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‘Tooku awa koiora me oona pikonga he kura tangihia o te maataamuri  
The River of Life, each curve more beautiful than the last’

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# HAMILTON CITY RIVER PLAN

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A graphic consisting of three horizontal brush strokes in green, light blue, and dark blue. The text 'Our Remarkable River' is written in white cursive over the light blue stroke.

*Our Remarkable River*

CONTENTS

Mayor’s Introduction	3
Vision and Principles	4
Regional Context Map	6
THE RIVER PLAN THEMES	8
HAMILTON RIVER PLAN	10
Hamilton Gardens / Te Parapara Pa	12
Hayes Paddock / Wellington Street Beach	14
Hamilton East	16
Central city	18
Roose Commerce Park	20
Ferrybank	22
ArtsPost and Waikato Museum	24
Memorial Park and Parana Park	26
Opoia and Jesmond Park	28
Victoria Bridge to Claudelands Bridge	30
Claudelands Bridge to Fairfield Bridge	32
Days’ Park and Swarbricks Landing	34
St Andrews Golf Course	36
Braithwaite Park / Pukete Pa	38
IMPLEMENTATION AND TIMEFRAME	40
VISUALISING THE THEMES	42
☹ Theme 1: Access	44
☹ Theme 2: Recreation	48
☹ Theme 3: Development	50
☹ Theme 4: Natural Environment	52
☹ Theme 5: Arts and Culture	54
☹ Theme 6: Tourism	56
STRATEGIC ALIGNMENT	58
Hamilton Context Map - Growth	60
RIVER PLAN IMPLEMENTATION	
The River Plan	62
River Plan Delivery Model	63
The Waikato River: A Remarkable History	64
Significance to Maaori	64
Contact	65
Image Credits	66

MAYOR’S INTRODUCTION



TOOKU AWA KOIORA ME OONA PIKONGA HE  
KURA TANGIHIA O TE MAATAAMURI

Hamiltonians are passionate about the Waikato River. It has long been recognised as a remarkable natural asset and a defining feature of our city.

People’s connection with it goes back hundreds of years and Maaori from the Tainui waka have inhabited the area known as Hamilton for over 400 years. The Waikato River is the tupuna of Waikato-Tainui, which is embodied in a unique and special relationship with the river. But most would agree that the river is under-utilised and undervalued in the modern Hamilton. In recent decades numerous attempts have been made to develop a plan to activate Hamilton’s engagement with the river. The Hamilton City River Plan is the first time Hamilton will have a comprehensive strategy to transform the way we use and view the 16km of Waikato River running through the

city. The Plan is a 30-year vision for the river and will guide how we plan and use the river into the future.

The River Plan is a plan for everyone. It has been developed over the past year with a team of experts and with feedback from the public. People told us they wanted to be able to see and use the river more and they shared their ideas on what they would most like to see improved. This feedback has been invaluable in helping to shape the ideas and projects in the River Plan. The message most loudly given was to ‘get on with it’.

The projects in the River Plan are divided in to those that can start immediately and others that will take some time to work through the detail. There are a number of changes that will need to be made to existing plans and special processes

set by law that the Council will follow, to ensure the River Plan is a success.

The success of the River Plan relies on the Council working with Waikato-Tainui, the Waikato Regional Council, Mighty River Power, the Waikato River Authority, businesses and the community. Together we can achieve the vision and outcomes in the River Plan to transform Hamilton’s future.

JULIE HARDAKER  
Mayor of Hamilton  
October 2014





# THE WAIKATO RIVER WILL BE THE DEFINING HEART OF HAMILTON

## VISION

Te whakakitenga

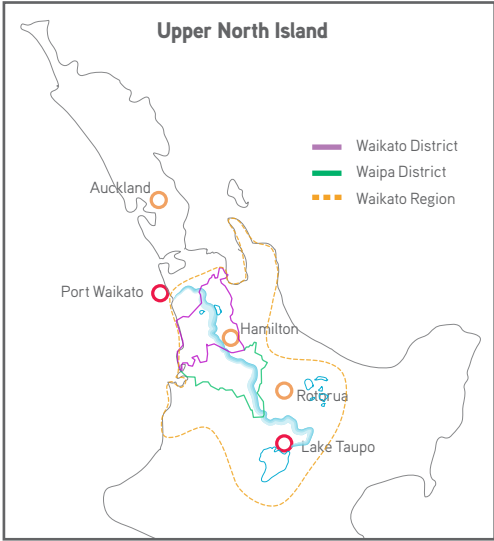
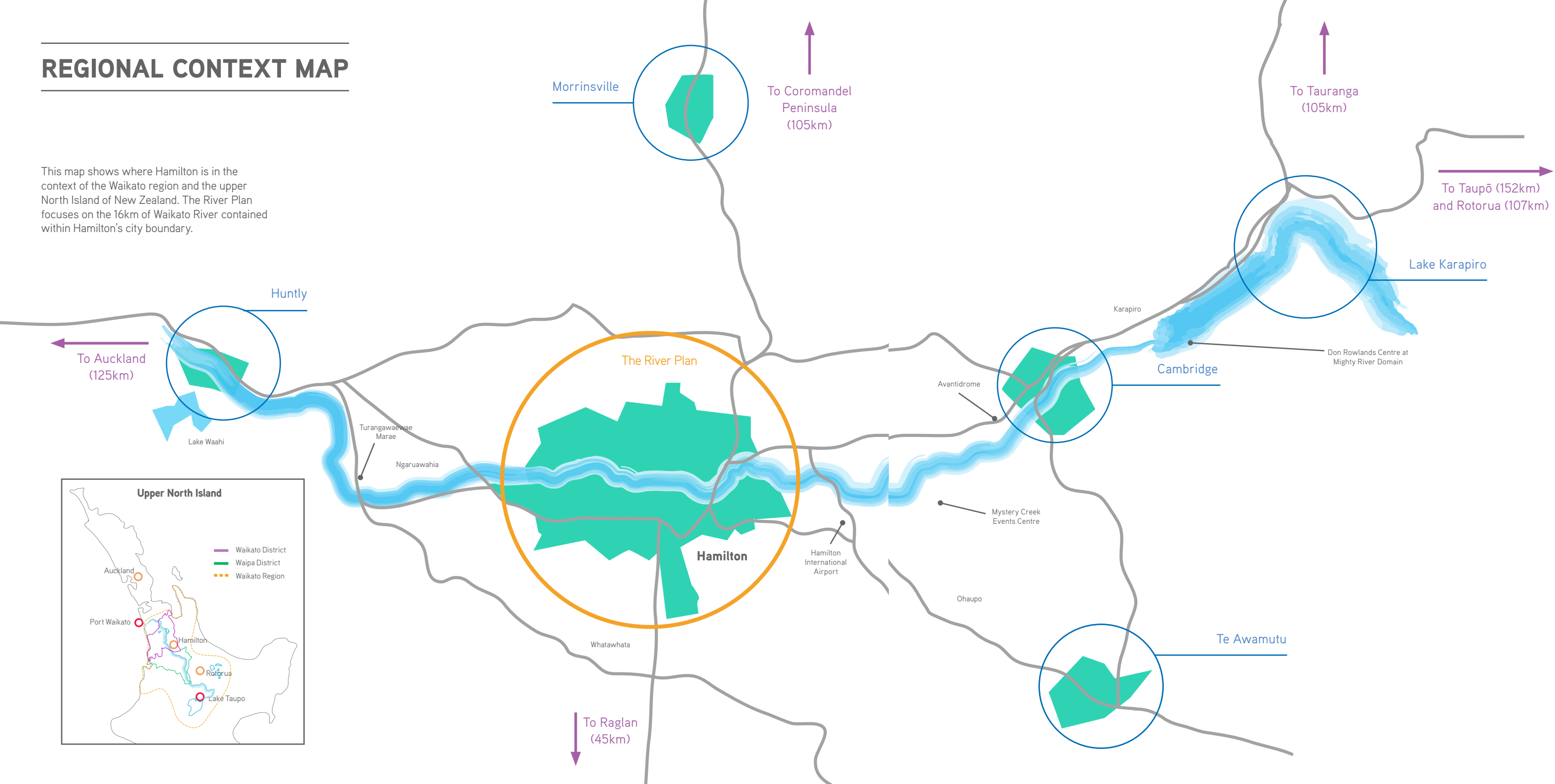
## PRINCIPLES (Ngā Wariu)

RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND USE IS  
CONSIDERED IN THE CONTEXT  
OF THE RIVER PLAN'S FOUR PRINCIPLES.

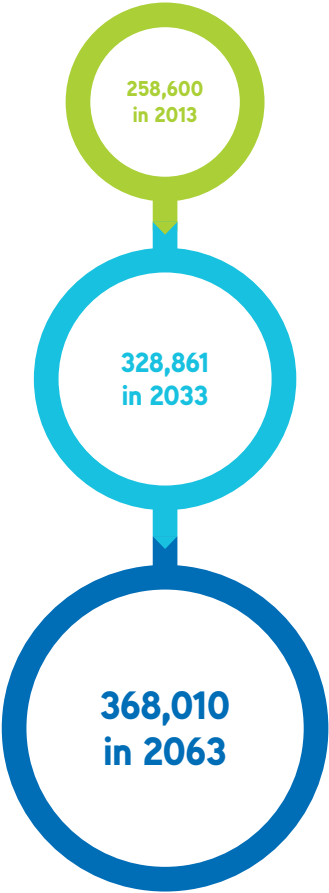
- 1 People (Ka tauawhi i te tangata)**  
The River Plan is for all the people who live in and visit Hamilton.
- 2 Economic Opportunity (Ka tauawhi i te āheinga ōhanga)**  
The River Plan will enable development that will promote enjoyment of the river and benefit the community.
- 3 Healthy River (Ka tauawhi i te awa me tona ora)**  
The River Plan supports Te Ture Whaimana O Te Awa o Waikato (The Vision and Strategy for the Waikato River).
- 4 Cultural Celebration (Ka whakanuia ngā momo ahurea katoa)**  
The River Plan promotes the celebration of culture, sport, recreation and leisure.

# REGIONAL CONTEXT MAP

This map shows where Hamilton is in the context of the Waikato region and the upper North Island of New Zealand. The River Plan focuses on the 16km of Waikato River contained within Hamilton's city boundary.



Projected population growth of sub-region (Hamilton, Waikato District and Waipa District)  
The sub-regional population is:




- Waikato River
- Urban areas
- Strategic transport routes





# THE RIVER PLAN THEMES


The Vision and Principles of the Plan are underpinned by six themes. The themes articulate the key outcomes sought for 16km of the river and reflect public feedback on what people said was most important to enhance use of the river.


The six themes are:


**Access**  
Improving access to along and across the river

**Recreation**  
Promoting the enjoyment of the river

**Development**  
Promoting development that embraces the river

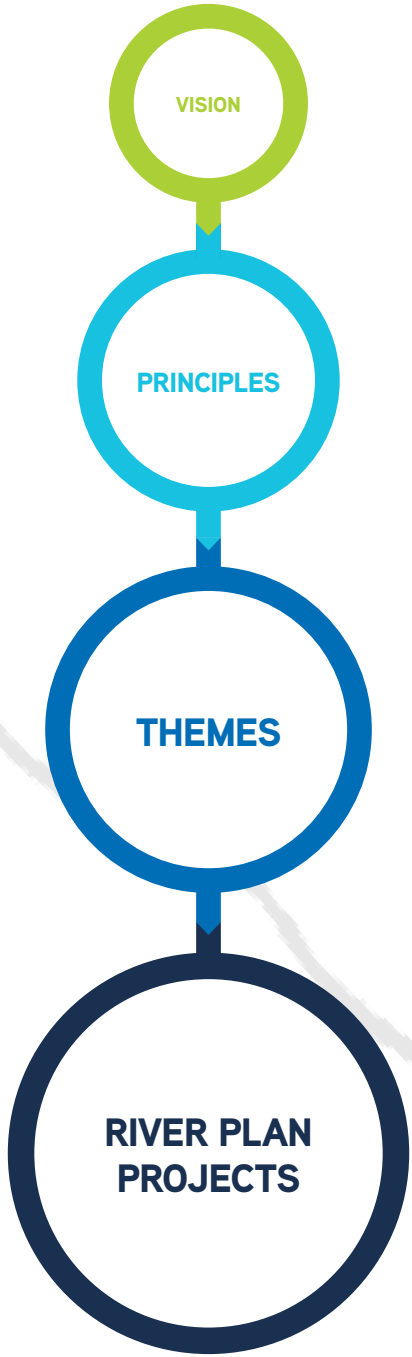
**Natural Environment**  
Protecting and enhancing the natural environment along the river

**Arts and Culture**  
Celebrating arts and culture along the river

**Tourism**  
Promoting and developing tourism along the river

Themes are intended to be complementary and interconnected – for example, a visitor experience may be closely related to promoting art, enhancing accessibility to the river and improving the experience of the natural environment.

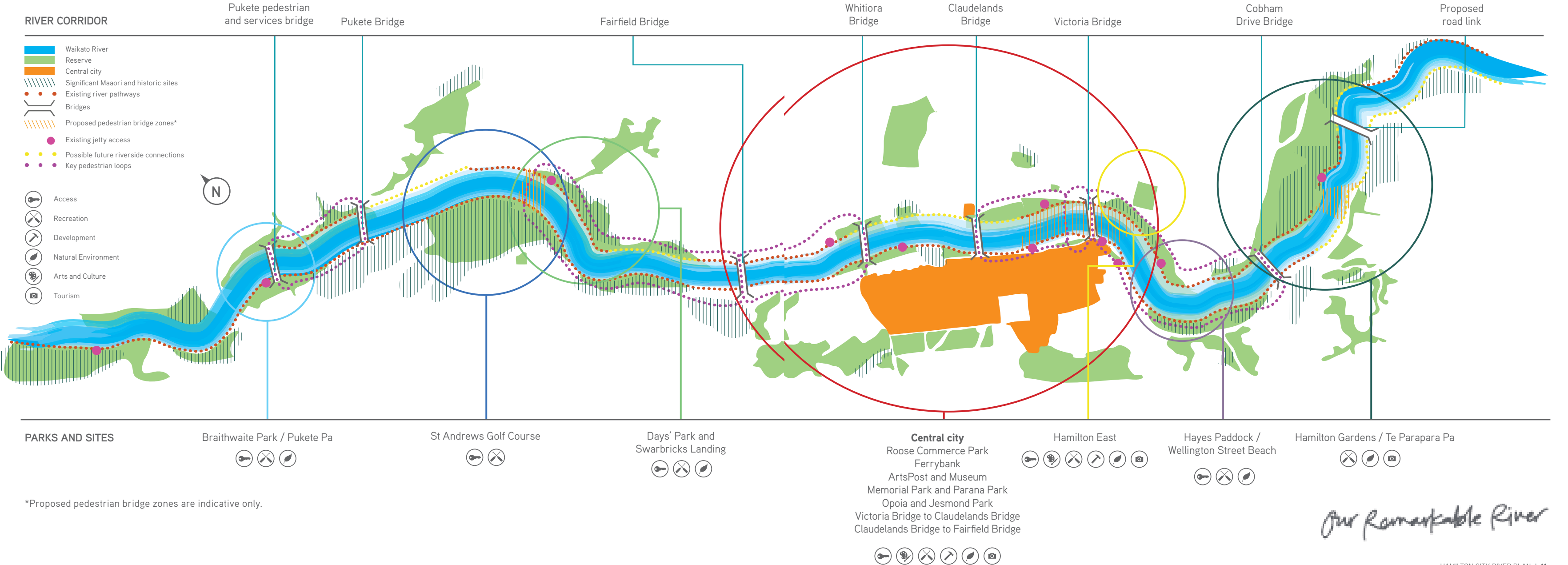
Many projects will be developed from the themes and the themes are included in the projects for each of the site locations.



# HAMILTON CITY RIVER PLAN

This map shows the 16km of the Waikato River within Hamilton’s boundary that is the focus of the River Plan.

