Infrastructure & Community Facilities Committee Meeting

24 September2026

Attachment 7.3 for Item 7 in the Agenda

"Approval of Te Whānau Hou Grovetown Lagoon Management Plan"

MARLBOROUGH DISTRICT COUNCIL

TE WHANAU HOU Grovetown Lagoon

Te Whānau Hou Grovetown Lagoon Management Plan



Te Whānau Hou Grovetown Lagoon Management Plan

Approved by Council [insert date]

Published by:

Marlborough District Council
Cnr Seymour and High Streets
PO Box 443
Blenheim 7240

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Part A – Introduction

Grovetown Lagoon is a remnant oxbow or horseshoe lake adjacent to the Wairau River, four kilometres northeast of Blenheim. The Lagoon has become a popular area for walking, biking, picnicking, kayaking and bird watching as a result of the continuing restoration efforts of Te Whānau Hou Grovetown Lagoon Incorporated (the Society) over the last 20+ years.

The restoration project was begun when a local resident raised concerns about the degraded state of Grovetown Lagoon with the Marlborough District Council (the Council) in the late 1990s. The resident was concerned about poor water quality and a loss of biodiversity at the Lagoon. The Council agreed that there was an issue and asked local iwi Ngāti Rārua, Ngāti Toa Rangatira and Rangitāne o Wairau, along with the Department of Conservation (DOC) and the community to work together on a project to restore the Grovetown Lagoon.

Te Whānau Hou Grovetown Lagoon was launched in 2002 and then formalised in December 2005 when the Society was incorporated under the Incorporated Societies Act 1908. Te Whānau Hou means a new family and the foundation of the group is a collaboration between Ngāti Rārua, Ngāti Toa Rangatira, Rangitāne o Wairau, DOC, the Council and the community.

Other groups such as Nelson/Marlborough Fish and Game have been involved in the restoration efforts over the years.

A management plan had been prepared by the Society in 2003 and this has guided restoration efforts at the Lagoon since. However, in response to a desire to ensure there is ongoing protection of Grovetown Lagoon and that restoration efforts continue, a new management plan has been developed.

The Te Whānau Hou Grovetown Lagoon Management Plan (the Plan) includes an overview of the key values of the Lagoon and issues identified through consultation and through the restoration work of the Society. An overall vision along with objectives and policies provide direction for the future protection, development and management of the Lagoon. In addition, actions required to assist in achieving the overall vision are included.

A more detailed account of the key values, issues, legislative background and history of the Lagoon is provided in a separate document: *Te Whānau Hou Grovetown Lagoon Management Plan – Background Information*. The document does not form part of the Plan but is intended to provide more detail should readers seek further information.



Legislation

Te Tiriti o Waitangi

Te Tiriti o Waitangi (the Treaty of Waitangi) is the basis for the rights and responsibilities of the Crown and Māori. For land that is a reserve, the Council has a duty to interpret and administer the principles of the Treaty of Waitangi under the Reserves Act 1977.

Reserve management plans

Under the Reserves Act 1977, the purpose of a reserve management plan is to "... *provide for and ensure the use, enjoyment, maintenance, protection, and preservation, as the case may require, and to the extent that the administering body's resources permit, the development, as appropriate, of the reserve for the purposes of which it is classified".*

There is a range of purposes for which reserves are gazetted including scenic, recreation, scientific, local purpose, historic, nature and government purpose. The Grovetown Lagoon area is a collection of land parcels with various statuses but not all of the land is vested or gazetted as a Reserves Act reserve. Notwithstanding this, the Reserves Act process for preparing this management plan has been followed to address concerns as to how the Lagoon area will be managed and protected in the future.

Other legislation and plans

The Council also has a range of other legal obligations to consider in managing Grovetown Lagoon. These include but are not limited to the Resource Management Act 1991, Local Government Act 2002 and the Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga Act 2014. There are various plans, strategies and bylaws that also have relevance for the Lagoon. These include resource management plans (Wairau/Awatere Resource Management Plan and proposed Marlborough Environment Plan) and the Marlborough Walking and Cycling Strategy.

A brief overview of the relevant legislation, statutory requirements, strategies and plans can be found in Appendix 3.

Statutory Acknowledgements

Marlborough's Tangata Whenua Iwi[1] have all signed Deeds of Settlement with the Crown to address breaches of Te Tiriti o Waitangi. Part of this includes statutory acknowledgements that recognise the particular cultural, spiritual, historical and traditional association of an iwi with an identified site/area. In developing the Plan for Grovetown Lagoon, consideration has been given to the statutory acknowledgements that are in place for Ngāti Rārua, Ngāti Toa Rangatira and Rangitāne o Wairau being founding members of the Society.

Process for developing the Plan

The process to develop the plan has broadly followed the Reserves Act reserve management plan process. It has taken into account the views of Iwi, the Society, users and the wider community. A summary of the process is provided below:

- July – September 2021: Notificaiton of intent to prepare the management plan and invitatation for feedback on values, concerns and improvements.
- 27 February 2025: Adoption of the Draft Te Whānau Hou Grovetown Lagoon Management Plan for consultation.
- 6 March to 8 May 2025: Draft Plan available for submissions.
- June 2026: Hearing and consideration of submissions.
- [Insert date]: Final Te Whānau Hou Grovetown Lagoon Management Plan adopted by Council.

[1] Ngāti Apa, Ngāti Kōata, Ngāti Kuia, Ngāti Rārua, Ngāti Toa, Ngāti Tama, Ngāi Tahu, Rangitāne o Wairau and Te Ātiawa

The first consultation round attracted 37 written suggestions. This feedback was considered in preparing the draft Plan.

A summary document of the feedback received was prepared and forwarded to those who had provided feedback. This summary document is included within the background document as Council's response to a number of the suggestions made in the feedback.

