



MANAGEMENT PLAN 2020



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1. INTRODUCTION

The Hamilton Gardens site is made up of areas that were the East Town Belt, a former Rifle Range Reserve and the site of a closed city rubbish tip. Development of the site began in the 1960s, however the first comprehensive plan was not developed until the 1980s. This is the fourth review of the Hamilton Gardens Reserves Act Management Plan.

Te Haa o te whenua o Kirikiriroa (Council’s Mana whenua representatives) have described the Hamilton Gardens as the kete of Kirikiriroa, a basket that holds the gardens of the world for visitors to enjoy. Hamilton Gardens offers manaakitanga - the important concept of welcoming, hospitality and respect that we have for the many cultures reflected in our garden designs and that we share with local people and visitors from further afield.

1.1 PURPOSE

The Vision of this Plan is to support the creation of a world class garden that enhances Hamilton’s reputation, economy and quality of life. The plan defines the strategies, objectives and policies for the development, operation, management and public use of Hamilton Gardens.

The Hamilton Gardens Management Plan has been prepared to meet the requirements of the Reserves Act (1977). The Act defines the purpose, general form and process of public consultation for development and reviews of Management Plans. It also requires the classification of the reserve to ensure management and development are appropriate for the classified principal purpose. The Hamilton Gardens site is classified as Recreation Reserve. The adjacent Hamilton East Cemetery is classified as Local Purpose Reserve - Cemetery and is managed under the Hamilton Cemeteries Management Plan.

The Hamilton Gardens Management Plan recognises the importance of working in partnership with Iwi and Mana Whenua on the future development of the Hamilton Gardens to ensure their continuing relationship with, and aspirations for, the whenua, Waikato Awa, flora and fauna.

It is important that the expression of Maaori culture and traditions are appropriately recognised and achieved through the implementation of the Management Plan.

Management Plans provide a Link between Government Legislation, wider Council plans and policies and detailed operational plans and standards specific to Hamilton Gardens. This Management Plan will influence other planning and management processes.

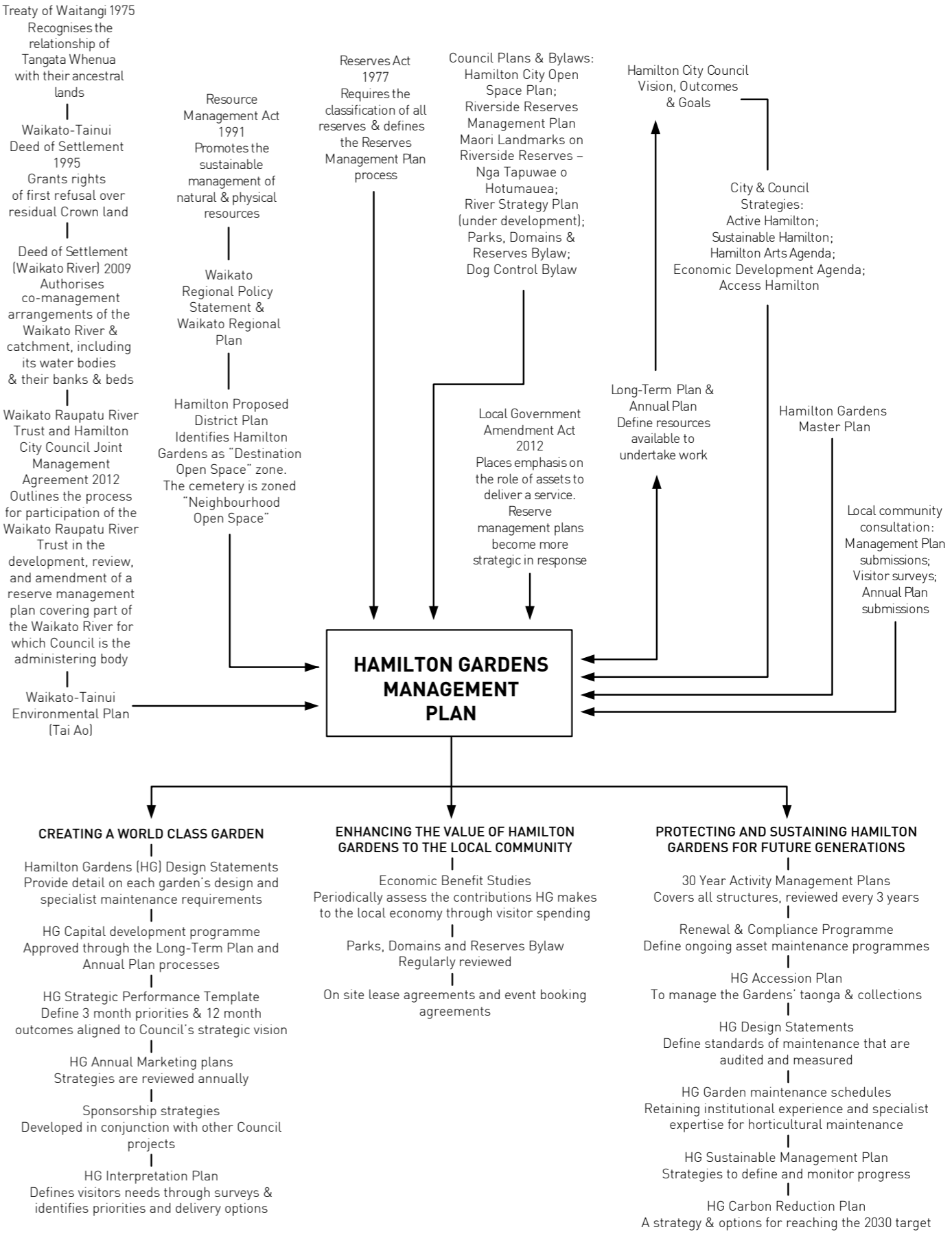
The previous operative management plan was approved in 2014. Normally a

management plan wouldn’t be reviewed within five years, however the review has been triggered by three issues.

- The extension of Wairere Drive is being constructed on land that was part of the Hamilton Gardens site, and a small area eastern end of the Gardens will become a separate riverside park. The ‘Recreation Reserve’ classification of these areas will need to be updated to reflect these changes.
- A new long-term development plan for the Hamilton Gardens has been developed, and some of the proposed projects from the plan require amendments to the Management Plan.
- New options for generating revenue to offset development and operating costs may be explored, including the option to introduce visitor charges.



1.2 PLANNING CONTEXT FOR THE HAMILTON GARDEN MANAGEMENT PLAN



2. GOAL - TO CREATE A WORLD CLASS GARDEN EXPERIENCE

2.1 OVERVIEW OF THE GARDENS CONCEPT

Hamilton Gardens has an internationally unique concept; the theme of ‘promoting an understanding of the context, meaning and history of gardens’. Hamilton Gardens tells the story of gardens over the span of human history and challenge the visitor to consider why specific garden types developed in the way they did.

Having a unique concept gives Hamilton Gardens a valuable point of difference and appeals to a wide range of people, even those who have not had a previous interest in plants or gardens. However, the validity of the gardens depends on each one having a high level of design and historic integrity, within the constraints of budgets and sites. Careful research is required for each garden’s development, interpretation and on-going maintenance.

Currently the kete concept (that the gardens are a basket that hold the gardens through the ages from around the world) is being developed with a view to increase native planting around the periphery of the site, thereby locating the gardens as a whole, physically and symbolically within this Te Ao Maaori. This concept could be extended further through design, interpretation and signage.

The timeline in Figure 2 shows how the existing and proposed gardens span the history of civilisation. The horizontal lines show major movements, cultures or traditions, while the vertical lines show where the Hamilton Gardens examples sit relative to those. These gardens are arranged in five collections, each with a different theme.

- The ‘Fantasy Garden Collection’ focuses on the relationship between gardens, fantasy and art.
- The ‘Productive Garden Collection’ examines the relationship between plants and people.
- The ‘Paradise Garden Collection’ demonstrates different perceptions of a garden paradise on earth.
- The ‘Public Garden Collection’ will include different types of public garden that reflect different historic social structures.
- The ‘Landscape Garden Collection’ will reflect the changing attitudes to the natural world.

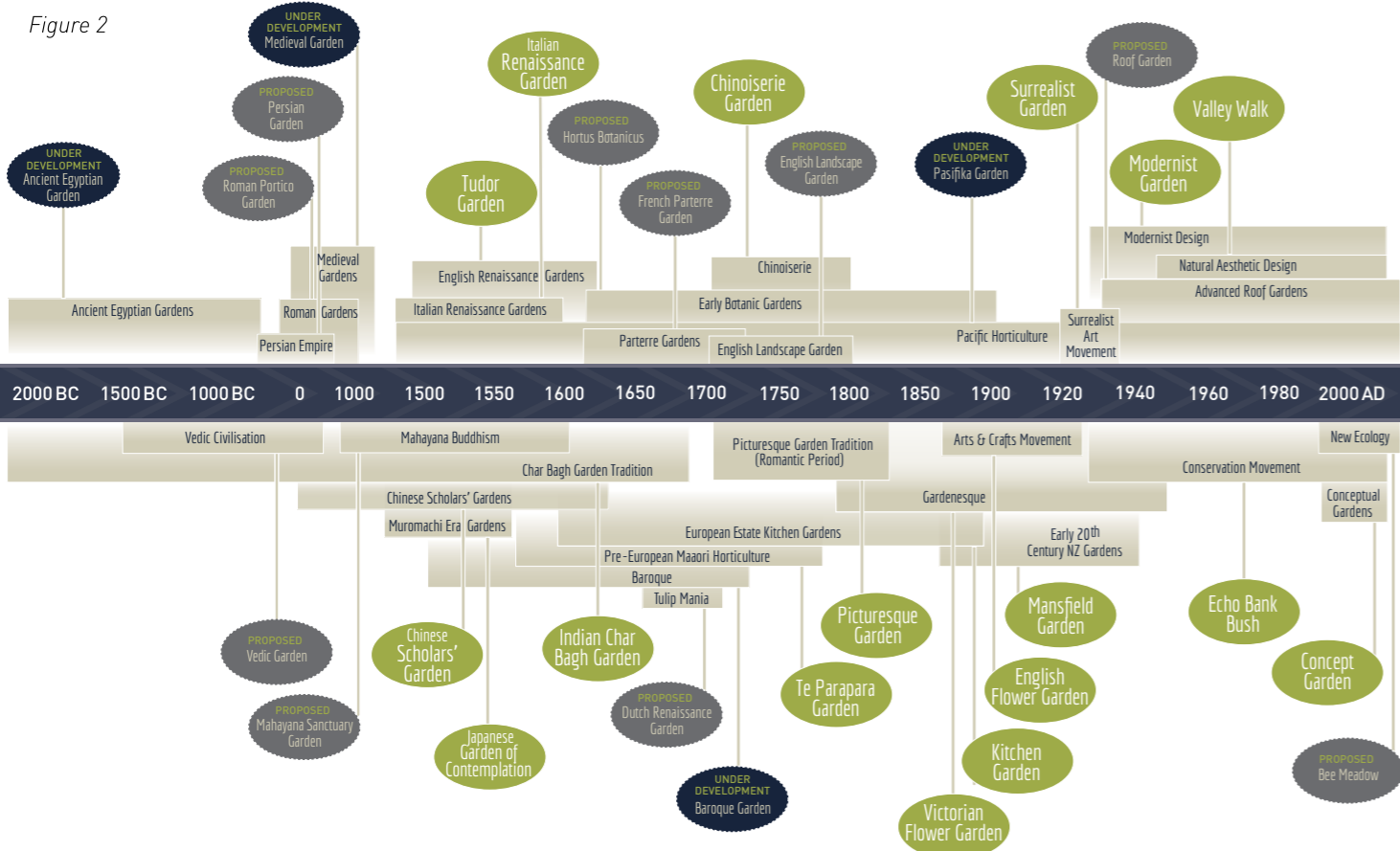
Other parts of the Hamilton Gardens (outside of the enclosed sections) relate to the overall theme;

- The ‘Rogers Rose Garden’ has a collection that tells the story of the development of the modern rose. It starts with a collection of species roses and includes the stories of Empress Josephine’s Malmaison roses, Jean Baptiste Guillot and the first hybrid tea rose and Francis Meiland and the ‘Peace’ Rose and finishes with the trial beds of the latest modern hybrids being introduced into New Zealand.
- The ‘Valley Walk’ that runs up the gully remains an example of the 20th century Naturalistic /Aesthetic style using plants indigenous to the Hamilton district.
- The ‘Tropical Garden’ represents a common garden fantasy of creating garden environments from other climatic regions, in this case, a tropical themed garden in a temperate Waikato climate.