The following pages contain concepts and ideas for site locations along the river where there are opportunities for development over the next 30-year lifetime of the River Plan.

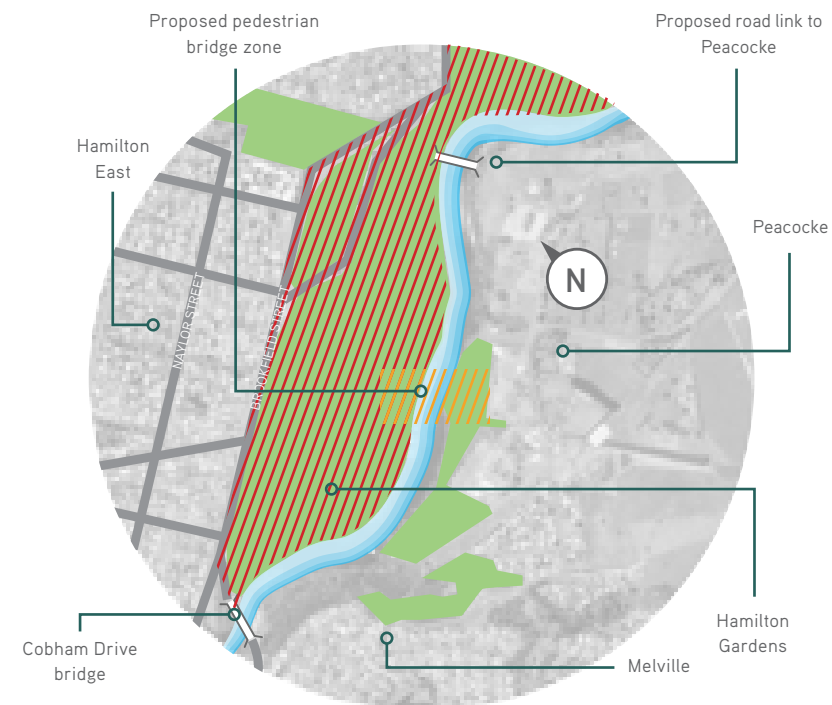


Our Remarkable River

# HAMILTON GARDENS / TE PARAPARA PA



Artist impression of the new Tudor Garden opening early 2015 (concept only)



**River Plan Objective:** To improve the connection between Hamilton Gardens and the river and the central city.

## River Plan Projects:

- Support the Master Plan for the Hamilton Gardens, which includes river-focused projects such as the jetty below the Renaissance Casino and the riverside Tudor Garden, Concept Garden and Picturesque Garden
- Improve links along the river for boats, cycling and pedestrians
- Continue to develop the venues at the Hamilton Gardens for events and festivals
- Enhance the experience of the river path with sculpture
- Increase connectivity with Peacocke including road and pedestrian bridge

**History:** In 1960, four acres of what had been the Hamilton East Town Belt was passed over to the Council for the purposes of a public garden. In 1971

a rose garden was established and named after Dr Denis Rogers, Mayor of Hamilton from 1959 to 1968. In the 1970s a new concept for Hamilton Gardens was developed where the focus was to be on garden design, rather than on botanical science. This concept has been developed over forty years into the world class experience we have today.

**Māori Significance:** Te Parapara Pa was located in what is now known as Hamilton Gardens. The pa was occupied by Ngati Wairere. The garden was renowned as a site of sacred rituals associated with harvesting food crops. There stood a Tuahu (sacred altar) called Te Ikamauroa at the pa.

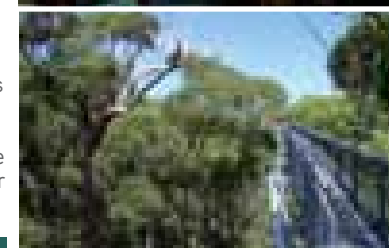
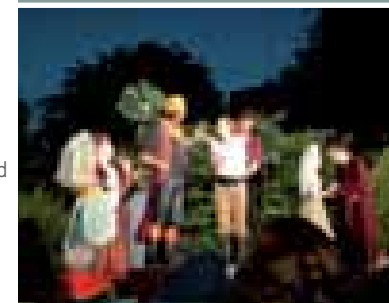
**Use:** The Hamilton Gardens is the Waikato's most popular visitor attraction, with over one million visitors and over seven hundred events each year. The Council is fast-tracking development at the gardens to complete five themed gardens and improve visitor facilities over the next four years.



Improve **connections** from the Hamilton Gardens to the river and the central city



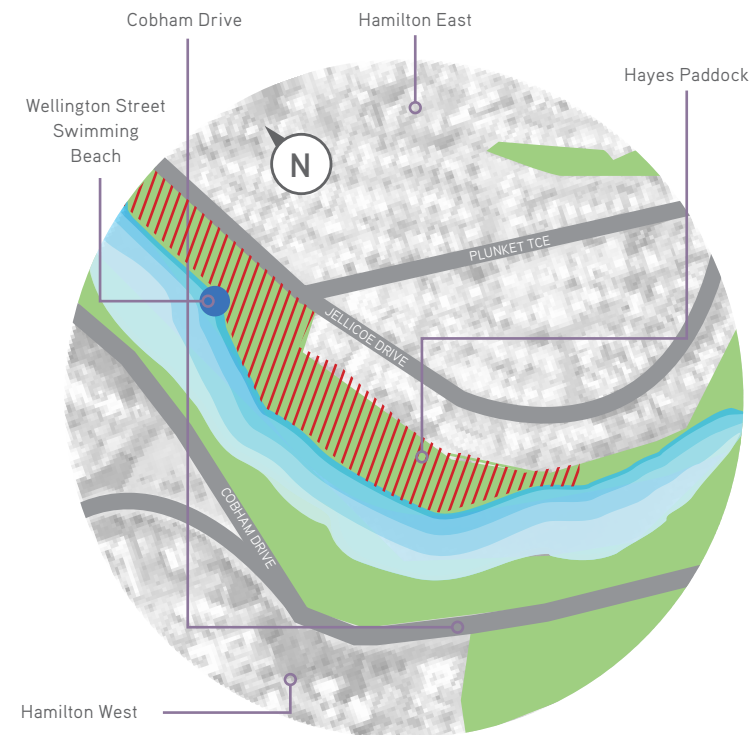
World class garden that enhances the city's identity



# HAYES Paddock / WELLINGTON STREET BEACH



Artist impression of a proposed swimming feature and beach (concept only)



**River Plan Objective:** To create a safer swimming experience on the river and enhance this special neighbourhood park.

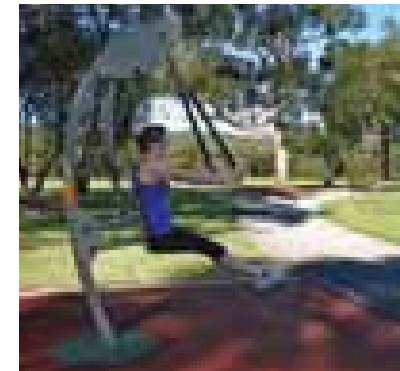
## River Plan Projects:

- Create the city's best beach and a swimming feature on the river
- Upgrade the riverbank for safe access and seating
- Provide a safe jetty for river boats
- Upgrade the toilet facilities
- Upgrade exercise equipment and family recreation spaces
- Install night lighting along the pathway
- Continue to improve the link between the central city and Hamilton Gardens
- Provide signs to describe the significance and history of the park

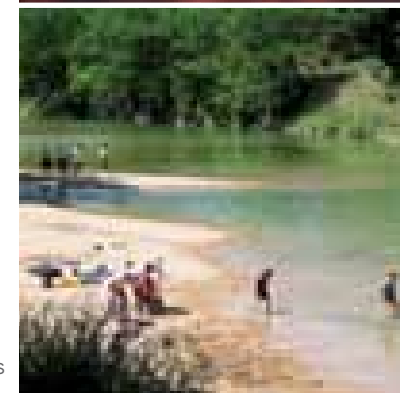
**History:** This park is named after Hayes farm which covered the surrounding area. In the 1960s and 70s swimming was encouraged at Wellington Street and beach and changing rooms and toilets were constructed. The changing rooms are now used for canoe storage.

**Māori Significance:** Te Moutere O Koipikau Pa was constructed on Graham Island in the middle of the river near Hayes Paddock. It held a carved pataka (food house) named Koipikau, which is believed to have been constructed during the time of Hotumaua and Hanui (Ngāti Wairere).

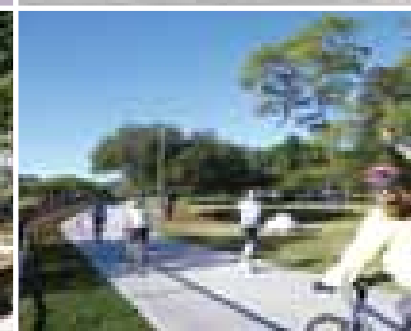
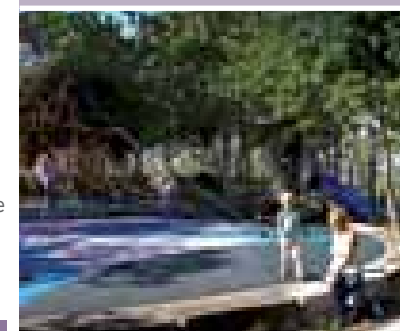
**Use:** Hayes Paddock incorporates wide open spaces with planted esplanade reserve. It is used as a through route on the walkway/cycleway connection to Hamilton Gardens. The beach at Wellington Street located at this reserve is used for swimming during the summer. It is the city's most popular river swimming location.



Wide open spaces with planted esplanade reserve

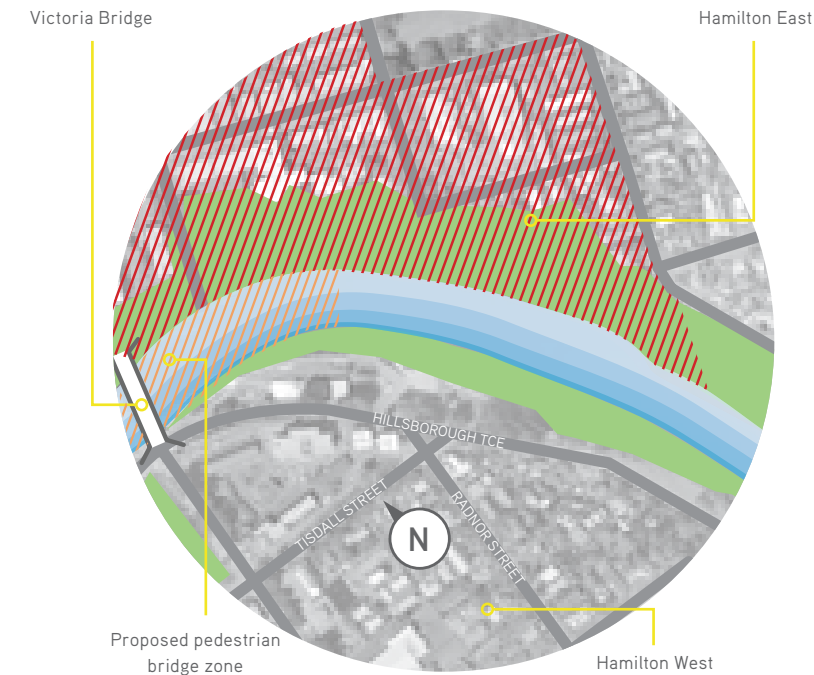


The city's most popular river swimming location





# HAMILTON EAST



**River Plan Objective:** To enhance connections from Hamilton East to the river and central city.

## River Plan Projects:

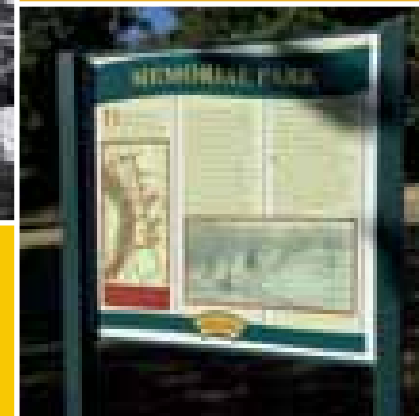
- Connect Hamilton East to the central city by a pedestrian bridge
- Develop the Hamilton East Neighbourhood Vision Plan
- Enable and encourage development on the river side of Grey Street, Cook Street and Clyde Street
- Enhance river views
- Rejuvenate New Memorial Park as a destination small park
- Extend and enhance the Hamilton East Heritage Trail
- Provide signs for way finding and telling the river's stories
- Enhance connections to the river from Von Tempsky Street

**History:** Hamilton East is one of Hamilton's oldest suburbs. From the 1870s until the mid twentieth century, Hamilton East was known by some as 'Irishtown'. A significant number of the militiamen who settled there were of Irish descent. Hamilton East's main Street, Grey Street, was originally destined to be the main street of Hamilton. Evidence of planning for the centre of the village can be seen in the 'village square' concept of Steele Park and English trees along Grey Street.

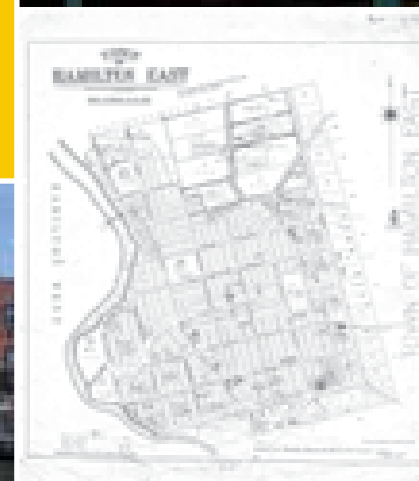
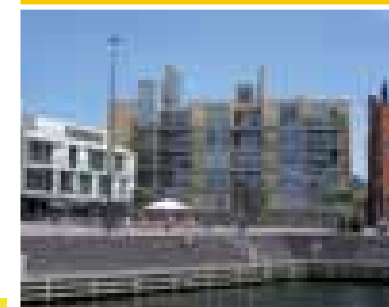
**Use:** Hamilton East's primary commercial and retail area is located along Grey Street. Hamilton East is characterised by villas and bungalows built early in the twentieth century. Hamilton East backs onto the river but access from Grey Street is poor and is a lost opportunity to embrace the river.