The second consultation round on the draft Plan attracted 34 submissions of which eight were heard by the Council appointed subcommittee of Councillors B Dawson, G Hope and B Faulls on 16 and 18 June 2026.

The final Te Whānau Hou Grovetown Lagoon Management Plan was adopted by Council on [insert date].



Part B – About Grovetown Lagoon

Legal descriptions

There are several parcels of land and different land statuses that apply to the land commonly known as the Grovetown Lagoon. Figure 1 shows the areas of land to be managed through the Plan while Table 1 has detail on the legal status of the land. The land area surrounded by the Lagoon is private land with access from Cemetery Road.

In addition to different land statuses, there are also different land managers for the various parcels of land.

Toitū Te Whenua Land Information New Zealand (LINZ) manages the wetted areas of the Lagoon (1, 4, 7a, 7b, 10 and 10a), while DOC manages a recreation reserve (3) and another small parcel of land (3a) close to the rowing club. The Council manages various areas of unformed legal road (2, 2a, 2b, 7, 8, 9, 11 and 12) and local purpose reserves held for conservation (5) and access (6) purposes.

Despite the different land managers and statuses, the Lagoon is to be managed as a whole through the Plan.

Figure 1 – Grovetown Lagoon Map Land Area

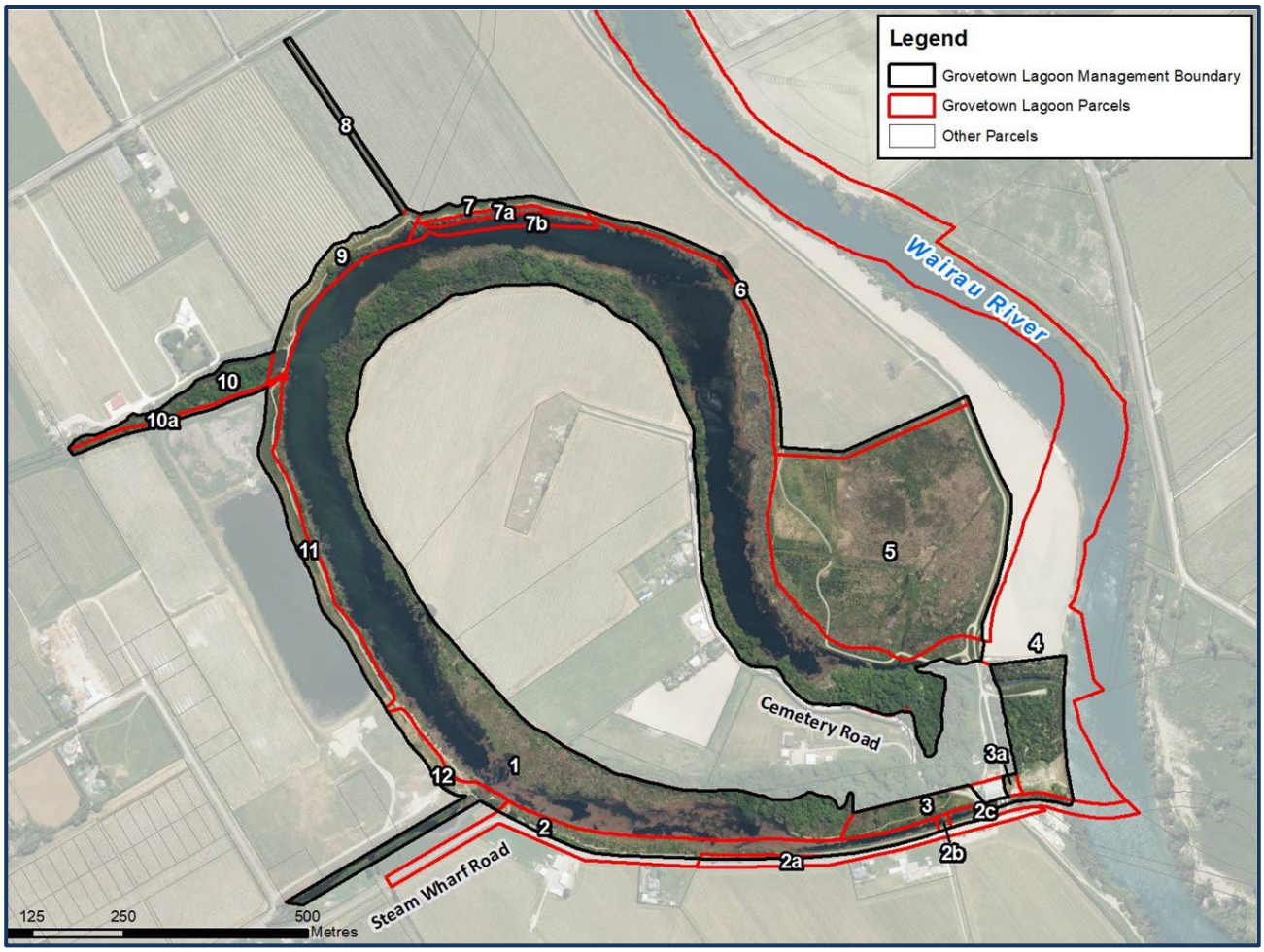


Table 1 – Land Status

	Commonly known as	Legal Description	Land status	Area (Ha)
1	The Lagoon (area covered in water)	NZ Primary Parcel 3744740 LT 385437 (affected surveys)	LINZ Land Hydro	23.1406

