

Grovetown Lagoon Reserve Management Plan

Developing a management plan for
Te Whanau Hou Grovetown Lagoon

Grovetown Lagoon is an oxbow, or horseshoe, lake four kilometres northeast of Blenheim. The Lagoon is a popular area for walking, biking, picnicking, kayaking, food gathering and bird watching. There is a wealth of natural resources at the Lagoon and physical resources have been developed over time by Te Whanau Hou Grovetown Lagoon Incorporated (the Society).

Te Whanau Hou Grovetown Lagoon - a new family

The story of Te Whanau Hou Grovetown Lagoon began over 20 years ago. Local iwi came to the Marlborough District Council in the late nineties with concerns about the degraded state of the Lagoon. Iwi were dissatisfied with poor water quality, the area was a popular dumping ground for rubbish/garden waste and the waterways were choked with introduced weed species.

From the iwi concerns' Te Whanau Hou Grovetown Lagoon was officially launched in 2002. Te Whanau Hou means a new family and is the foundation partnership

between Ngati Rarua, Ngati Toa, Rangitane, Department of Conservation and the Marlborough District Council. The Society was formalised in December 2005 when Te Whanau Hou Grovetown Lagoon was incorporated under the Incorporated Societies Act 1908.

The Society has a two-tier management system: the executive, made up of its foundation members along with four community representatives; and a working group of volunteers who manage daily operations at the Lagoon. Since 2002 the Society has been working together to restore Grovetown Lagoon for fish and bird life, to enable gathering of food and encourage recreational uses.





Why do we need a reserve management plan?

Grovetown Lagoon has different land ownerships, being a mix of Council owned reserve, unformed legal road, Land Information New Zealand (LINZ) land and Department of Conservation land. The Society would like to protect the land for future generations. In order to bring the different land parcels together as a coherent whole it is proposed to form a management plan under the Reserves Act 1977.

A community management plan for the Lagoon was developed in 2003. There have been short term work plans written and implemented over the last 15 years however the community management plan has not been updated since 2003.

The Society would like direction from the community as to how the area should be managed. It is envisioned that the new management plan will enable a mix of uses and values to be supported as well as putting in place policy to guide the day-to-day management. The management plan will provide the Society and the community certainty about how this area will be managed over the next 10 years.

About Grovetown Lagoon

The Lagoon has many important and varied natural areas. The natural resources include the oxbow lake (an old meander channel of the Wairau River), streams that feed into the Lagoon, wetland areas (Springs Wetland north of the oxbow lake) with upwelling springs, newly planted land areas and regenerating native areas. Collectively these natural areas support a diverse range of flora and fauna. Both historically and today the lagoon wetlands are an important mahinga kai (food resource) for iwi and are highly valued for the abundance of freshwater foods such as wātakirihi (watercress), kākahi (freshwater mussel) inanga (whitebait), tuna (eel) and patiki (flounder). In addition to providing mahinga kai, harakeke (flax) is harvested at the Lagoon for weaving.

The Society has developed the Lagoon area over time by building physical resources to improve recreation values. The physical resources include a gravel walking track with bridges and culverts around the outside of the Lagoon, car parking, a toilet, seats, picnic tables and a bird hide.

The Wairau Rowing Club is located beside the Wairau River at Grovetown Lagoon.

Have your say

The Society and the Council are very keen to hear your thoughts and would like to know particularly, amongst other things:

- How often you (or your family) use or visit Grovetown Lagoon?
- How do you use Grovetown Lagoon?
- What are the things that you enjoy about Grovetown Lagoon?
- What are your concerns about Grovetown Lagoon?
- Do you have any suggestions about improving the Grovetown Lagoon area?

Once the initial feedback period closes, a draft reserve management plan will be prepared. Once the draft plan is publically notified, there will be a more formal opportunity for you to provide written submissions and present these to a hearings panel if you wish.



Process for plan development

Phase	Approximate Timeframe
Request for feedback/suggestions	22 July 2021
Feedback closes	27 August 2021
Develop draft plan	August 2021 to December 2021
Draft plan released to the public for submissions	January 2022
Submissions close	March 2022
Hear submissions	May 2022
Develop final plan	Late 2022



Tell us what you think

Your feedback or suggestions should be made in writing and reach the Council by 5 pm, Friday 27 August.

There is no set format for providing your feedback or suggestions, but an online form is available at:

www.marlborough.govt.nz/your-council/have-your-say-consultations

Feedback can also be emailed to tewhanauhourmp@marlborough.govt.nz

Feedback or suggestions can be made in writing and sent to:

Justine Johnson
Environmental Science
Marlborough District Council
PO Box 443
Blenheim 7240

Please make sure you include your name and contact details so we can keep you informed about how development of the plan is progressing.

If you would like to talk with someone about this process, please leave a message at the Council on 03 520 7400 for Justine Johnson and she will return your call.