Connect Hamilton East to the central city by a pedestrian bridge



Enable and encourage development on the river side of Grey Street, Cook Street and Clyde Street



# CENTRAL CITY

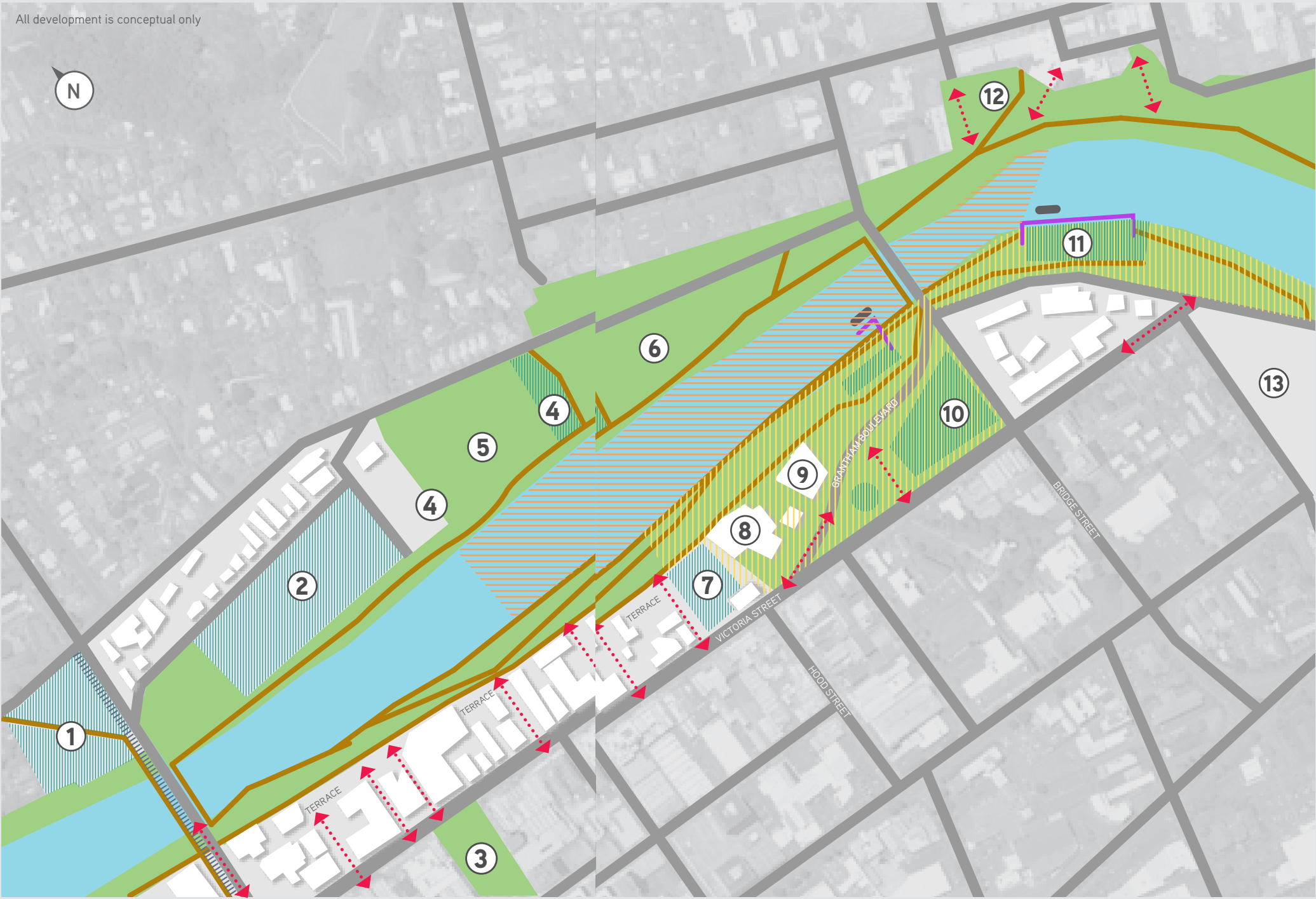
The central city provides the River Plan with the primary opportunity to transform the way Hamilton connects to the river.

There is considerable potential for new development in this part of the river, without losing the natural beauty of the river reserve.

The overall objective is to better connect the central city to the river, in particular from Claudelands Bridge to Victoria Bridge and to develop a circuit with connections along and across the river.

The focal point is Ferrybank, where there will be significant change and each part of the central city will add to the enjoyment and experience of the river.

Our Remarkable River

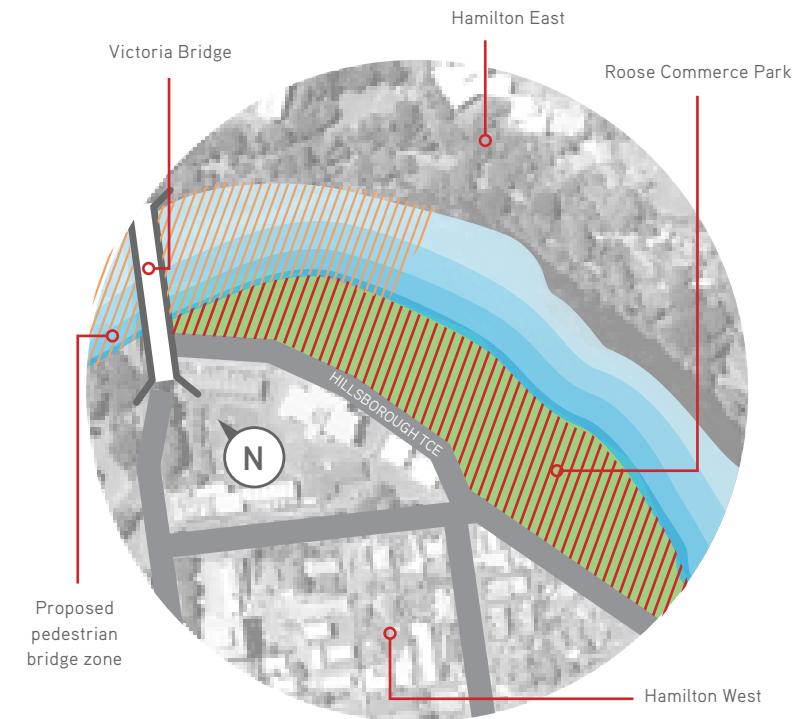


- Ferrybank /Roose Commerce Park area
- Park/Reserve
- Existing buildings
- Proposed development areas
- Proposed pedestrian bridge zone
- Existing and future walkway and cycleway connection
- Links between the city and the river
- 1 Mixed-use development site
- 2 Opoia medium-density housing zone with boardwalk and cafe
- 3 Garden Place
- 4 Cafe or tourism development sites in Memorial Park or Parana Park
- 5 Parana Park
- 6 Memorial Park
- 7 ArtsPost proposed development site
- 8 Waikato Museum
- 9 Mighty River Power building
- 10 Mixed-use commercial, community, recreation and tourism development zone, with Waikato River Centre
- 11 Sports centre area with redeveloped boat sheds
- 12 New Memorial Park
- 13 Medium-density housing zone

# ROOSE COMMERCE PARK



Artist impression of a proposed multi-purpose sports centre, rowing clubs and social hub on the river (concept only)



**River Plan Objective:** To create a focal point for sports, health and recreation clubs, connected to the river.

## River Plan Projects:

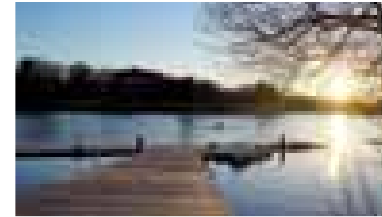
- Work with all clubs for the redevelopment of purpose-built, more spacious and architecturally significant boat sheds and clubhouses, including social spaces overlooking the river
- Provide a floating purpose-built boat launch ramp
- Improve carparks and access to compounds for storage trailers
- Provide public facilities such as toilets
- Provide outdoor exercise equipment

**History:** This park was once occupied by a company transporting mined sand from the river. In the 1960s this became an unsafe practice and buildings were

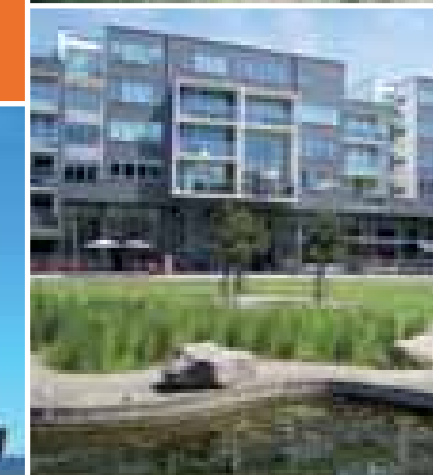
handed over to the Waikato Rowing Club. The gazebo was built in the 1970s for a flower show at Claudelands and was moved to the riverside location. A large remnant from the original Union Bridge is located beside this structure.

**Māori Significance:** The Roose Commerce area was an important landing place used by Māori (and early European settlers) in central Hamilton.

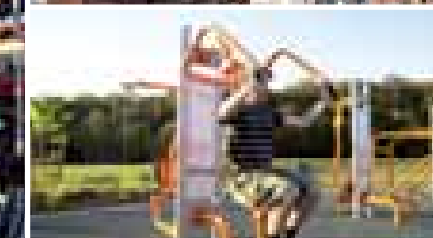
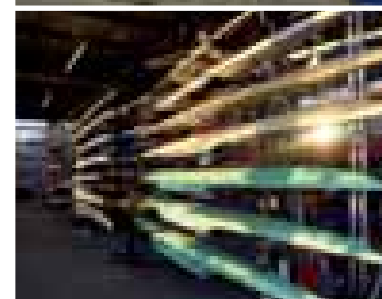
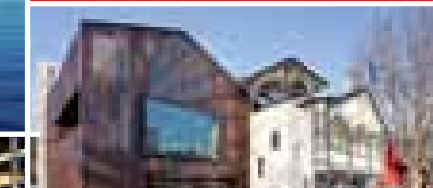
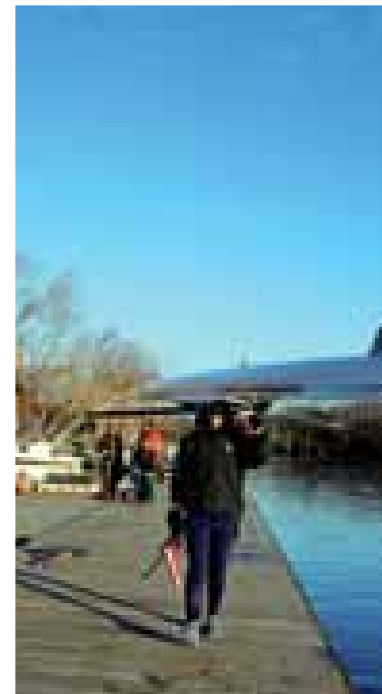
**Use:** This area is an integral part of the central city and is the home to clubs connected with the river: Waikato Rowing Club, Hamilton Hawks running club, and the Waikato Sport Fishing Club. Ferrybank and Roose Commerce Park connect to the walkway/cycleway network and provide a welcome break of green space in the central city. The area is surrounded by mixed-use and medium-density residential development.



New purpose built facilities for **sports clubs** along the river



A welcome break of **green space** in the central city



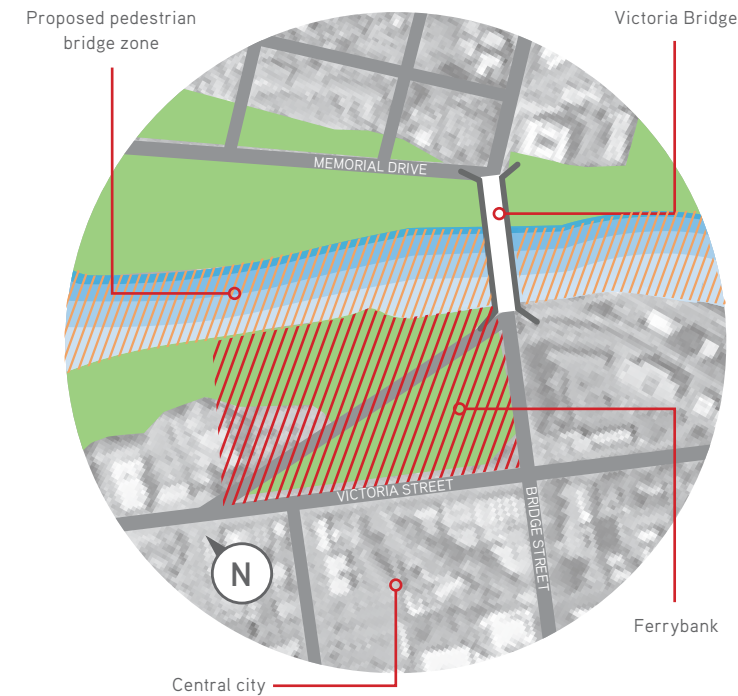




# FERRYBANK



Artist impression of a proposed redeveloped social hub on the river (concept only)



**River Plan Objective:** To develop Ferrybank into Hamilton's premier river destination.

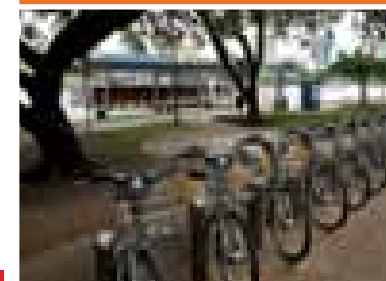
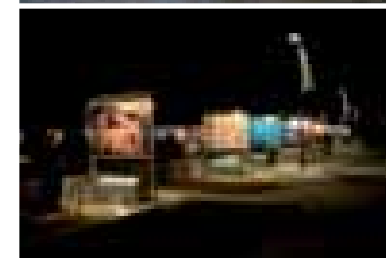
## River Plan Projects:

- Enable the development of cafes, restaurants and mixed-use facilities such as commercial office space, enhanced retail, community and recreation space
- Create a social hub for activity along the whole river corridor
- Provide a pedestrian bridge connecting Ferrybank to the river's east bank
- Promote the use of alternative modes of transport, such as cycles, boats and water taxis
- Create a Waikato River Centre to provide a hub for tourism experiences in Hamilton and the Waikato region

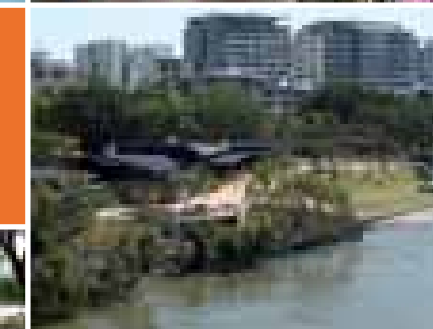
- Connect Ferrybank with the arts culture and entertainment areas of the central city

**History:** Ferrybank is named because it is where punts across the river used to land prior to bridges being constructed in Hamilton. The Celebrating Age Centre is located where an old town hall once stood – this was the social hub of the original borough. In the early 1900s the Ferrybank was planted and the band rotunda, which was occasionally used on Sunday afternoons, was installed. The embassy theatre was once located in the park where the Riff Raff statue now stands. The Hamilton Rowing Club has been located at Ferrybank since 1905.

**Māori Significance:** The Ferrybank area was an important landing place used by Māori (and early European settlers) in central Hamilton.



Premier social space in Hamilton with connections to the **central city** and the **river**



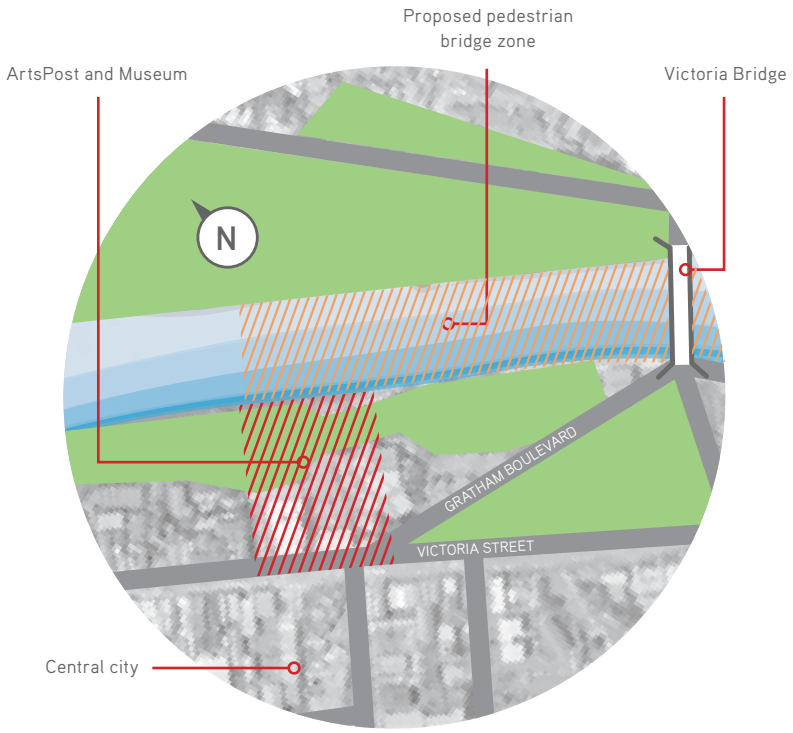
Enable **commercial, hospitality and retail development** that **complements** and sustains a **thriving social space**



# ARTSPOST AND WAIKATO MUSEUM



ArtsPost is proposed to link to a gallery and the Waikato Museum



**River Plan Objective:** To enhance Hamilton's key arts and cultural zone and strengthen its connection to the river.

**River Plan Projects:**

- Promote development of the ArtsPost site to complement the Museum
- Support development of a world class arts themed hotel by the river
- Develop a sculpture walk that enriches the river path
- Provide links to the city using existing and new pathways between buildings
- Develop festival experiences or light exhibitions
- Connect Ferrybank with the arts, culture and entertainment areas of the central city

**History:** Waikato Museum of Art and History opened in 1987 after years of planning and debate surrounding the need for a combined regional

museum and art gallery. The name of the institution has since been changed to Waikato Museum - Te Whare Taonga O Waikato. This is partly to reflect an increased focus on Maaori heritage and culture. ArtsPost is located next to the Waikato Museum and occupies Hamilton's former Post and Telegraph office, built in 1901. The Council purchased the building in 1992 to create a high profile facility for promotion of visual arts.