POLICY:
Hamilton Gardens will be developed as a series of historically significant garden types that collectively promote an understanding of the context, meaning and history of gardens

The concept of the Hamilton Gardens as a kete and the concepts of manaakitanga will be developed and promoted in association with Iwi and Hapu as part of acknowledging their relationship with the Hamilton Gardens site, their role as Kaitiakitanga, and the historical and ongoing significance of this special place to Maaori.

Figure 2



2.2 PROMOTION OF HAMILTON GARDENS AND ITS CONCEPT

There are five main aspects to promoting Hamilton Gardens:

- Promoting the reputation and awareness of Hamilton Gardens, its concept and point of difference
- Encouraging people to visit Hamilton Gardens and promoting out of region visitors to stay in the city longer
- Interpreting the context, meaning and history of gardens in the context of the themed gardens
- Developing the business opportunities associated with Hamilton Gardens, such as venue hire, tour packages and event bookings
- Encouraging support and sponsorship for the ongoing development and enhancement of Hamilton Gardens.

In addition to Hamilton City Council’s strategic partnership with Waikato Tainui, partnerships with other organisations such as Hamilton and Waikato Tourism, Waikato Museum, Hamilton Zoo and the Hamilton Gardens Cafe will help resources go further and enable opportunities to leverage off other brands and events, particularly at a local level. Events such as the Hamilton Gardens Arts Festival attract independent sponsorship and support while promoting Hamilton Gardens. Work has begun on adding value to garden visits by promoting tourist packages to meet market demand.

SIGNAGE AND INTERPRETATION

Feedback suggests that the more people understand the gardens the more they enjoy them. Information for visitors should be relevant, easy to understand and presented as part of a narrative or story.

Garden signage is an important part of the visitor experience; however, this should be balanced against having too much, which could negatively affect the look and feel of the garden.

Signage and interpretation can be used to reflect the importance of historical sites (pre- or post-European) within the gardens site. The protection and ownership of Maatauranga Maaori (knowledge and understanding) will be recognised through design and interpretation.

Whenever possible, new technology will be used to enhance the user experience of visitors and improve navigation through the gardens. A Hamilton Gardens app is already available; however, this is currently restricted by limited mobile and wireless coverage across the site.

POLICY

Interpretation within Hamilton Gardens will focus on explaining the concept, the gardens and promotion of other local attractions and amenities.



2.3 ACHIEVING WORLD CLASS STANDARDS

Achieving a world class standard involves a high level of customer service, quality design, high attention to detail, and well-maintained spaces. For example, plants should be healthy, structures and hard landscaping should be well maintained, staff are accessible and helpful, and there should be minimal distractions for visitors.

Design Standards are developed for each garden which specify the standards of maintenance required. Gardens are monitored to ensure that minimum standards are retained and areas for improvement are identified with the aim of constantly improving those standards.

There are three key aspects to achieving world class standards for gardens:

- That the Gardens provide the experience that people might expect of a world class garden.
- That the design of the Gardens has been based on research into perception studies and a planned, sequential visitor experience.
- Defining, measuring and monitoring quality standards of everything that’s being delivered; from structural maintenance to customer service or satisfaction with the cafe. Hamilton Gardens has a comprehensive range of tools to do this ranging from: contract performance standards, asset management plans, customer service standards to audited garden design specifications and lease agreements.



2.4 FUNDING AND SPONSORSHIP

The majority of funding for Hamilton Gardens is determined through Hamilton City Council's 10-Year Plan and Annual Plan process. Over the past 40 years, however, Hamilton Gardens has benefited from millions of dollars from the community, including cash sponsorship, gifts in kind and volunteer work. Hamilton Gardens has been recognised nationally and won awards for its sustained programme of fundraising and community support, particularly through the establishment of specialist trusts to support the development of specific gardens. The reason this has worked well is the aim of each trust has aligned with the operative Management Plan and successive trust boards have been committed to achieving quality and design integrity.

Before any sponsorship proposal that will have a significant impact on operating costs it must be approved by Council. This is because permanent new assets become Council property and there can be a significant budget impact from ongoing maintenance and renewal costs.

Development priorities set out in the previous Management Plan remain relevant, namely:

- Completion of the enclosed gardens
- Catering for increased use: and
- Improving standards of presentation and customer service.

A number of trusts have been established over the years to raise funds for new gardens and run major events to promote the Gardens. The Hamilton Gardens Development Trust is currently the main trust focused on raising sponsorship and committed to supporting the developments proposed in this plan.

The Friends of Hamilton Gardens is an incorporated society formed in 1988 to provide a key focus for community involvement in the Gardens. During the past 20 years the Friends have raised substantial funding for garden development. They have supported the specialist trusts and often provide the resources to finish off important smaller projects. Volunteers from the Friends have attended the Information Centre every day since 1994 and take part in other practical projects such as propagating plants for sale.

SPONSORSHIP RECOGNITION AND MEMORIAL PLAQUES

Sponsorship valued at more than \$1,000 may be recognised on a low-maintenance plaque for the life of the asset being sponsored. Sponsor recognition of a specific garden feature should exceed \$8,000 in value. Sponsor recognition will be confined to a single sponsor plaque in each garden in an approved location. A sponsors' board recognising recent major sponsorship more than \$100,000 is displayed in a prominent place in the Piazza. Permanent recognition of community groups that have made a major contribution to Hamilton Gardens are confined to the wall plaques in the Piazza. A major contribution is an asset worth at least \$200,000.

Commemorative plaques are limited to people who have had a direct and continuous association for at least 20 years in which they played a leading role in achieving something significant for Hamilton Gardens. Any event commemorated on a seat should be of significance to the history of Hamilton Gardens.

POLICY

Commemorative plaques are not permitted except as commemoration of a significant event or person associated with Hamilton Gardens.

Community support and sponsorship for developments will be encouraged and pursued where the development meets the following criteria:

- Appropriate to the concept and policies in this plan;
- Resources are available to meet the ongoing operating, maintenance and renewal costs;
- Standards are high and there are assurances of quality control; and
- The project can be completed, if not all resources are able to be offered initially.

3. GOAL – TO IMPROVE THE CAPACITY AND PRACTICAL OPERATION OF THE HAMILTON GARDENS SITE

3.1 INCREASING THE CAPACITY OF THE GARDENS

Visitor numbers during peak periods are exceeding the capacity of the site. Problems on busy days include insufficient parking, traffic congestion, long queues for the cafe and toilets, and overcrowding in the enclosed gardens. These issues negatively affect visitor experience and create potential safety hazards. Developments to address these issues and enhance the site have been proposed in Hamilton City Council's 10-Year Plan. The Concept Plan and the Access Plan show the proposed layout of the Gardens.

Currently vehicle access to the gardens is through two entrances off Cobham Drive. The two main car parks do not join, meaning that some parking areas are underutilised. Under the proposed layout all parking will be accessible from both gates, substantially reducing the need for traffic control.

Proposed developments include designated parking for all modes of

transport and working with partners to improve the availability and reliability of offering of these alternative modes - including designated cycle parking to encourage other modes of transport besides cars.

Strategies to ease parking congestion include:

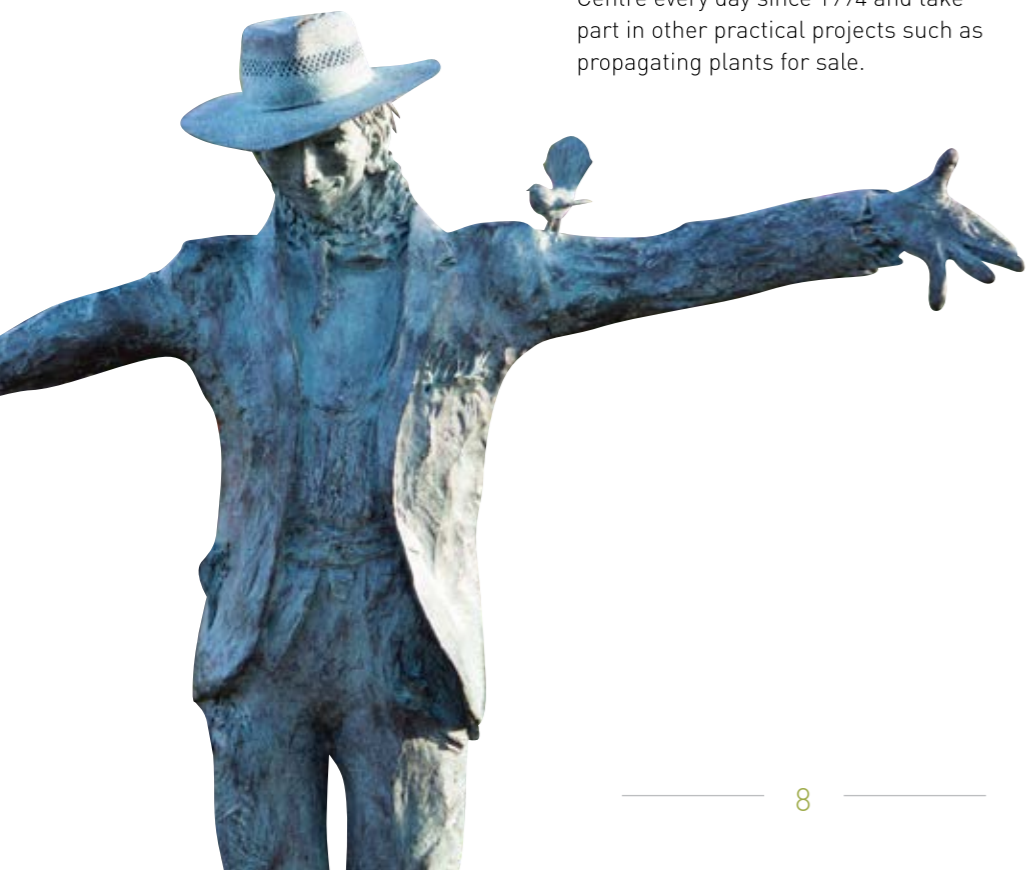
- encouraging people to use the underpass from Hamilton East
- encouraging Gardens visitors to use the cycleways and public transport. The Waikato Regional Council are currently investigating ways to improve public transport to the Gardens.

Demand for food and beverages can vary dramatically from day to day. To address demand for busy times a pop-up ice cream van operates near the playground and an expansion of café facilities is anticipated within this Plan.

