Tahunanui Reserve Management Plan

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Contents

Purpose of the plan

A management plan is a working document, which sets out the objectives and policies for managing an area and how these will be achieved. It is a reference point for consistent everyday management and future planning by the administering body. It is also a public statement that explains the governing principals and reasons for decisions to interested parties.

While the management plan provides the overall direction for ongoing management, there is generally a need for more detailed development planning and an annual schedule of special works to be drawn up and priorities assigned. This, too, is available to the public and should be incorporated into financial programming and budget allocations (e.g. Annual Plan). This is an effective way to regularly review the detail of the management plan (as required by the Reserves Act 1977), taking account of changing circumstances or increased knowledge. A more comprehensive review is also required at regular intervals, usually 5 years, and this should be signalled in the Long Term Council Community Plan.

The management plan should also be a reference source for relevant background information about the Reserve.

Plan Evolution

The Tahunanui Enhancement Study prepared by Nelson City Council (NCC) in 2002 identified the strategic directions for the area that would enhance its liveability for residents and attractions for visitors. A range of improvements were identified, of which a key component was the need for a management plan for the Tahunanui Reserve. The issues that the Management Plan needed to address were broadly scoped in the study, (Appendix 1) and an Issues and Options paper was prepared which incorporated a broad range of community and user group input, (Appendix 2). An 18 member community working group met in May 2003 to discuss the issues paper, and provided guidance on the range of options.

The Draft Tahunanui Reserve Management Plan was prepared and released for public submission in August 2003. NCC have considered the submissions and revised the plan to reflect the significant issues raised.

The Tahunanui Structure Plan (TSP) is being prepared concurrently with this management plan. The Structure Plan seeks to improve the road layout, and connectivity between the urban area of Tahunanui and the Reserve. The area under consideration by the TSP includes the eastern corner of the Tahunanui Reserve, the main entrance off SH6, the Nightingale Library Memorial and the Plunket rooms (Figure 1).

Management Plan Format

The management plan consists of two parts

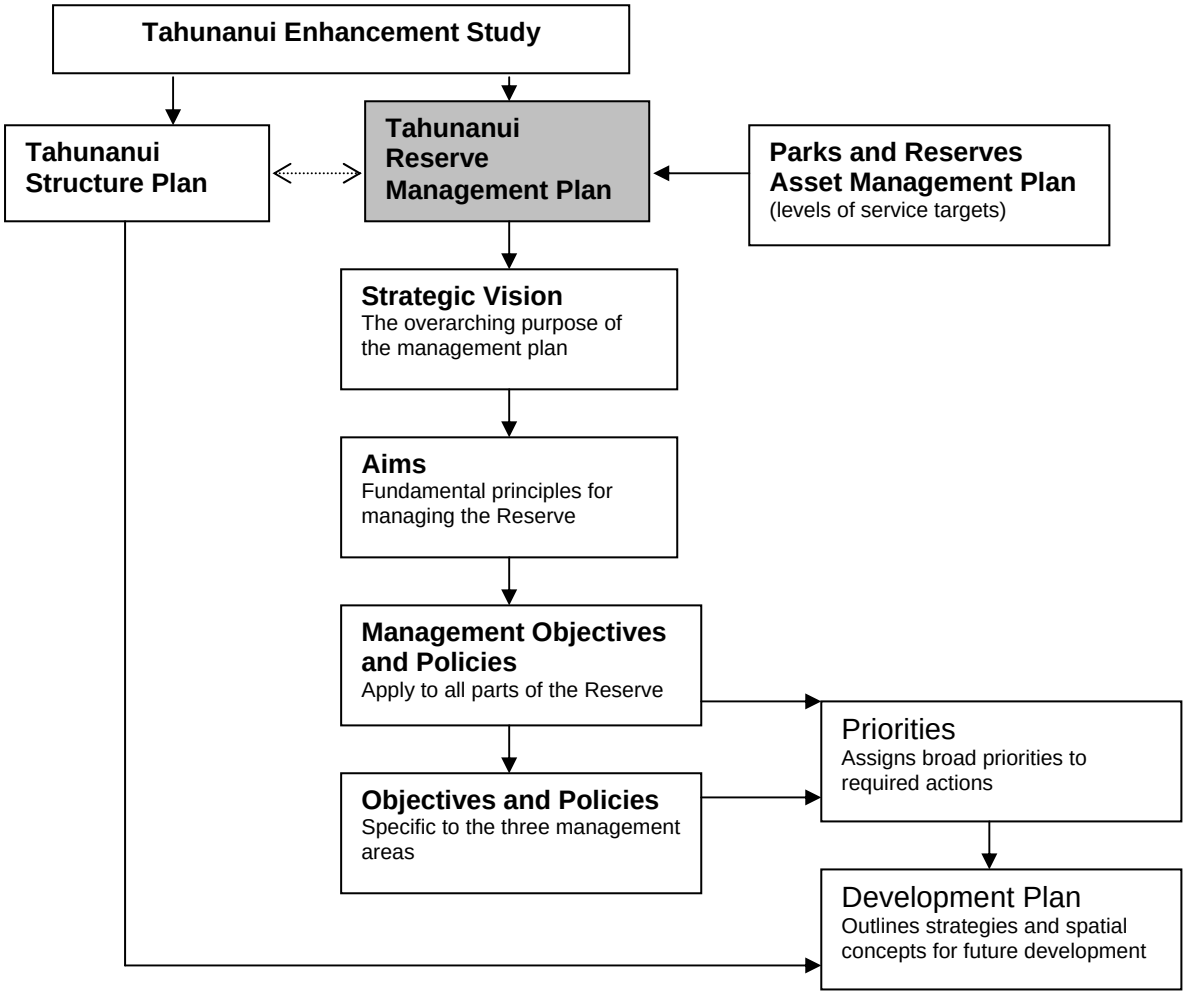
Part 1 Background and Description

This describes the Reserve and its uses, including physical and natural features, recreational uses, coastal dynamics and history of its development.

Part 2 Strategic Vision, Aims, Objectives and Policies

The ***strategic vision*** states the overarching purpose of the management plan. Underlying this are four fundamental ***Aims, which*** are the principles that guide the management of the Reserve. The ***Management Objectives and Policies*** address issues that are common to the whole Reserve, as well as more site specific issues identified in three management areas. The policies determine how the objectives will be met and are assigned a ***priority for action.*** Some of the policies are new initiatives and will guide the ***development plan***.

The development plan will outline strategies and spatial concepts for future development of the Reserve, including road, car park, path layouts and vegetation structure. Its preparation will be guided by the ***policies*** **and** ***priority for action*** identified in the Tahunanui Reserve Draft Management Plan and the Tahunanui Structure Plan.


Tahunanui Enhancement Study
Tahunanui Structure Plan
Tahunanui Reserve Management Plan
Parks and Reserves Asset Management Plan
(levels of service targets)
Strategic Vision
The overarching purpose of the management plan
Aims
Fundamental principles for managing the Reserve
Management Objectives and Policies
Apply to all parts of the Reserve
Objectives and Policies
Specific to the three management areas
Priorities
Assigns broad priorities to required actions
Development Plan
Outlines strategies and spatial concepts for future development

PART 1 Background and Description

1. Introduction

The Tahunanui Reserve is a significant asset for Nelson City in terms of the recreational, amenity landscape and ecological values it provides for the people of the city and region. The Reserve attracts many visitors, and this brings significant economic benefits to the region and city.

The name, Tahunanui Reserve refers to the area recognised as the area in public ownership. At present the area is not a gazetted Reserve under the Reserves Act 1977. For the purposes of this document the area will be referred to as 'Tahunanui Reserve' or 'the Reserve', however in using these names it is acknowledged that the area has no formal Reserve status under the Reserves Act.

2. Location and Legal Description

The Tahunanui Reserve is a triangular site, covering 92.6 ha, located between the Waimea inlet and the residential/commercial suburb of Tahunanui. The eastern end of the Reserve adjoins SH 6 and is 4 km southwest of Nelson City centre.

Most of the land is held under two titles each of which is subject to separate trusts. These two trusts have guided the use and administration of the Reserve to date. (Figure 1).

Tahunanui Reserve Legal Description	
Lot 1 DP 7075	Land vested in NCC Pursuant to section 24, Recreation and other Land Act 1947, and held in trust since then for recreation purposes.
Lot 2,4,6, 7 DP 7075	Purchased by the city of Nelson from the Green estate in 1900 and held in trust 'for and be ever used as pleasure grounds or for any other purpose of enjoyment or recreation' since 1910 (Deed Poll registered under No 36433). (Appendix 3)
Lot 3 DP7075	Owned by NCC Since 1967

The Reserve's seaward boundary is defined by the mean high water mark (MHWM) along the front beach and within the back beach embayment. This boundary will move as accretion and erosion occurs. Land below MWHM is not owned by NCC and as such, the Management Plan can not have jurisdiction over these areas. The Inland boundary of the reserve is defined by surveyed land tile boundaries.

Six iwi in Te tau ihu o te Waka a Maui (the top of the South Island) have mana whenua in Whakatu (Nelson). These iwi have a seabed and foreshore claim for this area currently lodged with the Maori Land Court.

3. Land Status

At present the Tahunanui Reserve is not a reserve under the Reserves Act 1977, however NCC is considering gazetting it as a Recreation Reserve, to give it long-term protection.

Existing status under the Trust Deeds
Most of the land is held in trust for the purposes of public recreation (see Appendix 3) While this gives the land a measure of protection, in that the land has to be held 'for ever' in trust by NCC, the terms of the trust are open to interpretation by successive councils.

Existing status under the Proposed Nelson Resource Management Plan (NRMP)
Under the Proposed Nelson Resource Management Plan (NRMP),most of the land is zoned Open Space, with a small portion zoned Suburban Commercial in the eastern corner. (see Figure 1). While this zoning provides clear guidelines as to the permitted activities and use of the land, these guidelines are very broad and are subject to change, particularly in differing political climates.

Reserves Act 1977
If the land is gazetted under the Reserves Act (the Act) it gives it long term protection under the legislation specifically focused on the provision of public reserve land. This would be an extra level of protection over and above the trust deeds and the NRMP, which would still remain in place.

One of the principal benefits of Reserves Act status, is that in most cases a management plan is required and this gives much more detailed and site specific guidance than either the terms of the trust or the NRMP.

All Reserves gazetted under the Act (except Local Purpose Reserves) are required to have a management plan (prescribed in the Act). Given that Tahunanui Reserve may be gazetted in the future, the preparation of the Tahunanui Management Plan follows the process of plan preparation prescribed in accordance with the Reserves Act 1977.

A reserve can be gazetted under various classifications. The modified condition of the site means that the Reserve would not be a candidate for classification as a nature reserve, scientific reserve or scenic reserve but suitable classification could be a recreation reserve. This classification provides for public recreation, access and the protection of the natural environment, including protection and management of indigenous flora, fauna and wildlife.

Management Plan Boundaries
If the Reserve is gazetted under the Reserves Act 1977 the Tahunanui Management Plan will have jurisdiction over the gazetted land which is owned by the NCC.

The Rocks Road car park functions as part of the Reserve however does not lie completely within the Reserve title boundaries. NCC investigated obtaining title to the land it did not own in 1999, but decided that no further action be taken[1].

The foreshore and beach embayment which lies below Mean High Water Mark will not fall under the jurisdiction of the Management Plan. This area however may be subject to bylaws under the Local Government Act 2002.

In addition the Foreshore and Seabed Bill currently being considered by Parliament relates solely to the marine area below mean high water spring (MHWS) tide mark. If this bill if passed it's provisions will override any policies within this plan that relate to the small area of land between the Mean High Water Spring tide mark and the Mean High Water mark.

4. Existing Statutory Framework

4.1 Resource Management Act 1990

Most of the site is zoned Open Space Recreation under the Proposed Nelson Resource Management Plan. A small triangle of land at the eastern end of the site is zoned Suburban Commercial. The land bounding the south of the site is zoned residential with a smaller section zoned Suburban Commercial at the eastern end; the remainder of the site is bounded by the coast. (See figure 1)

The Open Space Recreation zoning allows for a range of permitted activities, within the Recreation Schedule, which is summarised in Appendix 4. It also outlines some of the relevant permitted activity standards.

[1] NCC Report No 4305, File Ref: SR 0509:1.3/40. 5 July 1999.

The Coastal Environment Overlay which applies to the entire site, does not impose specific rules, rather advises that the natural character of coastal environment is of significance and is to be taken into account should resource consent be required.

Within the Coastal Marine Area (CMA) (which comprises tidal water and foreshore, dunes, beaches, area of coastal vegetation and animals, and coastal waters including estuaries) a range of activities are permitted, subject to meeting specified standards. The Marine Area of Significant Conservation Value (ASCV) overlay provides no specific rules, rather advises that consideration will be given to the nature of the activity and its effect on values associated with the site.

The Regional Policy Statement and NZ Coastal Policy Statement provide policies guiding management and use of the coast as opposed to rules.

In addition Designation DAA 3 within NRMP establishes a protection envelope that covers an area of land and airspace where obstacles (trees, buildings, waterborne craft or structures) are restricted in height to protect the flight path for the airport. This designation affects the height of trees and other structures within the Motor Camp and central part of the reserve and the height and location of activities such as kite surfing on the front beach.

4.2 Local Government Act 2002

The Local Government Act empowers Local Authorities to make bylaws. A bylaw is a rule or regulation made by a local authority that affects the public, which orders something to be done, or in some cases, something not to be done. It provides penalties for not complying, including fines imposed by a District Court. Bylaws under the Local Government Act are able to apply to any public place in which the local authority controls or manages. NCC is a Unitary Authority, and as such has greater jurisdiction over areas outside the Reserve boundary such as the intertidal area below MHWM along the front beach and in the back beach embayment. Bylaws may be used as a method to control certain activities and implementation of management plan policies within the intertidal area adjacent to the Reserve.

5. Site Description

5.1 Landform and Climate

The Tahunanui Reserve lies between the coastal cliffs of the Port Hills and the Waimea inlet. The Reserve is composed of four basic landforms; foreshore/beach, dunes, back beach embayment, and the flat developed areas of land. (Figure 2)

Tahunanui Beach faces north and is backed by a band of sand dunes. The band of dunes become progressively wider and the size of dunes increase from the Rocks Road end of the beach to the Blind Channel end of the beach. The foreshore area at the northwest corner of the site includes the sand spit. The back beach embayment is subject to tidal flushing and provides a large open area of hard sandy surface. The remainder of the site, encompassing the more developed areas is relatively flat.

Tahunanui Reserve is located on a recently formed and ever changing coastal landform. Much of the beach and sand dunes present today have been formed since 1909, and coastal processes of wave action and wind will ensure the landform keeps changing.

The Reserve, developed on a sand and gravel base, has no topsoil, is free draining and dries out quickly. A high saline water table is evident especially under the sports fields where saline conditions and winter frosts have limited the establishment of trees in the area.

Human modifications have altered the natural topography. Sand dunes, have been levelled in several places to develop the motor camp, Hounsell Circle carpark and during World War II and area in the vicinity of the roller skate rink, was flattened for the installation of an anti-aircraft battery. The sports fields were formed on dunes and sand flats.

Nelson's warm dry summers, mild winters and high average sunshine hours contribute to the year-round appeal of Tahunanui Reserve to locals and visitors. Nelson has less wind than many urban centres with north-northeast winds prevailing and its temperature is often moderated by sea breezes.

5.2 Coastal Processes Deposition and Erosion

Tahunanui Reserve has been developed on a recently formed and still dynamic coastal landform composed of shifting sand. The coastal dynamics that created the landform will continue to reshape it through the actions of seawater and coastal winds eroding and depositing sand. The changing coastal dynamics of Tahunanui has a long and documented history that has been collated and summarised in (Appendix 5).

The underlying structure of the Tahunanui area is formed from a series of beach ridges of marine gravel and sand, which have progressively accumulated in a northerly direction from the south Tahunanui area over the last 6500 years.

The landform underlying most of the Reserve is barely 100 years old. A major shift of the Waimea channel in the 1870s resulted in the accumulation of sand that now forms the majority of the site. The land

underlying the south-eastern corner of the Reserve, where the Nightingale Library Memorial is situated, is formed on a gravel beach base.

Erosion and accretion are natural coastal processes. Erosion has been a local issue here since the 1950s. Given the dynamic nature of the beach, erosion will continue to be part of the coastal character of Tahunanui.

Erosion trends today
The Blind Channel has been moving east since the 1850's, and continues the trend today at a rate of 3.0m per year. The movement of the channel has prompted construction of the rock armour protection of the western end of the camping ground in 2003.

Erosion at the eastern end of the beach is being addressed by NCC on two fronts:
1)Relocation of the storm water outlet via a diversion pipe under the Rocks Road car park is planned for early 2004 along with a sand re-nourishment programme.
2) The Coast Care programme[2] has been established on the fore-dunes of the eastern part of the beach. The programme aims to prevent trampling and enhance natural recovery process of the dunes by increasing the sand accretion through the construction of sand trapping barriers and planting suitable local native sand binding species.

Future changes in beach and dunes are difficult to predict; currently erosion is occurring in several places. The only certainty is that there will be continual coastal change

5.3 Ecology

Ecological Significance
There are two distinct areas of ecological value within the site

- The back beach embayment which includes the high shore embayment (also known as the Back Beach) has nationally significant values.
- The foreshore/dune systems are of local importance within the Nelson Tasman area.

The remainder of the site has lower ecological value, due to the high proportion of exotic plant species and developed land. There are opportunities to enrich the ecological health of the entire site.

[2] Coast Care is a community based programme which aims to protect the natural coastal environment and enhance the beach amenity and dune function. Public education and informative signage are also an integral part of the coast care programme.

The Waimea Estuary is recognised as an Area of Conservation Significance[3] on account of its high diversity of bird and fish species, and nationally rare vegetation types. The estuary is also recognised internationally for its importance for four species of shore bird[4]. The Wildlife Service ranked the Waimea Estuary as a wildlife habitat of "outstanding" value, especially for waders and herons; egrets and spoonbills; and for rails, crakes and bitterns[5]. Within the estuary, the Back Beach is noted as the southernmost limit for the estuarine tussock[6] and a rare endemic estuarine beetle, referred to locally as the Back Beach Beetle[7]. The Department of Conservation's 1990 Report on the Ecology of Waimea Inlet, Nelson, lists the high-shore embayment and Back Beach as one of ten sites recommended for protection for wildlife reserve purposes and notes that it contains the only area of dunes in the Waimea Estuary not planted in pine trees.