**Maaori Significance:** Hamilton and its surrounding districts were developed on the traditional lands of several Waikato-Tainui hapu. Below the area where Waikato Museum stands was a canoe landing site called Te Korokoro. This site got its name from a fresh water spring believed to have curative powers. War canoes (waka taua) were often beached at Te Korokoro to be repaired. Immediately opposite Waikato Museum was a pa called Tatarahi, home to a sub-tribe of Ngāti Wairere called Parekirangi.

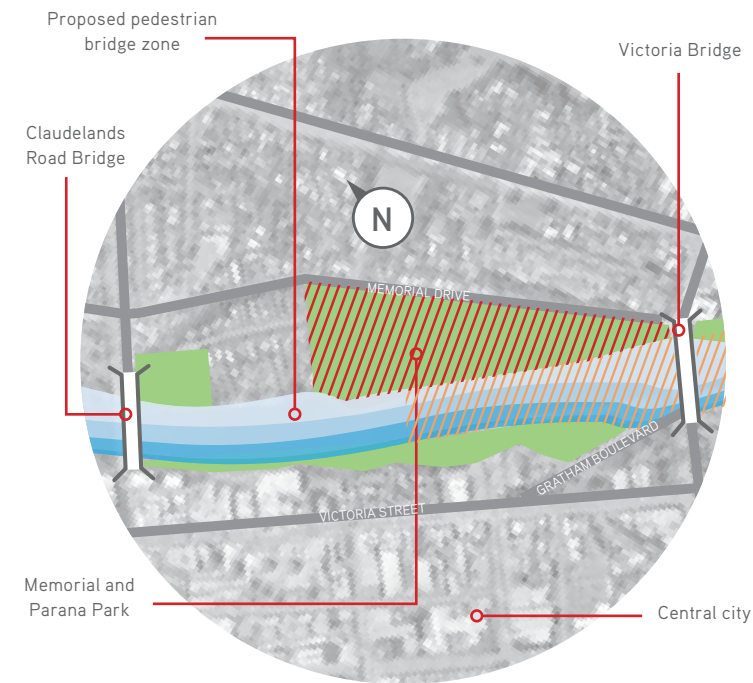


Focus of **visual arts** and **local culture**

Social spaces with **improved links to the central city**



# MEMORIAL PARK AND PARANA PARK



**River Plan Objective:** To build on the parks' existing beauty, significance and use to enhance river experiences.

## River Plan Projects:

- Re-use some of the Council-owned residential buildings in the parks to improve the garden experience and provide greater amenity (such as providing a cafe at Parana Park)
- Upgrade the landscape along the river bank to allow greater connection to the river and enhanced views
- Create additional parking spaces, particularly for oversized vehicles
- Improve connectivity and access between the parks and Opoia, Hamilton East and the central city
- Celebrate the gunboat Rangiriri in a more accessible way

**History:** Parana Park was bequeathed to the city by George Parr as a private dwelling and garden. Parr's original vision was a play area for recovering ill children. The Potter Children's Garden was opened in

2012 and it is one of the city's most popular playgrounds.

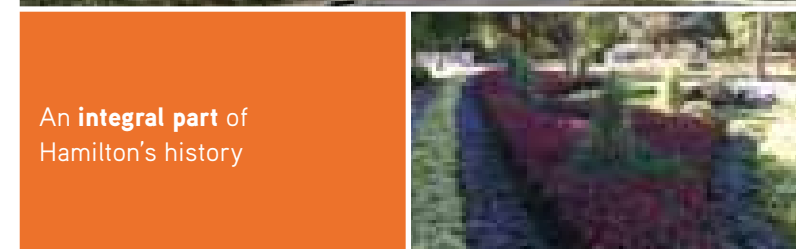
Memorial Park was established as a World War One (WWI) memorial. The original trees on the site were planted for individual fallen soldiers from the Hamilton. The park is used to commemorate other military milestones including World War Two. ANZAC commemorations are held there each year. A new memorial garden to commemorate WW1 is currently being developed for 2015.

**Maaori Significance:** This site is extremely sacred to Ngāti Wairere as it was the sacred burial ground (urupa) for the high chiefs of Ngāti Wairere. In 1881 King Tawhiao, the second Maaori king, visited the urupa and lamented over the loss of the lands of this ancestors who were buried here.

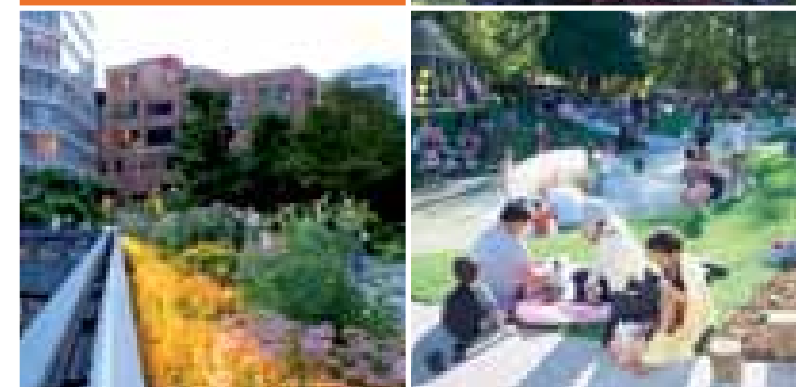
**Use:** These parks are an integral part of Hamilton's history and are some of the oldest public land in the city. They are popular recreational areas with a highly developed network of walkways and cycleways and a destination playground (the Potter Children's Garden at Parana Park).



**Improve connectivity and access** between the parks and Opoia, Hamilton East and the central city



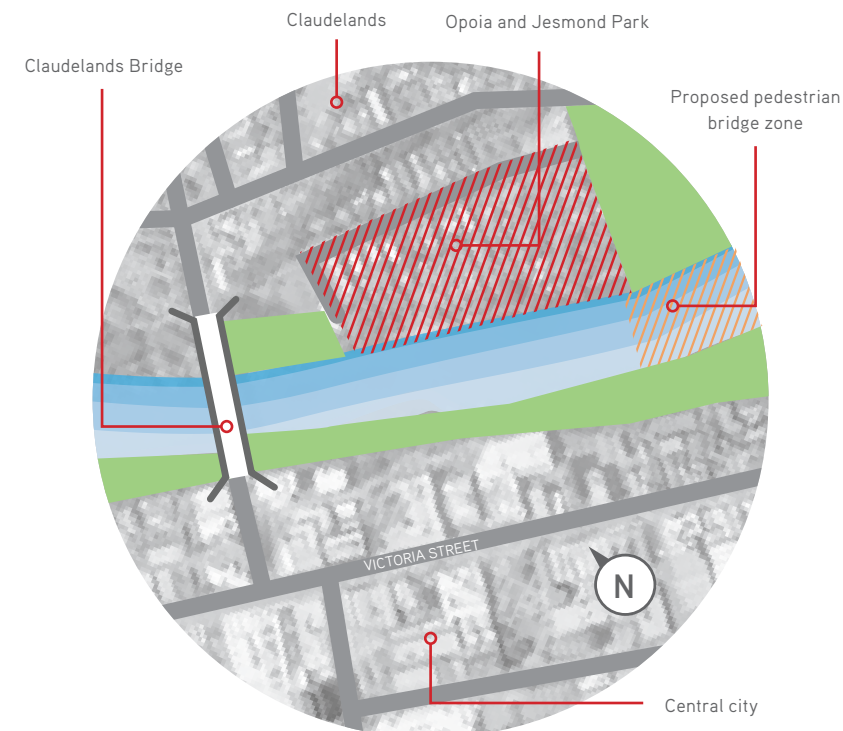
An **integral part** of Hamilton's history



# OPOIA AND JESMOND PARK



Artist impression of a proposed boardwalk and medium-density development on east side of the river (concept only)



**River Plan Objective:** For Opoia to be developed as a medium-density residential area (by the private sector) with the provision for public access and a strong connection to the river and central city.

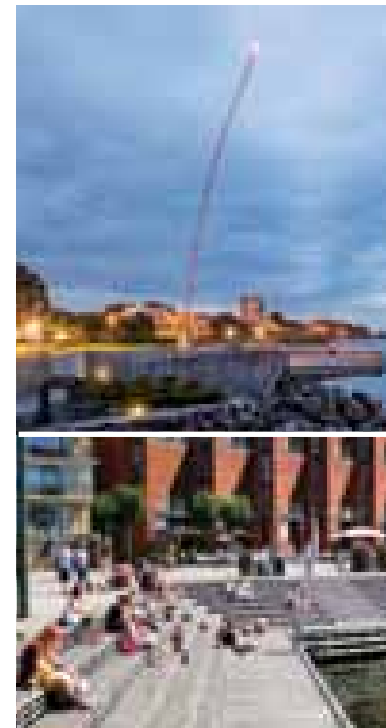
## River Plan Projects:

- Promote medium-density development on the east side of the river around Opoia
- Create a wide and appealing promenade style river walkway
- Improve connections to Hamilton East, the central city and future development at Sonning Carpark
- Provide an improved connection to Claudelands Bridge to complete a river's edge walking and cycleway circuit
- Commemorate Jesmond Park outlined in the Maaori Landmarks on Riverside Reserves Management Plan

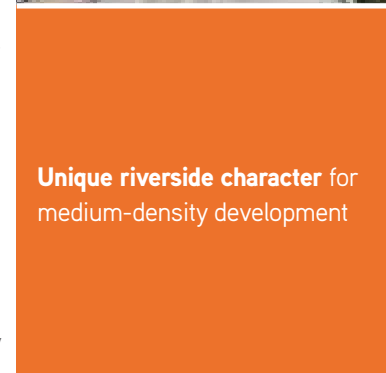
**History:** Opoia Pa was once located in this area. The Kowhai trees on Jesmond Park were planted by Jaycees in the 1950s. Jesmond Park is often wet due to underground springs in the locality.

**Maaori Significance:** Opoia Pa (on the eastern side of Claudelands Bridge) was the site, occupied by the Ngāti Wairere people. There was a flat piece of land below and in front of the pa, which was a common meeting place for war parties before going to war. The land and the pa itself were destroyed by the construction of Claudelands Road and the railway bridges.

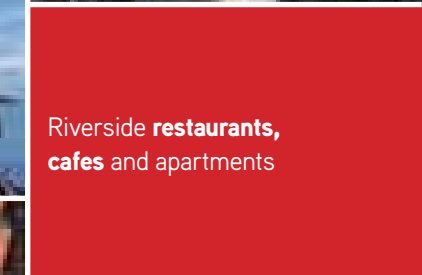
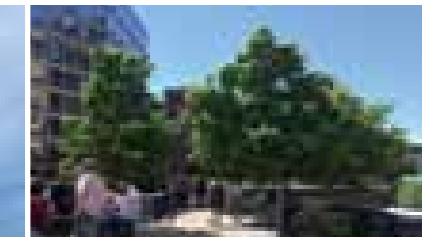
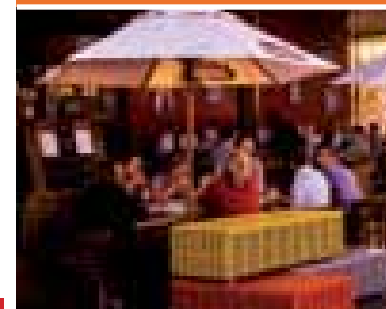
**Use:** In the Proposed District Plan, Opoia is a 'Residential Intensification Zone'. With the appropriate resource consents, Opoia could be transformed to create medium-density residential development. This would include cafes/restaurants and meeting places, with a unique riverside character that is complementary to the central city.



Riverside **restaurants, cafes** and apartments



**Unique riverside character** for medium-density development

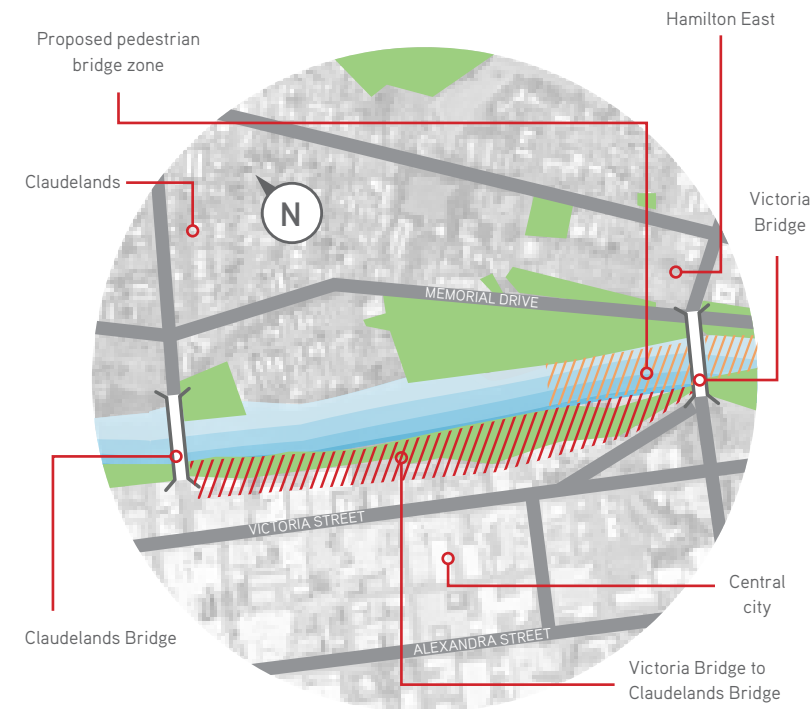




# VICTORIA BRIDGE TO CLAUDELANDS BRIDGE



Artist impression of proposed promenade next to to the central city (concept only)



**River Plan Objective:** To improve connections between the central city and the river, visually and physically.

## River Plan Projects:

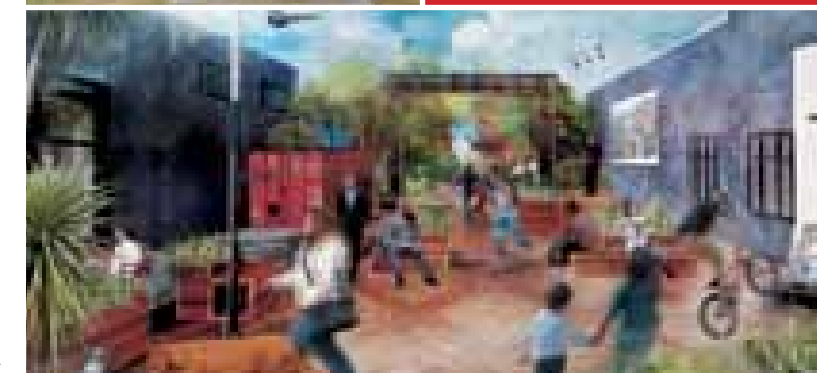
- Work with land and building owners to develop a positive relationship between the central city and the river, including artwork and new construction
- Improve connections from Victoria Street to the river
- Support development of Riff Raff/Embassy Park
- Create the promenade walkway on the upper riverbank level with great river views
- Develop a vegetation management plan to balance accessibility and views with the natural vegetation

- Provide directional signs
- Provide viewing platforms, lighting, seats and greater amenity
- Provide places for access to the river
- Improve pedestrian and cycle links across the river including upgrading Claudelands Bridge

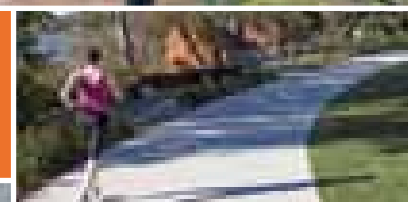
**History:** Land at Ferrybank was designated as a Council reserve in 1880. The remaining sections of riverside land between there and the Claudelands Bridge became city reserves between 1951 and 2006.