At busy times there are blockages at narrow points like the Char Bagh Garden passage that could be hazardous in the case of an emergency. Heavy use can also damage lawns, paint finishes and plants particularly where people walk on garden areas.

A controlled entrance into the Enclosed Gardens is proposed which may mean visitors queuing if they choose to visit at peak times.

Two further toilet blocks are proposed. One is proposed within the wide border beside the Rhododendron Lawn. This will be close to the future main entrance and bus parks and can also support events held on the Rhododendron Lawn. The second is behind the French Parterre Garden façade at the eastern end of the Enclosed Gardens. A staff toilet would also be located here, near the secondary maintenance yard and staff tearoom.



3. GOAL – TO IMPROVE THE CAPACITY AND PRACTICAL OPERATION OF THE HAMILTON GARDENS SITE

3.2 IMPROVING ACCESS INTO AND THROUGH THE GARDENS

The ‘Land Use Plan’ on the opposite page shows that most of the park is either being developed as a passive park (yellow) or enclosed thematic gardens (green). Enclosed Gardens means that the area is closed to public access at night and entry during the day is past a controlled access point.

The areas of passive park that will remain open at all times includes the open lawns, bush walks, destination playground, rose garden, dog exercise area, carparks, walkways and cycleways. Throughout the development of the gardens, access to the river through will be preserved through the existing network of paths.

Vehicle access through gates 1 and 2 is closed at night for security (see 5.3 Security of Assets and People) except for evening events.

New pathways into the gardens will be designed using universal design principles and best practice methods to safely accommodate all users.

The plan has provision for a possible future pedestrian bridge across the river from the Gardens to the south-western bank to link with future developments in Peacocke.

The main service roads for park maintenance vehicles are shown in orange. These are one of the secrets of Hamilton Gardens in that they provide vehicle access to most of the Enclosed Gardens but in a manner that is hidden from public view. This means that service access is provided without compromising the scale, design integrity and enclosure of each theme garden. The new layout also means that service vehicles can easily move from one side of the site to the other. and that they will no longer need to use the Cobham Drive cycleway thus avoiding conflicts with cycle use.

There are two main cycleways proposed for the Hamilton Gardens site. (Shown in red). The cycleway running adjacent Cobham Drive and around the gully will suit commuter cyclists moving quickly through the area, while the longer, more scenic, route winding through the gardens may suit the recreational cyclists.

All bicycles, rollerblades, skateboards, scooters and similar devices are excluded from the Enclosed Gardens for safety reasons.

There are four entrances into Hamilton Gardens aside from the gate 1 and 2 vehicle entrances. Pedestrian and cycle

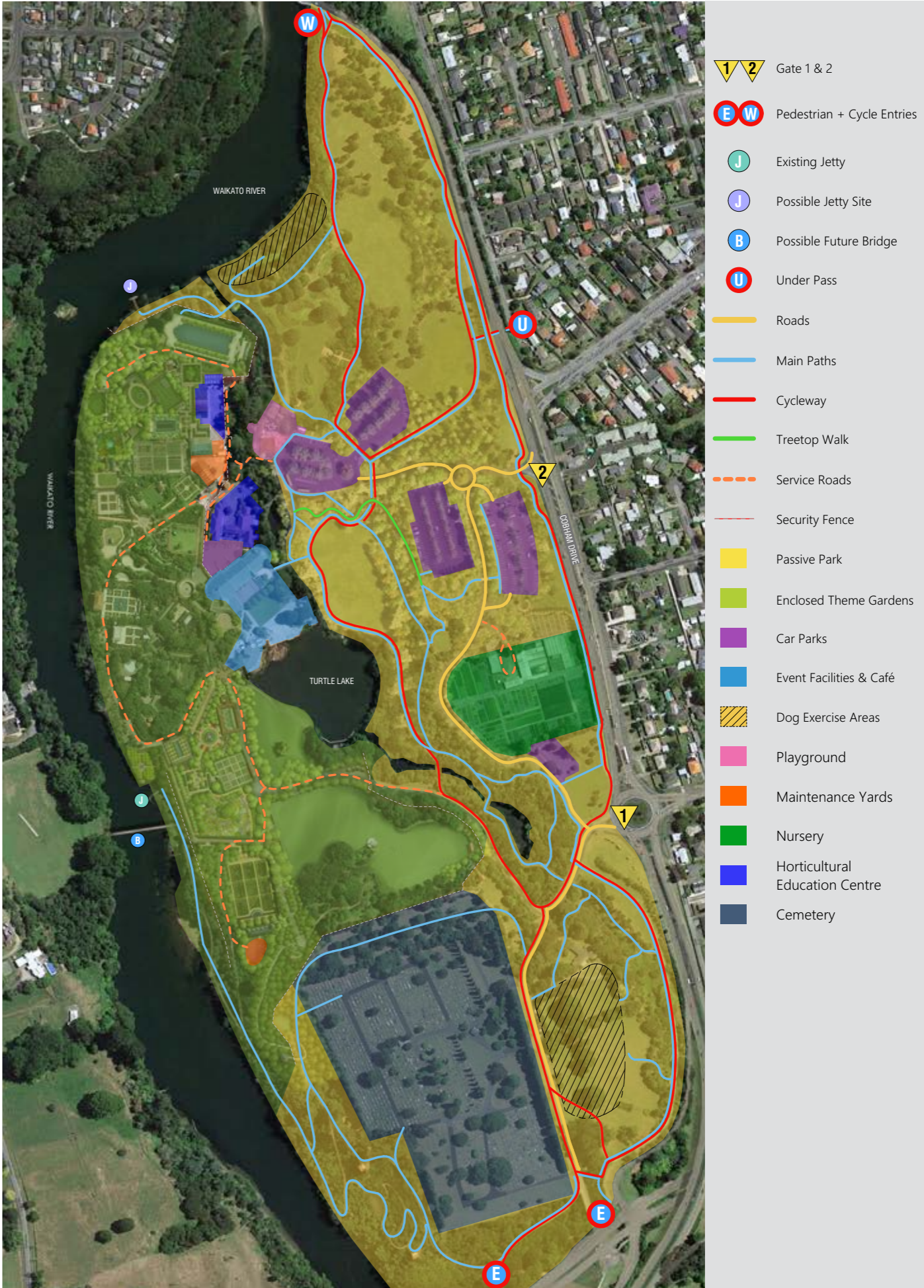
access is provided under Cobham Bridge (W) linking Hamilton Gardens to the city’s river walkway system. An underpass just west of Grey Street provides safe access from Hamilton East which should help with parking at peak times. A controlled crossing by Wairere Drive (E) will provide access to Hamilton East and Hillcrest and the river walk south. The river jetty (J) is in the centre of the site so that eventually it will provide an entrance directly into the Enclosed Gardens.

A proposed tree-top walk will make a spectacular entry point to the gardens. The walkway will take visitors from the upper site and carpark to the Gardens precinct, while accessibility parks and parks for visitors with young children will be provided for in the lower carpark (currently carpark 2). Bus stops and a drop-off area will also be provided for in the lower carpark.

The location and design of internal paths is generally governed by levels of use, the planned hierarchy of paths, requirements of park service vehicles, site topography and the planned sequential experience of each garden area.

However, most of the paths within the Hamilton Gardens meet accessibility standards, and improvements to existing pathways will continue to ensure the gardens are accessible as possible for people with disabilities. The principles of universal design will apply for all future developments on the site (including the proposed tree-top walkway) to prioritise inclusiveness as well as the safety and enjoyment for all users.

It is not possible to provide grades that meet accessibility standards on every part of the site, and there will always areas where access may be difficult. For example, the gully walks and parts of the Chinese and Japanese Gardens.



3.3 FACILITIES AND OTHER SITE FUNCTIONS

Facilities that support the function of the Gardens include:

- Visitor facilities
- Event facilities
- Education facilities
- Other on-site activities

VISITOR FACILITIES

The Visitor Centre is the hub of Hamilton Gardens (12). The centre has the following functions:

- Provides information about Hamilton Gardens;
- Promotes Hamilton Gardens’ features, other local attractions and visitor facilities;
- Generates income through the sale of merchandise such as guide books and souvenirs (this function is explained in more detail in section 5.5)
- Offer a booking service for events held within Hamilton Gardens;
- Provide an operations centre for public use of the gardens and Pavilion, particularly during weekends and holidays
- Provide a contact centre and a friendly human face for visitors who have questions or problems
- Encourage cash donations towards garden development;
- Hire equipment such as mobility scooters, wheelchairs, and chess pieces.

The Hamilton Gardens Café (1) is leased by Council to a private operator. The current operator’s lease runs from 2017 until June 2023. For Hamilton Gardens the primary purposes of the café are to provide a service to garden visitors and to generate an income to offset the Gardens operating costs.

There will be four public toilet facilities within Hamilton Gardens after the isolated toilet by the Municipal Nursery is closed. Two further toilets are proposed. One is located between the bus park and the Rhododendron Lawn so that travelers don’t have to walk too far after arriving. The other will be behind the French Parterre Garden façade at the western end of the Enclosed Gardens The playground toilet (4) includes a controlled entry ‘Changing Places’ facility for high dependency people and their support people.

A covered wall is proposed at the entrance from the lower carpark. This is the area where buses and taxis stop, where people can be dropped off or wait to be picked up. Signage will orientate first time visitors and perhaps remind them of other local attractions before leaving.

EVENT FACILITIES

Many areas of Hamilton Gardens are used for events ranging from the Gourmet in the Gardens and fun-runs to weddings and market stalls. Indoor facilities specifically designed to cater for events include the Pavilion (13) with its two exhibition halls, seminar room, meeting room and small kitchen. To the east is the Café facility (1) and in the long term a new conservatory event space is proposed along the western side of

the Lakeside Court. When public access no longer runs through that area, the Lakeside Court itself, should become more attractive as an evening event space with those surrounding support facilities. The Hamilton Gardens Pavilion (13) has three primary purposes:

- Attracting events complementing and promoting Hamilton Gardens.
- Supporting community activities through discounted hire rates.
- Providing an important wet weather back-up for outdoor events that enhance the Gardens, such as outdoor concerts and festivals.

The Hamilton Club Summerhouse (15) at the eastern end of the Mansfield Garden was built using proceeds from the sale of the Hamilton Club’s building on Grantham Street, originally constructed in 1904. The pavilion will be closed to the public most of the time, but can be hired for various events such as meetings, social gatherings, school classes, or family functions.

EDUCATION FACILITIES

The Wintec Horticultural Education Centre (16) has been located at Hamilton Gardens since 1985, providing industry training in subjects related to The 2014 Hamilton Gardens management plan signalled a reduction in the lease area for their demonstration yard (17) and this has now been confirmed in a new lease that runs until December 2027.

Further information on the WINTEC partnership and opportunities for school education are covered under section 4.4 ‘Providing an Education Resource’.