Back Beach Embayment

The high shore embayment is the Intertidal area on the north side of the embayment known as the Back Beach. It is an unusual landform with flushing by seawater occurring only on large high tides and only for short periods. The back beach supports salt marsh herb field and rushland-reedland[8]. The higher parts and the margins of the Back Beach are vegetated by mixed plantings of native and exotic trees and shrubs.

The saltmarsh herbfields, dominated by glasswort, provide habitat for the rare endemic 'Back Beach Beetle'. The Back Beach Beetle is confined to sparsely vegetated areas and adjacent bare sand on loose sandy sediments rather than consolidated sand or muddy sediment). Although it is believed to have been more widespread in the Waimea Estuary in the past, this is now its only know location. The locally rare estuarine tussock, at its southernmost limit, is found on sandier, drier portions of the embayment. With development of the Nelson shorelines both these species are now isolated from other potential habitats, and are therefore more susceptible to effects of habitat degradation.

The extent of tidal flushing of the embayment is largely controlled by beach dynamics at the mouth, and by encroachment of small sand hummocks into the embayment. The southern and eastern portions of the embayment (dominated by a deep channel) have a muddier substrate, probably indicating siltation from surrounding land uses. Further siltation, dune encroachment or impediment at the mouth of the inlet will contribute to its drying and, ultimately, reduction of saltmarsh habitat essential for the rare species.

[3] Nelson City Council Recreation, Conservation and Landscape Study, 1993

[4] Pied Oystercatcher, Variable Oystercatcher, Wrybill and Bar Tailed Godwit in Schuckard 2002

[5] in Walker 1987

[6] *Stipa stipoides*

[7] *Zecillenus tillyardi*

[8] Dominated by *Juncus maritimus, Leptocarpus similis* and *Schoenoplectus pungens*.

The cumulative effect of human activity has been significant. A former car race track in the centre of the embayment has destroyed some of the saltmarsh herbfield and rushland and left a large rectangular strip of consolidated sand that is only slowly revegetating or being covered by drifting sand. Other human impacts and threats to the embayment ecology include a reclamation for the development of a BMX track, trampling of herbfields and estuarine invertebrates by walkers (a large number of whom cross from the motor camp to the beach) and cyclists, disturbance of wildlife by dogs, and periodic poor quality discharges of water from Modellers pond.

The main ecological values for this area now are as habitat for plant species and terrestrial or inter-tidal invertebrates and estuarine processes.

Foreshore Dunes
The dunes, northern beach foreshore and the sand spit are dynamic environments providing intertidal habitat for seabirds and waders, and habitat for dune invertebrates. The dune system is an important landform and ecological community in the Nelson Region as intact dune systems are now nearly extinct in the NCC area[9]. The dunes are covered by a mixture of marram grass and other exotic species which have been planted and/or invaded the area as the dunes developed. Recent, foredune planting has introduced the native spinifex and pingao. Conflicts between birds and recreational uses, including dog-walking, continue to be the main threat to the current foreshore ecology, with fire an ongoing threat to dune habitat.

5.4 Vegetation

The Reserve's vegetation is comprised of an eclectic mixture of native and exotic species which has developed in response to sand stabilisation and recreational needs over the years.

The presence of coastal dune species such as marram grass have played an integral part in the establishment of the dunes. Pine trees at the Blind Channel end of the beach were planted to stabilise the sand dunes. The front of the dunes are predominantly covered with marram grass, south African ice plant and lupin with a mixture of ngaio, *Acacia* spp, eucalyptus, pohutukawa, lagunaria, akeake, flax, tree lucerne on the back of the dunes. Recent Coast Care plantings of pingao on the fore dunes at the eastern end of the beach have established well.

Large scale trees within the site are limited to a few species. Pines planted in the sand dunes at the western end of the site and scattered behind the main beach are reaching the end of their lives and in some cases becoming a potential hazard. Phoenix palms and Norfolk Island pines, with their prominent

[9] NCC/ DoC, *Living Heritage, Growing Native Plants in Nelson*

forms, are located in the more developed areas near car parks and roads around Bisley Walk and Hounsell Circle.

A wide variety of shrub and tree species have been planted throughout the more developed parts of the Reserve especially near car parks, built facilities and roads. Species include, kowhai, pohutukawa, lagunaria, *Olearia,* agapanthus *Coprosma spp*. and karaka

The fringes of the embayment are predominantly vegetated in native species which have established naturally and are adapted to the conditions, although growth of planted exotics and natives along the back beach are now overshadowing the saltmarsh herbfields and choking the embayment fingers with vegetation and fallen branches.

Much of the site is maintained as mown grass. The largest area of which is the playing fields. The sandy base requires that the fields are irrigated during the summer. There are many other variously sized areas of mown grass throughout the site used for picnics, passive recreation and parking.

The species composition of the site has little locally indigenous character. Many of the existing species have been selected for their suitability to the sandy soils and coastal climate, high water table and frosty winter conditions, and are an assorted mixture from many parts of the world.

5.5 Recreational Uses

The Tahunanui Beach is a major summer attraction and is known nationally as an icon of Nelson. Although the Reserve is used all year, summer is the peak time especially during the holiday period from late December to mid February. (Figure 2)

Informal recreation is the most common activity and includes pursuits which do not require specialist facilities, e.g. swimming, walking, running, sitting, picnicking and dog walking. People who use the Reserve for informal recreation generally value it for its open space and natural characteristics.

The beach is also used for adventure sporting activities such as windsurfing, kite windsurfing and the occasional land yacht.

The Reserve offers a wide range of non-commercial sporting and play facilities for more structured recreational pursuits, such as playing fields, play equipment, and tennis courts etc. Most of these facilities are owned and maintained by NCC and are located in the eastern half of the Reserve.

There are two types of commercial venture[10] operating within the Reserve.
1) Permanent facilities that are owned and operated independently, on land leased from NCC. They typically provide entertainment and educational activities such as the roller-skating rink, Tahunanui Fun Park and Natureland.

2) Short term concessionaires who typically operate during the busiest season only, and need to apply to NCC for operating licences: typically concessionaires are food and drink outlets and entertainments such as bungy trampoline.

Recreational Uses and Facilities		
Type of Facility	**Activity**	**Commercial Operations on leased NCC land.**
Informal recreation	Walking Sitting Swimming Dog walking Fishing	
Sports	Kite surfing Windsurfing BMX Track Roller-skating Rink Tennis Petanque Beach volleyball Soccer Rugby Touch rugby	✔
Play Equipment	Lions play area Skate board half pipe	
Entertainment/education	Entertainment Concessionaires Tahunanui Fun Park Megaslide	✔ (Require operating licence) ✔

[10] 'Commercial operations' for the purposes of the Management plan are those operations which charge for entry/ and or goods and services such as recreational entertainment activities, food and drink and other recreational services.

Recreational Uses and Facilities		
Type of Facility	**Activity**	**Commercial Operations on leased NCC land.**
	Indy karts Nelson Society of Modellers Natureland	✔ ✔ ✔ ✔ ✔
Hospitality	Savannah Café Food and Refreshment Concessionaires	✔ ✔ (Require operating licence)
Community facilities	Nightingale Library Plunket rooms Broadcasting Corporation transmitter	
Accommodation	Camping Ground	✔

Sports Fields
The sports fields are visually dominant within the Reserve and form a large open space area between the beach and the residential and commercial area along the south side of Beach Road. There are two areas of sports fields; the larger portion to the east is separated, from the smaller area at the western end, by Waikare Street.

The sports fields are primarily used for organised sport in the evenings and weekends. When not in formal use they are also used a little as informal recreational open space and as a pedestrian route between Beach Road and the camping ground and Tahunanui Beach. The fields are also used occasionally as a venue for festivals and outdoor events.

The fields are well used by the various sports codes who consider that the Tahunanui fields with their sandy base are the best sports fields in the city. Touch rugby players especially value the central location and proximity to the beach and bars.

Irrigation of the fields is funded and managed by NCC. The saline water table close to the surface has made it difficult to establish trees on the margins of the fields.

The rugby club owns and maintains most of the field lighting.

Sports Fields	No of Fields	Season	
Rugby	2	2 evenings and Saturday	March – Mid Sept
League – (for the first part of the winter season this ground is used as a senior soccer ground)	1	Saturday	August – End Sept
Touch rugby	11	3 evenings mid week	October- End Feb
Soccer Junior	2 junior, 1 intermediate	Saturday	Start April – Mid Sept
Soccer Senior (one of the grounds is used for the last part of the winter season for League)	2	Saturday+ practice 2 evenings	Start April – Mid Sept

Eastern Corner of the Reserve
This small triangular shaped area beside SH6, is zoned Commercial under the NRMP. This part of the Reserve is included in the Tahunanui Structure Plan area, as a site to be developed as a transition zone between the urban Tahunanui Village and the open space of the Reserve. It will have a community focus and may also include a new entrance road alignment into the Reserve.

Nightingale Library Memorial was built in 1978 and serves as a community library with a focus on recreational reading material. A community meeting room and public toilets are also located in the building. The Tahunanui Plunket rooms are located in a separate building nearby on land leased from NCC (which are currently considering acquisition of the building, to be used as a community police base.)

Tahunanui Beach Motor Camp
The motor camp was established in 1937 and is one the largest in the southern hemisphere, accommodating 130,000 people each year. The peak season is confined to several weeks over summer. Most of the built facilities including accommodation units, camping facilities and conference centre are concentrated at the eastern end. The western portion is largely unused for all but the busiest summer period.

The camp is leased from the NCC and operates as an incorporated society. Being part of the Tahunanui Reserve, the camping ground activities must comply with the 1910 trust deed's intent of recreational use.

Although the majority of visitors to the camp are temporary holidaymakers, the camp has 37 sites for 'permanents' and 150 sites for 'semi-permanents' in the off-season between January and November.

Camp visitors use Tahunanui Reserve for informal recreation and entertainment activities. Pedestrian links from the motor camp to the beach/Reserve and Tahunanui Village are important as many people walk to

holiday activities and the beach using formal footpaths, and unformed routes across the playing fields and Back Beach Embayment.

5.6 History

The Reserve's development history is summarised in Appendix 5.

Maori used this area at the entrance to the Waimea Inlet and Nelson Haven extensively for collection of seafood. A listed archaeological site[11] exists in the vicinity of the Tahunanui Village. A former kainga (or village) the site is generally referred to as either "Tahunanui" or "Tātahi". Archaeological evidence suggests that the site is from Archaic times with carbon dating giving an indicative figure of AD1360 ± 70 years. It appears the site was primarily used for the manufacture of fishing gear and stone implements.

The history of the Reserve as a recreational area is entwined with the changing and growing landform. As dry land was gradually formed, from the coastal process of sand accretion, the Reserve became progressively more developed as a recreational space. The Reserve had become a popular destination by 1895 and in 1910 the first parcel of land was designated as a 'Reserve' with a further land vested in the Council in 1947.Development of facilities under various management bodies has continued ever since.

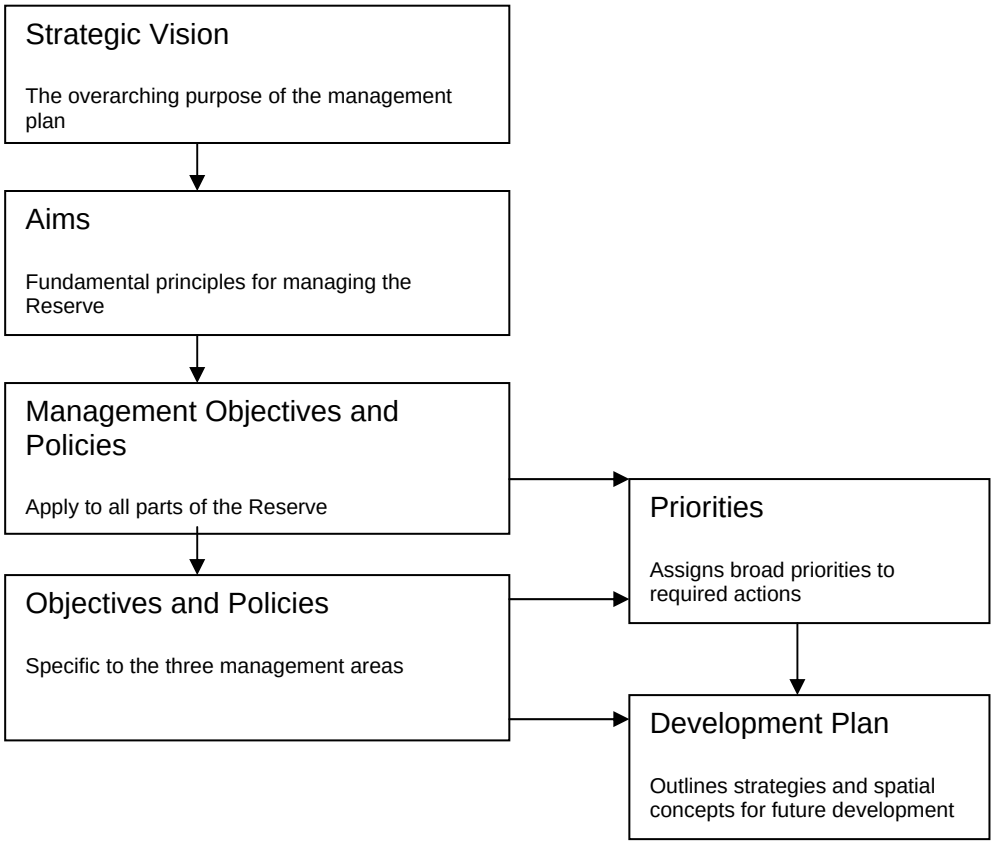
Pressure for more development persists, and needs to be managed consistently. This Management Plan will provide a clear set of management objectives to guide the future development of the Reserve.

[11] New Zealand Archaeological Association Site Number O27/21

Timeline of Reserve Development	
1899-1910	NCC negotiations with the Green Estate to purchase land
1909	Title transferred to City of Nelson
1910	Declaration of trust made the land purchased to provide for health amusement and instruction of the inhabitants of the city of Nelson.
1910	Tahuna Progressive Association founded, erection of first changing and shelter sheds, first trees planted.
1912	Trees planted and first playing field developed.
1925-26	Tahunanui Sands Association formed
1923-1938	Hounsell Circle, tennis courts, Modeller's Pond formed
1937	Motor Camp established
1954	Roller skate rink constructed
1960's	Bisley Walk, Lions' Play area Natureland formed
1969	Mini golf established
1959	Modeller's pond restored and model railway begun.
1978	Nightingale Library Memorial built
1980s	Commercial developments established
1981	BMX track laid out
1983	Bumper boats began.
1986	Hydro slide and Indy 500 opened.
2000	Irrigation installed in sports fields

PART 2 Strategic Vision, Aims, Objectives, Policies and Priorities.

This part of the Management Plan has a structured hierarchy; from the overarching vision and aims to the more specific objectives and policies which define how the reserve is to be managed to achieve the long term vision and aims.



Strategic Vision

The Tahunanui Reserve is highly appreciated locally and regionally and nationally for its coastal environment and recreational opportunities. The Strategic Vision is the **statement of intent**, for the Reserve and serves as the reference point for all of the objectives and policies in the Management Plan.

The strategic vision is that:

Tahunanui Reserve is managed to provide for recreational activities appropriate to the coastal landscape values of the reserve while maintaining and enhancing those values.

Aims

In order to realise the Strategic Vision the following aims must be achieved. They apply to the entire Reserve and fall into four broad areas:

Recreation

Appropriate open spaces and facilities are provided for a wide range of formal[12] and informal[13] recreational activities, and are managed to minimise conflicts between users and to avoid degradation of natural ecosystems and processes.

Natural Environment

The natural character and ecological health[14] of the Reserve is protected, enhanced and appreciated by the community.

Urban Environment

The transitional edge adjacent to the urban development is developed sympathetically with the environment and with a community focus.

Management

Management structures enable appropriate site specific development and activities which take into account the landscape character of the Reserve.

[12] Formal recreation:- organised sports or recreation which requires specialist equipment or built facilities.
[13] Informal recreation: –recreational activities such as walking, which can be spontaneous and do not require specialised facilities.
[14] Ecological health: an ecosystem which is stable and sustainable, maintaining organisation and autonomy over time, and is resilient to stress. Ecosystem health can be assessed using measures of resilience, vigour and organisation.

Management Objectives and Policies.

The objectives and policies of the Management Plan define how the Reserve will be managed in the short and long term.

Some issues can be addressed by objectives and policies on a Reserve-wide basis. However some objectives and policies may need to be site specific. i.e. the more 'natural' end of the Reserve will need to be managed in a different way to the more 'developed' eastern end.

For management purposes therefore, three **Management Areas** have been identified**,** based on the existing intrinsic natural and recreational values of the Reserve. **The management areas are defined as:**

- The Coastal Management Area.
- The Inland Management Area.
- The Motor Camp Management Area.

(see Figure 3)

The Management Plan objectives and policies are presented in a tabular format to provide an easy cross reference between background information and issues, objectives and policies, and also assigns a priority for implementing those policies where NCC needs to take action.

Priorities for Action

Many of the policies require NCC to action them. Of the policies that do require action, some have a higher priority for action, as they need to be put in place to enable other policies to be implemented. Some policies do not necessarily require NCC to be proactive, being put in place to provide guidance when and if a situation arises, e.g. an application for a permanent commercial operation is received. Priorities do not need to be assigned to these policies

Short term priorities include those where the legal status of the Reserve needs clarifying, where an issue needs resolving urgently, where the action is easy to implement or where other policies depend on implementing the policy.

Medium term priorities include those where other policies must be implemented first or where resources do not permit immediate action, but an issue needs to be resolved.