Enhance the relationship between the central city and the river



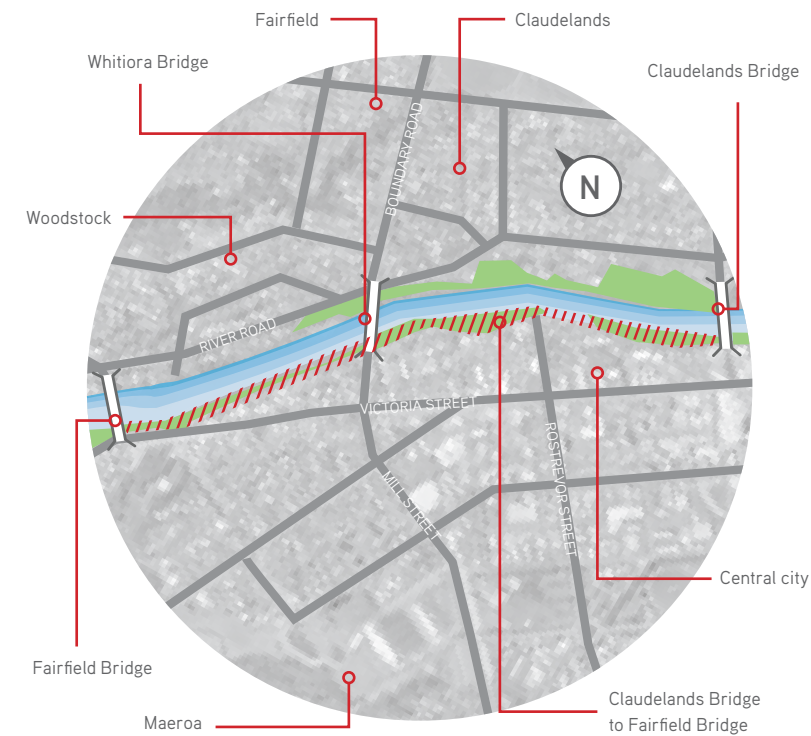
Improved paths and connections to turn the city towards the river



# CLAUDELANDS BRIDGE TO FAIRFIELD BRIDGE



Artist impression of a proposed boardwalk along the river (concept only)



**River Plan Objective:** To provide links along and to the river.

## River Plan Projects:

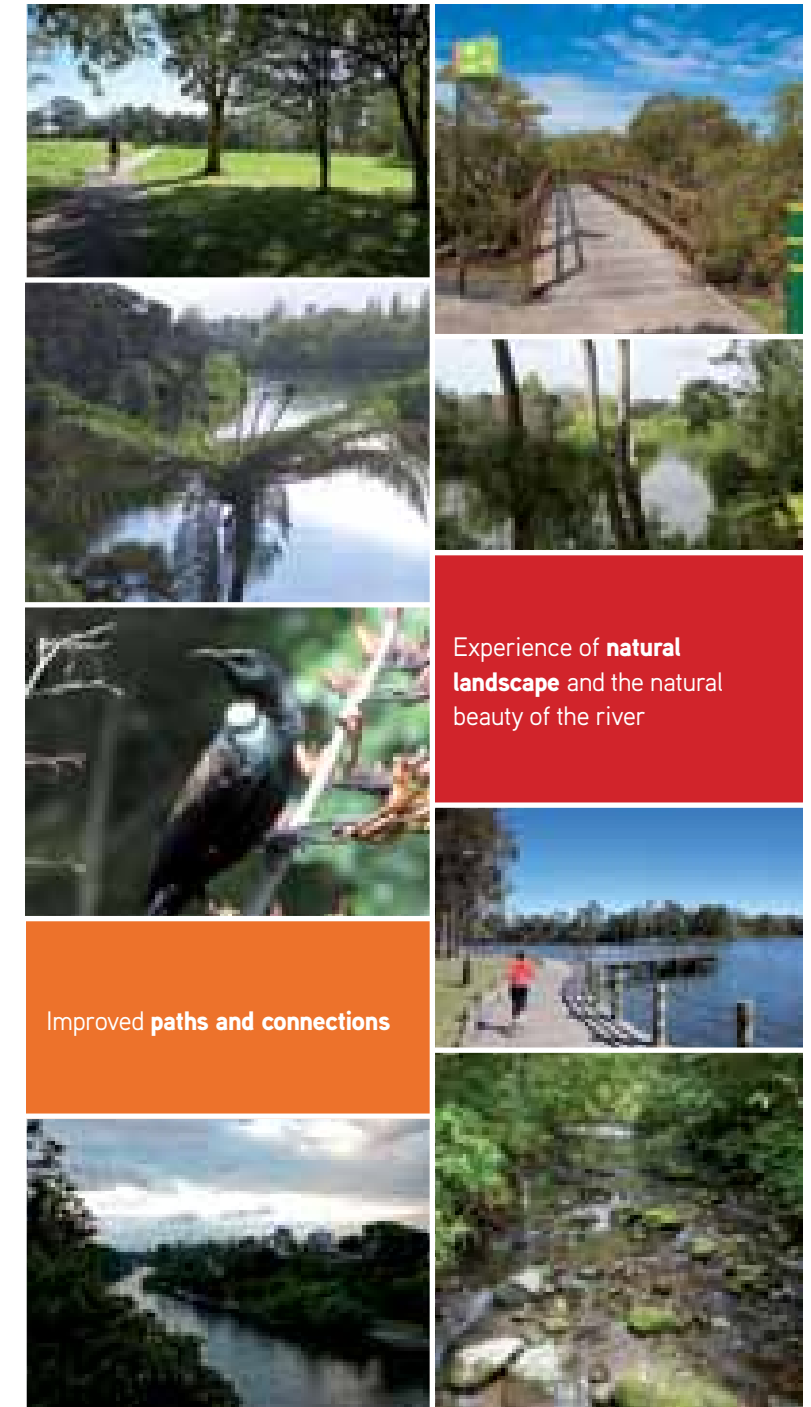
- Maintain an experience of natural landscapes and planting
- Develop a vegetation management plan to balance accessibility and views with the natural vegetation
- Work with land and building owners to develop a positive relationship between the city and the river, including artwork and new construction
- Commemorate Kirikiriroa Pa outlined in the Maaori Landmarks on Riverside Reserves Management Plan
- Provide directional signs
- Create safe and accessible boardwalks and pathways at river level
- Provide places for access to the river

- Provide improved access to paths and boardwalks along the river bank from adjoining residential areas
- Provide information about the places of significance

**History:** The riverside land in this area was designated Council reserve between 1974 and 2005.

**Maaori Significance:** Located on the western bank, London and Bryce Streets were the historic site of Kirikiriroa Pa. Kirikiriroa was a pa whakairo (pa with carved palisades). It was half oval shape, with the riverbank as the flat side and the curved side of the pa stretching from London Street to Claudelands Road. The pa was fortified by ditch and mound structures which were unfortunately destroyed during the early development of Hamilton.

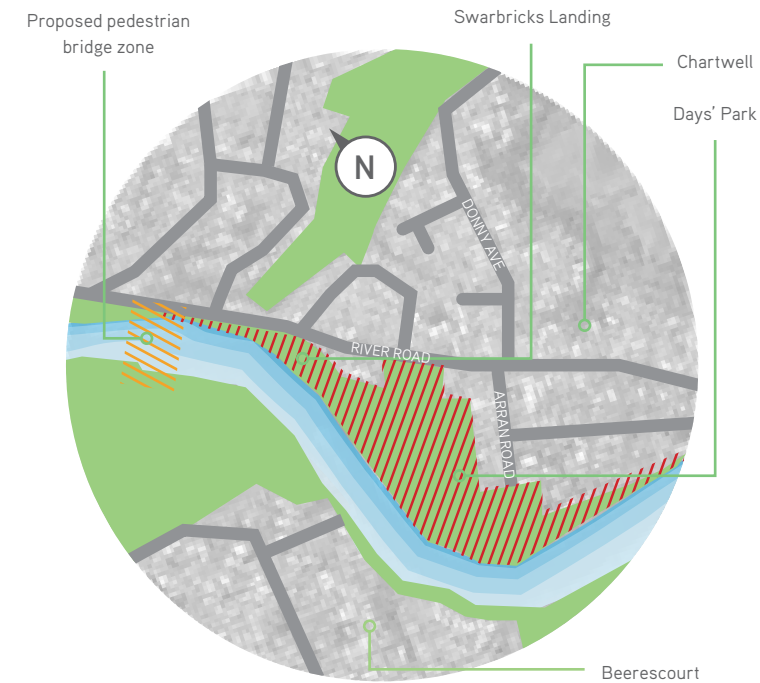
**Use:** This area covers a mix of central city commercial activity and riverfront residential living.



# DAYS' PARK AND SWARBRICKS LANDING



Artist impression of a proposed purpose built rowing facility (concept only)



**River Plan Objective:** To enhance this neighbourhood park and its connection with the river and to improve the school rowing facility at the park.

## River Plan Projects:

- Work with St Paul's Collegiate School for the redevelopment of rowing facilities
- Improve access from the park to the beach
- Provide signs for way-finding and telling the river's stories
- Continue to enhance planting and riverbank treatment
- Create a pedestrian link across the river to connect with the river pathways and golf course
- Improve parking

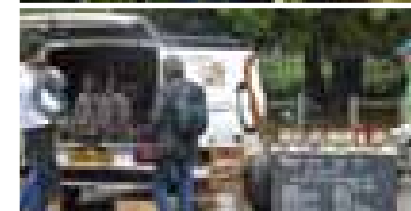
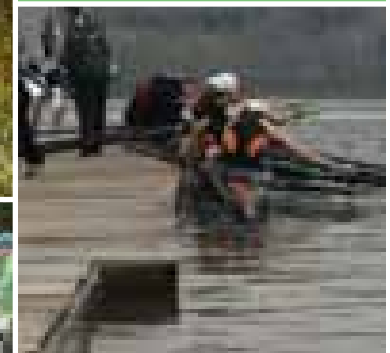
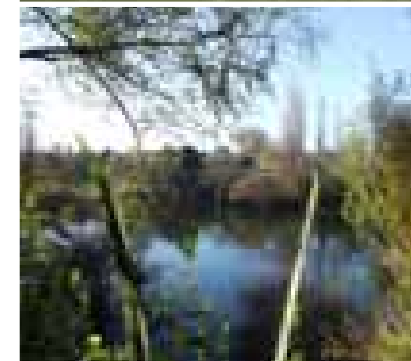
**History:** Days' Park was originally owned by the Day family as part of their farm.

**Māori Significance:** The undulating nature of the park is a result of the ancient kumara pits which were once prolific in this area.

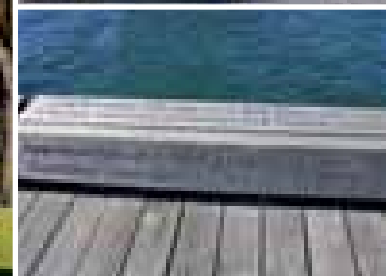
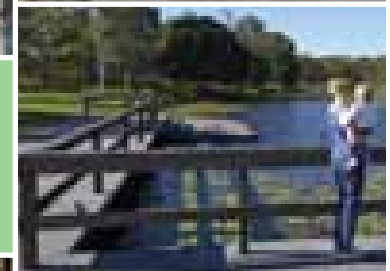
**Use:** Days' Park is a very popular off-lead dog exercise area frequented by families and dog lovers. There is access to a river beach and a swimming area used by dogs and people. There are many interconnecting paths, as well as planted areas and memorial seats for the public to enjoy, all with good links to the surrounding residential neighbourhoods. There is a building on the beach area which is owned by St Paul's Collegiate School. A short distance further north from Days' Park is Swarbricks landing, which has a toilet, carpark area and jetty. It is a popular place for caravan food vendors. Swarbricks landing also provides carparking for Days' Park.



A **community park** enjoyed by many residents (and their **dogs!**)



Redeveloped school rowing facilities

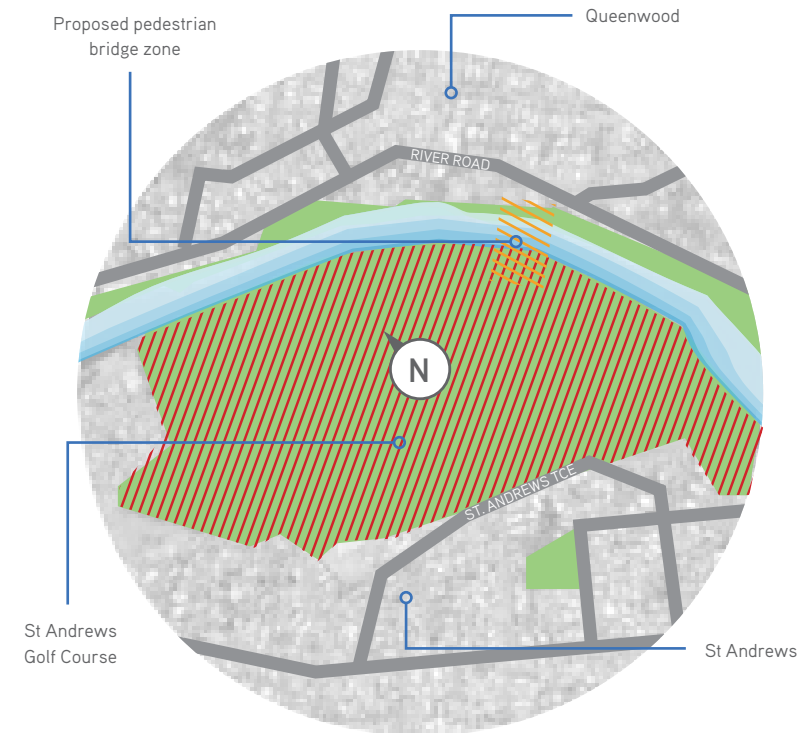




# ST ANDREWS GOLF COURSE



Artist impression of a proposed redeveloped golf clubhouse near the river (concept only)



**River Plan Objective:** To provide a premier golf experience with a strong connection to the river and to open up the park and its facilities for greater public use.