- 1 Gardens Café
- 2 Destination Playground
- 3 Red Arch Toilet
- 4 Playground Toilet & Changing Places
- 5 Pavilion Toilet
- 6 Palm Court Toilet
- 7 Eastern Toilet
- 8 Rhododendron Lawn Toilet
- 9 Administration Centre
- 10 Covered Arrival Centre
- 11 Visitor Centre
- 12 Lakeside Stage
- 13 Pavilion
- 14 Fore Court
- 15 Hamilton Club Summer House
- 16 Horticultural Education Centre
- 17 Hort. Education Demonstration Yard
- 18 Girl Guides Hall
- 19 Municipal Nursery
- 20 Existing Jetty
- 21 Possible Jetty Site
- 22 Mulch Yards
- 23 Park Maintenance Centre
- 24 Park Maintenance Yard
- 25 Governor’s Green
- 26 Possible Bridge

3. GOAL – TO IMPROVE THE CAPACITY AND PRACTICAL OPERATION OF THE HAMILTON GARDENS SITE

OTHER ON-SITE ACTIVITIES

Over the past 40 years Council has gradually relocated facilities within Hamilton Gardens that are not related to the garden theme. These have included netball courts and clubrooms, dog dosing strip, Go Kart track, Boy Scouts Hall, the Royal Air Force Association Clubrooms and the Sillary Street Indoor Bowling Club Hall. The only activity still on site that is not directly related to the Gardens operation is the Girl Guides Hall (18) on the corner of Hungerford Crescent. Since the first 1980 Management Plan there has been a stated intent to relocate this activity, but it isn't interfering with any garden development so there is no urgency in negotiating a relocation. Their current lease runs from 01 September 2018 to 31 December 2027.

The Municipal Nursery (19) is on the site of an old commercial nursery that had operated here since about 1914. While it is located on reserve land it is managed separately from Hamilton Gardens producing and dispatching plants for all city parks including all the plants for Hamilton Gardens.

Two private residences are located within Hamilton Gardens. One is in the Municipal Nursery (19) and the old Stationmaster's house adjacent to the Hamilton East Cemetery. The Stationmaster's House was built in 1880 and relocated to the Gardens from its original site in Frankton in 1984.

NEW LEASES

New leases and lease reviews are subject to relevant Council policy and the procedures required by the Reserves Act [1977] and the Guides and Policies in the Exercise of the Reserves Act, No. 2 - Leasing of Reserves and Other Rights of Occupation [1978].

No major new leases are currently foreseen in the term of this plan. Any new leases may be considered where:

- The activity is clearly complementary and supports the policy of this plan and does not compromise proposed or potential garden development, or the aesthetic values of Hamilton Gardens;
- The proposed activity demonstrates economic viability and provides assurance that resources will be available for reinstatement work if the venture fails;
- It is not appropriate for Council to provide or operate such a facility;
- The potential lessee needs some security for a long-term investment and exclusive rights over a defined area for a long period.

Licenses to Occupy are generally given for shorter periods than a lease and they do not give exclusive rights over a defined area. They must also be advertised for public comment following the Reserves Act public consultation procedure and they must be compatible with the policies and plans of this Management Plan. For example, a five-year licence to use the Hamilton Gardens Jetty (20) for a commercial boat operation.

POLICY

Leases will be restricted to building sites only except where additional areas are essential to the function for the leased purpose. Renewal of leases and the issue of licences will only be considered where they clearly meet the needs of garden users, relate to the overall garden theme and comply with the Reserves Act [1977].

3.4 OTHER SITE CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES

Although the Hamilton Gardens is located on an outstanding site, it also has significant challenges. It has been fragmented by existing land uses including the nursery, carparks, the landform and the Hamilton East Cemetery. It includes the Gully and River Protection Zones, it is a Waahi Tapu site and because of the refuse fill, it is classed as having contaminated soils.

CONTAMINATED AREAS

For many years the lower area of Hamilton Gardens was a sand quarry. Trucks returning to get a load of sand often brought unwanted material from work sites such as: logs, asphalt, clay and concrete. As a result, there is unpredictable fill material spread over most of the lower area creating foundation challenges. A three-hectare portion of that area was a gully which was used for household refuse disposal in 1973 and 1974. The rubbish fill ranges in depth between 2m to 9m. The landfill is monitored for gas and Leachate and is now regarded as a stable landfill site. The Resource Management Act [1991] requires closed landfills to have resource consents that promote sustainable management practices. Management of this Landfill is outlined in the Hamilton City Council Cobham Drive Closed Landfill Aftercare Management Plan.

Any development, contouring or substantial change above the 1974 Landfill site will require further consents. Apart from the parking areas, the cap generally consists of about 700mm of sand and silt soils. There are seven criteria to be met in the management of this cap:

- The aim is to maintain a minimum of 700mm cover over the refuse;
- Any exposed refuse should be covered, or the area fenced off from public access until an appropriate cover can be laid;
- The design and construction of any future drainage infrastructure can accommodate design storms, settlement and leachate and gas corrosion;
- There must be adequate storm water control measures to prevent exposure of refuse through erosion or excessive ponding or water ingress into the landfill which will cause the formation of leachate;
- The surface should be regularly inspected for distressed vegetation, cap cracking, significant settlement and ponding. Any cracks in the cap must be repaired by filling;
- No fires are permitted on the surface;
- Any site development relating to park activities must consider other requirements of the Hamilton City Council Development Manual.

The Turtle Lake Carpark (accessed by entrance 1) sits on an historic landfill site. As a result, the land has subsidence issues and requires a high level of maintenance. Options to manage these issues may be addressed by the relocation of the carpark and the development of garden areas as proposed in the Development Plan.

A city water main supplying water to the eastside of Hamilton runs through the site. As a result, truck access must be maintained to the river edge. The mains are halfway through their expected lifespan and will be replaced (or relocated) with the next 30-50 years.



THE WAIKATO RIVER

The Waikato River is an outstanding natural asset for Hamilton Gardens and, in terms of urban riverscapes, it is considered world class. The Waikato-Tainui Environment Plan emphasises the importance of the Waikato River as a tupuna [ancestor] which has mana [prestige] and in turn represents the mana and mauri [life force] of the iwi.

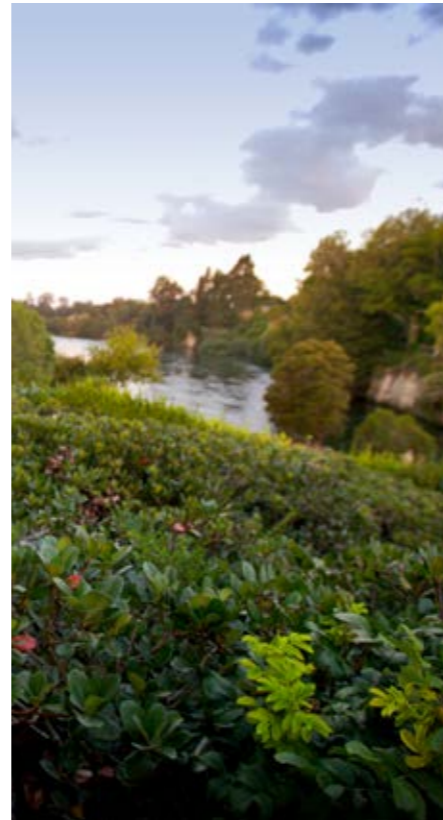
The 2003 Plan Nga Tapuwae Ō Hotumauea: Māori Landmarks on Riverside Reserves outlines principles for the management of 17 historic paa sites located within riverside reserves, including the Ngaati Wairere Te Parapara Paa which was located on the Hamilton Gardens site. The cultural status of the river to local hapu has been recognised in the 2009 Waikato-Tainui and Crown Deed of Settlement which requires joint management of the Waikato River and its riverbanks to restore and protect its health and well-being for future generations. These documents, particularly the Waikato River Joint

Management Agreement between Hamilton City Council and Waikato-Tainui, provide the basis for consultation and partnership in regards to any river use or riverside development. The process for participation as outlined in the Joint Management Agreement has been followed in the development of this management plan.

While more river vistas can be opened from the riverside gardens and river walks, the need to retain riverbank stability with planting means that without extensive retaining structures most river views will be framed vistas rather than wide panoramas. Riverside gardens can be designed so the river will be presented in different ways, at different heights and discovered when entering the various gardens.

The higher riverbanks at the eastern end of Hamilton Gardens are on a formation called the Walton subgroup which is relatively stable, but the riverbanks in the center and western end have a sandy substrate which is susceptible to slips and erosion. Several metres of riverbank have been lost in the Chinese, Modernist and Renaissance garden sections just in the last decade. The problem is increased by fluctuating river levels and the likelihood that the river bed will continue to degrade because the Karaapiro Dam is cutting off sediment supply. Strategies to maintain riverbank stability included maintaining vegetation cover on steep banks, progressive replacement planting, removal of large unstable trees, control of storm water discharge, confining public access across banks and the establishment of appropriate ecotone planting within river margins.

The tree framework on the banks and river terraces opposite the western end of the site form a backdrop for many views within Hamilton Gardens and contribute quite significantly to the total Hamilton Gardens character. It is important for these tree groups to be retained and extended to conceal the proposed road south from Cobham Bridge and residential development south of the Glenview Club.



POLICIES:

River views will be opened where this does not compromise riverbank stability. Opportunities will be sought to preserve and increase tree groups on the riverbank opposite Hamilton Gardens.

Further development of the riverbank or stream will be undertaken in consultation with Waikato-Tainui through the consenting processes specified in the Joint River Management Agreement, as well as with Waikato Regional Council.

Management of the Land over the 1974 landfill site will retain the integrity of the landfill cap in accordance with the Aftercare Management Plan for the site.

4. GOAL – TO ENHANCE THE VALUE OF HAMILTON GARDENS TO THE LOCAL COMMUNITY

4.1 INCREASING THE ECONOMIC BENEFIT TO THE LOCAL ECONOMY

Hamilton Gardens has a positive effect on Hamilton's economy. There is a direct economic benefit from out-of-district visitor spending, and the gardens contribute to the reputation of Hamilton as a city.

Surveys and studies indicate that investment in Hamilton Gardens produces a very good rate of return to the local economy. The local visitor industry is worth \$1.5 billion and at present Hamilton Gardens is the most popular visitor attraction in the city. Surveys suggest that about third of the 1.1 million visitors to Hamilton Gardens each year are local, a third are domestic visitors from outside the Waikato and a third are international tourists. 74 percent of out-of-district visitors surveyed indicated that Hamilton Gardens was either the sole reason or the significant reason for their stop-over in Hamilton.

The strategic challenge is to increase this economic benefit by attracting more out-of-region visitors and encouraging them to stay longer. Industry knowledge suggests that if tourists can be engaged for three to four hours, they are more likely to stay overnight and increase their spending on accommodation, meals, shopping and entertainment. Currently the average length of stay stays an average two hours in Hamilton Gardens.

Five strategies are being developed to address this opportunity:

- A high-quality café or restaurant
- Enhanced interpretation to really engage the visitor.
- Partnerships with other local attractions and accommodation providers to offer packages to promote longer stays in the city. For example, a package involving garden tours, morning tea, a trip on the river and a visit to the Waikato Museum.
- Events within the Gardens targeting tour groups. For example, an on-site garden tour combined with a New Zealand wine lecture and a cooking demonstration.
- Experience in large, high-quality gardens overseas suggests that as the full development of Hamilton Gardens nears completion it is likely more visitors will stay longer than they do currently-leading to additional economic benefits

4.2 CATERING FOR CASUAL COMMUNITY USE

Annual Residents Surveys over the years have shown around 85 per cent of Hamilton residents have visited at least once in the last year.

The concept plan for Hamilton Gardens shows that a lot of the area alongside Cobham Drive, which was the old town belt, will remain as open lawns and bush walks and dog exercise area complemented by the cycleways, a destination playground, toilets and the Rogers Rose Garden.