Long term priorities are long Term objectives, or an end state where the reserve management is ultimately heading

1.0 All Management Areas			
Issues	**Objectives**	**Policies**	**Priorities for Action**
1.1 Legal and Statutory The Reserve has no formal long-term protection under the Reserves Act 1977. Land that NCC does not own and have title over cannot be designated Reserve status under the Reserves Act 1977 or subject to the jurisdiction of the Tahunanui Reserve Management Plan.	To formalise NCC jurisdiction over the land to be administered under the Management Plan. To gazette the Tahunanui Reserve as a Recreational Reserve under the Reserves Act 1977.	1.1.1 Recommend to Council that the process to gazetting the Tahunanui Reserve as a Recreation Reserve under the Reserves Act 1977 commence immediately. 1.1.2 Identify all land to be within the Reserve and ensure the Reserve boundaries are defined to accommodate any future movements of the coastline.	Short Term Short Term

1.0 All Management Areas

Issues	Objectives	Policies	Priorities for Action
1.2 Coastal Erosion It is recognised that the dynamic nature of the beach and coastal dune system will continue to change, and that while some measures can be taken to manage and plan for coastal erosion it can not always be controlled. The effects of erosion are being managed at the eastern end of the front beach, through the proposed diversion of the culvert beside the Rocks Road car park and the Coast Care programme to protect and enhance the fore dunes. There are no hard protection works planned for the western end of the beach, north of the embayment, even though car parks at the west end of the Reserve are threatened by the eastward migration of Blind Channel. Armour protection works are being constructed at the west end of the motor camp.	To manage and plan for the effects of coastal erosion and enhance the natural healing of the fore-dunes	1.2.1 Continue to monitor the effects of coastal erosion: • to predict trends and identify areas and assets, which are potentially threatened. • To assess whether protection works are needed. 1.2.2 Limit investment in existing and new assets on potentially threatened sites. 1.2.3 The Coast Care programme shall continue on an ongoing basis along the whole beach, particularly in the sections of the beach fore-dunes that are affected by dune erosion. 1.2.4 Car parks at the western end that are threatened by erosion will be closed as necessary and structures removed, rather than constructing protection works. 1.2.5 Consider the construction of further protection works in the Rocks Road Car Park Area, if existing measures are unsuccessful. 1.2.6 Consider hard protection works along the eastern beach and fore-dunes only if a number of significant assets such as the car park, playing fields and built facilities are threatened.	

1.0 All Management Areas			
Issues	**Objectives**	**Policies**	**Priorities for Action**
1.2 Coastal Erosion (Continued) The scale of the threat is unpredictable; although long-term trends are relatively uniform, short duration events can cause major changes. Wind erosion may be exacerbated by air turbulence caused by the tall pines and marram grass. Human activities such as informal access routes and play also contributes to the erosion in the dunes	To reduce the adverse effects of activities that exacerbate dune erosion	1.2.7 Further protection at the western end of the camping ground may be constructed by the Tahunanui Beach Motor Camp management with approval from NCC. 1.2.8 Fences or boardwalks shall be constructed to limit points of pedestrian access through the dunes to the beach. 1.2.9 Prohibit public motorised vehicle access from all parts of the Coastal Management Area except on formed roads and car parks. 1.2.10 Inform and educate people using the reserve about coastal erosion and what they can do to help (See Signage and interpretation.)	Short Term

1.0 All Management Areas			
Issues	**Objectives**	**Policies**	**Priorities for Action**
1.3 Permanent Commercial Recreational Operations Generally, the commercial facilities rely on the busy summer season for viability, when they are open for regular hours, but for the rest of the year they open infrequently. Given the central location and coastal open space nature of the Reserve the appropriateness of having large structures and facilities that are only viable for a short summer season is questioned. Most of the permanent commercial operations are centrally located in the Reserve, creating a hub of commercial activity which is well patronised for a short period of a few weeks in the summer and for the rest of the year is not well used.	To provide for commercial facilities appropriate to the coastal Reserve for multi season use. To control the nature, scale, number and operation of existing and new commercial operations. To rationalise the location of commercial operations within the Reserve by grouping similar commercial activities together	1.3.1 Land will not be leased for commercial purposes in the Coastal Management Area. 1.3.2 All existing commercial recreational operations must meet the assessment criteria set out in Appendix 6 when leases are renewed, or at Council discretion, be allowed to trade for one more term of the current lease before having to meet the criteria. 1.3.3 All proposed commercial recreational operations must satisfy the assessment criteria set out in Appendix 6 to obtain a lease. 1.3.4 Land within the Motor Camp Management Area may be leased for commercial recreational activities on application from the Motor Camp administration provided the commercial operation meets the assessment criteria set out in Appendix 6.	
1.4 Lease Agreements The commercial operators that lease land from NCC operate independently of each other and there is little co-ordination of marketing or opening times between operators. An improved strategy is needed for the management of leases and for communication between NCC and all leaseholders.	To streamline and clarify the lease management process To facilitate effective communication between leaseholders and NCC as well as between leaseholders and encourage their mutual co-operation in running their businesses.	1.4.1 Develop a management process, which defines clearly the process of lease negotiation and management, and sets up effective communication and co-ordination between NCC and individual leaseholders. 1.4.2 Initiate and take part in regular meetings between leaseholders to co-ordinate their business operations.	Short Term Short Term

1.0 All Management Areas			
Issues	**Objectives**	**Policies**	**Priorities for Action**
1.5 Short Term Concessionaires Short term concessionaires require a licence from NCC to operate. Typically these operations are food and drink outlets and entertainment operations that only trade during the busiest times of the year. Many apply for a licence but only trade for a small proportion of the licensed time. The conditions under which licences are granted to concessionaires require only that the operation be 'suitable for family recreation' and there is no established limit on the numbers or viability of traders.	To provide for short term concessionaires to operate in the Reserve which are appropriate to the coastal locality and recreational needs of visitors.	1.5.1 Short term concessionaires must satisfy the assessment criteria set out in Appendix 6 to obtain a trading licence.	

1.0 All Management Areas				
Issues	**Objectives**	**Policies**		**Priorities for Action**
1.6 Vegetation Vegetation serves numerous functions throughout the Reserve including ecological, visual amenity, shade, shelter and spatial definition. The existing vegetation structure could be enhanced to improve the visual appeal and function of all areas of the Reserve. The particular issues and requirements are set out in each management area.	To manage existing and future vegetation to provide a coherent framework for the entire Reserve while also responding to different site conditions and uses across the site.	1.6.1	Develop a site-wide planting strategy which considers all vegetation requirements for each/all of the management areas and seeks to enhance the landscape and ecological qualities of each area. The planting strategy will identify areas to be planted, vegetation to be removed, recommend species and maintenance and indicate timeframes.	Short Term
		1.6.2	Supplement the existing vegetation to enhance recreational amenity, visual attractiveness, public safety and ecological values. The planting strategy shall be considered on a site wide basis.	Short Term
Vegetation close to buildings may present a potential fire hazard to the reserve infrastructure and leased facilities. Defensible space in relation to fire safety is only required for areas zoned Rural in the NRMP, but any vegetated area should be managed as a potential hazard.	To reduce the risk of fire in relation to built structures within the Reserve.	1.6.3	Plant only low flammability plant species[15] within 10 m of buildings.	Medium Term
		1.6.4	Remove existing dead and dry vegetation adjacent to buildings and/or replace with low flammability species.	
Whakatu Maori have traditionally harvested resources such as flax and pingao from Tasman Bay for weaving and construction of tukutuku panels. There may be future demand from Maori to undertake cultural harvest of these or other native plant species from within the reserve	To ensure the reserve vegetation meets other vegetation policies and objectives while consideration is given to any Maori cultural harvest requests	1.6.5	To work with iwi to provide for cultural harvest of plant materials as necessary ,while ensuring this does not adversely affect the function, amenity value and purpose of the plantings.	Short Term

[15] A selection of Low flammability species, suitable for this site are included in the plant list in Appendix 7

1.0 All Management Areas			
Issues	**Objectives**	**Policies**	**Priorities for Action**
1.7 Plant and Animal Pests Plant pests reduce the ability of native and amenity plants to establish and regenerate, and can cause problems to reserve users Animal pests such as rabbits and hares in particular can also have a severe impact on plantings, and increase erosion and dune instability if their populations are allowed to reach high levels. Insect pests such as wasps can also detract from the recreational enjoyment of the Reserve.	To undertake sufficient control and management of plant and animal pests to protection vegetation and other reserve values	1.7.1 Remove pest plant species on a regular basis as part of ongoing vegetation management. 1.7.2 Management animal pests to protect vegetation and other reserve values	Short – Medium Term Short – Medium Term

1.0 All Management Areas

Issues	Objectives	Policies	Priorities for Action
1.8 Roads, Footpaths and Access The road and footpath networks throughout the site have been developed on an ad hoc basis and lack hierarchy and logic Vehicle Access Generally the roads are wider than they need to be for the average volume of traffic. Bisley Walk and Hounsell Circle were once connected, however this resulted in the Reserve roads being used as a 'race track' and the two areas were separated. This configuration did not improve the internal circulation patterns which forces traffic wishing to go from one end of the Reserve to the other, to use SH6. Options for improving or relocating the entrance at SH6 need to be further developed in conjunction with improving traffic flow on SH 6 and connecting the Tahunanui Commercial area with the reserve. This will be considered in association with the Tahunanui Structure Plan.	To develop an efficient logical and safe vehicle circulation system within the Reserve.	1.8.1 Define a hierarchy of roads with carriageway widths kept to the minimum needed for average predicted traffic volumes. 1.8.2 Consider Reserve vehicle access options in conjunction with the Tahunanui Structure Plan: • Reconfigure the connection to the eastern end of the reserve in accordance with the Structure Plan. • Reduce the dominance of Reserve's car parks and access road on its SH6 frontage, by developing planted buffer. • Link vehicle access between Bisley Walk and Hounsell Circle and provide traffic calming structures • Rationalise the road system which encircles Natureland to provide for two way traffic as well as a direct, safe pedestrian access route to the facility.	Short-Medium Term Short-Medium Term

1.0 All Management Areas

Issues	Objectives	Policies		Priorities for Action
Pedestrian Routes Pedestrian Routes within the Reserve are not always obvious or have not been developed where needed. Safety is compromised where pedestrians are forced to use or cross the roadway.	To develop and maintain a network of safe logical pedestrian circuits throughout the Reserve.	1.8.3	Develop an informal pathway behind the dunes that is suitable for baby buggies to link the playground and the western car parks.	Short Term
Paths and trails are required to link destinations within the site and link the Reserve to path networks adjoining the site.	To minimise pedestrian damage to salt marsh vegetation and the fore-dunes by developing formed paths on main walking routes and encouraging people to use these.	1.8.4	Provide direct pedestrian routes between the Motor Camp and beach/Reserve in addition to maintaining primary connection past BMX track and Modellers Pond.	Medium Term
In some areas where there is no formed access to the beach through the dunes, informal tracks exacerbate dune erosion.		1.8.5	Develop 2 additional boardwalks/ fenced walking routes through the dunes to the beach in the vicinity of the roller skating rink.	Medium Term
		1.8.6	Develop a clearly defined route that circumnavigates the Back Beach embayment above the spring high tide mark.	Medium Term
		1.8.7	Develop a single low-impact marked route across the embayment following an existing desire line between the motor camp and the beach.	Medium Term
		1.8.8	Prevent proliferation of tracks, especially where it will damage sensitive estuarine vegetation; • ensure the track network connects all popular destinations with direct, well formed paths • replant exposed areas where required	Short Term
Wheelchair access to the beach is difficult, however the formalised boardwalks through the dunes do provide access currently.	To provide for disabled access to the beach where possible within the pedestrian circulation network.	1.8.9	Provide wheelchair beach access at the eastern end of the beach, potentially via the proposed access way for small watercraft. (See 2.6.1)	Medium Term

1.0 All Management Areas			
Issues	**Objectives**	**Policies**	**Priorities for Action**
1.9 Car parks The existing car parking is more than adequate to cope with the demand for all but the busiest days of the year. At peak times overflow parking is accommodated on adjacent grassed areas. The large expanses of chip seal car park, that are unused for much of the time, conflict with the beach character of the site.	To provide adequate formed parking space for average use and managed overflow during peak periods. To minimise the visual impact of large parking areas.	1.9.1 Review the required number and location of formed car parks taking into account: • the proposed changes in vehicle circulation (see 1.8.2 new road layout). • The location of popular destinations and their visitor numbers in the Reserve • The relative visual sensitivity of existing and potential car parking areas. • Options to provide a combination of informal parking on grass, and formal sealed carparks 1.9.2 Develop a planting strategy to visually integrate the car parks into the wider planting structure.	Medium Term Medium Term
More shaded car parks and more access to informal parking space suitable for picnics is needed.	To provide more picnicking spaces accessible to vehicles in suitable areas.	1.9.3 Open up grassed picnic spaces for vehicles, by removing existing barriers where appropriate, provided vehicles can be contained in the permitted areas and vehicle use does not compromise pedestrian safety or damage picnic areas.	Medium Term

1.0 All Management Areas			
Issues	**Objectives**	**Policies**	**Priorities for Action**
1.10 Reserve Facilities Existing toilets and change facilities are generally well located and of adequate size. However inadequate signage means their locations are not obvious. There is demand for more water fountains and beach showers to be located near the beach access points, shaded areas with vehicle access throughout the reserve and a general demand for more picnic tables and seats.	To provide toilets and other facilities in appropriate locations to provide a safe and well serviced environment. To provide site furniture including seating and picnic tables	1.10.1 Upgrade existing and/ or invest in new facilities and site furniture to ensure that: • the number size and quality of the Reserve facilities and site furniture adequately meets the demand. • Facilities are located appropriately with regard to use and safety. • Surplus facilities are removed, relocated or redeveloped. 1.10.2 Assess condition of facilities and develop a maintenance programme. 1.10.3 Provide beach showers and water fountains at the landward end of access ways to the beach, with a minimum of two of each located within activity Areas D and A. 1.10.4 Provide lighting in the eastern end of the reserve in accordance with policy 1.16.2 1.10.5 Provide accessible seating which allows views to the sea.	Short Term Short Term Medium Term

1.0 All Management Areas			
Issues	**Objectives**	**Policies**	**Priorities for Action**
1.11 Signs and Interpretation There is a lack of, and inadequate signs within the Reserve to guide and inform visitors of the site layout, location of facilities, road and path circulation systems Information is lacking at the entrances to the Reserve about activities and facilities. What signage there is, is often poorly located, hard to read, difficult to interpret, and poorly maintained. Strategically located educational signage interpreting the natural and ecological processes of the Reserve as well as its cultural history and characteristics would enhance visitors understanding and experience of the reserve as well as raising public awareness and respect for the Reserve's history and environmental processes.	To develop consistent signage to guide visitors around the site and inform them about what they can and can't do. To provide a range of learning opportunities for visitors, including the Reserve's natural, cultural and historical characteristics and processes.	1.11.1 Develop a site wide signage strategy that specifies hierarchy, location, format, size, colour, materials and construction style for all signs. 1.11.2 Design all signs to be visible yet appropriate and sensitive to the coastal landscape character. 1.11.3 Review and amend where necessary, conditions of leases to ensure leaseholder's signs comply with the signage strategy. 1.11.4 Develop a series of appropriately located interpretation panels, along existing and proposed walking routes/paths to include representative landforms and habitats of the Reserve. 1.11.5 Interpretation signs are to be of a consistent style appropriate to the Coastal character of the Reserve. 1.11.6 The information and presentation will be appropriate and interesting for both adults and children.	Short Term Medium Term Short Term Medium Term
1.12 General Amenity Some conflicts between recreational user groups are to be expected where so many different uses occur in close proximity to each other.	To provide a safe and pleasant environment for all visitors to the Reserve.	1.12.1 Monitor user satisfaction through biennial surveys of user groups including commercial operators. A complaints record and on site observation of usage and behavior patterns. 1.12.2 Take steps as necessary to address any issues or problems revealed by monitoring.	Short Term Medium Term

1.0 All Management Areas			
Issues	**Objectives**	**Policies**	**Priorities for Action**
1.13 Rubbish The rubbish management system does not cope adequately during the peak summer season.	To maintain an effective rubbish management system with appropriate capacity for varying seasonal demand.	1.13.1 Assess year-round requirement for rubbish bins to establish seasonal demands, location, servicing frequency and sizes of bins. 1.13.2 Site rubbish bins so they are easily seen and do not detract from the visual amenity of the Reserve. 1.13.3 Discourage activities and events that introduce foreign material into the Coastal Management Area.	Short Term Medium Term

1.0 All Management Areas			
Issues	**Objectives**	**Policies**	**Priorities for Action**
1.14 Domestic Animals Dogs While dogs are generally well controlled, doggy-doo that is not removed by owners is an issue throughout the Reserve. The placement and visibility of signs to indicate areas where dogs may be let off the leash is deficient. Bags from doggy-doo bag dispensers are often removed or blown from the dispenser and litter the Reserve. Other Domestic Animals Cats and other pets are generally more difficult to control and do not require the same exercise regime as dogs. There has not historically been a significant demand for other domestic animals to be permitted in the reserve, however horses have used the embayment and Back Beach area in the past.	To provide a designated area for dogs to be exercised. To ensure Tahunanui reserve is Doggy-doo free. To ensure that the environmental and landscape values of the Reserve are not adversely affected by impacts from other domestic animals	1.14.1 Dogs will be allowed off the leash in the Coastal Management area west of the roller skating rink. Access to this area for dogs on leads to be permitted along both access roads through the Reserve from Tahunanui. 1.14.2 Inform and educate dog owners to dispose of doggy-doo responsibly, through signage and city-wide NCC publicity. 1.14.3 Locate clear signs at the entrance points to the dog exercise area and at park entrances to inform owners of about where dogs can be exercised, and their responsibilities to dispose of doggy-doo. 1.14.4 Locate bins so they are easy to see but so they do not detract from the visual amenity of the Reserve. 1.14.5 Prohibit all domestic animals, apart from dogs in the Reserve.	Short Term Short Term Medium Term Medium Term
1.15 Noise Noise created by activities in the Reserve is not currently a problem. However problems can arise, at any time, often associated with new activities or special events.	To ensure recreational enjoyment of the Reserve is not adversely affected by noise from user activities in the Reserve.	1.15.1 Monitor and control unacceptable noise in the reserve. 1.15.2 Noise levels must comply with NCC open space bylaws.	