	Commonly known as	Legal Description	Land status	Area (Ha)
2	Steam Wharf Road to rowing club	NZ Primary Parcel 3741019	Unformed legal road	1.9159
2a	Steam Wharf Road to rowing club	NZ Primary Parcel 3732140 Part Section 36 Wairau West DIST 6310	Unformed legal road	0.5900
2b	Steam Wharf Road to rowing club	NZ Primary Parcel 3743581	Unformed legal road	0.0336
2c	Steam Wharf Road to rowing club	NZ Primary Parcel 3743071	Unformed legal road	0.4926
3	DOC Domain	SEC 19 XII CLOUDY BAY SD SO 1538 Blk	Recreation Reserve	0.9105
3a	DOC Domain Riverside (in front of rowing club)	Crown Land Survey Office Plan 1538 NZ Primary Parcel 3714645		
4	Riverside area	Part of the Wairau Riverbed. NZ Primary Parcel 7259998 SO 429787 (affected surveys)	Hydro	
5	Springs Wetland	LOT 3 DP 453740	Local Purpose (Conservation) Reserve	8.3025
6	Loop track - Springs Wetland northwards	Lot 4 DP 453740	Local Purpose (Access) Reserve	0.7180
7.	Part loop track to Watson's Road Access.	Section 3 SO 364618 NZ Primary Parcel 6837010	Unformed legal road	0.3176
7a	Part loop track to Watson's Road Access.	Part Section 43 DIST Wairau West DP360450 NZ Primary Parcel 6823689	Hydro	
7b	Part loop track to Watson's Road Access.	NZ Primary Parcel 6828704	Hydro	0.3929
8	Access from Watson's Road to Lagoon	Section 2 SO364618	Unformed legal road	0.2845
9	Watson's Road Access to Kelly's Creek	RD SO 364618 NZ Primary Parcel 6837013	Unformed legal road	
10	Kelly's Creek	DP 360450 NZ Primary Parcel 6815688	Hydro	0.7121
10a	Kelly's Creek	NZ Primary Parcel 3745307	Hydro	
11	Kelly's Creek to Steam Wharf	NZ Primary Parcel 3740503	Unformed legal road	
12	Steam Wharf	NZ Primary Parcel 3742897	Unformed legal road	

Features of Grovetown Lagoon

Most areas of Grovetown Lagoon are identified as significant wetland in the Council's Marlborough Environment Plan. Wetlands are defined in New Zealand resource management law as permanently or intermittently wet areas, shallow water and land water margins that support a natural ecosystem of plants and animals that have adapted to wet conditions. This makes the Lagoon a very special place as it is now one of the few remaining large wetlands on the Wairau Plain.

The Lagoon has many important and varied natural areas. The old meander channel of the Wairau River is fed by freshwater tributaries, albeit modified drainage channels of the original wetland area, while the Springs Wetland area, adjacent to the wetted area of the Lagoon, is fed by groundwater.

Many aquatic animals can be found at the Lagoon including short and long fin eel, freshwater mussels, inanga and flounder. The Lagoon is also home to many wetland and forest birds with over fifty different species having been sighted. A number of these species, such as the Australasian Crested Grebe or the White Heron, are classified as having a status of nationally vulnerable or critical.

Led by the Society, restoration efforts around the Lagoon since 2002 have resulted in extensive plantings of native species and the removal of many pest plants. Areas are still being planted today and as such, there is a diverse range of natural areas supporting a range of flora and fauna. The mixed podocarp forest at the Lagoon today includes over forty different species.

The main access for Grovetown Lagoon is from Steam Wharf Road (off Fell Street from the Grovetown township), where a carpark is situated along the southern arm of the Lagoon. There is also a lesser used access from Watson's Road.

The Council has infrastructure at the Lagoon to control flooding. This includes the stopbanks, floodgates and pumping stations at the northern and southern outlets of the Lagoon. There is also a water level monitoring site on the northern arm of the Lagoon near the Watson Road access.

The Wairau Rowing Club is located beside the Wairau River near the southern outlet to the River. The rowing club lease the footprint of the rowing club building from the Department of Conservation.

Since the commencement of the restoration project, the Society has also worked in enhancing recreational values of the area including the development of a gravel walking and cycling track around the outside of the Lagoon. Other enhancements include seats, picnic tables, bridges, signage and carparking and a toilet.



Part C – Key values and issues

People value Grovetown Lagoon in a number of ways and while the values set out below are not all those that people considered important, they are those that were most commented on through the consultation and feedback processes. They are the values upon which the subsequent objectives and policies have been based.

Common themes amongst aspects most enjoyed or valued about the Lagoon include:

- walking, biking, birdwatching
- personal, whānau and cultural importance
- peacefulness
- picnicking and taking family and visitors
- the proximity to the water
- well maintained facilities, e.g., the tracks, the toilet and carpark
- the native plantings
- the opportunity to volunteer
- the recreational harvest of game birds and duck shooting

The key issue of concern that was identified through feedback from users of the Lagoon was recreational game bird hunting. Game bird hunting was opposed by some because of the conflict with protecting and enhancing biodiversity, including animals, and then allowing the shooting of game birds. The other concern was around safety, particularly with enhanced use of the Lagoon through a public walkway used by families and the community.

Those supporting hunting highlighted the long history of shooting at the Lagoon with time spent with family and friends. The significance of intergenerational connections being made as parents, children and grandchildren hunted together was also identified. The Lagoon was identified as a place with easy access and a great place to take young hunters to learn to hunt safely.

Other than the issues around recreational game bird hunting most of those providing feedback did not identify major areas of concern. Suggestions for improvement included:

- continuing with pest management and planting
- better signage
- a need for dogs at the Lagoon to be on lead
- ensuring walkways were resilient in adverse weather



Part D – Strategic direction

The vision for the Grovetown Lagoon Management Plan is as follows:

"Grovetown Lagoon is a taonga of land and water, a tranquil place for people to share and enjoy and where native flora and fauna are protected for the future."