DOG EXERCISE AREAS

The Dog Control Bylaw requires dog owners to have their dog under control and to avoid the animals becoming a nuisance to other park visitors. With the ongoing development of Hamilton Gardens long term plan, there will be a change to the Dog Control Bylaw.

- The large grassed area alongside Hungerford Crescent will become a

fenced, off-lead dog exercise area. There will be another off-lead dog exercise area on the flat riverside area below the Rogers Rose Garden for dogs that like to swim.

- Under the Hamilton City Cemeteries and Crematorium Bylaw "no dogs or other animals are allowed in the cemetery unless a guide dog or hearing ear dog, or a dog kept by the Police or any constable, an officer of the Customs Department or the Ministry of Defence".
- With the exception of service animals, dogs are also excluded from the Enclosed Gardens, which will eventually all be accessed through the Information Centre.
- In the other passive park areas along the northern side of the park, dogs are permitted on a lead.

POLICY:

Dogs will be managed in accordance with the Dog Control Bylaw which requires dogs to be on leads other than in designated Dog Exercise Areas where they may be exercised free of restraint. With the exception of service animals, dogs are not permitted within the Enclosed Gardens or Hamilton East Cemetery.



4. GOAL – TO ENHANCE THE VALUE OF HAMILTON GARDENS TO THE LOCAL COMMUNITY

4.3 EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

Hamilton Gardens has become one of the most frequently used event venues in the city, and most events are organised by and for the local community. The diverse range of events contributes to the life of the city and provides vibrancy and public awareness about the gardens. Occasionally, however outdoor events can block access, cause damage, or disrupt the peaceful escape that casual visitors and tourists may be seeking. At times there are multiple events occurring at the same time and these can conflict with each other. For these reasons it is critical there is some control and criteria around why, when and where events are held and how they are managed.

There are two categories of organised outdoor event in Hamilton Gardens; controlled events and discretionary events.

Controlled events are generally permitted, but a booking is required for a specific time and site within Hamilton Gardens. The booking process usually gives the event organiser some certainty of venue availability but not exclusive use. The process helps park managers avoid conflicts in use, provides them with an opportunity to make users aware of any restrictions or conditions, and any damage is covered with a bond. Examples of controlled events include weddings, free performances, corporate picnics and team building activities.

Discretionary events may:

- Require exclusive use of an outdoor area, for example a paid entry outdoor concert;
- Have a significant impact on park assets and other park users, such as an event with amplified sound;
- Require special permission or consents, such as a food stall, or an event held outside normal opening hours.
- Discretionary events may be declined. Approved events will often be subject to further approvals and consents such as public notification of a closure of a section of the reserve, fireworks consent or a site safety plan.

In assessing the desirability of a discretionary event within Hamilton Gardens, the following issues are considered:

- Location, duration and time of day;
- Compatibility with Management Plan policy;
- Legal requirements [e.g. bylaws, on- site lease obligations, safety plans, NZTA Management Plans, Reserves Act, Hamilton District Plan, operator’s licence, liquor licence];
- Characteristics of the event, such as whether it is a public or private event, numbers of people, temporary structures or services that may be required, whether the event is for commercial gain or charitable benefit;
- Precedence set for future requests;
- Disruption to other park visitors and other booked events. This includes disruption from noise or disruption to access and tolerance levels vary depending on the proposed location within the site;
- Compatibility with the garden setting and garden themes and the potential to offend cultural or spiritual beliefs relating to certain garden areas;
- Impact on the asset, the potential for damage, wear and tear and other hidden costs, and opportunities available to mitigate any adverse effects;
- Safety and security considerations including the security of other assets and the safety of other park users;
- Capacity of the venue, for example parking, power supply, wet weather alternative;
- The availability of more appropriate alternative venues or park facilities elsewhere in the city;
- Potential benefit to Hamilton Gardens and the city such as city promotion, or garden interpretation.

Hire and bond costs for outdoor areas vary with the type of event, the event’s commercial nature, and potential for damage and disruption. The event may also be required to pay additional costs or a traffic management plan or a safety plan, such as extended security patrols. General hire charges are set by Council in each Annual Plan. At present the high banks surrounding the lower gardens are effective at reducing noise from events for residents. The control of unreasonably noisy events on parks is administered by Council through legislation, the District Plan and other Council policies.

Currently outdoor events held in Hamilton Gardens are not given exclusive use of an area, however exceptions may be made for special outdoor theatrical or musical performance financially viable. Exclusive use would be available for other events if organisers were prepared to pay for this privilege, such as a corporate function. The disadvantage of this is tourists who are only staying for a limited period may lose the opportunity to experience a garden.

Several of the gardens and open spaces, such as the Jade Dragon Garden, the English Flower Garden or the Mansfield Garden have been designed to accommodate performances. Future developments could include to even out the landform at the lower end of the English Landscape Garden to create an outdoor amphitheatre for the large concerts that usually form part of the Hamilton Gardens Arts Festival.

POLICY:

Outdoor events will be permitted and encouraged within Hamilton Gardens with consideration given to possible disruption to other park visitors, the impact on asset maintenance and compliance with booking conditions. Commercial events may be permitted where they enhance public use of the park.

Exclusive use may be granted to a specific outdoor area to generate revenue or support an appropriate artistic event.

4.4 PROVIDING AN EDUCATION RESOURCE

Education groups involved in Hamilton Gardens have included schools, tertiary institutions, specialist clubs and other educational tours. The opportunities to increase educational use of the site have been limited by the resources available.

Currently teachers are expected to prepare their own resources, however Hamilton Gardens is starting to develop material to support education.

Links will be fostered with tertiary institutions including polytechnics, universities and scientific organisations involving education programmes and research to benefit the Gardens. Hamilton Gardens has played a role in parks industry training through staff training programmes, on-site seminars and conferences and staff presenting papers at conferences. There is also some involvement with garden hobbyist groups including combined seminars and demonstrations.

WINTEC

The Wintec Horticultural Education Centre (HEC) has been Located at Hamilton Gardens since 1987, providing industry training in subjects related to horticulture including amenity horticulture, arboriculture, landscape design, and various block courses. The location was chosen to provide students with an on-site practical teaching resource and a mutually beneficial partnership with Council.

Staff at the HEC and Hamilton Gardens hope that the Centre can capitalize on its location within Hamilton Gardens to become a ‘national centre of excellence in amenity horticulture’. Indicators for this might include:

- students from outside the region and from overseas enrolling to study at HEC,
- the HEC would offer the highest level of practical amenity horticulture training available within the NZ curriculum with additional features not available from other providers
- Industry and community recognition of the high quality programmes as indicated by their feedback, surveys and graduates being highly sort after for employment.

A range of strategies has been jointly identified to achieve this goal including: making more use of on-site assets and Gardens staff expertise, forming partnerships, rationalizing the duplication of resources, reviewing the curriculum offer, increased promotion, developing options where the student can continue to earn and securing more scholarships.

Educational facilities have also been covered under 3.3 ‘Facilities and other site functions’.

POLICY:

Educational opportunities associated with Hamilton Gardens will be developed and promoted including school, tertiary, industry and community education. Where possible this will be done in partnership with others.

The Wintec Horticulture School will be encouraged to continue and enhance their involvement in Hamilton Gardens.



5. GOAL – TO PROTECT AND SUSTAIN HAMILTON GARDENS FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS

5.1 CONSERVATION OF NATURAL AND CULTURAL FEATURES

NATURAL FEATURES

The remnant bush on the steep riverbanks below the Hamilton East Cemetery is one of the district's more significant original Waikato seed sources. This stretch of riverbank, referred to as Echo Bank Bush, is managed as an important natural feature of Hamilton Gardens. Management of this flora will follow the policy in the Riverside Reserves Management Plan. This includes control and removal of all exotic plants, additional planting using only eco-sourced species propagated from local plants, management of the bush so it becomes a self-sustaining unit and public access confined to paths and boardwalks to avoid damage. The long-term plan is to continue to plant up the area above Echo Bank Bush with plants indigenous to the Hamilton area, preferably from seed sourced on these remnant riverbanks.

Hamilton Gardens is an important natural link in the river wildlife corridor through the city. A native planting programme is being undertaken across the gardens site approximately to significantly increase the amount of locally sourced native vegetation trees and shrubs, some as part of Cobham Drive developments. Annual planting programmes aim to increase the diversity of fruit, seed and nectar plants to provide a continuity of seasonal food supply for birds. Vegetation overhanging ponds and the lake and river margins are particularly effective in encouraging insects for birds and bats, as well as providing a refuge for water fowl and fish. Further development of the Valley Walk, will feature plants native to the Waikato district.

A tree survey will be undertaken for the site which will include the identification of significant trees and high-level maintenance and succession planting requirements. In areas that may be affected by proposed works, condition assessments of the value of trees that could be affected (including ecological

values) will be carried out prior to any work commencing. The requirement to preserve and protect significant trees during development will be specified in any contracts for works.

Notable natural fauna within the gardens includes a local long-tailed bat population and several 'bat roosts' has been installed for them. Trees that need to be removed (usually for safety reasons) are assessed for the presence of bats before they are felled. Some of the more isolated riverbanks feature glow worms and the ponds and lake have Long Fin Eels. Recently more planting such as nettles has been undertaken to encourage native butterflies.

CONTROL OF PEST SPECIES

Control of pest species, such as rabbits, wild cats, mustelids, rats, magpies and possums are an ongoing challenge for the Hamilton Gardens. Pest control is increased around biodiversity hotspots and increased during certain times, such as when Tui are nesting. Control of pests is planned as part of a wider strategy for riverside reserves based on the Pest Management Strategy prepared by the Waikato Regional Council.

The use of residual chemicals is being reduced through the gradual introduction of a more integrated pest management strategy aiming to increase reliance on biological control. However, in Hamilton's warm humid climate, collections such as the massed hybrid rose display and rhododendron borders mean that chemical control will be required for the foreseeable future. To minimise negative effects, preference is given to non-toxic substances where there is no effective form of cultural or biological control. Evaluation of alternatives to inorganic, residual chemical pest control will be continued.

MAAORI HISTORY

Hamilton Gardens was developed on the site of what was a significant Pre-European settlement, Te Parapara - the home of the famous Ngaati Wairere chief Haanui. Te Parapara was renowned as the site of sacred rituals associated with the harvesting of food crops, and there was a Tuahu or sacred altar on site associated with this.

The land was appropriated by the Crown in the 1860s and put to strategic use as the Narrows Redoubt and town rifle range. In 1879 the area of west of the town belt was declared domain land and handed over to the Hamilton East Domain Board. The Borough lost control of the domain lands in the early 20th century, and the area was used for various other purposes. This included a sand quarry over the lower area which resulted in the loss of any remains of Te Parapara. The Council purchased the old rifle range land from the Crown in 1957 and its status changed from domain land to reserve land.

The significance of the area as Ngaati Wairere ancestral land is outlined in the Waikato-Tainui Environmental Plan. This recognises cultural traditions of protecting the land, the historic

associations and taonga. The physical focus for this recognition has been the highly significant Te Parapara Garden which includes references to the area's cultural heritage, including the figures of notable historic identities and other carvings specific to this district.

Given the prominent site in relation to the Waikato River, archeological research has continued at Hamilton Gardens with more being learned about the site. Appropriate recognition of sites of significance to Maaori will be explored with our Maaori partners and addressed through interpretation, signage and design. Designs will be considered by an iwi/hapu engagement panel.