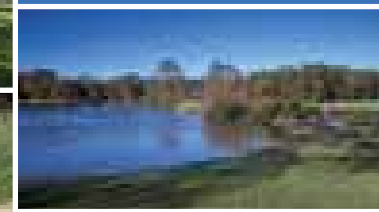
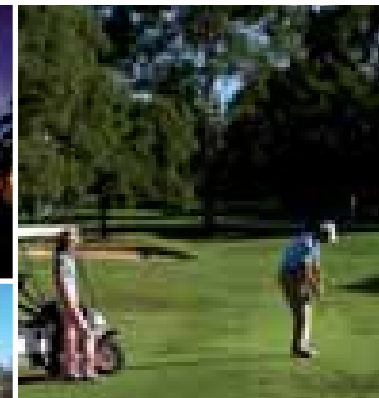
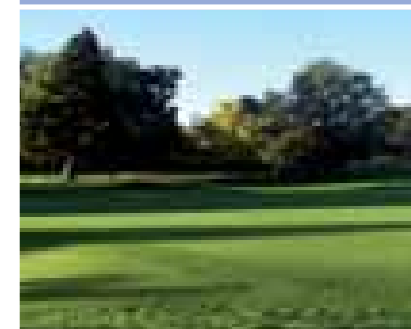
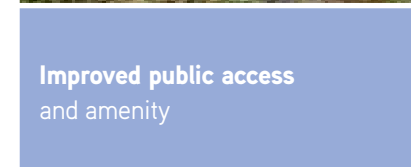
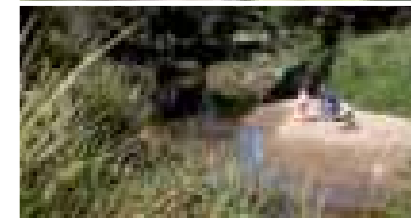
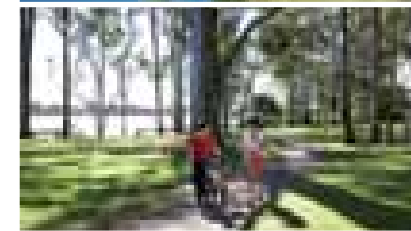
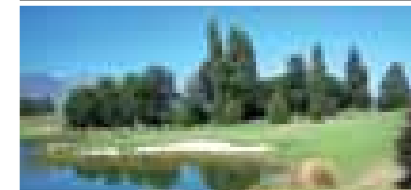
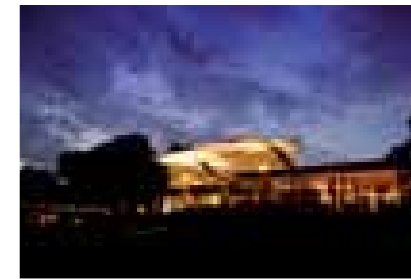
## River Plan Projects:

- Enable Hamilton Golf Club to build a multi-purpose facility including clubhouse, near the river that has access to the river path
- Encourage non-golfers to use the new facility and public space
- Provide improved access via the river path for the enjoyment of everyone in the community
- Consider the feasibility of medium-density development on the site of the existing clubhouse

**History:** The Council reserve land was leased to golf clubs as early as 1913.

**Māori Significance:** The area where the present day St Andrews golf course is located was known as Mata Kauoki. Mata Kauoki was situated between two main pa, Pukete pa and Matakahoni. It was a Papakainga to the people of Ngāti Koura and Ngāti Wairere. Mata Kauoki was an area that was intensively gardened. Burrow pits from the Mata Kauoki gardens are still visible today on some areas of the St Andrews golf course.

**Use:** The golf course is leased to Hamilton Golf Club for the purposes of providing Hamilton's premier eighteen-hole golf course. Each year it holds many golf tournaments for members and invited guests. The club makes the course available to green fee paying visitors. The river path runs along the edge of the golf course on river reserve land.



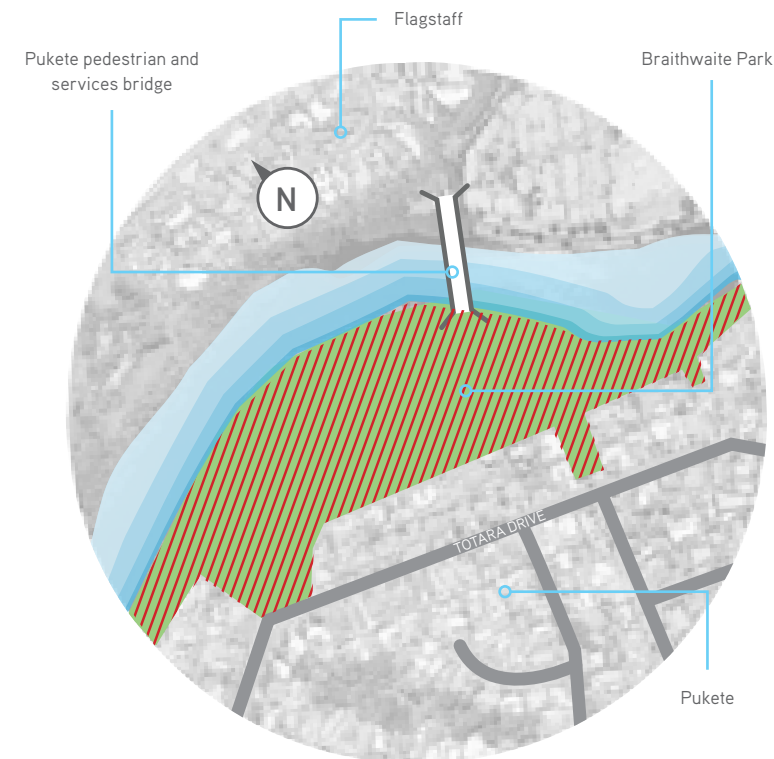
Premier quality golf course in Hamilton

Improved public access and amenity

# BRAITHWAITE PARK / PUKETE PA



Artist impression of proposed planting on the Pukete pedestrian bridge (concept only)



**River Plan Objective:** To promote the enjoyment of a neighbourhood park and the river.

## River Plan Projects:

- Transform the Pukete pedestrian bridge into a planted 'garden bridge'
- Improve the jetty for future transport use
- Provide additional carparking
- Provide public facilities such as toilets
- Provide signs for way finding and telling the river's stories
- Commemorate Pukete Pa as outlined in the Maaori Landmarks on Riverside Reserves Management Plan

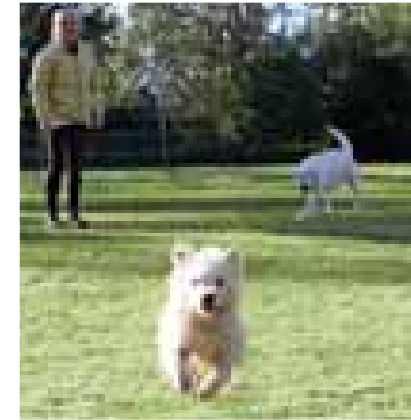
**History:** Braithwaite Park is named after Rod Braithwaite who was a former Mayor of Hamilton.

**Maaori Significance:** Pukete was a fortified pa, believed to be built by the Nga Iwi tribe. Ngati Koura, a sub-tribe of Ngati Wairere conquered the Nga Iwi tribe and took over the pa. The name Pukete is derived from a type of kete (bag) used to collect hinau berries. The area was renowned for the manufacture of the pukete kete.

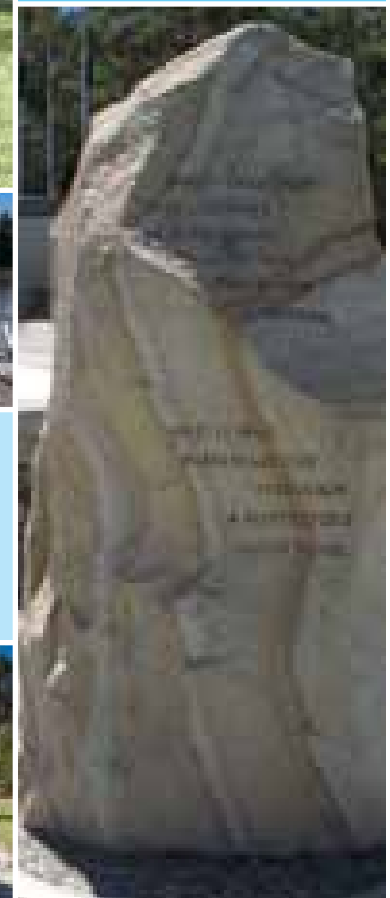
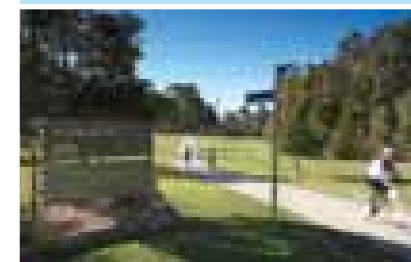
**Use:** Braithwaite Park is in a developed residential area. It incorporates wide expanses of open space, on sloping land down to the river with planted esplanade reserve along the river. It includes an off-lead dog exercise area, landscaping and a path network that includes the Te Awa/Te Araroa pathway. There is a recently completed cycleway path with connection to the north along the Te Awa River Ride cycleway.



Create opportunity for river transport



Wide expanses of open space connected by a 'garden bridge'



# IMPLEMENTATION AND TIMEFRAME

This page identifies estimated timeframes applying to River Plan projects. While the River Plan is a 30-year vision for the city, some projects will commence immediately and others will be delivered over the medium and long term. Overtime the projects will be reviewed and updated.

Implementation of the River Plan is a shared responsibility between the Council, river partners, business and the community. The

River Plan's success requires a combined effort from everyone.

The list of projects is not a comprehensive list. A number of the projects will require detailed feasibility studies, master planning and public consultation. Many of the projects will be staged and delivered as funding allows. There will be budgets developed and sources of funding secured.

## Implementation - Compliance and Consenting

The following projects enable the River Plan to be implemented.

- **Memorandum of Understanding**  
Agreement between consenting authorities, legislative partners and those with authority over the river. This is important to set agreed parameters and streamlined processes for consenting.
- **Reserves Act/Reserves Act Management Plans/District Plan and Planning Rules Reviews**  
To identify changes required to enable the River Plan to be implemented.
- **Development Guide**  
A detailed manual to guide and enable development along the river.

## PROJECTS TO COMMENCE IMMEDIATELY

Major projects, planning and design to commence immediately.

<b>Ferrybank and Roose Commerce Park Development Master Plan</b> Develop a detailed development plan/master plan for Ferrybank and Roose Commerce Park and its connections to the central city and Hamilton East. This includes identifying the location of commercial activity, tourism opportunities, a pedestrian bridge and plans for development of purpose built boat sheds, clubhouses, mixed-use facilities and social spaces	<b>Hayes Paddock</b> Install an enhanced river swimming experience at Wellington Street Beach and redevelopment of the riverbank area and amenity facilities
	<b>Hamilton Gardens</b> Complete installation of the five gardens and a new jetty
	<b>Braithwaite Park</b> Create a garden on Pukete pedestrian bridge

## SHORT TERM PROJECTS

Projects that can start in the next 1-3 years.

Vegetation Management Plan to guide and identify tree thinning and vegetation removal areas, future planting strategy and protection of viewing places and overall vegetation management along the length of the river.	Lighting, Design, Implementation and Timeline Plan to improve lighting at specific sites along the river
Cycleway Plan to improve and expand existing walkways / cycleways along the length of the river and connections to Te Awa River Ride*	Signage Plan for innovative sign design and map for location of street directional and local wayfinding signs and place names
Develop a consistent design for street furniture and litter bins, a location map for placement and installation timeline	Update the Public Art Plan to include riverside public art locations and the sculpture walkway
Support the Riff Raff/Embassy Park project*	Complete the Hamilton East Neighbourhood Plan
	Implement Nga Tapuwae O Hotumauea the 2003 Maaori Landmarks on Riverside Reserve Management Plans

\*commenced

## MEDIUM AND LONG TERM PROJECTS


Medium Term means within the next 10 years. Long Term means within the next 20 years. Some of these projects – or planning for them – could start immediately, depending on funding.

Develop a plan to become a “City of Bridges” (bridge colour, structural decoration, names)	Develop a plan for a sculpture walk on the central city river walkway	Upgrade the Waikato Museum building to provide access from the river walkway	Develop a detailed plan for Memorial Park to include use of Council-owned houses, parking for oversized vehicles and hospitality
Develop riverside promenade-style boardwalks in the central city and Opoia	Develop a toilet facility location map and timeline for construction of public toilet facilities on the river walkway	Undertake a jetty review to understand current state of them, options for enhancement, location, timeline for improvement/enhancement	Open up the gunboat Rangiriri to greater public access
Complete construction of the promenade walkway on the upper riverbank level linking to the central city	Develop a drinking fountains location map and timeline for installation of public drinking fountains on the river walkway	Complete an update to the River Transport Report (completed in 2008)	Construct a pedestrian and cycleway link across Claudelands Bridge
Encourage building artwork to enhance the backs of river-facing buildings in the central city	Explore the future northern opportunity on the city's boundary to connect with the river	Launch RiverConnect - a series of off-river route connection loops around and over the river (for walking, running and cycling)	Investigate a pedestrian link from Swarbricks Landing and Days’ Park to the land around St Andrews Golf Course
		Convert Council-owned houses in Memorial or Parana Park for hospitality/retail use	Investigate a pedestrian link over the river into Peacocks


# VISUALISING THE RIVER PLAN THEMES

In the following pages each of the six themes is illustrated by a series of images that show the outcomes envisaged for the river. The images include examples of projects from around New Zealand and globally that have transformed the interaction of urban spaces with the water’s edge. Projects will be developed from the themes and themes are included in the projects for each of the site locations.


The six themes are:




**Access**  
Improving access to along and across the river




**Recreation**  
Promoting the enjoyment of the river




**Development**  
Promoting development that embraces the river



**Natural Environment**  
Protecting and enhancing the natural environment along the river



**Arts and Culture**  
Celebrating arts and culture along the river



**Tourism**  
Promoting and developing tourism along the river





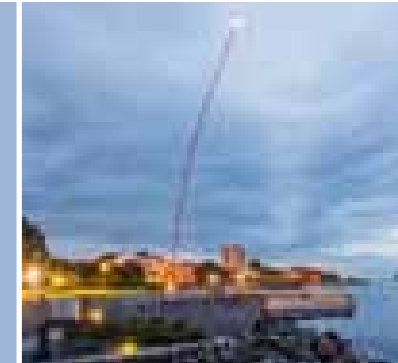
# ACCESS



Ideas to improve access to, along and across the river

Te Rewa Rewa Bridge, New Plymouth

Provide information and signs for **way-finding** and telling the **river's stories**



Improve **access** for **people with disabilities**

Improve **safety** along the river

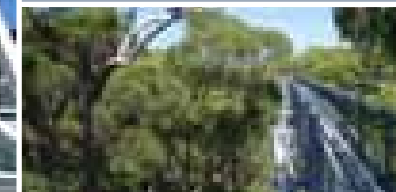
Encourage **night-time activity**



Improve **connections** between the **central city and the river**

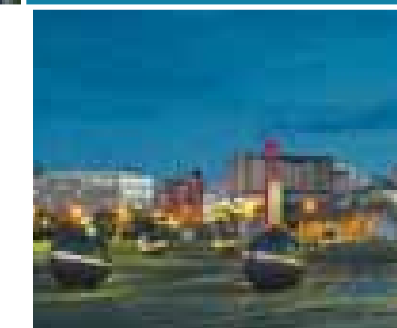


Improve **pedestrian connections** across the river



Improve **access** to the river's edge

Provide multiple **travel options**





# ACCESS



Ideas to improve access to, along and across the river

High Line, New York

Celebrate Hamilton as a **'city of bridges'**

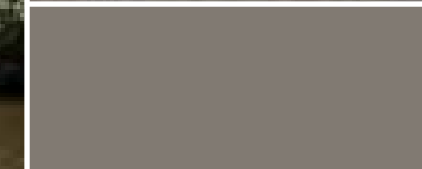


Improve and establish pathways and boardwalks by the river

Provide infrastructure to support rowing and **recreational access** to water



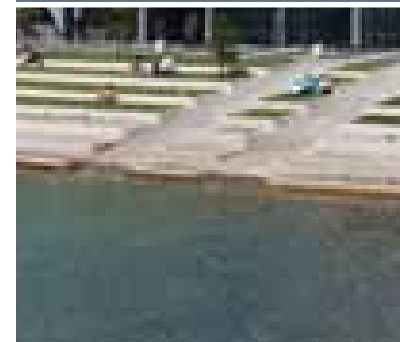
Provide infrastructure to support **recreational access** to water



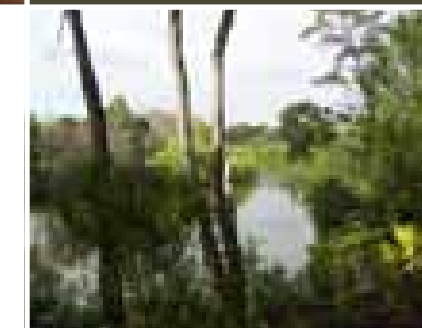
**Adapt** bridges for improved pedestrian and cyclist access