The vision is a long-term view of community aspirations for the Lagoon. The strategic direction is to be achieved through implementing objectives and policies to guide the overall management of Grovetown Lagoon. The Plan also includes a list of actions or mahi required to help ensure that the objectives and policies can be achieved.

Objectives and policies

1.0 He tangata – the people

Objectives

1.1 Ngāti Rārua, Ngāti Toa Rangatira and Rangitāne o Wairau, the Society, the Department of Conservation, the community and the Council working together in the management of Grovetown Lagoon.

1.2 Ngāti Rārua, Ngāti Toa Rangatira and Rangitāne o Wairau exercising kaitiakitanga in the management of the Lagoon and providing for their hauora (long term wellbeing).

1.3 Grovetown Lagoon is highly valued by the local community who are supportive of restoration efforts at Grovetown Lagoon.

1.4 Cultural heritage of both Māori and European at Grovetown Lagoon is recognised and celebrated.

1.5 Progress on restoration efforts and achievements are communicated widely.

1.6 More people are inspired to be actively involved in caring for Grovetown Lagoon.

Policies

Working together

1.7 Support initiatives to maintain, protect and enhance values of Grovetown Lagoon where these are feasible and consistent with the Plan's vision, objectives and policies.

1.8 Encourage and work with those who wish to:

(a) enhance biodiversity health and resilience

(b) develop and maintain appropriate recreation resources and opportunities.

1.9 Provide opportunities for more people to be engaged in and connected with the restoration efforts through volunteer programs for propagation, planting, maintenance and predator control.

Kaitiakitanga

1.10 Enhance the mauri of Grovetown Lagoon.

1.11 Ngāti Rārua, Ngāti Toa Rangatira and Rangitāne o Wairau, the Society, the Department of Conservation and the Council will hui regularly to consider progress being made towards achieving the Plan's vision.

1.12 Support Ngāti Rārua, Ngāti Toa Rangatira and Rangitāne o Wairau to recognise their customary relationship with Grovetown Lagoon by:

(a) enabling appropriate recognition and consideration of mana whenua traditional practices and tikanga

(b) supporting use of non-threatened species of plants for rongoā or traditional customary harvest.

1.13 Support the installation of a pou whenua, whakairo (carving) or waharoa.

1.14 Ensure public facilities and infrastructure are located in culturally appropriate locations.

Grovetown Lagoon neighbours

1.15 Work alongside Grovetown Lagoon neighbours on matters of mutual interest or benefit including:

(a) to establish riparian management of the waterways in the Lagoon catchment

(b) pest management

(c) enhancement of biodiversity values.

1.16 Assess the impact on the cultural, biodiversity and recreational values of the Lagoon when considering applications for land use change, discharges or new activities near or adjacent to the Lagoon.

Communication

1.17 Use te reo Māori in conjunction with English on signage and mapping.

1.18 Provide opportunities to share information about the Lagoon, through friendly signage, information panels, newsletters, a webpage and brochures.

1.19 Acknowledge and recognise the support of sponsors and the community in achieving the Plan's vision, objectives and policies.

2.0 Te wai – fresh water

Objectives

2.1 Maintain and enhance the water quality of Grovetown Lagoon and contributing waterways.

2.2 Restore ecological and hydrological systems to promote healthy, thriving ecosystems.

Policies

2.3 Encourage and support riparian planting of waterways in the Lagoon catchment to assist in improving water quality.

2.4 Provide for fish passage through all tidal cycles.

2.5 Provide habitat in the Lagoon and contributing streams for native fish species.

2.6 Investigate options for the management of aquatic weed in the Lagoon.

2.7 Support monitoring of water quality of the Lagoon to determine baseline levels initially and enhancement over the life of the Plan.

2.8 Support development of an area for freshwater education at the Lagoon.

3.0 Te whenua – land

Objectives

3.1 Indigenous biodiversity at Grovetown Lagoon is improved in area, extent and state with the emphasis on endemic flora and fauna.

3.2 Enhanced amenity values of Grovetown Lagoon through improved indigenous biodiversity.

Policies

Biodiversity

3.3 Understand the area, extent and state of indigenous biodiversity in and adjacent to Grovetown Lagoon to:

(a) enable the assessment of the impacts on biodiversity health from various activities and uses

(b) determine the threats to indigenous biodiversity

(c) how the threats should be managed.

3.4 Maintain a plan to guide the planting of native trees/plants at Grovetown Lagoon to enhance biodiversity for native plants and animals.

3.5 The eco-sourcing of local plant species will be preferred where practicable in the restoration of indigenous vegetation and habitats.

3.6 Encourage the return of native birds to the Lagoon area by planting supplementary food supplies for seed and nectar feeding birds.

3.7 To assist in achieving enhanced biodiversity outcomes for the Lagoon, dogs are required to remain on formed tracks and be on-leash in accordance with the Council's Dog Control Bylaw 2021.

Pest management

3.8 Control and/or eradication of pest or exotic species (plant and animal), particularly where these are affecting the health of indigenous biodiversity or are causing a nuisance.

3.9 Maintain a pest management plan to guide the removal of pest plant and animal species.

4.0 Recreation

Objectives

4.1 A variety of recreational opportunities across Grovetown Lagoon and surrounds are available for users whilst biodiversity values (including wildlife) are protected and the general peacefulness of the Lagoon is maintained.

4.2 Free and open access to Grovetown Lagoon is generally provided.

4.3 Off-road connections are achieved from Grovetown Lagoon to other public open spaces and reserves in the area.

Policies

4.4 Any person undertaking recreational game bird hunting is required to hold a permit administered by Fish and Game[2]. The permit must identify the dates, times, location and conditions of use outlined in Appendix 5.

4.5 Ensure public access to the Lagoon is maintained except where:

(a) maintenance activities may require closure for health and safety reasons

(b) an event or activity requires access to be restricted

(c) other bylaws or legislation enable access to be restricted.