1.0 All Management Areas

Issues	Objectives	Policies		Priorities for Action
1.16 Compliance/Law Enforcement Council by-laws empower Council to control certain activities over any open space, plantation, park or garden or ground set aside for recreation and under the control of the Council. Some of these bylaws may require updating or amending to match the Reserve Management Plan objectives and policies. The reserve is generally perceived to be a safe place, during the day, with the unlit areas perceived as being less safe at night.	To ensure that Council by-laws and the Tahunanui Reserve Management Plan objectives policies are consistent with each other. To ensure the Reserve is a safe environment for all visitors. To discourage general use of the western end of the reserve during hours of darkness by not lighting the area.	1.16.1	Ensure consistency between the Tahunanui Reserve Management Plan policies and Council by-laws.	Short Term
		1.16.2	Only the eastern end of Activity area D will be lit during the hours of darkness in accordance with. AS/NZS 1158.3.1:1999 Part 3.1: Pedestrian Area (Category P). The extent of the area to be lit will be defined in the Tahunanui Structure Plan.	Medium Term
		1.16.3	Consider and design for public safety in all new future development.	
		1.16.4	To ensure that appropriate prosecution measures are enforceable and are enforced.	Short Term
Vandalism and Hoons The occurrence of vandalism is higher during the winter months. Gates are locked at 10.30pm all year; in the winter this means there are several hours of darkness when there is unrestricted access to the Reserve. This late winter closing may be the reason for increased vandalism during the winter.	To minimise vandalism and hoons.	1.16.5	Adopt different seasonal gate closing times to restrict access during hours of darkness when facilities are not in use.	Short Term
Illegal Camping There is an unacceptable level of Illegal camping in the main car park outside the gates, predominantly campervans that are compromising the normal public use of the Reserve.	To minimise illegal camping in all areas of the Reserve.	1.16.6	Camping shall only be permitted in the Motor Camp.	Short Term
		1.16.7	Inform visitors of the location of the motor camp and the no-camping policy with clear signage.	Short Term

1.0 All Management Areas			
Issues	**Objectives**	**Policies**	**Priorities for Action**
1.17 Service Areas and Management Activities Service Area A service and storage area is currently located within the reserve. While not extensive it does take up critical space within the high use area of the reserve. A considerable contractor effort is involved in managing this reserve with the need for the provision of a service area somewhere within the reserve	To provide a service area within the reserve that meets the needs of Councils contractor while not taking up excessive valuable land area	1.17.3 Review the size and location of the existing service area with a view to relocate if necessary within the Reserve.	Medium Term
Management Activities Council 's management of the Reserve will require the use of vehicles and machinery throughout the reserve from time to time. This use will need be undertaken in a manner to minimise any adverse effect on the environment and on Reserve users	That Council's activities undertaken as part of managing the Reserve do not create undue adverse effects on the environment or on other reserve users	1.17.2 That Council employees, contractors and agents are permitted to undertake actions necessary to implement this management plan while ensuring any potential effects on the environment and reserve users are minimized	

The Coastal Management Area

The Coastal Management Area is valued particularly for its natural, open space and ecological values.
The objectives and policies for this area reflect and enhance its natural and undeveloped character.

2.0 Coastal Management Area

Issues	Objectives	Policies		Priorities for action
2.1 Vegetation and Ecology The Back Beach Embayment and dune system are recognised as being regionally significant landforms with the back beach having significant ecological value worthy of protection. (The back beach is noted as the southernmost limit for the estuarine tussock and is the only known location of a rare endemic esturine beetle.)	To protect and enhance the significant ecological values of the Back Beach through the development of habitat enhancement strategies and policies	2.1.1	Protect the saltmarsh and reedland-marshland vegetation of the Back Beach Embayment through the development of a limited number of marked routes across the area.	Short Term
		2.1.2	Protect and enhance the habitat of the Back Beach Beetle by: • Protecting the area from pedestrian trampling through the development of a limited number of marked routes across the area. • Reducing the stature of planted vegetation, in the embayment fingers that threaten to overtake the low herb field vegetation that provides habitat for the Back Beetle. This can be achieved by pruning in the short term and development of a revegetation strategy in the long term.(see Coastal Erosion Policies 1.2)	Long Term
		2.1.3	Remove existing pine trees on a staged approach or as they become a hazard.	Medium Term
		2.1.4	Plant exotic species in the Coastal Management Area only if needed as a nurse crop, and where no native species are suitable.	

2.0 Coastal Management Area

Issues	Objectives	Policies	Priorities for action
2.1 Vegetation and Ecology (continued)	To protect the significant landforms of the Back Beach Embayment and dune landforms.	2.1.5 The planting strategy will be planned to achieve a gradual transition to species native to the local area and appropriate to the protection of the landforms in the dynamic costal environment	Medium Term
		2.1.6 Siltation and pollution of the embayment through run off and storm water input to be minimised through controls over earthworks within 10 metres of the shoreline and management and monitoring water systems	Medium Term
The vegetation on the fore-dunes is primarily exotic species, marram grass, south African ice plant and lupin with an assortment of exotic trees and shrubs species at the back of the dunes. Mature pines at the western end of the area are threatened by the movement of the blind channel and are a potential hazard as they reach the natural ends of their lives.	To develop a predominantly native planting pattern which reflects the regional biodiversity through a staged enrichment planting programme including the removal of diseased and senescent exotic vegetation.	2.1.7 Develop a staged planting strategy that will enhance the structure and ecology of the fore-dunes using locally sourced native plant species. 2.1.8 Pest plant species shall be removed on an ongoing basis.	Medium Term

2.0 Coastal Management Area

Issues	Objectives	Policies		Priorities for action
2.2 Invertebrate Habitat and Embayment Health The back beach area has saltmarsh herbfield and wetland communities that provide habitat for the rare Back Beach Beetle and other intertidal invertebrates.	To minimise the human impacts of trampling on salt marsh vegetation and invertebrate habitat of the Back Beach Embayment.	2.2.1	Develop a marked walking route across the back beach embayment to minimise trampling of salt marsh vegetation. The route shall be aligned along existing desire line connecting the motor camp and the western end of the beach.	Medium Term
The cumulative effect of human activity has been significant; including compaction of substrate from previous racetrack use, damage to and loss of salt marsh herb field and rush land, reclamation for BMX track, trampling of herb fields and invertebrates by walkers, cyclists and dogs, discharge of eutrophic water from Modellers Pond and pollution from storm water discharge.	To minimise sedimentation in the embayment created by storm water runoff from the margins of the area.	2.2.2	Develop a 5-10m wide riparian buffer strip on the margin of the embayment to ensure any surface runoff does not contribute to sedimentation of the embayment.	Long Term
		2.2.3	Do not allow new development/earthworks within 10 metres of the embayment shore unless necessary for erosion protection purposes	Short Term
	To minimise the adverse effects of polluted and/or eutrophic water discharge from Modellers Pond.	2.2.4	Assess the construction and management of Modellers Pond and implement improved measures to avoid discharge of polluted and/or eutrophic water into the embayment.	Medium Term

2.0 Coastal Management Area

Issues	Objectives	Policies	Priorities for action
2.3 Structures and Development The Coastal Management Area has high natural and open space values with very few built structures and roads. The only building within the area is the surf life saving shelter in the fore dunes that is considered an appropriate use.	To protect and enhance the natural values and open space values.	2.3.1 No new permanent buildings will be erected in the Coastal Management Area. 2.3.2 Only paths, fences, signs and site furniture may be built within the Coastal Management Area. (Erosion protection works also permitted under circumstances described in policy 1.2.3) 2.3.3 Design and construct paths, trails and structures to be appropriate to the informal and coastal nature of the Management Area.	
2.4 Commercial Operations Commercial operations within the area can detract from the natural values of the area.	To limit commercial operations within the area to those of short duration and low impact which are appropriate to the informal recreational use and the coastal nature of this part of the Reserve.	2.4.1 There shall be no area leased for permanent commercial operations in the Coastal Management Area. See policy 1.3.1 2.4.2 All applications for temporary licences shall be assessed against the assessment criteria set out in Appendix 6	Short Term

2.0 Coastal Management Area

Issues	Objectives	Policies		Priorities for action
2.5 Recreational Activities The Coastal Management Area is used primarily for informal recreation and is valued by users for its natural and relatively undeveloped nature. The beach is the most used part of the site especially the eastern end for swimming, sitting and walking. The west end of the area is used for walking, fishing, kite surfing and dog exercising and adventure sports such as kite surfing, windsurfing, kite buggies and occasional sand yachts. The NRMP and Civil Aviation Authority have a designation in place over the Tahunanui area protecting the flight path for the Nelson airport. CAA rules do not permit 'kites' in the designated area. This has created a possible conflict situation for kite surfers and kite buggies using the beach.	To minimise conflicts between recreational activities.	2.5.1	Prohibit the public use of motorised vehicles and motorised watercraft with-in the Coastal Management Area, except for formed roadways and car parks.	Short Term
		2.5.2	Exclude kite surfing, kite buggies, sand yachts, wind surfing and other similar activities from the foreshore east of the roller skating rink on a voluntary basis, with a view to enforcement through harbour by- laws if conflicts occur and install appropriate signage to meet CAA requirements. Further restrict kite buggies and sand yachts to Parkers Cove if ongoing conflict occurs.	Short Term
		2.5.3	Allow CAA to install signage and enforce kite prohibition as necessary.	Short Term
		2.5.4	Allow dogs to run off a lead within the Coastal Management Area west of the roller skating rink.	Short Term
		2.5.5	Restrict cycles to formed paths and roads to protect vegetation and landforms from damage.	Short Term
		2.5.6	Indicate permitted and restricted use areas on Reserve signage within and beyond the Coastal Management Area.	

2.0 Coastal Management Area

Issues	Objectives	Policies	Priorities for action
2.6 Recreational Facilities There are very few built recreational facilities in the Coastal Management Area, (three car parks, a road and the surf lifesaving shelter). Two additional facilities are needed; a ramp to allow access for small watercraft to the sea at the eastern end of the beach and a toilet facility at the western end of the beach.	To provide recreational facilities and infrastructure which support informal recreational activities to suit demand.	2.6.1 Provide an access way at the eastern end of the beach suitable for pedestrian haulage of small watercraft, where this does not compromise erosion control programmes 2.6.2 Provide a relocatable toilet/change facility in a car park area at the western end of the beach, with a self-contained waste storage system.	Medium Term Short Term

The Inland Management Area

The Inland Management Area offers a diverse range of recreational opportunities, built facilities and connections to the Tahunanui urban area. This area can be subdivided further into 4 ***activity zones*** each of which provides differing recreational facilities and levels of recreational use.

The objectives and policies for this area seek to ensure development is appropriate in type and scale.

Each of the 4 activity zones has specific management and development policies that ensure similar recreational activities and facilities are grouped together. Grouping recreational activities together and limiting them to specific zones will minimise potential user conflicts and provide clear direction for future development as well as avoiding ad hoc and /or inappropriate placement of facilities.

3.0 Inland Management Area			
Issues	**Objectives**	**Policies**	**Priorities for Action**
3.1 Recreational Activities This is the most developed area within the Reserve and provides most of the recreational facilities and infrastructure. Consequently it has a high intensity of use and as this presents the highest potential for conflicts between activities. To enable clear direction for future management and development and to minimise potential conflict between users/ operators, *4 activity zones* have been identified. (See figure 3)	To provide for a range of recreational opportunities including permanent and short term, commercial and non-commercial operations. To cluster recreational activities of similar purpose together to minimise user conflicts and control the visual effects. .	3.1.1 Assess proposed permanent and short term commercial activities against the assessment criteria set out in Appendix 6. 3.1.2 Assess non-commercial recreational activity proposals and facility requests against the assessment criteria set out in Appendix 6	Short Term
3.2 Structures and Development Visible structures and developments on land outside the Coastal Management Area can adversely affect the area's natural and open space values. The tall water slide and the recent addition to the BMX track are examples of this.	To protect the natural and open space values of the Coastal Management area from the visual effects of structures and development in other parts of the Reserve.	3.2.1 Ensure new structures or developments will not have a significant visual impact on the Coastal Management Area.	Long Term

3.0 Inland Management Area			
Issues	**Objectives**	**Policies**	**Priorities for Action**
3.3 Vegetation The Inland Management Area features an eclectic mixture of native and exotic species and lacks cohesive structure. Trees and shrubs can provide practical functions of shade and shelter as well as visual amenity. The existing assortment of native and exotic vegetation does not reflect the biodiversity of the region.	Develop a planting strategy that enhances the recreational amenity and functional aspects of the Reserve and also reflects the coastal location.	3.3.1 Seek to establish large tree species throughout the site to provide shade and shelter for grassed picnic areas, formal car parks and around the margins of the sports fields.	Short Term
		3.3.2 Specify a limited plant palette of native and exotic shrub and tree species to ensure new plantings have a cohesive and unifying effect throughout the area.	Medium Term
		3.3.3 Select low maintenance species that are suitable to the coastal environment. Use locally sourced native species wherever possible.	
	To manage the existing vegetation to ensure public safety.	3.3.4 Remove hazardous tree branches or trees as necessary, and prune to lift crowns of low branched trees where necessary to improve public perception of safety.	
3.4 Riparian Margin Riparian Margins can provide a valuable buffer between developed areas and areas of high ecological value by reducing the environmental and visual impacts of the developed areas on the less developed area. Currently there is no buffer between the Coastal and Inland Management Areas within the Reserve. This is especially obvious at the boundary in the vicinity of the BMX track.	To protect the environmental values of the Coastal Management Area over the long term, by developing riparian buffer vegetation.	3.4.1 Set aside a 5-10m wide riparian strip bordering the embayment where building is excluded and buffer vegetation is developed.	Long Term
		3.4.2 Plant the existing buffer area with appropriate locally occurring and sourced native riparian species.	Medium Term

3.0 Inland Management Area			
Issues	**Objectives**	**Policies**	**Priorities for Action**
3.5 Zone A, High density facilities This zone has a relatively high density of built structures providing an assortment of commercial entertainment facilities, which operate for a brief summer season. It appears deserted for most of the year.	To ensure the area remains active and attractive for the whole year.	3.5.1 Ensure there are clauses in lease agreements for minimum hours and season of operation and that structures and buildings are maintained to a high standard and ensure that these are monitored and enforced. (Appendix 6)	Short Term
3.6 Zone B, Medium density facilities This zone includes medium density recreational and educational facilities, Natureland, Modellers Pond and BMX Track A new youth play area is needed in the Reserve.	To rationalise the layout of the area to enhance the safety and recreational value of the facilities and their surroundings. To develop a youth play area to provide further opportunities for this age group located to minimise conflict with other recreational users. To manage Modellers Pond to ensure that satisfactory water quality is maintained all year.	3.6.1 Consider enhanced connection between Natureland and Modellers pond by reconfiguring the existing road lay-out including redesigned planting and pathways. 3.6.2 Develop and maintain a suitable youth play area in the vicinity of Beach Road, with the option of developing a skate park if considered necessary in the future. 3.6.3 Investigate possible means by which the pond can remain full and the water remain of better quality. 3.6.4 Monitor Modellers Pond water quality on an ongoing basis and review water management as necessary.	Short Term Medium Term Short - Medium Term Medium Term

3.0 Inland Management Area			
Issues	**Objectives**	**Policies**	**Priorities for Action**
3.7 Zone C, Sports Field Open Space The fields are well used by the various sports codes that consider that the Tahunanui fields with their sandy base are the best sports fields in the city. The southern edge of the sports fields adjoins the urban commercial/residential area of Tahunanui. The space is also used for community-based events. The lights are owned and maintained by the rugby club. Shaded areas are needed on the margins of the fields for spectators. Changing facilities associated with the sports fields are not able to cope with the numbers of players on some sporting occasions. Privately owned facilities and equipment such as lighting within the Reserve varies in condition and presentation	To retain an open space character through out the sportsfield open space zone. To maintain a similar area of sports fields as are currently available. To enhance the spatial quality and amenity for spectators of the open fields by creating vegetative buffers around the edges and within the area. To provide facilities in conjunction with sports codes with the appropriate capacity for typical use. For privately owned facilities and equipment to meet necessary standards.	3.7.1 Maintain suitable grass surface for use by contact sports. 3.7.2 Reconfigure the sports fields to retain a similar total playing with enhanced lay-out to accommodate spectators and amenity planting. 3.7.3 Develop and implement a planting programme as part of the Reserve-wide planting strategy, which does not compromise the functioning, or reduce the safety of the sports fields and enhances spectator amenity including trees and shrubs to provide shelter and shade 3.7.4 Select tree species that are tolerant of the high water table, frost and soil salinity. 3.7.5 Upgrade and maintain the current facilities and monitor the demand for additional capacity. 3.7.6 Ensure sports field lighting provided by clubs is maintained adequately and meets relevant statutory requirements.	Long Term Short Term Medium Term Short Term

3.0 Inland Management Area

Issues	Objectives	Policies	Priorities for Action
3.8 Zone D, Eastern Corner This area is an important transitional space between the Reserve and Tahunanui Village. It includes the Nightingale Library with community meeting rooms and the Tahunanui Plunket rooms, the main Reserve entrance from SH6 and the Rocks Road Car park. The Tahunanui Structure Plan (TSP) proposes to rationalise and develop the area as a community/recreational enclave connecting the Beach, Reserve and Tahunanui Village. Enhancement of the visual, as well as the physical, connections between the sea/beach and Tahunanui village will also be addressed by the TSP..	To develop the area as a transitional space between the Tahunanui village, the beach and the Reserve which provides opportunities for community recreational and appropriate commercial facilities/activities. To enhance the link between the existing Rocks Rd area and the reserve once the stormwater diversion works are completed To develop safe and efficient vehicle and pedestrian access to the Reserve. To maintain and enhance view shafts toward the coast from Tahunanui Village and SH6.	3.8.1 Co-ordinate the planning and development of this area with the Tahunanui Structure Plan and incorporate the outcomes with the Reserve Development Plan. 3.8.2 Allow for the development of appropriate facilities and structures which support the recreational character of the Reserve. 3.8.3 The re-development will reflect the coastal nature of the Reserve, through use of appropriate plant species, construction materials, and scale of structures. 3.8.4 Define View shaft(s) through the Tahunanui Structure Plan and manage the location of structures and vegetation to maintain these.	Short Term Short Term Short Term
The Lions playground is a major attraction within the Reserve and is well used, however its location is threatened by coastal erosion and its proximity to the main vehicle entrance makes it dangerous. The skateboard half pipe is in a poor state and needs to be removed. There is some conflict between the youth and smaller children sharing the same play areas and facilities.	To provide separate and safe play areas for youth and younger children. To provide adequate play facilities for older children and youth	3.8.5 Retain the Lions Playground within the eastern end of Activity Zone D and if necessary, reconfigure or relocate in accordance with the Structure Plan ensuring any new location has minimal threat from coastal erosion. 3.8.6 Remove skateboard half pipe and replace with other facilities for youth (see policy 3.6.2)	Medium Term

3.0 Inland Management Area			
Issues	**Objectives**	**Policies**	**Priorities for Action**
The idea of an outdoor performance area and/or facility suitable for community concerts, performance and entertainment has been raised..	To provide for temporary outdoor entertainment facilities and infrastructure suitable for outdoor performances and other entertainment.	3.8.7 Provide one or more appropriate locations and infrastructure to support outdoor entertainment which caters for; • Various sized groups • Diverse types of entertainment • Requirements of entertainers such as power, water, and shelter 3.8.8 Ensure that the location(s) are sited and orientated to minimise potential adverse effects of entertainment activities, such as sound and light.	Medium Term
Natural and open space values The natural and open space values of this management area are not as high as for the Coastal Management Area. However, these values are still very important because this part of the Reserve is an open space buffer adjoining urban development.	To retain and enhance the natural and open space values of the area.	3.8.9 Manage the open spaces and vegetation structure to strengthen the 'natural' visual framework of the area 3.8.10 Provide effective visual buffers of appropriate plant species, around new development. 3.8.11 Design new structures so their character, scale and construction materials are sympathetic with the coastal nature of the Reserve.	Long Term

The Motor Camp Management Area

The Motor Camp Management Area has a specific holiday accommodation purpose, and it's development plan and trustees, and is less of a public space than the rest of the Reserve.