Provide **better parking** for locals and visitors



Enhance river views through **vegetation management**





# RECREATION



Ideas to promote enjoyment of the river through sports, recreation and leisure

Rowers on the Waikato River

Provide **public facilities** along the river paths



Improve **access** to the **river** for sport, fitness and recreation



Provide open space for **festival events** and seasonal **markets**



Support development of the **golf course**



Support the development of infrastructure for **rowing, dragon boating** and **waka ama**



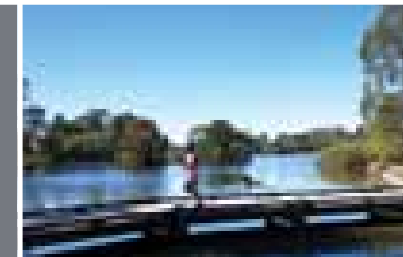
Provide circuits for **running, walking** and **cycling**



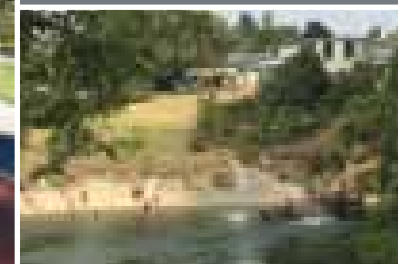
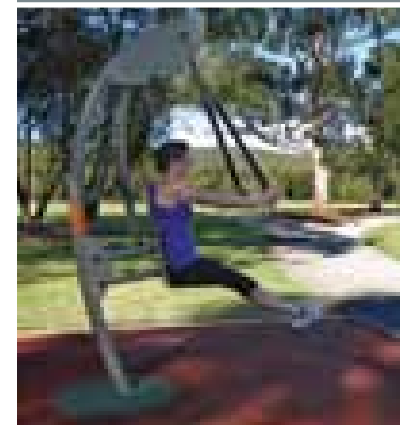
Support health and wellbeing through **improved recreational spaces** and equipment



Provide **places for children to play** and enjoy the river environment



Provide **safe river swimming** and an **inner city beach** environment







# DEVELOPMENT



Ideas to promote commercial development that embraces the river

North Wharf, Auckland Waterfront



Support **medium-density housing** to promote riverside living



Support riverside **cafe experiences**

Support **tourism and story-telling** through an iconic **Waikato River Centre**

Provide improved **public amenities** and facilities



Support development of **riverside hotels** and accommodation



Encourage **commercial development and investment** along the river, including offices, retail and hospitality, where appropriate

# NATURAL ENVIRONMENT



Ideas for ways to protect and enhance  
the natural environment along the river

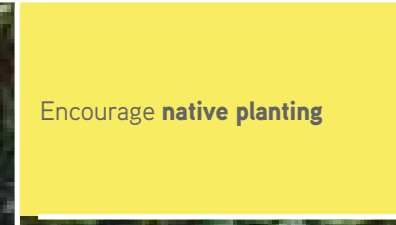
Waikato River



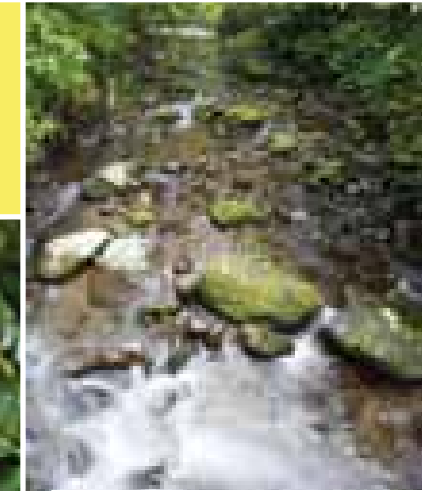
Enhance river views  
without losing impression  
of **natural greenery**



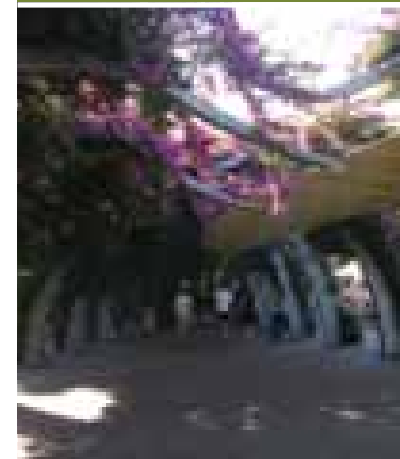
Protect our unique **gully  
networks** and **taonga species**



Encourage **native planting**



Retain the **experience of green,**  
natural river surrounds

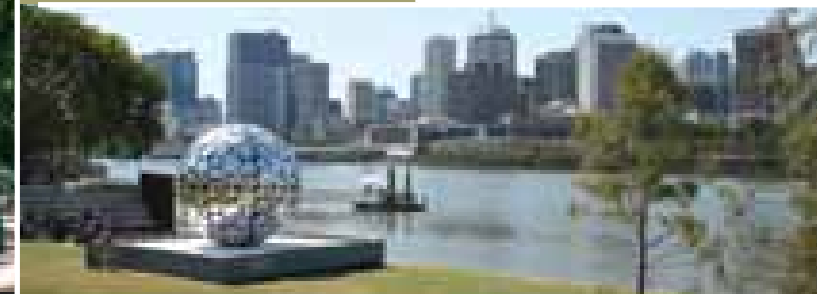


Highlight the significance of **important historic  
sites along the river corridor**, such as Hammond Bush

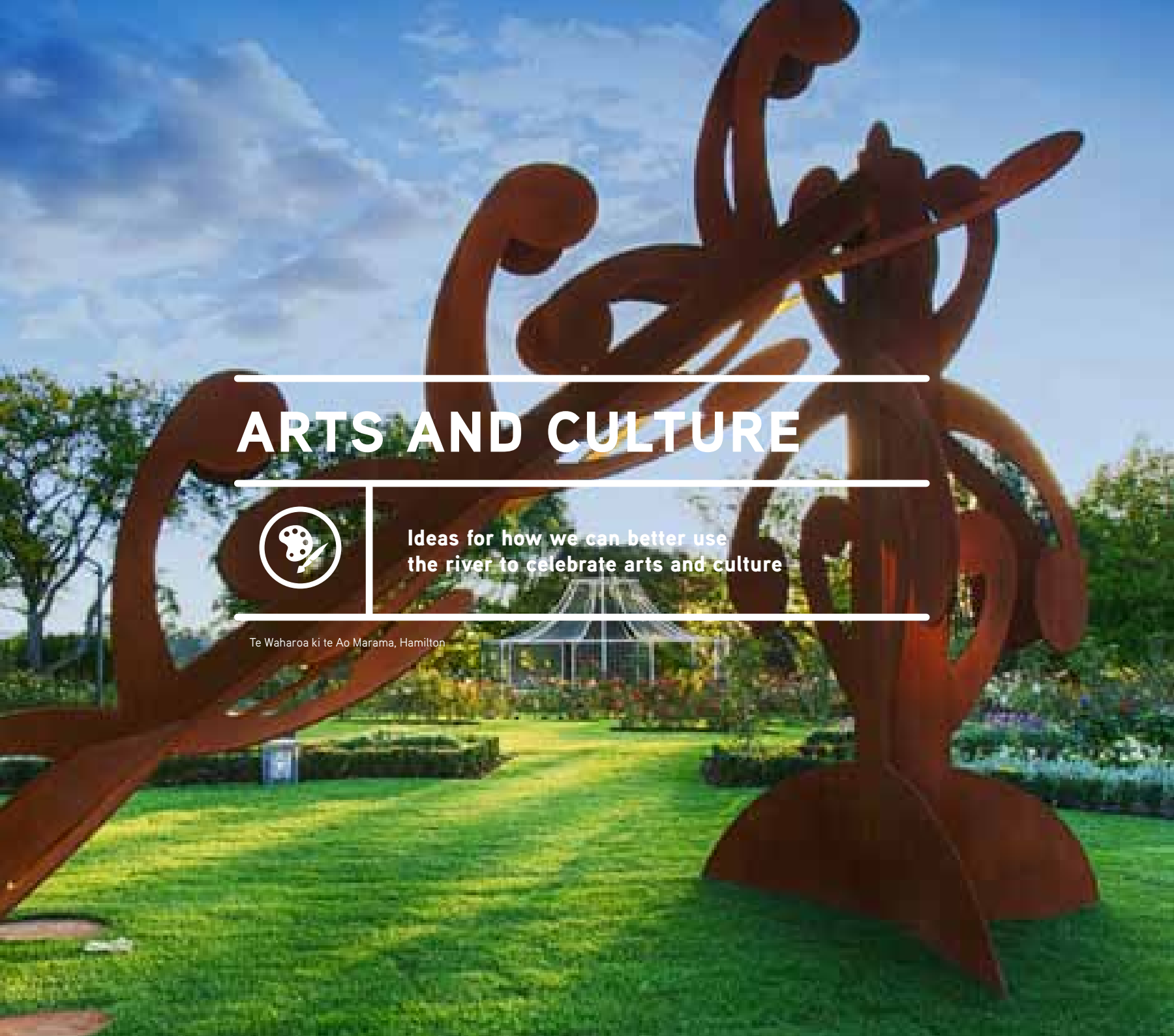


Develop and enhance natural  
**pathways** along the river

Raise awareness  
of river **water quality**



Develop existing **natural  
amphitheatres** and  
**gathering places**



# ARTS AND CULTURE



Ideas for how we can better use the river to celebrate arts and culture

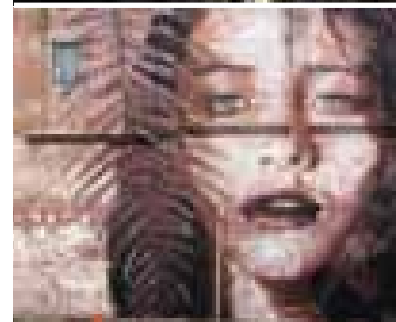
Te Waharoa ki te Ao Marama, Hamilton



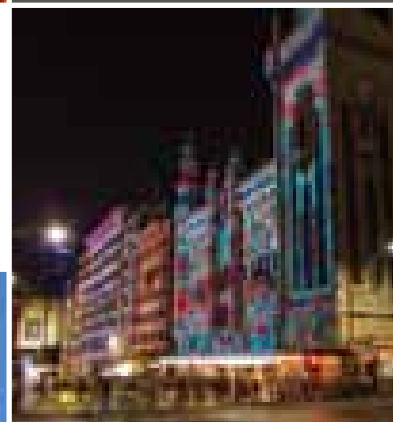
Use **light as an art form** to celebrate bridges and provide night-time activity



Open up **access to the Waikato Museum** from the river



Celebrate **Waikato-Tainui** history



Use **art to resurface** buildings that otherwise **turn their backs** on the river



Communicate information about **historic Maaori Pa sites** along the river



Promote riverside spaces and facilities for celebration of **arts and culture**



Tell our stories through **public artworks**

Support a **festival** event to **celebrate the river**



# TOURISM



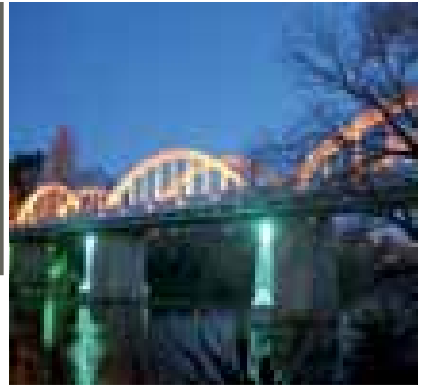
Ideas for how we can promote and develop tourism along the river

Te Parapara Garden, Hamilton

Promote **easy transport** with a variety of options to travel the length of the river, in particular **from Hamilton Gardens to the central city**

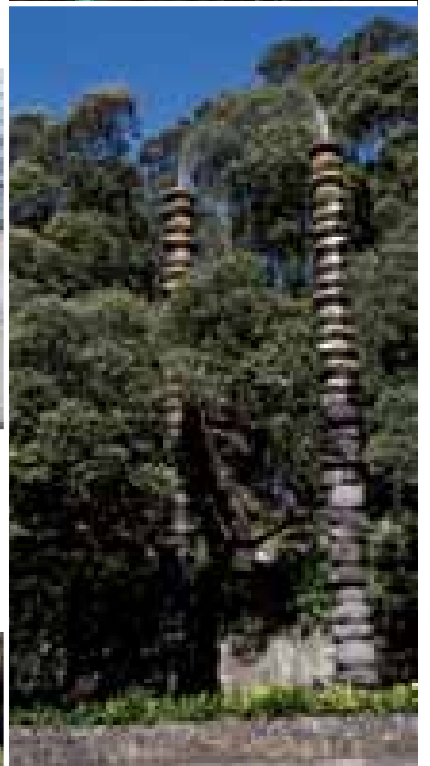


Provide infrastructure for **future on-river commercial experiences**



Support infrastructure that adds to the **Te Awa River Ride experience**

Improve **safety** with lighting and signs



Connect **riverside offerings** (such as Hamilton Gardens, Ferrybank, Waikato Museum and central city entertainment zone) to **enhance the visitor experience** in Hamilton

Make the river the **key focal point** of the visitor experience to Hamilton

Provide signs for **way-finding and telling the river's stories**



Promote development of quality **riverside hotels and innovative accommodation** options, including on the river



# STRATEGIC ALIGNMENT

The River Plan is part of the Council’s strategic framework for the Waikato River and for Hamilton. It is guided by the Proposed Waikato Regional Policy Statement and the Vision and Strategy for the Waikato River.

## Relationship with other Council Plans

**Hamilton Plan**

The Hamilton Plan 2014 is the Mayor’s and Council’s vision for Hamilton over the next decade and it includes connecting the city to the river as one of its ten priorities.

**District Plan**

The Council’s new District Plan recognises the importance and significance of the river corridor. It provides a greater focus on riverside development and a strong river’s edge theme and identifies a specific riverside precinct with appropriate development rules. It also includes chapters on the importance of the natural environment and recognises the Waikato River as an asset of national significance and a distinguishing feature of the city.

**Reserve Act Management Plans**

The majority of the river corridor is designated as reserve land under the Reserves Act. There are a number of Reserve Act Management Plans (such as for the Hamilton Gardens) that guide development of specific areas.

**Strategies and Policies**

The Council’s Open Spaces Plan, Hamilton Gardens Vision and Access Hamilton Transport Plan are plans that recognise the importance of connections to the river and the environment in the river corridor.

**Plans in Development**

The Council is currently finalising the Central City Transformation Plan (CCTP) which is a plan focusing on regeneration of the central city. Some of the potential projects in the River Plan will impact on the successful delivery of outcomes in the CCTP.

The Council is also currently finalising a Bike Plan, which is a 30-year vision for cycling in Hamilton. There are many crossover projects with the River Plan.

The Council will start work in 2015 on a Hamilton East Neighbourhood Plan that will need to take into account the objectives for Hamilton East in the River Plan.

Hamilton’s Economic Development Plan Stage 2, currently under development, will provide a framework and projects for delivering economic growth in the city. This will achieve the council’s priority of the third city economy in New Zealand. This Plan will support the objectives in the River Plan.

## The Waikato River Vision and Strategy

The Vision and Strategy for the Waikato River (the Vision and Strategy) is the direction-setting document for the river, administered by the Waikato River Authority. The Vision and Strategy forms part of the Waikato Regional Policy Statement and must, under the Resource Management Act 1991, be given effect through the plans administered by regional and territorial authorities along the river. Its vision is for a future where a healthy river sustains abundant life and prosperous communities who, in turn, are all responsible for restoring and protecting the health and wellbeing of the river, and all it embraces, for generations to come.

