

# **LAKE DOMAIN DEVELOPMENT PLAN**

## **Western Recreation Area**

This document is the Action Plan for the Landscape Development Plan dated December 2011 (Appendix 1).

### **KEY DESIGN ELEMENTS**

- Create a sense of arrival with built entry features, signage and native plants
- Wind shelter for campers and picnickers
- Concentrate camping facilities and shelter to the Western Recreation Area
- Incorporate native plantings throughout the Domain. Use native plants indigenous to the area (see Appendix 2).
- Enhance environmental education
- Use natural colours and materials for built structures
- Maintain and enhance views of the lake
- Encourage passive and active recreational groups to use the area and designate certain areas for certain users to avoid conflict between groups

### **MAJOR ACTIONS**

#### Vegetation

1. Plant Native Shelter: Extend the existing shelter planting along boundaries and into the campground forming clusters to create nooks for camping. This initial planting may need to be fenced.
2. Detailed Edge Planting: Detailed edge planting along shelter fence structures.
3. Mass Shelter Planting to the West of Pine Trees: Planting intended to shelter the campground from the northwest wind. Once this is established, the mature pine trees can be strategically removed.
4. Landscaping with Native Plants: Use of native plants to enhance landscaping at the entrance and around built environments such as the toilet block.
5. Lake Margins: There are species of plants along the lake margins that are extremely rare and should be protected. Planting near the lake edge should be restricted to allow these plants to regenerate. Work with other agencies to monitor vegetation along the lake margin.

6. Existing Pine Tree Shelterbelts: Plant natives in front of the pine shelter belt. Strategic removal of pines once the natives are established.
7. Existing Poplar Trees: Retain the Existing Poplar Trees.
8. Power Lines: All existing vegetation and proposed plantings within the vicinity of overhead power lines should be managed in accordance with the New Zealand Code of Practice for Electrical Safe Distances NZECP 34:2001 (NZECP 34:2001) and the Electricity (Hazards from Trees) Regulations 2003.

## Structures

1. Entry Landscaping: Replace the post and batten fencing at the domain entrance with low level rail fencing and landscape planting.
2. Artistic Signage: Install welcome and directional signs at the entry. Signposts made from chunky timber (eg bridge beams), with rusted steel signs, using laser cutting for wording and drawings. River stones at the base.
3. Wind Shelters: Build solid timber fences (approximately 1.8m high by 5m long) throughout the camping area orientated southwest to northeast to protect camp sites from the northwest wind.
4. Fire Pits: Construct several fire pit areas around the camp site for communal use and camp focus. The pits would be 5-6m in diameter, with central 1m diameter concrete pad (for build-your-own camp fire). Fire pits should be set in a depression to prevent fire hazards, with appropriate signage in place for the different fire seasons. Indestructible logs to be used as seating. BYO fire wood - or patio heaters during fire ban season.
5. Picnic Tables: At least six throughout the campground and grassed areas, particularly in sheltered areas.
6. Seats: At least six throughout the Domain, alongside walkways and off-road tracks.
7. Roofed Shelter: Build a roofed, three-walled shelter adjacent to toilet block, approximately 5m x 5m in size. Incorporate benches along the walls with a long dining table for communal use.
8. Water Provisions: An above-ground water tank for non-potable water (non-drinking) to be installed by the toilets. Investigate using the roofed shelter to collect rain water and/or utilise the existing bore.
9. Car Park and Turning Area at Toilets: Provide a turning area at the toilet block to minimise traffic through the campground. Low rails or bollards would help define the car area and a 3m-wide gap in the

rails would allow campers' vehicles to access the unformed track through the campground.

10. Boat Ramp: Improve the existing boat ramp in conjunction with user groups.
11. Jetty: Investigate reinstating the jetty.
12. Fence Posts: Remove the fence that extends into the lake.
13. Traffic Management: Construct a 200mm high teardrop-shaped traffic island at the entranceway, adjacent to the cattle-stop. This would help prevent anti-social behaviour at the road end (i.e. cars doing burn-outs).