EUROPEAN HISTORY

There are few remains of the early European settlement of the area including the Narrows Redoubt at the eastern end of the site and an earthen fence probably created by the early Irish community of Hamilton East who grazed the area. These historically significant sites will be to be appropriately recognised through signage and interpretation.

Many smaller features within Hamilton Gardens are also significant, like the Little Bull sculpture, and the old Baptist Church cupola on top of the Pavilion. Because of their intrinsic value and cultural associations, features such as the Japanese Pavilion, Russian Bell Tower and the Earth Blanket sculpture are likely to increase in cultural significance over time. These diverse elements must be maintained appropriately, and professional advice is sought where needed.

Members of the Friends of Hamilton Garden have been systematically collecting, recording and filing information and material that will become historically important.

Eventually an accession plan should be developed to:

- Record the history and inventory of taonga items and important institutional memory;
- Ensure preservation and appropriate maintenance of items;
- Generate, record and archive interpretive information;
- Provide assurance to those who have made a gift and record any commitments made to the donor;
- Define an acquisition and disposal procedure.

Invasive and noxious flora and fauna will be controlled or removed, and staff will continue to work with other agencies to improve pest control throughout the site.

Park management will recognise the significant cultural heritage of this site and work alongside iwi when developing management practices.

Historical sites of significance for Maaori will be appropriately recognised in a way that protects the ownership of Maatauranga Maaori (knowledge and understanding).

The Council will continue to work in partnership with Waikato Tainui and THaWK to develop a concept that will appropriately recognise the history and ongoing significance of the site for Iwi and Hapu.

Other historical aspects of the gardens will be appropriately recognised.

Institutional knowledge relevant to Hamilton Gardens, as well as historic site features and associations, including taonga, will be appropriately conserved under an accession plan.



5.2 SECURITY OF PARK ASSETS AND PEOPLE

Hamilton Gardens has had a good personal safety record with a continued staff presence and strong sense of ownership. The personal safety of staff and visitors is certainly important for the Gardens because a single incident can give the Gardens an unwarranted negative reputation, particularly in sensitive international tourist markets.

Apart from festival events or events in the Pavilion and restaurant, access into Hamilton Gardens is discouraged at night. Night time vehicle barriers restricting vehicle entry operate between 9.30pm and 6am reduce the incidence of night time damage and theft.

Entrance roads, car parks and paths that lead to facilities regularly used at night are lit at least to the standard for parks required by the NZS 6701 :1983, Code of Practice for Road Lighting. In keeping with the Safe Cities philosophy, access beyond these main paths is discouraged

with little permanent lighting. Event facilities have been grouped together near the proposed main carpark where it should be possible to provide plenty of lighting. Eventually having a single accessway in to the event facilities surrounding the Lakeside Court should also make the area safer.

Appropriate levels of lighting, security surveillance and other CPTED (Crime Prevention through Environmental Design) strategies to address public safety risks will be integrated into designs. For example, having open clear sightlines to key areas such as car parks, the playground and toilet entrances and appropriate camera security coverage. Universal design principles will also help minimise safety risks for more vulnerable people, particularly around multi-modal access areas and paths.

A security fence with a controlled entry points protects the Enclosed Gardens which have many elements susceptible to damage and theft. The Enclosed Gardens are closed at night and alarmed

with motion sensors that set off alarms alerting the monitoring centre and an on-site guard.

Eventually it is proposed to increase the area of the Enclosed Sector with fencing, using Turtle Lake and the river as barriers. At some points, access up from the river will need to be closed off at night.

POLICY:

Different forms of security will be used to safeguard park assets. The Enclosed Gardens which accommodates the more vulnerable garden features will be closed and alarmed at night.

Where practical, consideration will be given to improving the safety of park visitors and their property through park management, design and technology. Park lighting will be provided only in those areas promoted as available to the public at night.



5.3 PRESERVING DESIGN INTEGRITY

For the Hamilton Gardens concept to be successful each garden needs to have a high level of design authenticity, so each garden development is extensively researched to achieve this. Maintenance plans are formulated with an understanding of the design intent. For example, most of the significant rocks in the Japanese Garden of Contemplation have a traditional name and a relationship to one another. There are different zones within the garden dictating the types of plants that can be used. There are also the traditional rules that have defined key elements of the layout. This type of information is being recorded in 'Design Statements' that will eventually cover each garden zone. These Design Statements have six primary functions:

- Providing an overview of the design concept;
- Outlining the specific maintenance requirements of each garden;
- Specifying the optimum maintenance standards;
- Recording relevant institutional memory such as how a garden was developed;
- Providing technical information, such as paint colours;
- Providing references to further relevant information, such as reference books.

The thematic zones cover most of the site and it is important that incongruous or inappropriate elements are not introduced to distract from each garden's theme. In some gardens, new additions can be tested against historic styles, in others the concept itself provides the lead.

Each garden will require design authenticity and will need to be visually screened from its neighbours. The Design Statements also specify views which need to be kept open. The management of these views is a long-term strategy involving tree growth, the anticipation of future views, emphasis and composition of views, emphasis of particular features, space modulation and the planned progressive sequence of views. With overplanting in some areas this may mean the removal of some mature trees.

Preserving some open, sweeping spaces is important to provide the Gardens with a grand public scale, to allow groups of trees to be fully appreciated, to help with visitor orientation, to give depth to some views and to provide a contrast to the smaller enclosed garden features. Different areas will also require planting and development of a different scale. For example, the open sweeping lawns along the Cobham Drive frontage provide an appropriate grand scale appreciated from moving cars.

POLICIES:

Design and maintenance, including structures and artwork, will preserve the thematic integrity of each garden area. Screening will be maintained between themed gardens.

Plant collections and successional planting will support each area's design theme and plant labels will be used where appropriate to the theme



5.4 RESPONDING TO CLIMATE CHANGE

The direct impact of climate change on Hamilton Gardens is not quantifiable, however it is likely that changes will affect the range of plant pathogens, possibly requiring different controls. The range of plants growing at the Gardens may have to change and some the ornamental plants might even become weeds. More frequent, long dry summers experienced over the past decade are thought to be responsible for the loss of plants. Some species may need to be replaced with drought tolerant species.

As more gardens are developed, water saving strategies, such as capturing stormwater runoff, will need to be utilised.

SUSTAINABILITY

Hamilton Gardens has a number of sustainable management strategies in place and received the highest ranked gold award from the Qualmark audits for its sustainable practices. Hamilton Gardens has signed The New Zealand Tourism Sustainability Commitment which aims to see every New Zealand tourism business committed to sustainability by 2025.

Hamilton Gardens is planning to become ‘carbon neutral’ by 2030 through a carbon reduction plan. An initial assessment indicated that the Gardens currently use around 122 tonnes of carbon arising from direct fuel use each year.

Offsetting uses like gas ovens in the café, and indirect emissions from road transport and products purchased like plastic planter bags and nitrogen fertilizer will be a much bigger challenge. To address this the possibility of a micro grid, small turbines on the stream running through the Gardens are being investigated along with other options like solar panels on the maintenance barns.

The other parts to the carbon reduction plan include: waste minimisation, recycling, energy efficiencies and the review of operating procedures.

POLICY

It is proposed to make Hamilton Gardens carbon neutral by 2030.

5.5 FINANCIAL SUSTAINABILITY

The Reserves Act allows for commercial activities that support the public’s use and enjoyment of reserves. The Council may investigate opportunities to generate revenue to offset operating costs without compromising the integrity of the Gardens. This includes commercial activities that enhance visitor experience for visitors, such as guided tours, entertainment, high quality souvenirs, behind-the-scenes tours or food and beverage.

The Reserves Act also allows for reserve administrators to set a reasonable entry fee to recreation reserves, and the Council may decide to set an admission fee to non-Hamilton residents to offset future development costs.

There is also an opportunity to package services including services and amenities beyond the Gardens site. For example: a tour and lunch in the Gardens combined with a boat trip to see an exhibition in the Waikato Museum and even accommodation.

POLICY

Council may decide to introduce or trial an entry charge into the Enclosed Gardens for non-Hamilton residents.

The retail store will sell good quality merchandise that is in line with the Garden themes.

6. APPENDIX

6.1 HAMILTON GARDENS STRATEGY SUMMARY

VISION:
TO CREATE A WORLD CLASS GARDEN THAT ENHANCES HAMILTON’S REPUTATION, ECONOMY AND QUALITY OF LIFE

GOALS :	To create a world class garden experience	To improve the capacity and practical operation of the Hamilton Gardens site	To enhance the value of Hamilton Gardens to the local community	To protect and sustain Hamilton Gardens for future generations
What does long term success look like?	<p>Hamilton Gardens is recognised as one of the world’s great gardens by visitor industry.</p> <p>The momentum of development of new gardens is maintained so that within the next thirty years all the proposed gardens have been completed to tell the full story of gardens</p> <p>The integrity of the Gardens concept and each garden is retained with inappropriate details or interpretation avoided</p> <p>Interpretation is of a standard that matches best practice in museums and similar facilities</p> <p>The standard of maintenance in Hamilton Gardens is in keeping with other world class gardens.</p>	<p>More garden visitors use public transport, the boat service and the cycleways that run through the Gardens.</p> <p>The Garden facilities can cope with peak times use and access through the theme gardens is not congested.</p> <p>Most accessways through the gardens meet accessibility standards.</p> <p>Maintenance vehicles are able to cross the park without using the Cobham Drive cycleway.</p> <p>The expanded area of theme gardens is enclosed to protect the more sensitive assets.</p> <p>More advantage is taken of the river with gardens created right along the river frontage.</p> <p>The structural integrity of the city water mains, steep riverbanks and the cap over the old rubbish dump are maintained.</p>	<p>The majority of out of region visitors to Hamilton Gardens stay in the city overnight generating an economic benefit to the local economy of at least \$50 million p.a.</p> <p>Hamilton Gardens promotes the city’s reputation and supports other city organisations that attract events and visitors.</p> <p>Hamilton Gardens is well used by the local community for informal recreation activities like; walking the dog, cycling or children’s play.</p> <p>A wide range of community events continue to be held that enhance the Gardens, rather than detract from the peaceful garden environment.</p> <p>Hamilton Gardens becomes a valuable resource for local schools with resource material for a range of subjects.</p> <p>The on-site WINTEC Horticultural Education Centre becomes a national center of excellence in amenity horticulture.</p> <p>An enclosed dog exercise area is created alongside Hungerford Crescent.</p>	<p>The site’s cultural and historic assets are maintained and interpreted appropriately.</p> <p>Ecological features of the site are conserved, particularly remnant indigenous flora and fauna.</p> <p>The operation of Hamilton Gardens becomes carbon neutral by 2030.</p> <p>There is sufficient security to ensure the safety of park assets, staff and visitors.</p> <p>The design integrity of each garden is maintained and appreciated.</p> <p>Links are fostered with universities and similar overseas institutions that have programmes that complement Hamilton Gardens.</p> <p>Revenue and sponsorship is generated to offset operating and development costs without compromising the garden’s experience.</p>
Priority work areas	<p>Development of the, Ancient Egyptian Garden, Medieval Garden, Pasifika Garden and Baroque Garden.</p> <p>The international reputation and mystique of Hamilton Gardens is promoted.</p> <p>Ongoing improvements are made to the interpretation of the gardens with an initial emphasis on the use of new technology and engagement with specific individual interests.</p>	<p>The new parking layout is developed, multi-modal access is developed and promoted, and the bus access is also improved.</p> <p>The upper and lower cycleway links through the Gardens are completed, and pedestrian access to the upper carparks re-graded to meet accessibility standards.</p> <p>A more attractive and intriguing entrance is created.</p> <p>Café facilities expanded to increase year-round capacity.</p> <p>The Information Centre is expanded, and interpretation expanded.</p>	<p>Out of region visitors are encouraged to stay in the area longer through: further on-site engagement and promotion of other local attractions and amenities.</p> <p>More educational resources are developed to interpret the Gardens and add value to the schools that already visit.</p> <p>A pavilion is developed at the western end of the Enclosed Gardens specifically for events and school classes.</p> <p>On site events are managed to reduce conflict with other park users and damage to assets.</p>	<p>There is a long-term asset management programme in place</p> <p>An accession plan is developed to record and manage cultural and historic assets on site.</p> <p>A conservation plan is developed for the Te Parapara Garden.</p> <p>Revenue is increased from venue hire, retail sales and services that add value to people’s visits or events.</p> <p>Landscape Design Statements are prepared for each garden to record the design intent and specialist maintenance requirements.</p> <p>Sustainable management practices are continually improved to minimise waste and environment impacts.</p> <p>A plan is developed that identifies strategies to reduce Hamilton Gardens carbon footprint</p>



6. APPENDIX

6.2 GARDEN COLLECTIONS

FANTASY GARDEN COLLECTION

A collection of gardens featuring genres of garden fantasy that have transcended different cultures, inspiring most garden design innovation. Each also has a direct relationship to one of the arts. These are deliberately diverse: Celtic decorative arts, theatre, classical opera, Chinese ceramics, surrealist art, modern literature, and conceptual art. The courtyards between the gardens in this collection refer to the arts of: science fiction, children's literature, and expressionist art.