The objectives and policies for this area provide an overall framework for managing the motor camp in relation to the Reserve overall. The Motor Camp's own development plan focuses on the specific site management and day to day operation of the Motor Camp.

4.0 Motor Camp Management Area			
Issues	Objectives	Policies	Priority for Action
4.1 Development The Tahunanui Beach Motor Camp is administered by an incorporated society and has its own development plan, which places certain limitations and requirements on its management. However the Tahunanui Reserve Management Plan provides an overall framework under which the Motor Camp must operate.	To ensure any future development of the motor camp, such as buildings and plantings, has minimal adverse visual or environmental effects on the coastal landscape and ecological values of the Reserve.	4.1.1 Establish regular liaison between NCC and the motor camp administration to ensure the motor camp development plan is consistent with the Tahunanui Reserve Management Plan. 4.1.2 Asses the visual and environmental effects of any proposed motor camp development to ensure minimal adverse effects on: • the 'natural' open space character of the adjacent embayment, and the, • the ecological health of the embayment, especially the embayment margin 4.1.3 Develop a planted 5-10m riparian buffer along the embayment edge. (see riparian strip 3.4) .	Short Term Long Term

4.0 Motor Camp Management Area			
Issues	Objectives	Policies	Priority for Action
4.2 Pedestrian Links Camp visitors use the rest of Tahunanui Reserve for informal recreation and entertainment activities. Trampling by pedestrians crossing the Back Beach Embayment damages the salt marsh vegetation. Coastal erosion at the west end of the Motor Camp is being controlled with rock armour work (see Coastal Erosion 1.2)	To provide direct and safe walking routes between the Motor Camp and beach/Reserve. To minimise the human impacts of camp ground activities on the ecological health of the embayment margin.	4.2.1 Limit the number of access points between the motor camp and embayment to those required for the marked routes (see pedestrian route policiy 1.8.7 See Coastal Management Policies 1.2.1 and 1.2.7	Short Term
Members of the public use the camp as a thoroughfare to access the beach from the nearby residential area. This can cause conflict with camp operations particularly during busy periods	Control informal public access across Motor Camp Management Area to ensure camp operations are not affected	4.2.2 NCC to liaise with camp management to restrict general public access that adversely affects camp operations.	

4.0 Motor Camp Management Area			
Issues	Objectives	Policies	Priority for Action
4.3 Existing and alternate Uses Although the majority of visitors to the camp are temporary holidaymakers the camp also has 'permanent' and 'long-term' sites in the off-season between January and November. This function contributes to the direction of the Councils Social Well Being Policy. The trust deed under which the land is held requires the use of the land for "pleasure grounds of for any other purpose of enjoyment or recreation" While long term accommodation could be outside of this definition the use of a small area of the camp is an established use that has been occurring for a long period.	To ensure the primary function and use of the camp land is to provide for short term holiday accommodation and public recreation	4.3.1 Restrict the use of the Motor camp's built accommodation and camping sites to primarily short-term holiday accommodation, by ensuring that: • A minimum of 850 sites remain available for short term accommodation, year round. • No more than 100 sites be used for long term accommodation. • No built accommodation units be used for long term accommodation.	Short Term
The western end of the motor camp is only fully used during the busy summer holiday season. The motor camp's management has identified the possibility of using this space for community based events. The Parks and Reserves Asset Management Plan also identifies the possible informal use of the western end of the motor camp as neighbourhood reserve space.	To enable the western end of the camping ground to be used as an additional venue for community events.	4.3.2 Ensure the lease relationship with Council enables any under-utilised areas within the Motor Camp during the off season to be used for defined community purposes when appropriate. See commercial operations policy 1.3.4	Short Term

Appendix 1

Identifying the Issues (from *Tahunanui Enhancement Study- A Strategic Plan*. Boffa Miskell Ltd, Nelson City Council, 2002.

KEY ISSUES IDENTIFIED BY THE ENHANCEMENT STUDY ARE:

- Carrying capacity issues in peak times with various competing beach recreational activities. There are no substantial data on use patterns and there is no up to date management plan.
- Pressure for developments within Reserve and no basis for decision-making.
- Activities and structures at beach Reserve have no logical arrangement and some are of a poor appearance and concern from some users that facilities are inadequate.
- Impact of coastal erosion and its mitigation is creating edges that are not attractive.
- Edge of sports grounds, including along Beach Road provides little amenity for spectators.
- Car parking areas have little visual relief – large areas of asphalt and little shade from sun
- Relationship of beach Reserve to the business area poor – no focal places.
- Conflicts with vehicle activity and users of the park.
- Paths and roadways in Reserve confusing (where is the front door?).

To address these issues the Study proposes that a management plan be prepared. The direction proposed for the Reserve is that it distinguishes between the informal natural west end and the more organized and active and developed east end closest to the heart area (see above).

Appendix 2

Public Consultation And Information Gathering

The Issues to be addressed in the Management Plan were identified by analysis of existing information and wide community consultation. In Summary:

Information Gathering
Tahunanui Enhancement Study scoped major issues.
Public submissions- feed back on the Tahunanui Enhancement Study
Collation and review of existing information
Recreational use surveys, carried out January 2003 (see summary below)
Meetings with community groups, leaseholders, sporting bodies, Department of Conservation and Council officers.
Public submissions following the public notification of the intention to develop a management plan.
Preparation of an Issues and Options Paper and workshop.
18 member working group met to discuss/confirm all issues had been identified Also provided guidance regarding the preferred options. Working group composition; individuals from the community, user groups and iwi representatives, councillors including the mayor and council officers.

Recreational Use Surveys, January 2003

Surveys were designed by Boffa Miskell and Nelson City Council staff in order to identify the current public usage rates for various facilities in the Tahunanui Reserve, including the beach. Of specific interest are the car parking areas, the various hard landscaping facilities for example the BMX track, children's playgrounds, sports fields, tennis courts, and the informal activities undertaken by visitors including dog exercise, walking, informal play, beach activities.

Three different surveys were undertaken as follows:

1. Beat Surveys The reserve was divided up into three separate areas, labeled beats A, B, & C. Critical survey points were defined in each beat, and a count of cars or people was then undertaken at each of these points. A survey was then completed each morning, afternoon, and evening on the 9th, 11th, 14th and 19th January 2003, for each beat. A total of 36 surveys were completed.

2. Security / Gate Closing Data Collection A vehicle count was undertaken in each of the car parks within the reserve, as well as the Lions car park outside the security gate. The "snapshot" was taken at around 21:30 nightly between the 9th and 24th January 2003. A total of 15 surveys were completed.

3. Recreation Survey Concurrent with the beat surveys, surveyors undertook one-on-one questioning of visitors to the reserve and beach. Each surveyor completed around 20 surveys whilst walking their designated "beat". A total of 220 surveys were completed, and they included visitors to Nelson and residents of the region. This survey encompassed visit frequency, mode of transport, facilities used, areas visited in the reserve, and asked for comments on likes, dislikes, and suggestions for future management of the reserve.

Application of Survey Results

The qualitative nature of the recreational survey results, obtained by talking with people, provides the most useful information to feed into the Issues and Options paper. This survey identifies what the people who use the place like, dislike and what they wish for the future. (See brief summary below).

The more quantitative data, which is observational data, indicates the use rates of facilities and will be useful in the development of the Draft Management Plan.

Recreational Survey Trends

- 46% of the respondents were visitors to Nelson. (peak tourist season)
- A large percentage of respondents were frequent visitors, visiting the reserve daily or weekly.
- The most common recreational activities were passive and include, walking, swimming, informal play and sitting.
- Most people arrive by car, followed by walking.
- Lions play area is the most used facility and the main beach and back beach the most used areas.
- The water and amenity values of the reserve were the most 'liked' features.

- The most disliked features were litter, dog poo and erosion.

The Most Common General Comments

In answer to the question: *Do you have any comments or suggestions regarding the future management of this reserve?*

- 'Leave it as it is'
- 'Do not develop'
- 'Tidy the area up'
- Provide more facilities, such as toilets, change rooms, play facilities, shade, seating
- Too many dogs, too many dogs in the wrong places, too much doggy doo.
- Erosion is ugly
- Modellers Pond in an awful state

Appendix 3

Contents of the Trust Deed 1910

Dated 7 January 1910

"THE SANDS RESERVE"

DECLARATION
Of
TRUST
(Endorsed)
No. 36433

THIS DEED made the twenty-seventh day of January One thousand nine hundred and nine BETWEEN JAMES BURNS GREEN of Napier in the Land District of Hawkes Bay in the Dominion of New Zealand Sheep Farmer ARTHUR ERNEST GREEN of Masterton in the land District of Wellington in the said Dominion Sheep Farmer GEORGE GREEN of The Sands near the City of Nelson in the Land District of Nelson in the said Dominion Sheep Farmer and PERCY BOLLAND ADAMS of the said City of Nelson Solicitor now abroad Trustees and Executors of the Will of Edward Green late of The Sands aforesaid Gentleman deceased of the one part and

THE MAYOR COUNCILLORS AND CITIZENS of the City of Nelson (hereinafter called "the Corporation") of the other part:

WHEREAS the said Edward Green duly made and executed his last Will and Testament bearing date the eighteenth day of August One thousand eight hundred and ninety three and thereby appointed James Smith his sons the said James Burns Green Arthur Ernest Green and George Green and the said Percy Bolland Adams Trustees and Executors thereof and devised all his real estate unto his said Trustees upon trust that they or the survivors or survivor of them or other the Trustees or Trustee for the time being of his Will should sell the same either by public auction or private contract and either together or in lots and AND WHEREAS the said testator died on or about the twenty ninth day of September One Thousand eight hundred and ninety six without having altered or revoked his said Will and the same was duly proved in the Supreme Court of New Zealand Nelson District on the twelfth day of October one thousand eight hundred and ninety six by the said James Smith James Burns Green Arthur Ernest Green George Green and Percy Bolland Adams AND WHEREAS the said testator was at the time of his decease seised in fee simple in possession of the hereditaments hereinafter described AND WHEREAS the said James Smith James Burns Green Arthur Ernest Green George Green and Percy Bolland Adams as such Executors and Trustees as aforesaid agreed to sell the said hereditaments to the Corporation at the price of Three Hundred and five pounds twelve shillings and six pence AND WHEREAS the said James Smith died on or about the eighteenth day of November one thousand nine hundred and three NOW THIS DEED WITNESSETH that for effectuating the said sale and in consideration of the sum of THREE HUNDRED AND FIVE POUNDS TWELVE SHILLINGS AND SIX PENCE on or before the execution hereof paid by the Corporation to the said James Burns Green Arthur Ernest Green George Green and Percy Bolland Adams (the receipt whereof is hereby acknowledged) THEY the said James Burns Green Arthur Ernest Green George Green and Percy Bolland Adams as such Executors and Trustees as aforesaid do hereby CONVEY AND ASSURE unto the Corporation ALL THAT parcel of land situated in the District of Suburban South containing by admeasurement forty

acres and two roods more or less being parts of Sections numbered 2, 5, 1, and 85 on the plan of the said District of Surburban South commencing at the Westernmost corner (marked “A”) of the said Section numbered 1 thence generally in a Southwesterly direction along high water mark as shown on original Crown Grant to Westernmost corner of the said parcel of land thence Southeasterly three hundred links thence generally in an Easterly direction seven hundred and ten links five hundred and thirty three and a half links eighty two and eight tenths links and two thousand one hundred and ninety and three tenths links thence generally in a Northeasterly direction one thousand and ninety eight and two tenths links five hundred and fourteen and six tenths links and one hundred and eighty three links thence Northerly one hundred links thence Northeasterly one hundred and twenty one and three tenths links one hundred and twenty five links one thousand and seventy four and seven tenths links five hundred and eighty five and four tenths links one thousand two hundred and eighty seven and six tenths links and one hundred and sixty nine and nine tenths links and from thence returning Southwesterly along highwater mark as shown on original Crown Grant to the commencing point AS the same parcel of land is delineated and more particularly described in the plan hereunto annexed and thereon in outline coloured green TOGETHER with all the improvements thereon AND also all the estate right title interest claim and demand of them the said James Burns Green Arthur Ernest Green George Green and Percy Bolland Adams in to and upon ALL THAT parcel of land containing by estimation one hundred and fifty acres more or less the abuttals and boundaries of which parcel of land are delineated and particularly described on the said plan hereunto annexed and thereon in outline coloured pink AND which last mentioned parcel of land includes all accretions from recession of the sea to the parcel of land first hereinbefore described TO HOLD unto the Corporation in fee simple AND it is hereby agreed and declared that the covenants for the production and safe custody of title deeds herein by law implied shall be deemed to apply to the deeds and documents specified in the Schedule hereto. IN WITNESS whereof the said parties hereto have hereunto subscribed their names the day and year first herein written.

3 SCHEDULE

1854 June 2 Crown Grant, to H.A. Aglionby and another registered No. 3772.

1862 April 21 Conveyance, R.B. Armstrong and another to E.Green registered No. 3773.

1862 April 21 Deed of Covenant, R.B. Armstrong and another to E.Green for production of

Exemplification of Probate of Will of H.A. Aglionby (registered No. 10507) and of Power of Attorney R.B. Armstrong and others to Henry H. Hill and ors (registered No. 10506).

1867 July 26 Conveyance, Alexander McDonald to E. Green registered No. 26969.

1896 Oct. 12 Probate of the Will of E.Green deceased registered No. 26970.

KNOW ALL MEN by these presents that the within named THE MAYOR COUNCILLORS AND CITIZENS OF THE CITY OF NELSON (hereinafter called “the Corporation”) DO HEREBY DECLARE that the lands and hereditaments comprised in the within written Deed of Conveyance registered as Number 35647 were purchased by the Corporation in order to provide for the health amusement and instruction of the inhabitants of the City of Nelson and to be used as pleasure gardens or for any other purpose of enjoyment or recreation AND ALSO that the said lands and hereditaments are now and shall be hereafter and for ever held IN TRUST for and to be used as pleasure grounds or for any other purpose of enjoyment or recreation

---

IN WITNESS whereof the Corporation has executed these presents this seventh day of January One thousand nine hundred and ten.

THE COMMON SEAL of the Corporation)
was hereunto affixed in the presence)
of:)

Mayor

Town Clerk

Appendix 4

Summary of Relevant Schedules, Permitted Activity Standards and Site Overlays (NRMP)

The Open Space Recreation zoning allows for a range of permitted activities, depending on the Recreation Schedule. The site is covered by three such schedules: SF6 (sports field), CR7 (city reserve) and CG2 (camping grounds) which allow for a range of activities including service buildings, information and recreation activities, and play equipment. A range of permitted activity standards apply including: a maximum height of 7.5m, size restriction of 50m² for service buildings, restriction on hours of operation, minimum finished floor level (NCC Datum) of 15.50m for a concrete floor building and 15.65m for a timber floor building, fences and playground structures up to 3m in height, restrictions of structures within 20m of MHWS, and parking, loading and access, lightspill, noise, and vegetation clearance to be in accordance with NRMP provisions. A portion of the site is within the “Outer Limit of Airport Effects Control Overlay” which require appropriate acoustic insulation treatment for permanently occupied residential dwellings, and the entire site is within the “Outer Limit of Airport Effects Advisory Overlay” which is an advisory overlay highlighting the site will be subject to the effects of airport noise.

Within the Suburban Commercial zone, there is no restriction on permitted activities (four exceptions apply) provided they meet the standards. Such standards relate to a maximum height limit of 10m, maximum building GFA of 1000m², landscaping, restrictions on buildings within 20m of MHWS, and parking, loading and access, lightspill, noise, and hours of operation to be in accordance with NRMP provisions.

Appendix 5

A Brief History of Tahunanui Beach.

Tahunanui Beach is barely 100 years old.

Beaches and coastal dunes are by their nature highly dynamic. They are composed of fine sand particles which are easily transported by water and by wind.

While the beach and the dunes are made out of sand, the sand itself is just a deposit. It does not determine the position or the shape of the coast, which are established by the actions of seawater and coastal winds. Since these are constantly changing, so the beaches and dunes are constantly being altered - they cannot and should not be considered to be permanent features.

Tahunanui Beach provides a prime example of this impermanence.

It also demonstrates how in the natural world all things are inter-related. There are so many influences determining the patterns of sand movement that it is well nigh impossible to identify individual “causes” of changes. Study of the history of the changes does, however, give an idea of what is likely to happen in the future.

Geological history

The area between Tahunanui Beach and Annesbrook, and bounded by the Blind Channel and Port Hills in the west and east respectively, is geologically very young, having accumulated during the last 6,500 years, after the sea rose to its present level and formed Tasman Bay.