4.6 Provide and maintain facilities to enhance public use and enjoyment of the Lagoon, including:

(a) seats, toilet, shelter, picnic tables

(b) an elevated viewing platform

(c) kayak launching facilities.

4.7 Consider multiple use and accessibility (including the accessibility of neighbouring property owners) when developing new facilities especially those with a land/water interface.

4.8 Except for maintenance purposes or restoration planting, motorised vehicle use of legal road and the walking and cycling track is not permitted ie, motorbikes, four-wheel drive vehicles or similar[3].

4.9 Walking and cycling tracks around the Lagoon are well maintained, attractive, safe and easily accessed.

4.10 Limiting speed of cyclists to protect walkers and volunteers and limit disturbance to wildlife.

4.11 Upgrade an area of pathway to enable people with limited mobility to enjoy the values of the Lagoon.

4.12 Open areas for recreation and wetland views are maintained.

4.13 Support establishment of a walking and cycling connection between the Lagoon with:

(a) Spring Creek township to the north

(b) the Wairau Rowing Club to the south

(c) Grovetown township to the west.

[2] The statutory authority responsible for sports fish and gamebird resources.

[3] Electric bikes and scooters with motors under 300 watts are not regarded as a motorised vehicle and are able to use the tracks.

5.0 Management

Management and maintenance

Objectives

5.1 The Lagoon is managed and maintained to enhance biodiversity values and cultural values, to maintain the general tranquillity of the area and to enable recreational use.

5.2 Grovetown Lagoon is managed as a whole despite different land statuses and land managers.

5.3 Maintain the flood protection role of Grovetown Lagoon for surrounding properties.

5.4 Facilities and infrastructure for users of Grovetown Lagoon are maintained.

Policies

5.5 Commission an ecological report on the wetted area of the Lagoon to assess the suitability of changing the LINZ land to DOC reserve.

5.6 Monitor built structures and facilities to ensure they remain fit for purpose.

5.7 Buildings, structures and facilities will be recorded as assets in the Council's asset management system.

5.8 Ensure facilities and infrastructure:

(a) comply with appropriate legislation

(b) are cost effective

(c) are adequate for their intended purpose and use

(d) support use for all users.

Signage

Objective

5.9 Signs provide Lagoon users with clear and concise directions and information about the Lagoon.

Policies

5.10 Collaborate with Ngāti Rārua, Ngāti Toa Rangatira and Rangitāne o Wairau and the community to develop and provide informative signage about the use, culture and history of the Lagoon.

5.11 Use on-site interpretation to:

(a) contribute to people's understanding and appreciation of the Lagoon's values, history or significant features

(b) increase awareness of the role of Ngāti Rārua, Ngāti Toa Rangatira and Rangitāne o Wairau as kaitiaki and their connection to the Lagoon

(c) raise awareness of environmental issues.

5.12 Signs should be designed to be:

(a) the minimum size necessary to convey the message

(b) combined as much as possible to reduce clutter and maintenance

(c) consistent with the Council's branding guidelines.

Use of the Lagoon area

Objective

5.13 Activities do not adversely affect biodiversity values, the use and enjoyment of the Lagoon, or cultural or open space values.

Policies

5.14 To ensure the experience of those undertaking activities at and/or enjoying the Lagoon is unaffected, dogs are required to remain on formed tracks and be on-leash in accordance with the Council's Dog Control Bylaw 2021.

5.15 The use of drones from or over the Lagoon is to be in accordance with the Council's policy "Remotely Piloted Aircraft Systems (RPAS commonly known as Drones) use from or over Council Controlled Land".

5.16 Promote Grovetown Lagoon as an area that is smokefree.

5.17 New facilities and infrastructure to support restoration efforts and recreational use are supported where these are consistent with the Development Plan set out in Appendix 4.

5.18 Trees to commemorate, family, friends or events may be appropriate having regard to the following:

(a) the tree species is compatible visually, ecologically and functionally with other species planted at the Lagoon

(b) the location does not affect restoration efforts, access or maintenance activities

(c) no plaques, other structures or objects are to be installed with the tree

(d) should a tree die, be vandalised or need removal, they may not be replaced

(e) planting of commemorative trees will be supervised by the Society

(f) costs of the tree are the responsibility of the applicant.

5.19 Commemorative seats may be approved subject to:

(a) the location being consistent with the Development Plan

(b) the design of the seat being consistent with other seating around the Lagoon

(c) repair or replacement of seats is at the discretion of the Council where they are damaged, vandalised or reach the end of life

(d) plaques on a seat are permitted of a size no larger than 250mm x 150mm

(e) costs of the seat and plaque and installation are the responsibility of the applicant.

5.20 Where activities not provided for within the Development Plan are proposed then the policies of this Plan must be considered by the Council alongside the following:

(a) whether there will be a visual or audible intrusion in the Lagoon environment that may detract from amenity values

(b) the costs associated with the proposal and whether there is an increased cost to the Council for maintenance

(c) is there a demonstrated demand for the proposal

(d) can the proposal be accommodated in terms of access, parking, services, support facilities and future expansion, if considered likely

(e) whether alternative locations for the proposal have been investigated.

Drainage and flood management

Objective

5.21 Recognise the importance of Grovetown Lagoon as part of the overall flood defences and flood mitigation activity for the Lower Wairau Plain.

Policies

5.22 Improve recognition of the significance of drainage and flood hazard management activities at Grovetown Lagoon as part of the Lower Wairau Plain flood defences.

5.23 Support the coordination between restoration efforts at Grovetown Lagoon and land drainage and flood management activities.

5.24 Integrate flood protection measures involving planting on surrounding land at Grovetown Lagoon with efforts to enhance biodiversity at the Lagoon.

