to the 'Roktopus' and climbing frame. This will then provide seating closer to the play equipment than present seating and will be under the trees for shade. A Rubbish receptacle should be placed next to the this picnic table and another rubbish receptacle is needed over by the carpark. People at present are dumping rubbish from their car on to the carpark.

### D. Fence:

A low visually sensitive fence or bollards and chains should be put in place around the perimeter of the park. This is necessary to keep vehicles off the reserve, and should encourage the parking of vehicles in the designated car park. If a low fence is to be used it should have a removable section or chain to allow access for Council, maintenance, and emergency services vehicles.

**E. Carpark:**

The carpark on Richardson Avenue needs to be levelled and tar-sealed. At present the carpark is not sealed and it has large pot holes. These pot holes create a dust nuisance in high winds. The car park provides parking spaces for six vehicles. The car park may need to be enlarged at a later date. At present a lot of vehicles are parking on the grass. The suggested fence will stop the parking of vehicles on the reserve itself, therefore a larger designated area for parking may need to be provided. Another car park along the Russell Street frontage is an option.