When the sea rose it cut a cliff in fan gravel at Annesbrook, which had been deposited by Jenkins Creek and Poormans Valley Stream. The eroded material was transported westwards by longshore drift to form the spit of Monaco. On the seaward side of the cliff, and trending parallel to it, a series of beach ridges of marine gravel and sand progressively accumulated in a northerly direction to form the Tahunanui area. Gravel dominates the eastern end of the ridges, including adjacent to Rocks Road where historical photographs show a gravel beach. Urbanisation has almost totally destroyed the form of the ridges.[1]

While marine deposition was taking place in the Tahunanui area, Rabbit Island and the other islands of the Waimea Inlet were formed by longshore drift transporting material south-east from the Motueka River mouth and the Ruby Bay area. At Rabbit Island the sand deposit is about 18 metres thick and lies on top of mud dated at about 7,800 years old.[2]

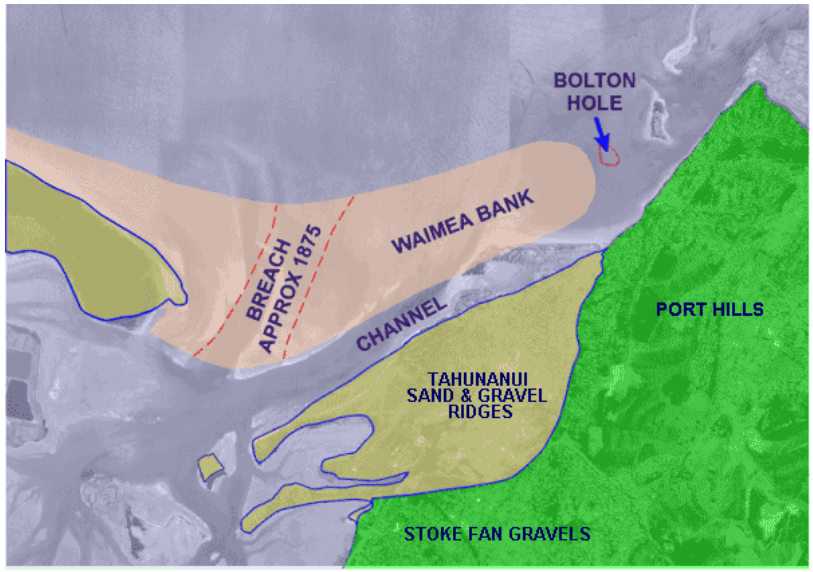


Fig 1: Southern Tasman Bay around 1850

1840s to 1860s

When the first European settlers arrived in Nelson, the area that we now know as Tahunanui Sands Reserve was crossed by the main channel draining the Waimea Inlet alongside Beach Road, which was referred to as the Waimea River. At low tide the intertidal sandbank of Rabbit Island extended from the present location of Rabbit Island across to the western end of the present Tahunanui beach. This was known as the Waimea Bank, and is shown in Fig 1.

We are fortunate in that the seabed around Tahunanui Beach and Haulashore Island has been well charted since the early days of European settlement. The first chart was made in 1850, and it was subsequently updated at regular intervals, so recording the changes over the past 150 years.[3]

Overlaying the 1867 chart onto a modern aerial photograph, as in Fig 2, reveals that the eastern side of the Waimea River channel ran through the carpark and the Savannah Café north of Hounsell Circle.

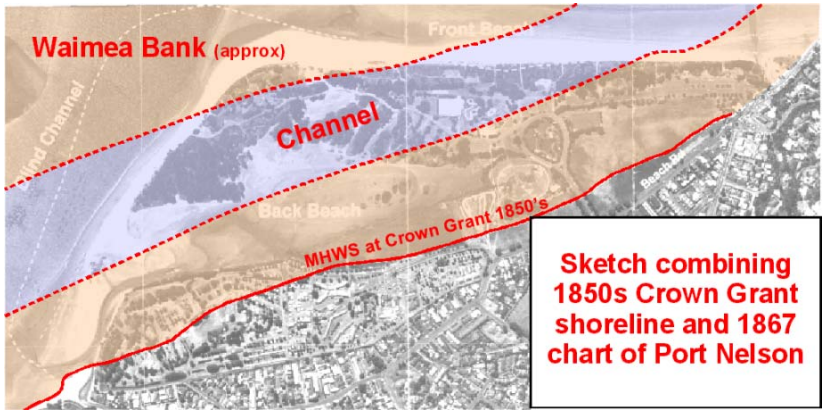


Fig 2: Channel of the Waimea River draining the Waimea Inlet in 1867

An intertidal area stretched eastwards from here to the 1850s shoreline, which we know from the original Crown Grant.[4]

This chart also shows the intertidal rock platform which connects Rocks Road with Fifeshire Rock extending south-eastwards under the eastern end of the present beach, in the vicinity of the Lions Playground. Fig 3 shows the 1867 channel and rocks, with the present area of Tahuna Sands superimposed in green.

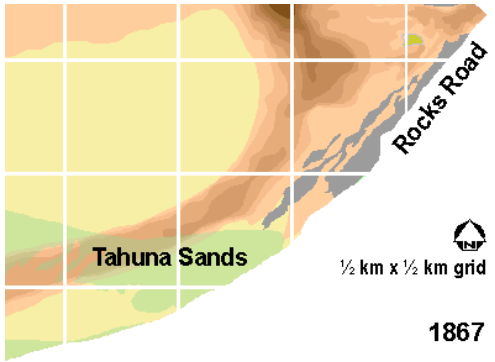


Fig 3: The present Tahunanui Beach overlaid on a tracing of the 1867 chart

This channel was well used by early sailing ships, both as a sheltered anchorage for ships waiting for the opportunity to enter the Haven across the shallow reefs between Fifeshire Rock and Haulashore Island, and as access to a favoured landing spot off Parker's Cove at the foot of Parker's Road. This spot was identified by a Black Stump, or Black Log, which is still remembered by some older Nelson residents as sitting on the mudflats some way off the present Parker's Cove, just off the left side of Fig 2.[5] At that time Parker's Cove was a larger inlet and extended further west.

It seems that this was the main landing point for ships importing cattle, sheep and horses through the 1840s and into the 1860s. Ships as large as 500 tons could travel this far up the channel.[6] And it was not far from the quarantine ground in Quarantine Road.

At that time the beach alongside Rocks Road was a gravel beach, and much gravel was taken from it for building roads in the Tahunanui area.[7] Fig 4, a later photograph taken when the present beach was forming, shows that the gravel widened out to form a gravel flat, with freshwater ponds, around the present location of the Nightingale Library and the entrance to Bisley Walk.[8] Possibly the ponds were created by the gravel extraction.

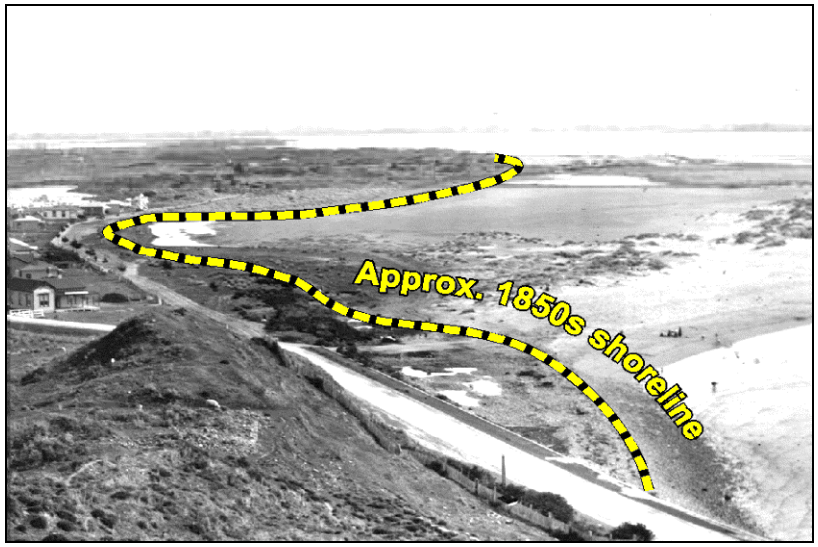


Fig 4: 1850s shoreline drawn on to a photo taken looking down over Rocks Road north of the junction with Tahunanui Drive between 1904 and 1910. (Nelson Provincial Museum: Kerr collection ½19)

1870s to 1900s

Many people believe that the changes at the front beach have been influenced by the creation and subsequent deepening of the Cut through the Boulder Bank to make a new entrance to Nelson Haven.

Ruth Allen explained in some detail in her History of Port Nelson, published in 1954, that the Cut was made as a result of the same change that created Tahunanui Beach.[9]

In the last quarter of the nineteenth century, shoaling of the seabed west of Haulashore Island increasingly limited the size of vessels that were able to enter and leave the port. This was the direct result of a new channel draining the Waimea Inlet breaking through the Waimea Bank in the 1870's.

Fig 5: Painting of the dry channel by C Blomfield ca 1891

This break isolated the eastern part of the Bank, and greatly reduced the scouring flow in the previous channel through what is now the back beach, with the result that the sea started to roll the sand southwards, filling the old channel. By 1875 the old channel could no longer take large ships, being only 5 feet deep at low tide, and by 1882 it was dry at low tide,[10] as depicted, a few years later, in Fig 5.

Fig 6 is traced from the 1882 Admiralty chart, showing the channel and rocks, with the present area of Tahuna Sands superimposed in green, there being no dry land there at the time.

This reduced the flow of water scouring the fairway through the bar north from Bolton Hole. The water now came only from the Haven, around the south of Haulashore Island. Consequently, the sandspit that was now on the south side of the new channel (the eastern part of the old Waimea Bank) slowly lengthened underwater towards Haulashore Island, making the fairway narrower and shallower and severely limiting access to the port.

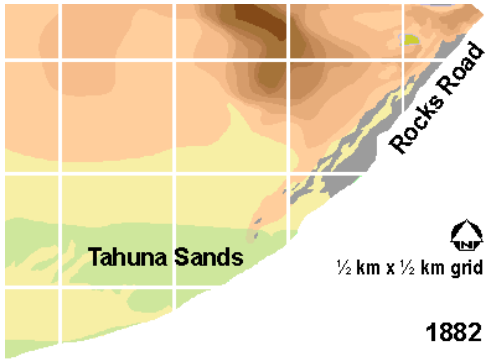


Fig 6: The present Tahunanui Beach overlaid on a tracing of the 1882 chart

A proposal was aired in 1886 to block off the new Waimea Inlet channel with a "breakwater" 184 chains long (3,700m) and to dredge the old outlet, through the middle of the present beach, at an estimated cost of over £100,000, but it was considered to be financially impossible.

Many other lavish schemes were suggested by Nelson citizens. One was for a new entrance to be excavated through the Boulder Bank near the lighthouse, thus by-passing the problem area.

The debate continued as the bar continued to shoal. A buoy placed in 1881 to mark the western side of the passage was moved east in 1888 and again in 1895. By 1882 the fairway was only 1800 feet (550m) wide and 7 feet (2.1m) deep at low water springs. The bend in the passage was becoming sharper and harder to navigate, and all but the smallest ships could only enter at high tide. It became clear that soon the entire Nelson settlement would become largely cut off from the rest of the world, being only accessible by smaller coastal shipping.

In 1898 the width was down to 900 feet (275m) and the alignment was getting very awkward. Nelson City Council was sufficiently alarmed to ask for government action. The Colonial Marine Engineer engaged a Dunedin engineer to report on it. His 1899 report pointed out that dredging the fairway might not last long, and recommended a cut and a dredged channel, 15 feet (4.5m) deep at low water spring tides, through the Boulder Bank on the north side of Haulashore Island. Due to the potential cost, a second opinion was sought, which agreed in general, but put a higher cost estimate on the cut.

The government agreed in principle to cutting through the Boulder Bank, but before so much money could be committed a Harbour Board had to be established and a loan raised, with the approval of local ratepayers.

The "Colonist" newspaper expected this to lift Nelson "from a condition of little more than stagnation, to one of smiling progress".

The Nelson Harbour Board Act was passed on 20 October 1900, and plans for the cut were approved 13 months later, after vigorous debate in the local press about the wisdom of such tampering with nature. Minds were concentrated, however, when four vessels grounded in one week at the old entrance, which was by then only 500 feet (150m) wide.

Much more controversy followed, about the adequacy of the approved design and the cost of alternatives, leading to several resignations and a prominent court case. Finally the new entrance was ready for its official opening on 30 July 1906.

A supplement to the Nelson Mail of August 30 1901 includes a chart showing the encroachment of the bar into the fairway between 1882 and 1901.[11]

Fig 7 is from the 1902 Admiralty chart, shortly after the Cut was made.[12] It shows the encroaching sandbar which made the Cut necessary, and it also shows the fledgling sand dunes of Tahunanui Beach added to the original chart, which does not show land features in any detail.

While these changes were occurring around Bolton Hole, Tahunanui Beach was steadily building up. By 1900 the present area of Tahuna Sands Reserve was largely formed, but most of it was an intertidal sandbank, completely inundated at high tide.

The newly forming beach can be seen just appearing above the waves in Fig 8, an undated photograph probably taken between 1892 and 1898, looking south-west from somewhere around the present position of the Abel Tasman statue, or possibly a little further south, near the Nightingale library.[13] The gravel beach runs alongside the road, and the edge of the intertidal sandbank heads out eastwards at an acute angle and sweeps round to form the southern end of the sandbar.

The view in Fig 8 lies within the more elevated view of Fig 9, taken ten to twenty years later, by which time the dunes had formed.

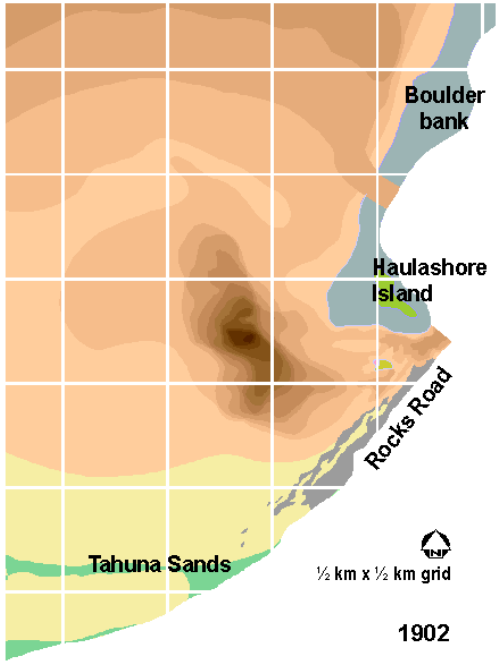


Fig 7: A tracing of the 1902 chart with the approximate line of the 1902 dunes added

Fig 8: View south-west along Rocks Road and over the forming beach in the 1890s. (Nelson Provincial Museum: Brusewitz collection 6x8 355, copy ref: 1346)

Fig 9, already reproduced above, shows dune vegetation growing above the reach of the tide. Man-made features suggest that this picture was probably taken after 1904 and before 1910.[14] It shows that the top of the intertidal beach was then in line with the intersection of Tahunanui Drive and Beach Road, and thus south of the present Bisley Walk parking area.

Fig 10 was taken soon after – it has a couple of extra sheds and one new house alongside Tahunanui Drive.[15] It shows the line of the beach running back at an acute angle to Beach Road.

The reason for the number of photographs from this period could well be the public interest shown in the beach at this time.

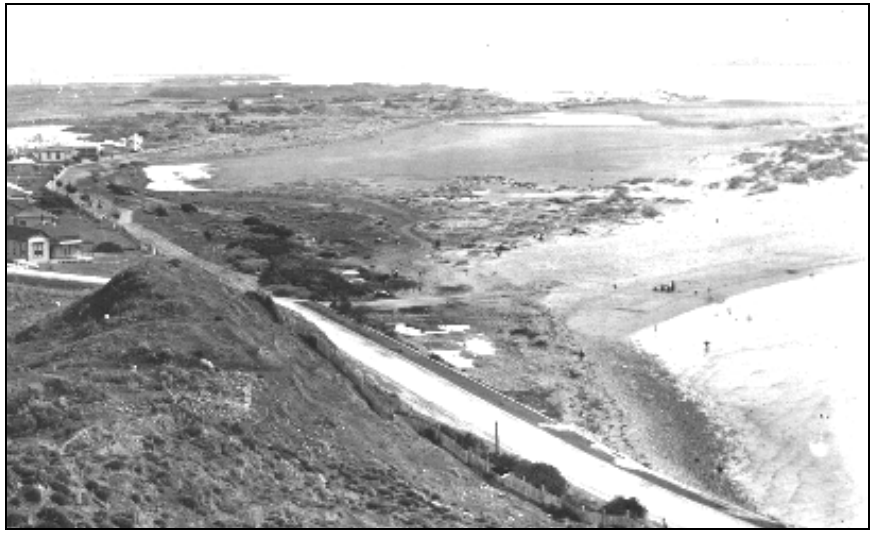


Fig 9: Looking down over Rocks Road north of the junction with Tahunanui Drive, and the site of the future Nightingale library, probably between 1904 and 1910. (Nelson Provincial Museum: Kerr collection ½19)

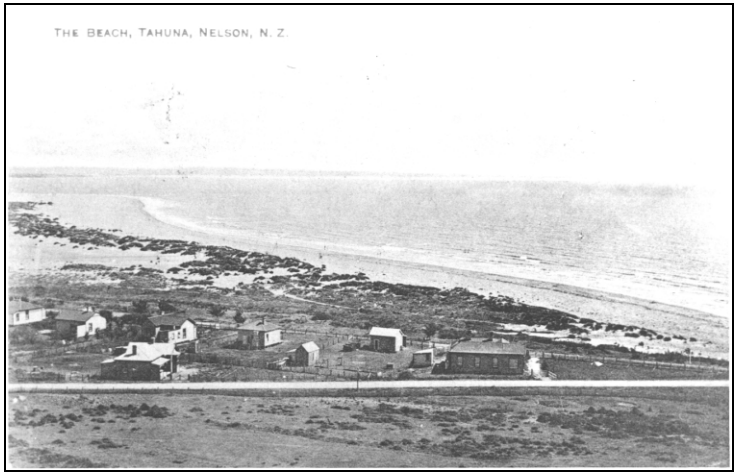


Fig 10: A postcard of the beach a little after Fig 9 was taken. (Nelson Provincial Museum: Copy collection C5015)

In 1867 Edward Green had purchased the triangle of land between the sea, Tahunanui Drive and Parker's Road.

From the 1870s people were proposing to connect Tahunanui with Nelson city by building Rocks Road along the base of the cliffs around Magazine Point. Construction began in 1892 and the finished road was formally opened by Prime Minister Richard Seddon on 3 February 1899.[16] [17]

Even before the road was opened to public use in 1895, the beach had become popular, with many walking there on Days Track and other routes over

the Port Hills.