EXISTING

A.1 TUDOR GARDEN

An inspiration for 16th Century English renaissance gardens were the patterns of Celtic knots, monastic book illustrations and their contemporary decorative arts such as embroidered textiles. One of the best-known patterns has been recreated in this knot garden.

Other typical features incorporated into this garden are the raised gallery overlooking the knot garden, the shipbuilders' arbour, Elizabethan wall and the small banqueting pavilion. Also typical were the fantasy beasts on striped poles. In this garden they hold the coat of arms of famous Tudor personalities.



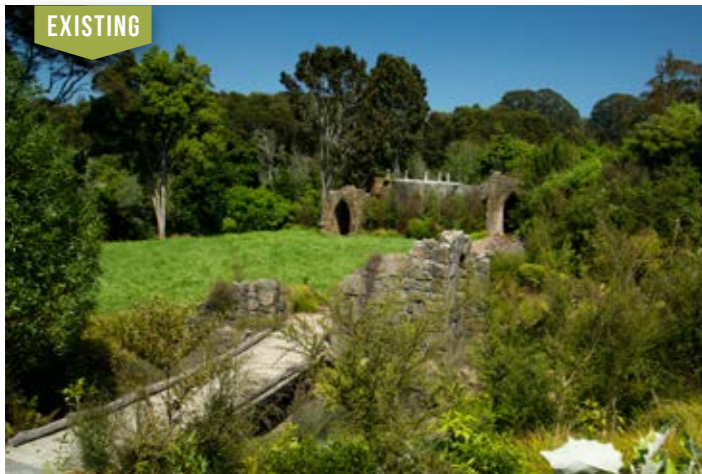
UNDER DEVELOPMENT

A.2 BAROQUE THEATRE GARDEN

During the 18th and 19th centuries European royalty developed dramatic theatrical gardens that included the elements of stage set design.

These gardens weren't just used for theatrical events, they provided a setting for important people to dress up in expensive clothes and powdered wigs and to be seen.

This German or Austrian form would feature a New Rococo façade, large reflecting pool and two sculptural groups. Of all the gardens this possibly has the most direct association with classical music.



EXISTING

A.3 PICTURESQUE GARDEN

An interpretation of naturalistic, overgrown 18th century Picturesque gardens that were intended to appeal to not only the eyes but also the heart and the mind. They were in part a reaction to Baroque formality, inspired by the new fashion for landscape paintings of wild, romantic landscapes often featuring classical ruins. There was often a planned sequence of features or a ritual journey that would refer to a well-known fantasy story. In this garden that story is Mozart's 18th century opera 'The Magic Flute' told through a series of garden features with strong Masonic associations.



EXISTING

A.4 CHINOISERIE GARDEN

In the mid-18th century Europeans were becoming aware of Asian arts and crafts and there was a craze for anything Chinese or Japanese. Without much from Asia to work from, European craftsmen were inspired to create original work such as Wedgwood pottery, Chippendale furniture, Willow Pattern ceramics and posters, all inspired by Japanese prints.

This fashion also included new types of garden structures and decoration, such as those in this garden, which were largely inspired by imported Chinese ceramics.



EXISTING

A.5 SURREALIST GARDEN

The mid-20th century Surrealist Art Movement, inspired by the work of Sigmund Freud, sought to interpret the mysterious world of dreams and the subconscious mind. While there wasn't a corresponding movement in garden design there have always been surrealist elements in gardens from the strangely shaped Taihu rocks in ancient Chinese Gardens to Singapore's Super Trees in Gardens by the Bay.

In this garden everything appears five times the normal size but dominated by giant topiary figures that move while you're not watching.



EXISTING

A.6 MANSFIELD GARDEN

Katherine Mansfield was one of a group of the world-famous authors credited with inventing modern literature. One of her best-known stories 'The Garden Party' describes an early 20th century New Zealand garden being prepared for a large party. Aside from the items she describes, this garden has many of the features and plants common to gardens at this time. The tennis court is set out ready for her party to begin.



EXISTING

A.7 CONCEPT GARDEN

The emerging 21st century 'conceptual garden' movement is essentially an extension of modern, conceptual art and 'land art.' These gardens are not necessarily practical, natural, or even attractive in the normal sense, but are based on a central idea or message often derived from the history or landscape of the site in which they sit. The designs are usually strong, colourful and emphatic.

This garden has been inspired by two Maaori whakataukii and the legend beside land use maps in old school atlases.

PRODUCTIVE GARDEN COLLECTION

A collection of productive gardens that each address aspects of the relationship between people and plants. Ranging from plants with religious significance to the Ancient Egyptians to plants of economic importance in Pacific cultures. From the herbs used by the early NZ colonists to a modern form of sustainable gardening.



UNDER DEVELOPMENT



B.1 ANCIENT EGYPTIAN GARDEN

A 'Middle Kingdom' temple garden that displays many of the common ancient Egyptian garden features such as: a symmetrical layout enclosed within high mud brick walls, dramatic entranceway, a 'step pool' stocked with fish, and vine covered pergolas for shade. Most of the plants they used for offerings, cures, rituals and processions can be grown in this climate. Despite the wealth of information on these sophisticated ancient gardens, there is no trace of one being recreated in modern times.

UNDER DEVELOPMENT



B.2 PASIFIKA GARDEN

The garden will display plants from the South Pacific islands and their closest equivalents. In the centre, a Samoan Fale Afalau shelter would provide an event or teaching space as well as screen the upper glass structure.

Within a jungle setting productive plants would be grown such as the: yam, talo, ta'amu, sweet potato, arrowroot, sugar cane, ti, paper mulberry, pandanus, taro, banana, breadfruit; possibly the kava and coconut showing their use and cultivation.

EXISTING



B.3 TE PARAPARA GARDEN

An early 19th century pre-European Maaori garden that shows traditional forms of food production and storage and plants of economic importance to Maaori. The banks along this stretch of the Waikato River were full of gardens and the Waikato-Tainui tribes were renowned for their horticultural skills.

This garden features a pataka kai and highly significant carvings with local significance. This garden is on the site of an ancient settlement called Te Parapara that had significance for rituals associated with harvesting food crops.

UNDER DEVELOPMENT



B.4 MEDIEVAL GARDEN

From the fall of the Roman empire through to the 16th century, a distinctive form of medieval garden was the monastic, cloistered courtyard. The structure of the courts in this example are based on the ruins of St John of the Hermits Monastery in Sicily. One court is a simple Cloister Garth, which was a form of courtyard generally used by the monks for prayer and contemplation. The other is an Apothecary's Garden, which supported the healing of the sick in a monastic hospital.

EXISTING



B.5 KITCHEN GARDEN

A recreation of a traditional 17th-19th century kitchen garden that supplied the household of large European estates. It was typical to have raised square beds with high surrounding walls that discouraged theft, sheltered the garden, held the heat and extended the growing season. Research suggests that such an environment could have the effect of seven degrees latitude. Produce in this garden is used in the Hamilton Gardens Café and some is distributed to local food banks.

EXISTING



B.6 HERB GARDEN

While the design of this traditional herb garden is relatively modern, the variety of herbs used has focused on those used by early New Zealand colonists.

The four central beds have herbs for: culinary, cosmetic, perfume and medicinal use.

The side gardens include collections of herbs used for dyes, Asian food and herbal drinks.

EXISTING



B.7 SUSTAINABLE GARDEN

This represents a modern backyard garden, displaying techniques and principles of small scale, sustainable food production. These include: a movable chicken coop, liquid manure barrels, edible perennials, compost, companion plants to discourage pests, a worm farm and bee hives.

PARADISE GARDEN COLLECTION

‘Paradise’ is derived from the Persian word pairidaeza meaning an ‘enclosed garden’. This is a collection of small enclosed garden traditions that each represent different perceptions of paradise.



C:1 CHINESE SCHOLARS’ GARDEN

An interpretation of the 10th-12th century Sung Dynasty ‘scholar gardens’ that were designed as natural worlds of imagination and surprise. The scholars and landed gentry created gardens that represented a mythical paradise and home for the ‘immortals’. They had different layers of meaning, symbolism and ambiguity. Usually there was also a close relationship with the arts of landscape painting, poetry, calligraphy and music. Groups of rocks, typically chosen for their contorted, sculptural form were a particularly important element in such gardens.



C:2 INDIAN CHAR BAGH GARDEN

These were a symbolic form of a paradise divided into four quarters by the four symbolic rivers referred to in ancient sources before the Koran and even the Book of Genesis. The oldest remains of one are around 4,000 years old but they were popular between the 8th and 18th centuries throughout the Muslim world stretching from the eastern end of the Silk Route to North Africa and Spain. This example is an interpretation of the 16th-17th small Mughal garden with design detail like the Taj Mahal. Water was particularly luxurious and precious in the semi desert environments.



C:3 JAPANESE GARDEN OF CONTEMPLATION

An example of the 14th–15th century Muromachi period garden designed for Zen meditation where worldly desires could be put aside, and enlightenment sought through mediation. These gardens were usually associated with monasteries and the central building is based on that of an Abbots Quarters.

Elements like the rock placement also reflected Shinto, Taoist, Confucian as well as Buddhist influences. This garden is comprised of three types of Muromachi contemplative garden: the Zen Garden, the Scroll Garden and the Stroll Garden.



C:4 ITALIAN RENAISSANCE GARDEN

At the other extreme powerful Italian families liked to show off their wealth with magnificent gardens. During the 15th-16th Italian Renaissance period they were also inspired by the achievements of ancient Greece and Rome to create large formal gardens around their grand country villas. Their aim was to rationalise, control and improve upon nature with garden layouts generally based on geometric forms and proportions. A central axis and a series of water features generally unified the different parts of the garden that could include woodland, sculptures, galleries and extensive plant collections.