5.25 Support the introduction of new pumping stations/flood gates to provide for improved biodiversity outcomes whilst maintaining flood capacity.

5.26 Support the investigation of alternatives to mechanical removal of aquatic weed from screens at the pumping stations.

5.27 Where mechanical removal of aquatic weed occurs, seek alternative locations to depositing the weed on the benched area adjacent to Steam Wharf Road to ensure:

(a) the Lagoon circuit track is still able to be used

(b) opportunities continue for planting indigenous species

(c) the stability of the Lagoon bank near the pumping station is maintained.

Part E – Actions

These actions have been assigned priorities/timing and should be budgeted for as required through the Long-Term Plan/Annual Plan processes. Short term actions are generally intended to be achieved within 1-3 years, medium term actions within 3-7 years and long-term actions within 7-10 years.

No.	Action	Plan Ref	Year/s	Responsibility
	He Tangata – the people			
1	Identify and implement opportunities for participation	1.1 1.6	Ongoing	The Society and Council
2	Establish quarterly hui	1.1	Ongoing	The Society
3	Assess the mauri of the Lagoon	1.2	Medium term	Ngāti Rārua, Ngāti Toa Rangatira and Rangitāne o Wairau
4	Identify opportunities for the provision of cultural, historical and ecological information	1.2	Short to medium term	The Society
5	Update signage to include Māori and English place names[4]	1.4 5.10	Medium to long term	The Society, Ngāti Rārua, Ngāti Toa Rangatira and Rangitāne o Wairau and Council
	Te Wai – water / Te Whenua – land			
6	Assessing the state of indigenous biodiversity	2.1 3.1	Short to medium term	The Society
7	Prepare planting plan	2.1 3.1 3.4	Short to medium term	The Society
8	Update existing pest management plan	3.9	Short to medium term	The Society
9	Planting to enhance indigenous biodiversity	2.1 3.1	Ongoing	The Society
10	Control of plant and animal pests	2.2 3.1 3.8	Ongoing	The Society
	Recreation			
11	Investigate improving access to water area	4.1	Short term	The Society and Council

[4] Noted as Medium to long term as current signs are relatively recent. As signs need replacing, this action can be implemented.

No.	Action	Plan Ref	Year/s	Responsibility
12	Implement improved access outcomes	4.1	Short to medium term	The Society and Council
13	Connect Lagoon to Spring Creek to north and Wairau Rowing Club to south along Wairau River	4.3	Medium term	Council
14	Tracks identified on Smart Maps for shared use, walking or cycling	4.1	Ongoing	Council
	Management			
15	Investigate process to manage Grovetown Lagoon as a whole	5.2	Medium term	Council, DOC, the Society, Ngāti Rārua, Ngāti Toa Rangatira and Rangitāne o Wairau
16	Managing placement of commemorative trees and seats	5.19	Ongoing	The Society
17	Reassess effectiveness of policies restricting game bird hunting	4.4	Post hunting season	Ngāti Rārua, Ngāti Toa Rangatira and Rangitāne o Wairau, Council, the Society and Fish and Game
18	Monitor and maintain assets	5.4	Ongoing	Council and the Society
19	Implement Development Plan as resources allow	5.17	Ongoing	The Society
20	Develop and implement yearly work Plan	All	Ongoing	The Society
21	Review and report on achievement of the Plan's actions	All	Ongoing	The Society, DOC and Council

Appendices

1. Glossary
2. References
3. Legislation overview
4. Development plan
5. Recreational game bird hunting management approach

Appendix 1 – Glossary

Council	Marlborough District Council
Hapū	Sub-tribe
Harakeke	Flax
Hauora	Long term wellbeing
Hui	Gathering/meeting
Inanga	Native freshwater fish
Iwi	Tribe/people
Kai	Food
Kaitiaki	Guardian
Kaitiakitanga	The exercise of guardianship by mana whenua of an area and resources in accordance with tikanga Māori (customs and rules)
Kaumātua	A term used to describe a person who maintains an active leadership role. A kaumātua has social seniority, life experience and wisdom.
Macrophytes	Aquatic plants growing in or near water
Mana moana	Authority over the sea and lakes - although this is a modern term, the concept of authority over lakes and parts of the sea (mana o te moana) is traditional. According to Māori custom, land rights extended as well to adjacent sea or lakes with fixed boundaries for inshore and deep-sea fishing and the gathering of seafood.
Manuhiri	Visitor, guest/s
Mana whenua	Territorial rights, power from the land - power associated with possession and occupation of tribal land. A tribe's history and legends are based in the lands they have occupied over generations and the land provides the sustenance for the people and to provide hospitality for guests.
Marae	Place of gathering for hui, karakia, tangi and wānanga
Mauri	The life force that comes from wairua - the spirit, or source of existence and all life
MEP	Marlborough Environment Plan
Pātiki	Flounder
Pou whenua	Carved wooden posts, or other structures, used by Māori to mark territorial boundaries, or places of spiritual or cultural significance.
Rohe	Territory / area
Raranga	Weaving
Recreational game bird hunting	Hunting that is controlled and regulated under the Wildlife Act 1953
Rongoā	To treat, apply medicines
Society	Te Whānau Hou Grovetown Lagoon Society
Tangata whenua	People of the land

Taonga	Gift/treasure (physical, metaphysical and spiritual)
Te taiao	The natural world
Te Tiriti o Waitangi	The Treaty of Waitangi
Te Tau Ihu	The Top of the South Island (geographical location)
Tikanga	Custom, tradition, method or habit
Tino rangatiratanga	Self-determination, sovereignty, autonomy, self-government, domination, rule, control, power
Tuna	Eel
Urupā	Cemetery
Waharoa	Entranceway
Wāhi tapu	Sacred sites or places
Wātakirihi	Watercress
Waterfowl	Ducks, geese, or other large aquatic birds
Whakairo	Traditional Māori art of carving
Whānau	Refers to the extended family, although it can also mean, “to give birth”. The whānau was the basic social unit of Māori society; it usually included grandparents or great-grandparents and their direct descendants.
Whenua	Land
Whare	House, building or shelter