The Colonist newspaper wrote in February 1899 “The Sands were visited by a large number and a visit to the spot at such time must make it obvious to the dullest that the people here have a heritage that must be conserved so that the fullest advantage can be taken of the resort” [18]

The Nelson City Council must have had similar thoughts. By May 1899 they had negotiated with the Executors of the Green Estate to purchase the land on the seaward side of a line from the Rocks Road to the black log at the far end of the Sands, as in Fig 11.[19]

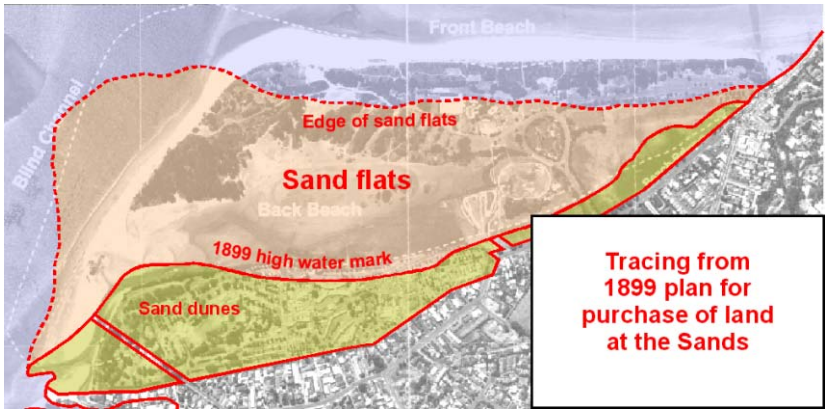


Fig 11: The land purchased by Nelson City Council in 1899

It took another ten years until the deal was completed, with the transfer of the land title in 1909. The sale agreement of 1899 showed two “schedules”; the first being the land to High Water Mark as shown in the Crown Grant of the 1850s and the second being around 150 acres of sands and mudflats that had accrued since that time. These were shown as being below the high water mark, but were considered by the Council already to be accreted land. The sale was conditional on the construction of a new road to be called Beach Road and closure of the western part of Tamaki Street.[20]

In January 1910 a Declaration of Trust was made on a Deed, that the land was purchased to provide for the health, amusement and instruction of the inhabitants of the City of Nelson and to be used for pleasure gardens or for any other purpose of enjoyment or recreation.[21]

The formation of the Nelson Harbour Board included an endowment in 1905 of the foreshore of Nelson Harbour and the Waimea mudflats[22], including the intertidal foreshore around Tahunanui Beach. As a result there was some argument between the Harbour Board and the City as to who owned the accreting area. In 1922 Council received a legal opinion that the boundary of their land could move with the shoreline.[23] The matter was finally resolved in 1947 by Act of Parliament (the Reserves and Other Lands Disposal Act 1947),[24] whereby the Harbour Board relinquished all rights and title to the accreted area, as shown on SO Plan 9997,[25] and the Council was to hold the said land in trust for recreation purposes.

1900s to 1940s

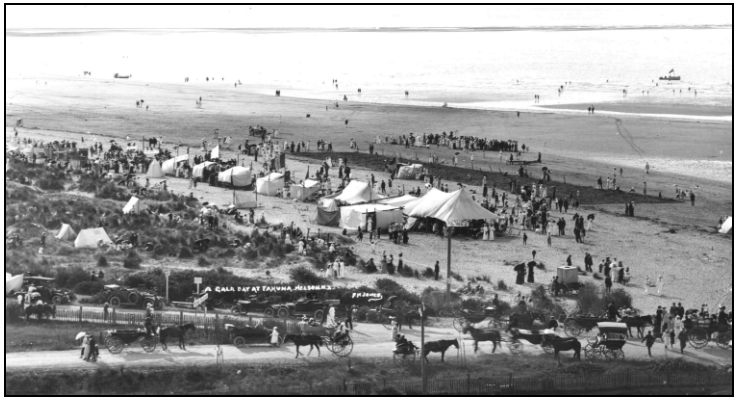


Fig 12: Gala Day at the beach, around 1918. (Nelson Provincial Museum: F N Jones collection 6x8 14)

Fig 12 shows a gala day at the beach, and was probably taken between 1916 and 1919.[26] It shows the eastern end of the beach-top around the position of the Plunket Rooms behind the Nightingale Library. The intertidal beach occupied the area that is now Bisley Walk. In the foreground is the intersection of Beach Road and Tahunanui Drive, now occupied by the KFC roundabout. In this picture the gravel flat visible in Fig 9 has been buried under the build-up of sand.

By 1923, when the Department of Lands and Survey mapped the extent of the dunes on a plan of the city of Nelson and Tahunanui Town District (Fig 13),[27] the line of dunes along the north side of the reserve was well established. The front beach was some way south of the present beach, with the beach top above high water running through the present roller skating rink, the tennis courts and the south side of Bisley Walk.

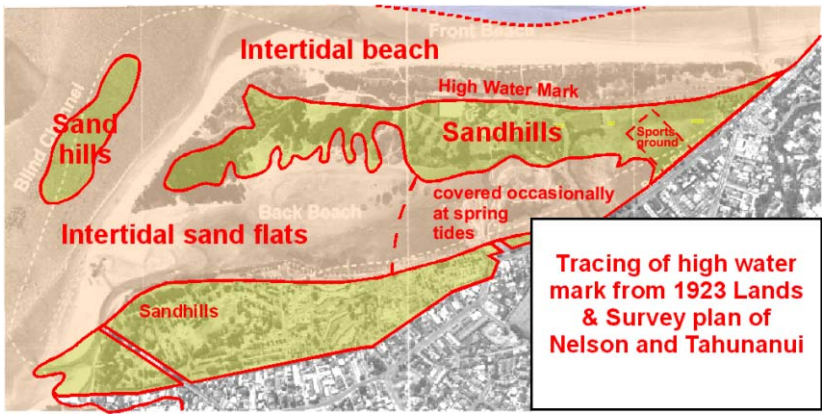


Fig 13: Dunes and high water mark in 1923. (Nelson Provincial Museum)

The map shows a sportsfield alongside Beach Road, of which the outline can still be seen from the air when summer drought shows up variations in grass growth.[28]

One of the objects of the Tahuna Progressive Association, at its founding in 1910, was the improvement of the beach by the erection of changing sheds and shelter sheds and the planting of trees. In 1912 they planted trees and built the first playing field and swings on the Back Beach.[29] This field may well be the one shown on the 1923 plan. It can be seen in Fig 14, taken around 1925 or 1926,

soon after the construction of Bisley Avenue and the Hut tearooms almost opposite the top of the beach at that time.[30] Note how close the corner of the field is to the beach top. The present-day sportsfield changing building on the south side of Bisley Walk is next to this corner.

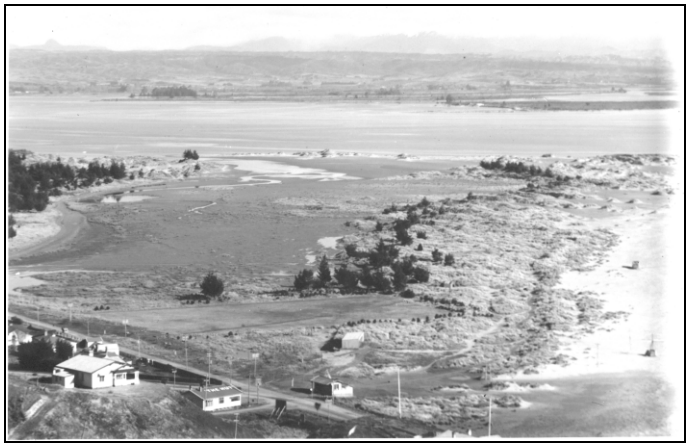


Fig 14: View over the beach in 1925/6 (Nelson Provincial Museum: Cawthron collection 1425)

In 1926 the enthusiasts in Tahuna formed the Tahuna Sands Association to look after the reserve. The reserve was vested in the Association in 1929, and this prompted the Nelson City Council to start providing significant funds for improvements.[31] However it did not proceed with the association's grander scheme which included boulevards and a two-storey restaurant.[32]

A proposal was mooted in 1930 to subdivide the part of the reserve now occupied by the motor camp into residential sections, but it was realised that the Trust Deed precluded this, and anyway the Council considered the sand dunes at the end of Parker's Road to be too high to remove except at great cost.[33] Comparison of the shorelines in the 1850s, 1899 and 1923 shows that most of these dunes had built up since the silting up of the old channel in the 1870s and 1880s. Much sand was taken from these dunes some 40 years later, and used to fill the tidal inlet and the low land further up Parker's Cove for housing.[34]

The 1923 Lands and Survey plan (Fig 13) shows how at this stage the Blind Channel was still well out to the west, and the area at the western end of the beach where it now flows was building up, to the extent that an island of sandhills had formed.

The beach then built forwards and the dunes built up further, until by 1935 they had reached almost to their present position. The line of mean high water in May 1935 is shown in Fig 15, traced from a Nelson City plan of Tahuna Sands Reserve dated January 1938.[35] At the

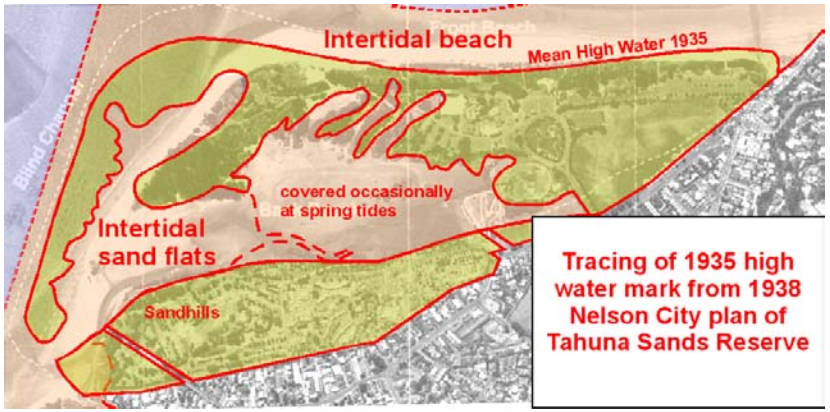


Fig 15: Dunes and high water mark in 1935. (Nelson Provincial Museum)

junction with Rocks Road, however, the eastern end of the dunes turned inwards to the 1923 line, along the line of the present stormwater channel. It appears likely that the stormwater culvert had been constructed when the beach was back at the 1923 position, which may have prevented this end of the beach from building forward in line with the rest of the beach. Wave reflection off the Rocks Road seawall, first constructed in 1899, may also have inhibited dune building at this end of the beach.

Comparison of the 1923 and 1938 plans shows that the greatest change was the eastward migration of the Blind Channel, which had broken through the Waimea Bank in the 1870s.

The 1938 plan was drawn to show the area to be leased to the Tahuna Sands Association – heralding a change in the responsibilities of the Association in which the whole reserve had previously been vested and which it had controlled on a year-to year basis. It shows the extent of the motor camp and associated picnic grounds at the time, and also the other improvements that had been made – Hounsell Circle and carparking area, a bathing shed between it and the beach, as well as the present tennis courts and modellers pond.[36] Possibly these included new picnic and sports grounds built by the Tahuna Sands Association in 1938.[37] This Association continued to manage the eastern part of the reserve until 1961.[38] Other volunteer groups helped them with the developments.[39]

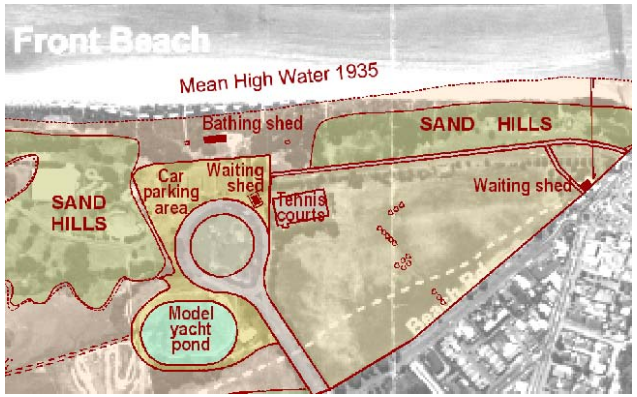


Fig 16: Features of the main beach shown on the 1938 plan

The motor camp had been established by the Association in 1937 and more than 1,000 campers stayed there in 1938.[40] During the second world war part of the camp was used by the Women's Division of the Air Force, who erected the first permanent accommodation.[41] The camp has since expanded greatly, under the management of the Association up to 1961 and subsequently by the Tahuna Beach Camp Inc.

Reference was made above to the Reserves and Other Lands Disposal Act 1947 and SO Plan 9997. That plan has a striking resemblance to the Nelson City Council plan dated January 1938, on which it was noted that the mean high water mark was surveyed in May 1935. This suggests that most of the 1947 SO plan was traced directly from the 1938 plan. In that case the SO plan when lodged was 12 years out of date, a significant period of time considering the speed at which the Blind Channel was moving eastwards.

Fig 17 is an oblique aerial photograph from the Christchurch Air Force Museum's collection, taken in July 1942.[42] Comparison of the position of the pines at the western end of the beach, most of which are still there in 2003, and the Parker's Cove area, gives a clue to the distance that the Blind Channel has migrated over the ensuing 60 years.

Fig 17: Part of an oblique aerial photo of the 1942 wartime RNZAF Station Nelson, showing the encampment off Bolt Road (in foreground). (RNZAF Official, via Air Force Museum)

1950s to the present

Vertical aerial photographs have been taken at regular intervals since about 1940, and the changing vegetation lines were mapped in the 2000 Nelson State of the Environment Report. They demonstrate clearly the migration of the Blind Channel and fluctuations of the front beach over 51 years.[43]

They have been converted into a series of illustrations to make the progression and regression of the shoreline easier to appreciate, and these are reproduced on the following page, with one additional illustration derived from the mapping on the 1938 Nelson City plan, so extending the sequence to more than 60 years.

For convenience the relatively stable outline of the motor camp has not been shown. It can be seen on the underlying 1999 aerial photograph, south of the Back Beach.

Note that the pictures show the edge of the vegetation - mean high water is somewhat out from this line, so care is needed when comparing it with the maps of earlier shorelines.

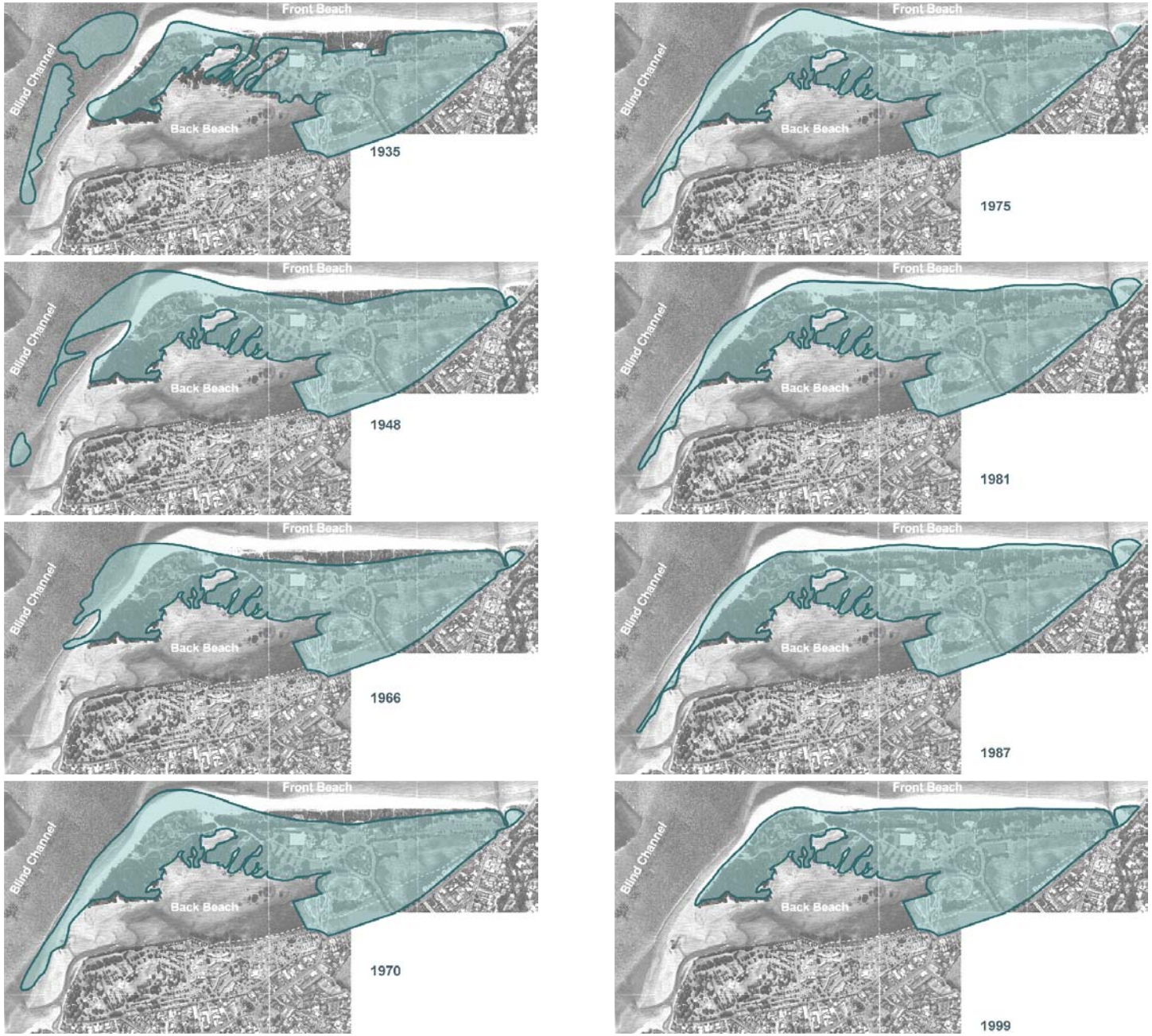


Fig 18: Series showing the changing vegetation lines

In this period the north-west corner of the beach moved south-east by a long way, but at times the northwards bulge (the base of the sandspit) has grown back. This shows the sandspit "rolling" eastwards as the Blind Channel pushes it across, at an estimated rate of 3.85 metres a year.[44] It is pivoting about a point offshore from just south of Parker's Cove, rather than moving uniformly.

