

3.1 Landscape Work

The Scout Hall was built in 1966 and was used by the Scouts until 1997 when the hall was severely damaged by fire and promptly demolished. The site which is in front of the car park off Richardson Avenue has been planted in grass. A bridge has been built over the stream to allow further access to the far side of the reserve.

3.2 Vehicle Restraints

Vehicle access to the park is restricted to council vehicles and those given authority to carry out maintenance work. To protect the park landscape, a fence around the perimeter of the park (as already mentioned) is suggested. Thus allowing pedestrian access points only. A designated car park area for reserve users is provided on Richardson Avenue.

3.3 Tree Establishment

The reserve has a boundary of trees on the Russell Street and Richardson Avenue frontages. Native tree species should be used for any new tree planting, including the replacing of dead trees. More native trees in the reserve should encourage the return of the native wild life which once lived there. These include tuis, wood pigeons, kingfishers, and also wild ducks.

3.4 Use of Facilities

This park has few structural facilities as open space is a vital requisite for recreation reserves. There is a walk bridge which allows pedestrians to cross Waiteata Stream providing access from one part of the reserve to the other without having to walk to the far southern end of the reserve where the stream continues under ground.

There are several pieces of play equipment. These are kept free of graffiti and regular safety and maintenance checks are vital in providing a safe environment for reserve users, especially children.

As mentioned, there was until recently a Scout Hall on the reserve. This structure led to grievances on a number of occasions for the local residents, concerned that Waiteata Park should ultimately provide for neighbourhood reserve activities. It is suggested that no buildings or leases shall occur on Waiteata Park in the future; unless deemed a vital necessity in providing for the needs of the immediate community.

3.5 Reserve Users

As previously mentioned, the current use of Waiteata Park is for passive and informal active recreation. Neighbourhood reserves provide open space vital for the communities well being, as an escape from the built environment.

The Gisborne District Council undertook an Urban Neighbourhood Reserves Survey in 1996. This survey was undertaken as a result of accumulating adverse effects on the residential amenity. The survey revealed that people perceive reserves as playing a very important role in neighbourhood recreation. 83% of respondents reported using neighbourhood reserves on a regular basis for a number of activities, including the following:

- Fitness for themselves 27%
- As a playground 45%
- Picnics 18%
- Relaxation 38%

Of the total population surveyed 99% either used neighbourhood reserves for passive and/or active recreation, or believed they were an important part of the neighbourhood landscape.

The garden environment and play equipment were described as important features which attracted the respondents to recreate in neighbourhood reserves.

Waiteata park is predominantly used by the immediate surrounding residents. The reserve has play equipment which is a popular play area for the neighbourhood children and the beautiful reserve landscape attracts many other users of various ages. The reserve scenery also provides a popular picnic spot. It is not only a popular reserve with the immediate residents, but with the wider Gisborne community.

When respondents were asked to identify their favourite parks the following results were obtained:

PARK	1ST FAVOURITE	2ND FAVOURITE
Botanical Gardens	33%	14%
Adventure Playground	13%	13%
Anzac Park	14%	10%
Rugby Park	5%	1%
Waiteata Park	3%	3%

(Statistical data from the Gisborne District Council Recreation Plan 1998-2003)

3.6 Vandalism

Unlike many other reserves in the district, vandalism has not been a continual problem at Waiteata Park. This is obviously a credit to the residents which live around the boundary of the reserve and monitor the activities which take place on it. While Council recognises that vandalism is an on going social problem which needs to be addressed at both a local and national level, we also recognise that the problem is hard to combat within the confines of a Management Plan. However, Council does recognise that there is a need to encourage local residents to play a more active role in reporting and discouraging any undesirable behaviour that they witness within Council reserves.



**PHOTO 1 : Newly built walk bridge over Waiteata Park Stream.
A well known site characteristic of Waiteata Park.**



PHOTO 2 : A park used for both passive and active recreation



PHOTO 3 : The *old* playground equipment



PHOTO 4 : *and the new!*