Appendix 2 – References

Arms Act 1983

Conservation Act 1987

Local Government Act 2002

Marlborough District Council. 1999. A survey of water quality, macrophytes and fish in the Grovetown Lagoon, Blenheim. Downes, Malcolm, Glova, Sorrell, Brian. L011918

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Marlborough District Council. 2003. Grovetown Lagoon Landscape Concept Plan - A Vision for the Future by Lucas Associates

Marlborough District Council. 2006. Grovetown Lagoon Historical Research Project by Melissa Love

Marlborough District Council. 2016. Proposed Marlborough Environment Plan (as amended by decisions on submissions and appeals).

Marlborough District Council. 2016. Wetland Restoration Ecology – Landcare Research Manaaki Whenua (Colin Meurk).

Marlborough District Council. 2019. Marlborough Walking and Cycling Strategy 2019-2029.

Marlborough District Council. 2019. Te Whānau Hou Grovetown Lagoon Strategic Planning Meeting.

Reserves Act 1977

Resource Management Act 1991

Wildlife Act 1953

Appendix 3 – Overview of legislation, plans and strategies

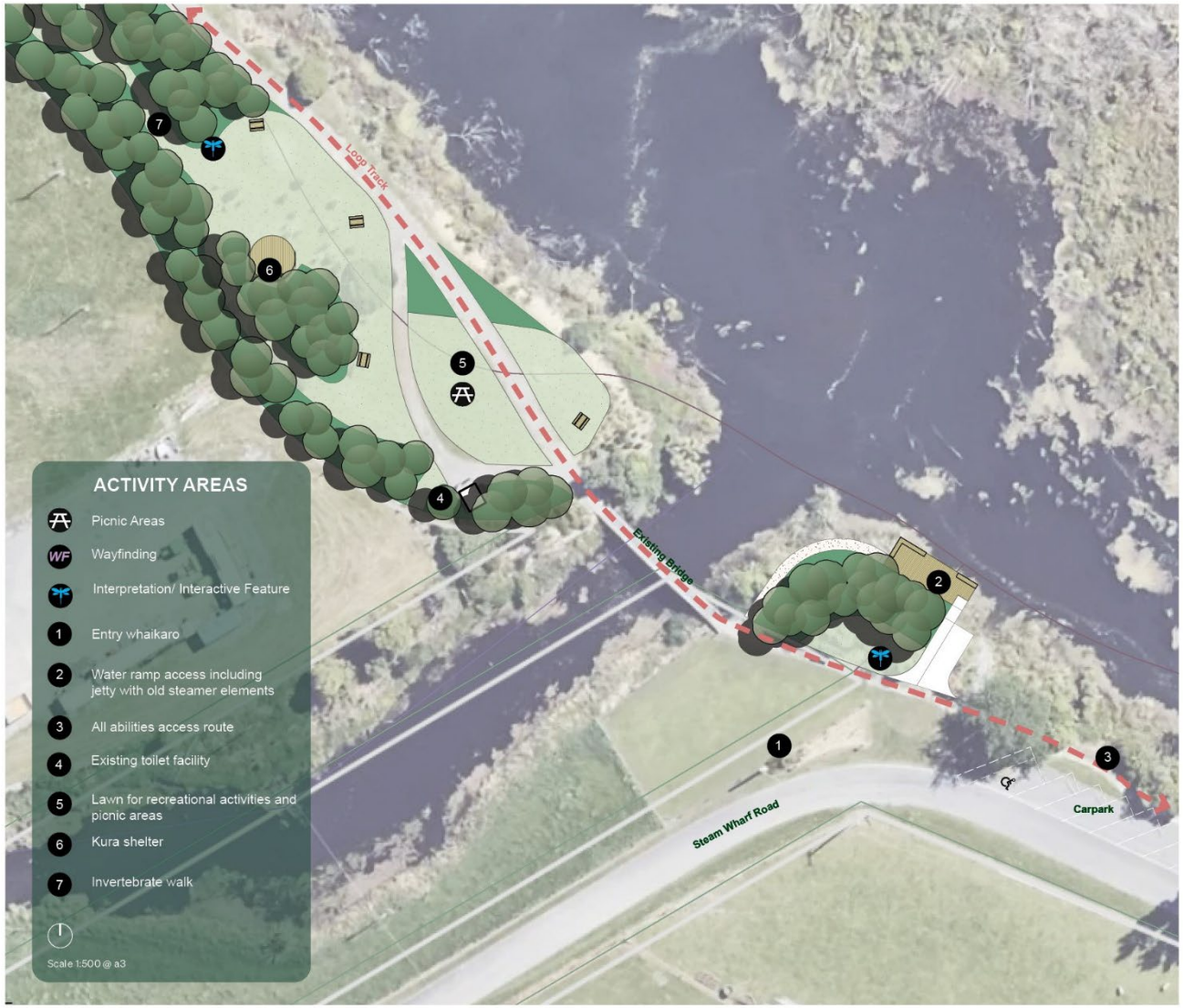
The Council is guided by legislation and statutory requirements for the provision of reserves and open space. There are also other strategies and plans that have relevance to the management and use of Grovetown Lagoon. A brief overview of those with specific relevance is provided here while a more detailed account can be found in the background paper.