C:5 ENGLISH FLOWER GARDEN

An example of the English 19th century Arts and Crafts gardens that were designed as an idyllic setting for large country homes sometimes unconsciously trying to recreate a mythical golden age. The best examples had extensive plant collections with planned seasonal colour compositions inspired by new colour theories and the work of the Impressionist painters. The Arts and Crafts movement valued craftsmanship and until the Great War wealthy families could afford large teams of skilled gardeners to tend their high maintenance gardens which often included long herbaceous borders.



C:6 MODERNIST GARDEN

Late 20th century modernist garden design broke away from formality and avoided decorative features. Designs were generally inspired by the site and the shift to outdoor domestic living, generally with a close relationship between indoor and outdoor areas. They were often influenced by Modernist architecture and the Modernist art movements. In this garden that includes: The Cubist influence on the paving pattern, the Surrealist sculpture in the pool and the Pop Art mural.

This was a modern version of paradise where you might endlessly relax by the pool drinking piña colada.

PUBLIC GARDEN COLLECTION

Public gardens have been around for thousands of years shaped by different cultures and social structures. At times they have served as social centres, outdoor reception rooms and spaces for education, recreation and commemoration.

(The older section of Hamilton East Cemetery outside the proposed Enclosed Sector provides a typical 19th/20 century example of the Park Cemetery Movement.)



D.1 VEDIC GARDEN

The Vedic were a bronze age, Indian civilisation who introduced Sanskrit to India and may have originally come from north of the Caucasus Mountains. Their communal riverside gardens reflected sacred texts and a comprehensive philosophy on land use.

This 4th century BC proto-Hindu example would feature: a grid of flowering and fruiting trees on an east west axis, vegetables, a step pool, torana (stone gate) and deep, thatched veranda with brightly painted columns.



D.2 ROMAN PORTICO GARDEN

Many 2nd century Roman portico gardens were an elaborate version of the Greek-style palaestra and the smaller Roman courtyard gardens.

These public courtyards were often associated with a theatre, bath complex, library or temple and became a favoured haunt of the Roman elite. The central space surrounded by covered portico often featured: pools, semi-circular seats, mosaic paving, pollarded trees, pot plants, an aviary, statues on plinths, trompe l'oeil and frescos on the walls of garden scenes.



D.3 PERSIAN GARDEN

From Samarkand and Mughal India across to the Moorish gardens of Spain, many gardens were inspired by the legendary Persian gardens. The forecourts of mosques and theological colleges often had high surrounding walls, a monumental entrance on the east side, symmetrical layout, fruit trees, a large pool and decorative tile work. In these spaces visitors could wait for appointments or study in the shade of a high colonnade with massive wooden columns.



D.4 HORTUS BOTANICUS

This is a reproduction of the 16th century Dutch Renaissance botanic garden in Leiden. Hortus Botanicus was a very typical botanical garden of the period and particularly significant because of the plants being introduced to Europe by the great Dutch trading empire.

Plants would be grouped according to classification, so it should appeal to educational groups and those with a botanical interest.



D.5 VICTORIAN FLOWER GARDEN

An example of the Neo-Italianate Gardenesque style that spread throughout the western world during the 19th century and was still common in public gardens through most of the 20th century.

Dominated by seasonal carpet bedding utilizing tropical and temperate plants it would also feature, closely cut lawn, topiary, plain shrub borders and Victorian era detail such as the pergola, paths with tile edges, a fountain, seats, gates and a statue of Queen Victoria looking unamused.



D.6 STRUCTURAL GARDEN

The 21st century has seen a rapid increase in the number of gardens growing on structures, over roads and car parks, sometimes on top or the sides of buildings and even on disused elevated railway structures. In congested cities, there are fewer gardens actually growing in the ground, so that most could be classified as structural gardens. This structural garden is proposed in the shape of a person. This giant figure covered in vegetation overlooks the bank down to the lake where concerts have been held, so it's also a public event and performance garden.

LANDSCAPE GARDEN COLLECTION

A collection of landscape gardens that demonstrate how different attitudes to nature and major philosophical movements have shaped man-made landscapes. These range from venerating to dominating nature and from productive idealised landscapes to recreating new natural-looking landscapes.



PARTIALLY DEVELOPED

E.1 MAHAYANA SANCTUARY GARDEN

The existing hillside already features Asian woodland plants but would be further developed as a 3rd century Chinese Mahayana Sanctuary garden. In China these were usually Daoist / Confucian mountain retreats intended for self-cultivation and symbolising the journey of life. Possibly originating from Hindu north-western India but with some early Roman and Greek influence. This form of retreat spread with Buddhism through central Asia and to Japan and Sri Lanka. They were developed in China from 500 before common era and included features like: an entrance way facing west, mandalas on pavements, stone animals, special trees, stupas, caves, carved cliff faces and painted pavilions.



PROPOSED

E.2 FRENCH PARTERRE GARDEN

This was a distinct western European art form in the 17th century with a later 19th century revival. These highly structured gardens reflected complete domination of the natural world influenced by philosophers such as d'Argenville and Pascal.

This relatively small-scale example would feature an impressive parterre de broderie pattern of box, turf, gravel and bedding plants overlooked by a large, raised terrace.

Behind the terrace a 17th century French, Baroque façade would screen limited access to an 'events garden'.



PROPOSED

E.3 ENGLISH LANDSCAPE GARDEN

Probably the most influential landscape movement of all was the 18th century fashion for informal, grassed, Arcadian rolling parkland with lakes, contoured landform, tree groups and classical pavilions and sculpture. The craze for this type of garden swept through Europe replacing many old formal gardens and still influences park and golf course design. This open grassed area would be grazed with a small flock of sheep contained along the bottom edge with a ha-ha sunken wall.



PARTIALLY DEVELOPED

E.4 ECHO BANK BUSH

One of the last pockets in Hamilton of remnant indigenous vegetation, these steep banks and cliffs connect the Gardens with its pre-European history and form part of the kete that holds the garden collection.

The Garden area may lie outside the Enclosed Gardens in order to retain public access to the river bank.



PROPOSED

E.5 BEE MEADOW

There is increasing interest in creating ecosystems to address issues such as industrial site restoration or creating an endangered fauna habitat. In the 21st century this has sometimes been referred to as 'new ecology'. In this case a meadow over the old dump site and what was a carpark using low growing plants that provide food for bees and butterflies. It would be partially surrounded by hedgerows which have long been recognised in Europe as a valuable semi-natural habitat.

GARDENS THROUGH HISTORY

Gardens are a significant and very ancient art form, and, with the good interpretation, they can tell us a lot about the societies who’ve created them. Each garden in this selection showcases an important theme from the significant ages of civilisation. Together they tell a story of humankind, from Late Bronze Age to the present day. In the process these gardens can provide insights to what it is to be human, and perhaps even point to an optimistic future age. Some elements in this compelling story are still to be created.



1. ANCIENT AND MEDIEVAL WORLD

- Ancient Egyptian Garden
- Vedic Garden
- Mahayana Sanctuary Garden
- Roman Portico Garden
- Medieval Garden



2. THE SILK ROADS

- Persian Garden
- Chinese Scholars’ Garden
- Japanese Garden of Contemplation
- Indian Char Bagh Garden



3. RENAISSANCE

- Italian Renaissance Garden
- French Parterre Garden
- Tudor Garden
- Hortus Botanicus



4. AGE OF ENLIGHTENMENT

- Baroque Garden
- Kitchen Garden
- English Landscape Garden
- Picturesque Garden



5. OCEANIA

- Pasifika Garden
- Te Parapara



6. AGE OF EMPIRE

- Chinoiserie Garden
- Victorian Flower Garden
- Park Cemetery
- Mansfield Garden



7. THE MODERN AGE

- English Flower Garden
- Modernist Garden
- Sustainable Backyard Garden
- Concept Garden



8. TE TAI AO

- Echo Bank Bush
- Bee Meadow
- Surreal / Augmented Reality Garden
- Structural Garden

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GARDEN COLLECTIONS

Fantasy Garden Collection:
(A collection of gardens featuring the different genres of garden fantasy that have transcended different culture, inspiring most garden designs innovation).

- A.1 Tudor Garden
- A.2 Baroque Garden
- A.3 Picturesque Garden
- A.4 Chinoiserie Garden
- A.5 Surrealist Garden
- A.6 Mansfield Garden
- A.7 Concept Garden

Productive Garden Collection:
(A collection of productive gardens that each address aspects of the relationship between people and plants).

- B.1 Ancient Egyptian garden
- B.2 Pasifika Garden
- B.3 Te Parapara Garden
- B.4 Medieval Courtyard Garden
- B.5 Kitchen Garden
- B.6 Herb Garden
- B.7 Sustainable Garden

Paradise Garden Collection:
(Paradise is derived from the Persian word pairidaeza meaning an 'enclosed garden')

- C.1 Chinese Scholars Garden
- C.2 Indian Char Bagh Garden
- C.3 Japanese Garden of Contemplation
- C.4 Italian Renaissance Garden
- C.5 English Flower Garden
- C.6 Modernist Garden

Public Garden Collection:
(Public Gardens have been around for thousands of years shaped by different cultures and social structures)

- D.1 Vedic Garden
- D.2 Roman Portico Garden
- D.3 Persian Garden
- D.4 Hortus Botanicus
- D.5 Victorian Flower Garden
- D.6 Structural Garden

Landscape Garden Collection:
A collection of landscape gardens that demonstrate how different attitudes to nature and major philosophical movements have shaped manmade landscapes)

- E.1 Mahayana Sanctuary Collection
- E.2 French Parterre Garden
- E.3 English Landscape Garden
- E.4 Echo Bank Bush
- E.5 Bee Meadow

FACILITIES

1 Park Entrances:

- 1a Gate one vehicle entrance
- 1b Gate two vehicle entrance
- 1c Underpass to Grey Street
- 1d Access below Cobham Bridge
- 1e Proposed controlled intersection (Waikato Drive intersection)
- 1f Jetty for River Access
- 1g Possible Alternative Jetty Site

2 Carparks:

- 2a Lower Carpark
- 2b Middle Carpark
- 2c Top Carpark
- 2d Valley Walk Carpark
- 2e Service Carpark

3 Arrival Facilities:

- 3a Proposed Visitor Arrival Covered Area
- 3b Forecourts
- 3c Visitor Information Centre

4 Visitor Facilities:

- 4a Playground and Changing Places Toilet
- 4b Proposed Rhododendron Lawn Toilet
- 4c Pavilion Toilet
- 4d Red Arch Toilet
- 4e Palm Court Toilet
- 4f Eastern Toilet
- 4g Gardens Café

5 Event and Education Facilities:

- 5a Pavilion Exhibition Rooms
- 5b Pavilion Seminar Room
- 5c Pavilion Meeting Room
- 5d Hamilton Club Summer House
- 5e Horticultural Education Centre
- 5f Hort Ed Centre Demonstration Yard
- 5g Possible Future Conservatory Site

6 Other Site Activities:

- 6a Municipal Nursery
- 6b Girl Guides Hall
- 6c Proposed Dog Exercise Area
- 6d Proposed Dog Exercise Area
- 6e Hamilton East Cemetery

7 Staff Facilities:

- 7a Main Maintenance Yard
- 7b Eastern Maintenance Yard
- 7c Mulch Yards
- 7d Main Office

8 Other Garden Features:

- 8a Rhododendron Lawn
- 8b Rogers Rose Garden
- 8c Destination Playground
- 8d Tropical Garden
- 8e Valley Walk
- 8f Governors' Green
- 8g Possible Bridge



WAIKATO RIVER