The Blind Channel's migration was also altering the sandspit that runs south from the corner of the beach. In 1935 there was a substantial spit, but it had been eroded away by 1966. Then a new spit had formed by 1970, eastwards from the 1935 spit. Over the years this too was eroded, and in 1999 all that was left of the vegetation was a pile of broken tree stems. By then a new spit was forming to the east of the previous one, with new vegetation establishing on it.

Many older residents of Nelson remember that in the late 1950s and early 1960s there was much erosion along the middle part of the front beach, and the sea threatened both the surf life saving clubroom and the bathing shed north of Hounsell Circle, on the west side of the present Savannah café and playground. The 1938 plan (Fig. 15) and the 1942 photo (Fig. 17) both show the bathing shed surrounded by sand, with dunes to the east and west.

During the 1950s and early 1960s the shoreline in front of the flanking dunes eroded markedly, and the sea even came in around the building. One Christmas around 1960 the eroded dune face near the life saving clubroom was used by the life saving club as a stage.[45] In December 1964 the Nelson Photo News published photographs showing how the sea had eaten back into these dunes between 1961 and 1964 and wrote that "a seawall, no matter what the cost, must be the first step in the development of the beach".[46] . Fig 19 shows a brushwood fence erected in front of the life saving clubroom to "keep back the hungry high tides",[47] Careful study of the changing vegetation line in Fig 18 reveals that the erosion only cut back a little in the middle by the bathing shed, it mainly eroded the flanking dunes.

Fig 19: Nelson Photo News view of front beach erosion protection in 1964 (Nelson Provincial Museum: Barry Simpson Nelson Photo News collection 3281 fr 11)

Referring to this in a 1978 report to the Nelson City Council, the city engineer said erosion along the front beach had been a problem since the 1950s and in particular in 1960 when a break-through of the front beach appeared imminent.[48] From 1965 the natural trend reversed, and over the next twenty years the middle part of the beach built out to the north by more than 50 metres.

In 1958/1959 major upgrading of Rocks Road was carried out, including refacing the seawall to break the force of storm waves and removal of material to improve the roadway around Magazine Point. Some of this material was

placed over the dunes and foreshore at the eastern end of the beach and shaped up to form a carpark overlooking the sea. Fig 20 shows a stockpile of material in this location, much of which was then used to build up the roadway. At the time it was acknowledged that there was a possibility that the sea would eat into the new carpark.[49]

Fig 21: Stockpile during Rocks Road upgrade in 1958/9. (G. Toynbee)

That happened soon after, and by the summer of 1964/5 the new carpark was under threat, along with the recently built children's playground. Widespread concern included a Nelson Evening Mail editorial calling for remedial action.[50] [51] In April 1965 sand was pushed up against the erosion faces and brushwood fences were erected.[52] [53] This saw the end of the erosion, and the dunes in front of the new carpark built out to the north over the following 20 years. Those in front of the playground did not advance quite so far, because the sand build-up in front of the carpark pushed the water channel from the stormwater outfall westwards along the beach. A timber groin was placed at right angles to the dune line to divert this flow down the beach to the sea.

Fig 20: 1965 erection of brushwood fences to protect the carpark and playground. (Nelson Provincial Museum: Geoffrey C Wood collection L6176 fr 8)

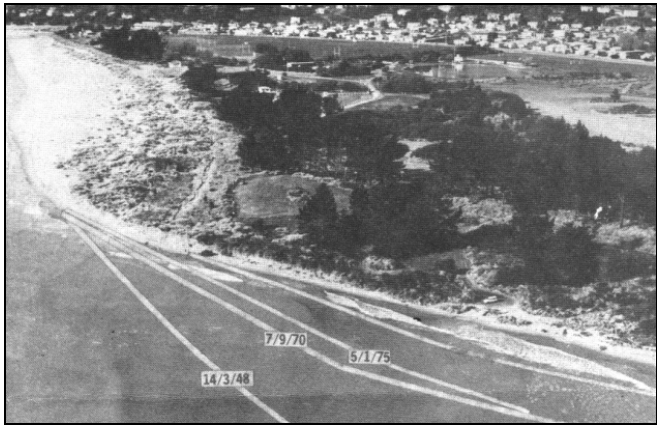


Fig 22: 1977 photo showing 1970s erosion at the base of the sandspit and the advance of the dunes along the front beach since 1964 (Nelson Evening Mail)

Meanwhile, the Blind Channel at the western end of the beach was continuing to migrate steadily eastwards.

In the late 1970s a combination of this movement and storm events accelerated the erosion of the dunes around the base of the sandspit and in front of the raised carpark east of the north-west corner of the beach. This prompted a suggestion by the Nelson Catchment Board to place rock protection around that corner, but the work was not done.[54] Given the history of change at that corner of the beach, rocks could not have held back the channel migration for long.

The inexorable eastward migration of the Blind Channel and the filling in of Bolton Hole are clearly seen in Figs 23 to 25, which are taken, in turn, from a 1956 Nelson Harbour Board plan,[55] the 1988 chart of Nelson Harbour and Entrance (derived from marine surveys in 1985 and 1986),[56] and a bathymetric survey carried out for the Nelson City Council by Hunter Hydrographic Services in 2000.[57]

Brown shading reflects 6 foot contours below mean low water springs and the yellow indicates intertidal sand areas. It should be noted that the source information for these was to show water depths only, and hence many of the land features, boulders and rocks, shown in green and grey, have been added to make the mapping easier to understand and are approximate only.

The changing outline of the Tahuna Sands Reserve is fairly accurate in these tracings, but the extent of the rock platform alongside Rocks Road and the depths around the old entrance to the Haven, between Rocks Road and Haulashore Island, as depicted here are sketch indications rather than precise plots.

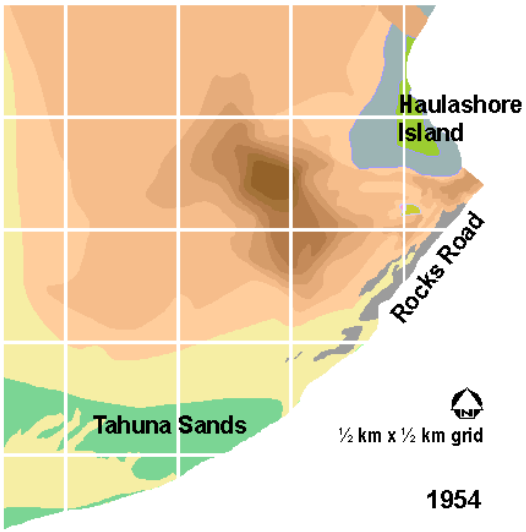


Fig 23: Tracing of 1954 Nelson Harbour Board seabed survey

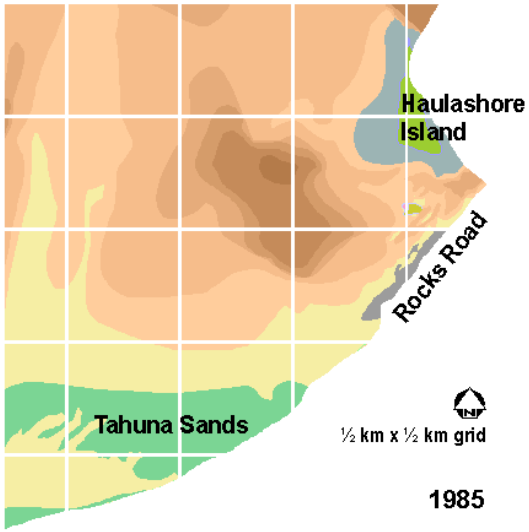


Fig 24: Tracing of 1988 LINZ chart

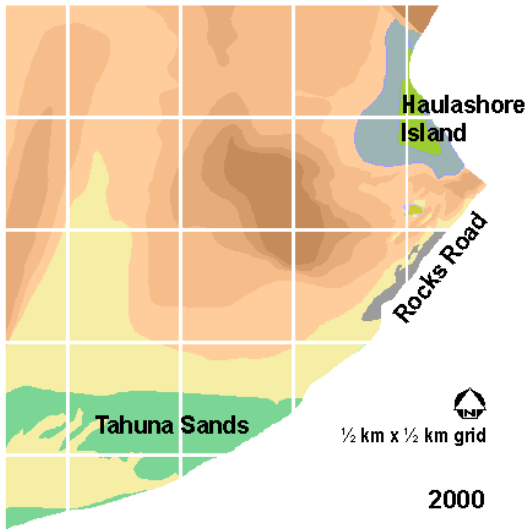


Fig 25: Tracing of 2000 Hunter bathymetric survey

This period also saw a significant number of man-made changes at the beach.

An area of dunes west of Hounsell Circle that had been levelled for a wartime anti-aircraft gun battery was leased for 18 months in the late 1940s for a dine and dance building. The roller skating rink was constructed in that area in 1954 and a club was established to operate it in 1966.[58] The roof was added in 1982.

A surf life saving club was formed in 1959 and was based at a life saving clubroom to the north-east of the roller skating rink. It soon had to be protected from the waves, as described above. By the late 1980s the dunes had built forward about 50 metres and the clubroom, no longer overlooking the beach, fell into disuse and was then removed.

The eastern part of the reserve had been leased to the Tahuna Sands Association since 1938. In 1961 the City Council terminated the lease, and instead leased just the area of the motor camp, to the Tahuna Beach Camp Inc., a new society formed by the Tahuna Sands Association to take over its role of managing the camp. 10% of the gross income of the camp was to be paid to the Council for improvements at the reserve. This figure was reduced in 1971, and then changed to a conventional rent in 1981. The new arrangement enabled the camp to invest in substantial capital improvements, including the first ten tourist flats erected in 1965, the 28 unit Stollery Lodge in 1974/5 and the conference centre in 1993.[59]

From 1961 Councillors had direct control of the reserve and through the early 1960s they and others were giving much thought to further improvements, including a restaurant and a soundshell, neither of which eventuated. That period did see, despite the erosion of the time, the construction of the Bisley Walk roadway and parking areas to replace the earlier footpath, as well as establishment of the Lions' playground in 1963, Natureland in 1966 and the mini golf course in 1969. The model railway was begun and the modellers pond restored in 1959, with subsequent track extensions in 1961, 1963 and 1980.[60]

The Nightingale Library Memorial was built in 1978, next to the existing Plunket room east of the junction of Beach Road and Tahunanui Drive.[61]

Commercial development became established in the 1980s, along with an increased range of public recreation facilities. The BMX track was laid out in 1981, the bumper boats were opened in 1983 and the hydroslide and Indy 500 track were constructed in 1986.[62]

Each New Year from 1949 to 1977 an area of the back beach was used for motor racing. The annual event was organised by the Nelson Car Club, and in later years included motorcycle races. Each attracted thousands of spectators. For eight years races were also held on Queen's Birthday.[63] The compaction that resulted can still be seen on the back beach, but no structures remain.

Future trends

Some 250 metres of the western end of the front beach has been washed away over the past 60 years. Were the trend to continue at the same rate, then the roller skating rink might be threatened by erosion from the west in about 50 to 80 years from now. We do not know, however, that it is a constant trend. As always with the sea, the dynamics are continually changing.

Much of the sand being moved by the currents around Tasman Bay ends up in the southern corner of the bay. There is no shortage of sand, and the quantity is increasing all the time. Thus any erosion that occurs at Tahunanui is just localised repositioning of the sand within the stockpile - none is being washed out of the system.[64]

The predominant trend along the front beach has been progradation, as the sand has built up. However, it has not been a steady trend. There was a significant reversal in the 1950s and early 1960s, and more recently there has been another period of more localised erosion. Both have caused much concern, especially when buildings and other assets came under threat.

Whatever happens in the future, there will still be a beach at Tahunanui, but it may be in a slightly different position. As with all beaches, the interface between land and sea is constantly changing.

The Nightingale Library is built on a different beach, a gravel beach which was in existence before the present Tahunanui Beach was formed. Even at that time, the edge of the Blind Channel was over 200 metres offshore, with a shelf of intertidal sandflats between. That beach was subsequently buried under the newly forming sand beach.

Similarly, almost all of the buildings that have been constructed at the motor camp are located within the area that was dry land before the channel changed course in the 1870s.

A note on the name of the reserve.

In his book Historic Tahuna, BE Dickinson explains the origins of the use of the names Tahuna and Sands.

The whole area was part of the Green property in the 1890s and this was known as The Sands.

In the 1899 purchase agreement the area to become the reserve was referred to as The Sands. [65] In 1903 it was being referred to popularly as The Sands. [66]

In preparation for subdividing the land on the south side of Beach Road, the subdividers ran a competition to

suggest the best name for the Sands Estate, with a prize of One Guinea. 442 suggestions were made, and Tahuna was selected in September 1902, with the English meaning of "sea beach" or "sand hill".

In 1908 a post office was established in Muritai Street. Because there was already a Tahuna Post Office near Morrinsville, the name Tatahi, meaning "seashore", was selected by officials to avoid confusion. The locals ignored the new name and lobbied for it to be changed. Finally in 1911 the Department agreed to change the official name of the post office to Tahunanui. [67]

Thus the reserve was first known as The Sands. On the 1923 Lands and Survey plan it was labelled as City Council Sands Reserve [27] and by then it was popularly referred to as the Sands Reserve. The 1938 City Council plan has the title Plan of Tahuna Sands Reserve. [35] The name Tahunanui was coined to refer to the locality, not the beach. This was in order to distinguish its address from other parts of New Zealand, and to this day most people use the name Tahuna.

History researched from primary and secondary sources by David Sissons, with assistance from many others, including Anne McEwan of the Nelson Provincial Museum, Mike Johnston, Grahame Anderson, John Ross and Fred Jackson.

This version dated 5 August 2003

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Appendix 6

Assessment Criteria for Activities and Facilities

Any new activity or facility proposed within the Reserve needs to be granted approval from NCC Community Services officer. Proposals will be assessed against a number of key criteria in order to ensure the objectives of this Management Plan are met. These include criteria used in processing proposals across the parks and reserves network as whole and specific requirements activities and facilities within the Tahunanui Reserve.

The general requirements are as follows:

Need: There is a significant level of unmet need in the community where the proposed facility is to be located and the community supports the proposed facility.

Participation: The estimated participation levels are adequate and there is likelihood to increase the number and diversity of users.

Feasibility: Adequate feasibility research has been undertaken.

Impacts: There are many positive impacts on the community, environment and economy with low or acceptable negative impacts.

Permanent Commercial Operations

Any permanent commercial operations within the reserve need to be of a nature and scale in keeping with the coastal recreational nature of the Reserve. They will be permitted only within the Inland and Motor Camp Management Areas. In particular the recreational activity will be assessed in terms of the following:

- **Activities in zone A and B** shall be for the purpose of entertainment, education, sports or hospitality. Structures and buildings may be constructed, however these shall not have a significant additional visual impact beyond the zone boundaries.

- **Activities in Zone C** shall be for the purpose of sports only; structures and service buildings, which facilitate the sports activity, may be erected.

- **Activities in Zone D** shall be located well away from the foreshore and have a community focus. Buildings and other structures may be constructed within this area however their size, scale and bulk shall be such as to not dominate the site or have an adverse visual effect on view shafts through the reserve or the wider Tahunanui area

- Be an economically viable operation over an extended season or year round basis including, weekends and public holidays.

- Operations shall be focused on day and evening activities rather than late night operations.

Short Term Commercial Operations (Concessionaires)-

The Council shall have regard to the nature, location and total number of concessionaires operating at any one time. The concessions shall be of a nature and scale appropriate to the recreational and entertainment demands of the coastal Reserve. In particular the granting of an operating licence will be assessed in terms of the following:

- Licences shall be granted to concessions that are appropriate to the coastal recreational nature of the reserve and demands of the Reserve visitors, at NCC discretion.

Activities within the Inland Management Area:
- May be permitted for any activity that supports the family atmosphere and reserve experience provided the access and availability of existing facilities is not compromised.
- Food Concessions shall be limited to a no more than 6 sites within activity Zone C & D.
- Concessions in Activity Zones A & B, and non food concessions in Activity Zone C & D shall be limited by way of available practical space that does not compromise the use and purpose of these areas.

Activities within the Coastal Management Area:
- May be permitted for the purpose of outdoor sports tuition and equipment hire or passive recreation activities.
- Concessions will be limited to no more than three allocated sites within this area.
- No food or refreshment concessions will be permitted in this area.
- Activities should be low impact and in keeping with the natural character and low level servicing of this area.
- Activities which may be restricted by CAA rules, must have approval from the CAA before a concession application will be considered by NCC.

Activities within the Motor Camp Management Area:

- May be permitted providing they are for the purpose of enjoyment or recreation related to the beach environment and do not compromise the primary function of the area for motor camp purposes.

- Note the lease over this area requires a specific business use by the lessee and Council consent to any variation or subletting.

- The number of licences granted at any one time may be exceeded at the Councils discretion during special events.

- The location of the operators within each activity/management area shall be determined by NCC and shall be appropriate to the nature of the operation.

- If a concession licence is not used for a period of two weeks then Council maintains the right to terminate without compensation

Permanent (Non Commercial) Recreational Facilities -

The Council shall have regard to the nature, location, and scale of structure of the proposed recreational activity. The operations shall be of a nature and scale in keeping with the coastal recreational nature of the Reserve. In particular the recreational activity will be assessed in terms of the following:

- Location within the reserve appropriate to the Management Area objectives

- No permanent structures/buildings in the Coastal Management Area

- Proven future demand for the facility.

- Location and nature of the facility shall not conflict with adjacent activities.

Appendix 7

Plant List

Plant Species mentioned in the text	
Botanical name	**Common Name**
Ammophila arenana	marram grass
Lupinus arboreus	lupin
Acacia species	wattle species
Agapanthus orientalis	agapanthus
Araucaria heterophylla	norfolk pines
Chamaecyisus palmensis	tree lucerne
Coprosma species	coprosma spp
*Coprosma repens**	taupata
*Coprosma robusta**	karamu
*Coprosma grandifolia**	rauekau
Corynocarpus laevigatus	karaka
Desmoschoenus spiralis	pingao
Dodonaea viscosa	akeake
Dorotheanthus	South African ice plant
Lagunaria patersonii	lagunaria
Meterosideros excelsa	pohutukawa
*Myoporum laetum**	ngaio
Olearia	olearia
Phoenix dactylifera	phoenix palms
*Phormium tenax**	flax
Pinus radiata	pine
Pseudopanax crassifolius *	lancewood
*Pseudopanax arboreus**	five finger
Sophora microphylla	kowhai
Spinifex sericeus	spinifex
*Low flammability species, suitable to this site, as listed in the NRMP.	

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