Te Tiriti o Waitangi	Te Tiriti o Waitangi (the Treaty of Waitangi) is the basis for the rights and responsibilities of the Crown and Māori. The Council has a duty similar to the Crown's to interpret and administer the principles of the Treaty of Waitangi under the Reserves Act 1977.
Local Government Act 2002	The Local Government Act 2002 (LGA) is a far-reaching statute that has as its essential purpose to *provide for democratic and effective local government that recognises the diversity of New Zealand communities*. This includes through promoting the social, economic, environmental, and cultural well-being of communities in the present and for the future. The LGA also contains obligations to Māori, including the consideration of options in decision making and to facilitate Māori participation in decision-making processes.
Reserves Act 1977	To provide for the preservation and management, for the benefit and enjoyment of the public, areas possessing some special feature or values such as recreational use, wildlife, landscape amenity or scenic value.
Long Term Plan (LTP)	The Long Term Plan documents all the Council's activities and services it is intending to provide over the coming 10 years. This includes the provision and maintenance of open space and recreational areas and facilities. The LTP is therefore significant in assisting to achieve the outcomes of the Te Whānau Hou Grovetown Lagoon Management Plan.
Resource Management Act (RMA) 1991	The purpose of the RMA is to promote the sustainable management of natural and physical resources across the district. This includes the natural and physical resources of Grovetown Lagoon.
Marlborough Environment Plan (MEP)	The MEP is also an RMA plan and has been prepared as a result of a review of all of the Council's RMA policies and plans. In time it will replace the WARMP. Various zonings apply to the Grovetown Lagoon area.
Conservation Act 1987	The Conservation Act was developed to promote the conservation of New Zealand's natural and historic resources.
Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga Act 2014	The purpose of the Act is to promote the identification, protection, preservation, and conservation of the historical and cultural heritage of New Zealand. Heritage New Zealand is the lead agency managing heritage resources on a national basis. Any modification or destruction of a known or unknown archaeological site requires an authority from Heritage New Zealand.
Wildlife Act 1953	The Wildlife Act helps protect animals classed as wildlife, including some of New Zealand's most endangered species. The Act does this by controlling how people interact with wildlife.

Marlborough Walking and Cycling Strategy 2019-29	The strategy provides a framework to increase walking and cycling participation and safety in Marlborough. One of the main focuses of the strategy is recreation and increasing tourism potential. This strategy contains network and action plans that identify existing and proposed tracks, facilities and projects to develop and expand walking and cycling networks. There are links with Grovetown Lagoon and Spring Creek to the north and along the Wairau River to the south that are set out in the strategy.
Bylaws	Bylaws with particular relevance for Grovetown Lagoon include those for dog control, freedom camping and activities on reserves and public places.

Appendix 4 – Development plan











RMM ROUGH MILNE MITCHELL LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS

19 December 2024 MDC Grovetown Lagoon **KURA AND STEAMER JETTY CONCEPT DETAILS**

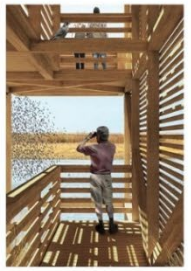






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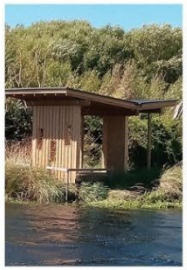


RMM ROUGH MILNE MITCHELL LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS

19 December 2024 MDC Grovetown Lagoon **SPRINGS WETLAND CONCEPT DETAILS**













RMM ROUGH MILNE MITCHELL LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS

19 December 2024 MDC Grovetown Lagoon **JETTY AND HABITAT LOOP CONCEPT DETAILS**

Appendix 5 – Recreational game bird hunting management approach

Game bird hunting has been undertaken at the lagoon for many years. However, the way the lagoon is used and the values associated with it have changed over time.

A managed approach to game bird hunting is intended to balance hunting activity with other uses of the lagoon.

Landowner permission is required for game bird hunting to occur, noting that access and hunting locations occur on both Council owned land and LINZ owned land/water.

This management approach provides for permitted game bird hunting at the lagoon and sets expectations for this use in the interest of managing the lagoon as a whole despite different land statuses and land managers.

When game bird hunting is permitted	Game bird hunting is permitted from the first weekend of May (in accordance with the game bird hunting season opening date) to the 31 May inclusive. Within this permitted period, strictly no shooting is to occur between the hours of 9.00 am and 4.00 pm. It is noted that the walkway will remain open over this time with appropriate and effective signage as outlined below.
Where game bird hunting is permitted	Game bird hunting is not permitted in the yellow coloured areas of the lagoon – see map below. Areas outside of this within the lagoon are permitted locations for game bird hunting. Game bird hunting can only occur from the maimai located within the permitted area. A maximum of six maimai are permitted within this area (noting that construction or placement of a temporary maimai is subject to the rules and regulations as set out in the Marlborough Environment Plan). No game bird hunting may occur outside of these areas.
Permit required	Game bird hunters are required to hold a permit administered by Fish and Game (as the statutory authority responsible for sports fish and gamebird resources). The permit outlines conditions of use (e.g. hunting dog controls outside of on-leash areas), including the above location, date and time restrictions.
Signage requirements	Fish and Game are responsible for signage during the game bird hunting season as follows: • Located at the Steam Wharf Road carpark entrance and northern pump shed entrance. • Large signs which are clearly visible (difficult to ignore) but allow space for cyclists and walkers to be unimpeded. • Up to date and clearly states season dates, times and locations where game bird hunting will occur and that shooting will occur over this period. • Identify that hunting is by permit only. • Provide contact details if there are any complaints or general feedback.

	• Signs to be in place four weeks prior to the season starting and must remain in place for the whole season. Signs to be removed at the end of the season. Fish and Game and the Society will use their media and communication channels to advise all users of the game bird hunting season and associated safety requirements.

