



Open Space

We are reviewing and updating our current District Plan – looking ahead to the next 10 to 15 years. The Kaipara District Plan is essentially the ‘rule book’, which is applied to manage development, activities and the environment within the district.

The District Plan influences the future shape and feel of our district, which is why it’s important for Kaipara communities to be informed and get involved. Its purpose is to protect our environment, historic locations and cultural tāonga for future generations, through sustainable management of our resources, while supporting our communities to develop and grow.

We’re seeking input on our initial draft ahead of the statutory process, scheduled to commence in mid-2023. This Draft District Plan does not have any ‘legal weight’ and the Operative District Plan must continue to be relied upon.

Open spaces throughout the district are vital for recreation opportunities, access to green space, and for people’s physical and mental wellbeing. These are provided for in three different zones: the Natural Open Space Zone (NOSZ), the Open Space Zone (OSZ), and the Sport and Active Recreation Zone (SARZ).

These three zones have different purposes. Some have high ecological and landscape values, while some provide space for passive and active recreation.

What are we proposing?

The NOSZ generally applies to public land that is administered by government agencies and covers open space areas that have high natural, ecological and landscape values. These areas are valued by the community, some are used for cultural activities and are also rich in historic heritage values. This zone comprises approximately 9.25% of Kaipara’s land area.

The Draft District Plan allows a low level of development in the NOSZ to retain the natural values within these areas. Where development occurs, it is generally limited to such things as Kauri dieback cleaning stations and walking tracks.

The OSZ generally has less built features and is less developed than areas zoned as SARZ. These open spaces may have natural, ecological, cultural, and historic heritage values and can include elements of the district’s walking and cycling network.

Facilities are generally limited to those sites that support the enjoyment of the open space for informal recreation and community activities.

Kaipara district’s major sports facilities are in the SARZ. This zone is used predominantly for a range of indoor and outdoor sport and active recreational activities, and associated facilities and structures. It contains larger-scale buildings, along with car parking, lighting, and activities that can create larger volumes of traffic and noise.



Do these rules apply to just Council reserves?

Most of the land in these zones is managed by either Kaipara District Council or the Department of Conservation. There are some areas of privately-owned recreation land that the zones can apply to if the owners are supportive.

Summary

- The Reserve Management Units currently contained within the Operative Kaipara District Plan 2013 are being removed and replaced with the three open space zones.
- Each zone has different rules to meet the intended use requirements and to support appropriate active and passive recreation activities.

How much is changing?



NOT MUCH

A LOT

We’d love to hear your views:

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