‘Healthy River’ is a principle in the River Plan which explicitly supports the Vision and Strategy. This principle has motivated a number of

River Plan projects which support the following objectives from the Vision and Strategy document:

- The promotion of improved access to the river to better enable sporting, recreational, and cultural opportunities.
- The restoration and protection of the relationship of the Waikato Region’s communities with the Waikato River including their economic, social, cultural and spiritual relationships.
- The protection and enhancement of significant sites, fisheries, flora and fauna.
- The restoration of water quality within the Waikato River so that it is safe for people to swim in and take food from over its entire length.

## The Proposed Waikato Regional Policy Statement

Projects or activities in the River Plan must be consistent with the following principles.

- Recognition of the influence of climate change on the Waikato River and gully system.

- Recognition of the Waikato River and gully system as an ecosystem corridor.
- Recognition of the dynamic nature of the Waikato River and gully system.

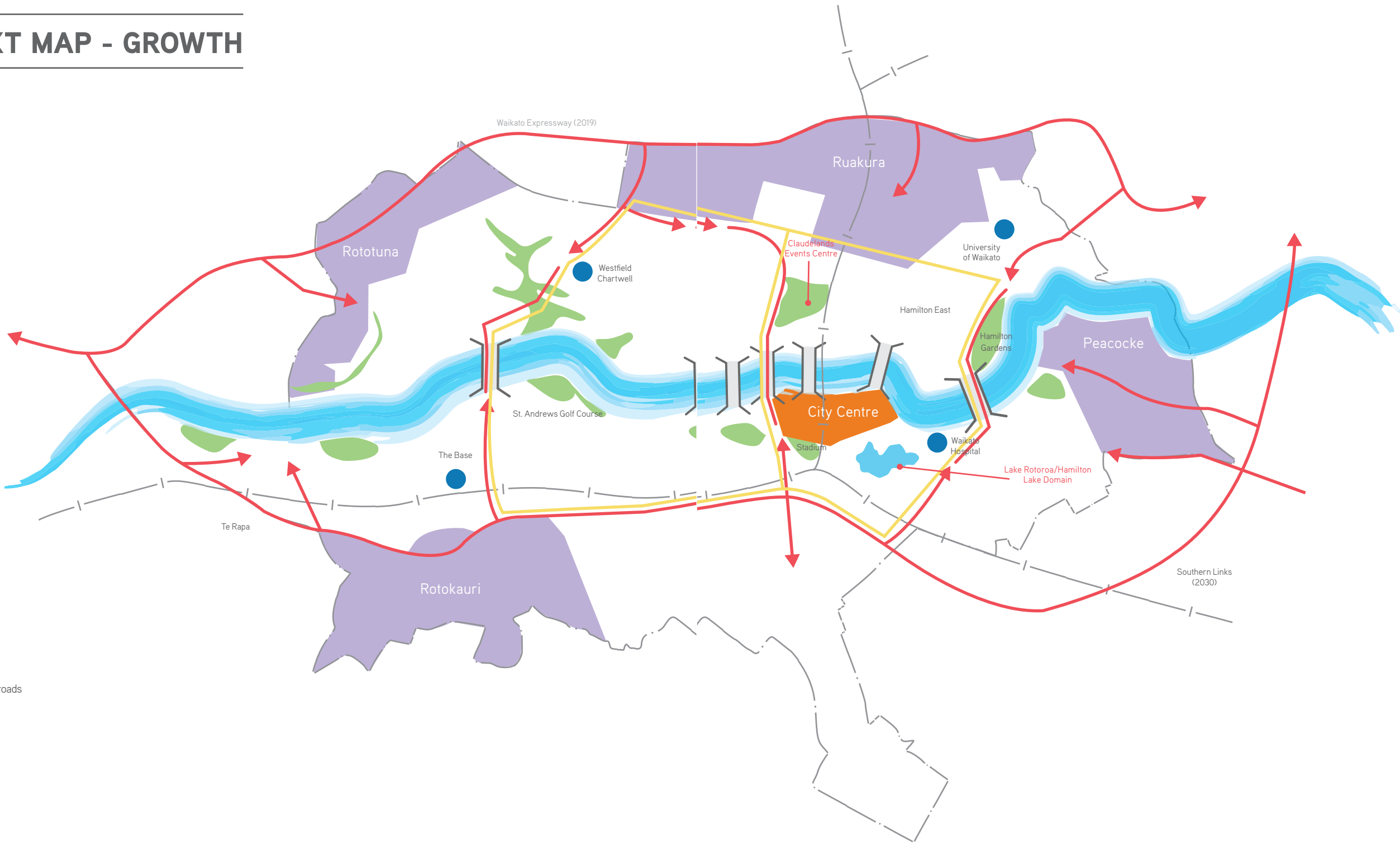
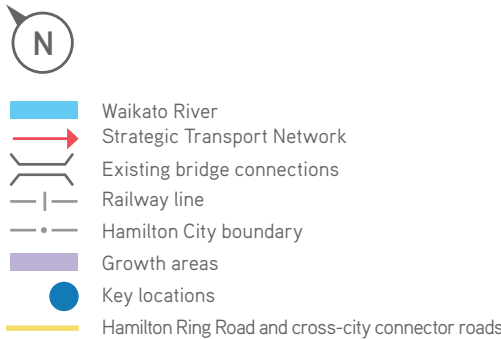


# HAMILTON CONTEXT MAP - GROWTH

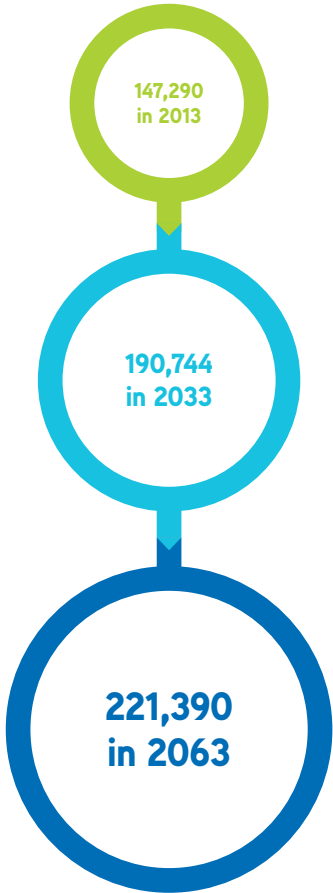
This map shows where Hamilton will grow in the future and shows the key transport routes and connections around and into the city.

### KEY TRENDS

- Over the lifetime of the River Plan, around half of the population growth in Hamilton should occur within the existing suburbs, while the other half should occur within the growth areas identified on this map.
- Hamilton has a growing population which is mainly driven by migration rather than birth rate.
- Hamilton has an ageing population. In 2013 around 11% of Hamiltonians were over 65 years old. This is likely to grow to 21% by 2033 and 33% by 2063.
- Hamilton is becoming increasingly multi-cultural and diverse.



Projected population growth  
of Hamilton City  
**2013 - 2063**



# THE RIVER PLAN

The purpose of this River Plan is to:

- 1 Set out a vision for the Waikato River in Hamilton.
- 2 Provide a framework to guide transformational change along the river.
- 3 Achieve a more integrated and active river edge environment.

The River Plan has been developed by the River Plan Working Group comprising of elected officials and eight subject matter experts from architecture, urban planning, iwi and tourism organisations within Hamilton:

- **Her Worship the Mayor Julie Hardaker** (Chairperson and Mayor of Hamilton)
- **Cr Angela O’Leary** (Hamilton City Councillor)
- **Angus McKenzie** (Latitude Planning Services)
- **Annette Jones** (Beca - Urban Design)
- **Brian Croad** (General Manager Hamilton City Council)
- **Jennifer Palmer** (Brian Perry Charitable Trust responsible for Te Awa Cycleway)
- **Kiri Goulter** (Hamilton and Waikato Tourism Chief Executive)
- **Mark Wassung** (Design Engine Architects)
- **Cr Martin Gallagher** (Hamilton City Councillor)
- **Richard Hill** (Chow:Hill Architects)
- **Tim Manukau** (Waikato-Tainui, Manager Environment)

Former Hamilton City councillors Roger Hennebry and Pippa Mahood are also acknowledged for their involvement in the early stages of the River Plan.

The River Plan Working Group is supported by a technical group of representatives from Waikato Regional Council, Waikato-Tainui, Waikato River Authority, Mighty River Power and Council staff, who provide specialist advice about the river and represent their organisations throughout the River Plan process.

The River Plan development and design has been supported by McIldowie Partners Architects of Melbourne.

The River Plan has been developed in three stages:

- 1 An assessment of the technical constraints to development. This included consideration of issues such as bank stability, bed degradation, flooding and the cultural significance of the river to Waikato-Tainui. This assessment was completed in collaboration with Waikato Regional Council, Waikato-Tainui and Mighty River Power.
- 2 A workshop to establish a vision and set of principles for the River Plan.
- 3 A series of workshops to prioritise a list of creative recommendations for action to realise the vision, and an urban design framework that would guide implementation.

The River Plan is a strategic guide for Council, businesses, developers and the general public for improving Hamilton’s engagement with the river. It establishes a high level framework for thirty years that will guide transformational change that will shift the way Hamilton relates to, celebrates and enjoys the river.

The River Plan is not a statutory plan and does not include:

- detailed advice or specific plans for projects
- a financial commitment to undertake every project
- plans on managing flooding or water quality

Many of the images used in the River Plan are conceptual images to provide an understanding of the River Plan’s direction and examples of project ideas to create an aspiration, but not a specific design solution, for the places where change is proposed.

Significant projects will require a detailed feasibility study and business case, with appropriate consultation with stakeholders to ensure the right design solution for each place is found. There will need to be budgets developed and sources of funding found to make this plan a reality.

# RIVER PLAN DELIVERY MODEL

Hamilton City Council will make implementation of the River Plan a top priority. To ensure this happens a River Plan project team will be immediately established within Council, reporting directly to the Chief Executive. The Chief Executive will be accountable to the Council for implementation of the River Plan. The River Plan project team will draw on the required skills and capacity within and outside the Council to design and deliver River Plan projects. Some of the projects will require specialist expertise. Successful implementation of the Plan will require share responsibility.



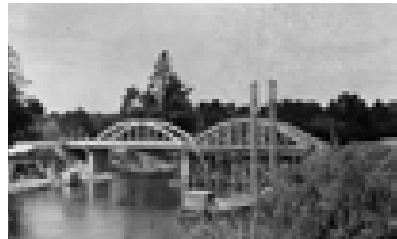


## THE WAIKATO RIVER: A REMARKABLE HISTORY

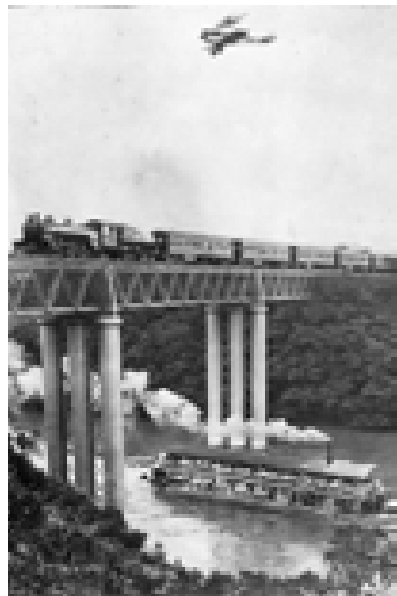


The Waikato region has been inhabited for at least 800 years and Maaori from the Tainui waka have been in the area (now known as Hamilton) for over 400 years. In the area between London Street and Bryce Street a pa was built known as Kirikiriroa, from which the city takes its Maaori name.

The Waikato River is the tupuna (ancestor) of the Waikato-Tainui tribe from which they receive their name. Waikato-Tainui has a unique and special relationship with the river; cultural identity, health and strength are drawn from it.



In the mid-1800s the main settlement of Kirikiriroa was situated between what is now Hamilton's main street of Victoria Street and the river. Maaori cultivated the rich gravel soils of the natural river terraces to grow traditional crops such as kumara and rauruhe (fern root). At that time, Hamilton's riverbanks were filled with golden kowhai blooms, and ancestors of local iwi adorned themselves in kowhai to celebrate the onset of spring and signify the time to plant new crops. Fortified pa were built on strategic headlands, particularly on bends of the river.

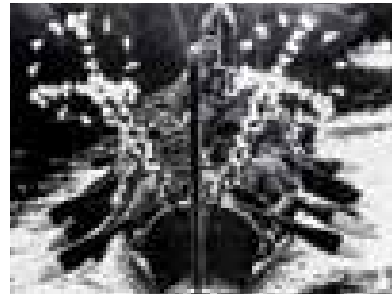


The river was of military importance during the New Zealand Wars and the invasion of the Waikato (1863-64). The Waikato Flotilla was New Zealand's first 'navy'. 150 years ago this year (2014), on 24 August 1864, the 4th Waikato militia landed and established a settlement called Hamilton named after Captain John Fane Charles Hamilton, a British officer killed at Gate Pa near Tauranga that same year.

From this period Hamilton developed as two towns, Hamilton East and Hamilton West. The river was crossed by punts and boat services were the major form of communication and transport for supplies.

In 1877 the two settlements joined together to become a borough for the purpose of obtaining a government loan to fund building the Union Bridge, which was later replaced with the Victoria Bridge that exists today.

## SIGNIFICANCE TO MAAORI



The Maaori Landmarks on Riverside Reserves Management Plan (2003) outlines the 17 significant riverside Maaori landmarks that are located on Council reserves within the boundaries of Hamilton. It recommends a series of commemorative displays for how each site should be acknowledged. It is crucial that these sites are recognised and respected and not compromised by any future development proposals in this River Plan.

It is important to note that under Waikato-Tainui's 1995 Treaty of Waitangi settlement Council-owned land that has an underlying Crown interest is subject to 'right of first refusal' by Waikato-Tainui.



## CONTACT

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Website: [hamiltoncityriverplan.co.nz](http://hamiltoncityriverplan.co.nz)

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- "kowhai Flowers" by Sid Mosdel, <https://www.flickr.com/photos/sidm/7836909420/>
- "Australie-Brisbane" by greg.road.trip, <https://www.flickr.com/photos/psykedelic61/8082241937>
- Image from Hamilton & Waikato Tourism

## Page 54:

- "Te Waharoa ki te Ao Maarama - The Entranceway to the World of Enlightenment" by Lonnie Hutchinson, MESH Sculpture Hamilton

## Page 55:

- "untitled" by Brisbane City Council, <https://www.flickr.com/photos/brisbanecitycouncil/5103835548/>
- "Wonderful Work" by Jocelyn kinghorn, <https://www.flickr.com/photos/joceykinghorn/11786225795/>
- Image from Hamilton City Council
- "White Night 2013" by Swee Oon, <https://www.flickr.com/photos/sweeoon/13717433334/>
- "Solace in the wind (2) by Max Patte" by kristina D.C. Hoepfner, <https://www.flickr.com/photos/4nitsirk/5289806814/>
- "AuST031" by Derek Yu, <https://www.flickr.com/photos/signalpad/2210072309/>
- Image from McIldowie Partners Architects

## Page 56:

- "Hamilton Gardens: Te Parapara Garden" by russellstreet, <https://www.flickr.com/photos/russellstreet/7581798264>

## Page 57:

- "Melbourne Bike Share - State Library of Victoria" by Alpha, <https://www.flickr.com/photos/avlxyz/5032636005/>
- "Stonehenge-Visitor-Centre-2013 (40)" by Stonehenge Stone Circle, <https://www.flickr.com/photos/stonehenge-stone-circle/11436652954>
- "Rocks Riverside Park, Seventeen Mile Rocks" by Brisbane City Council, <https://www.flickr.com/photos/brisbanecitycouncil/10813564064/>
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- "Gateway Sculpture" by russellstreet, <https://www.flickr.com/photos/russellstreet/4585574691>

## Page 59:

- Image from Hamilton City Council

## Page 64:

- CBD c.1872", Hamilton City Libraries image: HCL\_09235
- "Fairfield Bridge under construction 1937", Hamilton City Libraries image: HCL