### Recreational Activities

1. Walking/Mountain Bike Trails: Access tracks around the lake edge with links to Featherston via Turners Lagoon shall be developed over time as money and resources become available. These should recognise the sensitivity of the lake edge ecosystem.
2. Water Sports: (Windsurfing, jets skiing, yachting etc) Work with interest groups to maintain and enhance existing boat launch facilities, provide adequate trailer parking, and preserve windsurfer beach launch areas.
3. Educational Information: Provide information on the history, flora, and fauna of Wairarapa Moana. The camping ground shelter could contain larger information boards, while smaller interpretive signs could be located at various points around the Domain. User-targeted information about the wetlands could also be placed at the entry to Barton's Lagoon outlet (near the existing bridge).
4. Dogs: The Domain is often used by local residents as a place to exercise dogs without a lead. It is recognised that this is an important recreational use. However, dogs should be on leads around bird breeding habitats, and must be on leads within the fenced-off area of Barton's Lagoon. These areas can be appropriately signposted.

### **OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS**

#### Eastern End of Domain

While it is not the focus of this development plan, these are recommendations for improving the eastern area of the Domain beyond the scope of the camping ground.

*Planting:* Shelter plant in pockets along the length of the roadway. Plant occasional groves of trees such as kahikatea and cabbage trees, with flaxes and sedges. Install picnic tables and seats.

*Carpark at the Bridge (by Barton's Lagoon Outlet):* Upgrades are required to the road and car park at the bridge.

*Trail Bike Track:* It is agreed that an area should be set aside for use by motorbikes at the eastern end of the Domain. It is anticipated that the most suitable site will be the area already utilised by riders. Some investigation into the ecological value of the dunes by the Department of Conservation may be necessary with any identified areas to be fenced off.

*The Old Campsite:* It is unlikely that a vehicle bridge will be reinstated over Barton's Lagoon outlet. While camping can continue at the old campground at the eastern end of the Reserve, camping equipment would need to be carried to the site by foot. The Western Recreation Area is being developed for camping to concentrate development funding and to provide different recreational users with their own designated areas.

*Wetland Restoration:* A huge amount of work by various agencies has already gone into restoring and protecting some wetland areas, particularly around Barton's Lagoon. There are further areas that may become available for restoration but these do not fall within the scope of this plan.

## **CONCLUSION**

Camping, picnicking, walking, bird watching, mountain bikes, water sports, yachting, fishing, windsurfing, motorbikes, 4x4 vehicles, dogs – as with any multi-use public facility, consideration by all users will be key to the success of Lake Domain. Efforts have been made to designate areas for specific uses to reduce conflict between different groups.

This is an amazing resource to have on Featherston's doorstep. Coordinated and community-endorsed development such as this can only improve the area and truly make it something special for future generations to enjoy.

# **APPENDIX 1: LANDSCAPE DEVELOPMENT PLAN**

## **APPENDIX 2 – RECOMMENDED PLANTINGS**

*Intended as a guide only - not a definitive species list for any or all of the areas.*

### **INITIAL SHELTER SPECIES**

- Coprosma lucida, C. robusta - karamu
- Cordyline australis – cabbage tree, ti kouka
- Elaeocarpus hookerianus - pokaka
- Hebe stricta – koromiko
- Hoheria sexstylosa – narrow leaved lacebark
- Kunzea ericoides - kanuka
- Leptospermum scoparium – manuka
- Melicytus micranthus – small leaved mahoe
- Melicytus ramiflorus subsp. ramiflorus – mahoe
- Myoporum laetum – ngaio
- Myrsine australis – red matipo
- Phormium tenax - flax
- Pittosporum eugenoides – tarata, lemonwood, P. tenuifolium - kohuhu
- Plagianthus regius – ribbon wood
- Podocarpus totara – totara
- Sophora microphylla - kowhai

### **SHELTERED EDGE PLANTING** – decorative landscape plants

- Brachyglottis repanda
- Carex dissita, C. lessoniana, C. solandri, C. virgata
- Cortaderia fulvida – mini toetoe, C. toetoe – toetoe
- Eleocharis acuta
- Gahnia xanthocarpa
- Isolepis reticularis

### **WETLAND PLANT SPECIES** – grasses, sedges, rushes and other plants

- Carex secta, C. virgata
- Carex buchananii, C. cirrhosa
- Coprosma propinqua – mingimingi
- Cordyline australis – cabbage tree, ti kouka
- Cortaderia toetoe - toetoe
- Cyperus ustulatus - giant umbrella sedge
- Dacrycarpus dacrydioides – kahikatea