



Design Principles

The overall objectives of the concept development plan are to:

1. Provide a framework so that Lake Domain can be developed in line with Lake Wairarapa Wetlands Park Recreation Plan (GWRC 2007) and Lake Wairarapa Wetlands Action Plan (DOC 2000), and is flexible enough to meet existing and future needs.
2. Develop the domain as an entrance to Lake Wairarapa Wetlands Park.
3. Provide for recreation and environmental education compatible with a wetlands park - walking, mountain biking, picnicking, camping, boating, windsurfing and birdwatching.
4. Protect and improve the ecological habitats of Simmonds Lagoon, wetlands, dunes, Tauherenikau River mouth delta and lake edge.
5. Protect and recognise values of the wetlands and lake for mahinga kai (food and materials) for Wairarapa iwi and hapu.
6. Recognise Maori and European heritage values of Lake Domain as part of wider Lake Wairarapa.
7. Re-use or re-develop existing resources - walkways, vehicle access, former yacht club, boat ramp, toilets and shelter vegetation.
8. Establish a walkway network that in future can link with other Lake Wairarapa reserves.
9. Consider a site for a wetlands park information centre.

Western recreation area:

- Creates a sense of arrival and view to the lake at the wetlands park and domain entrance
- Provides a small parking area and lake viewing platform with interpretation and information at the end of the Soldiers Settlement Road where visitors can orientate themselves
- Reshapes landform and establishes native trees and shrubs for shelter and to define picnic areas
- Proposes renovating and developing the existing toilet block to create a shelter for picnicking with children's climbing walls and lake viewing/lookout from the roof
- Relocates the boat launching ramp to a safer location
- Provides for vehicle and boat trailer parking
- Creates a loop driveway for clear and safe access to picnicking areas
- Proposes investigating uses for the former yacht clubrooms e.g. commercial lease for uses compatible with a wetlands park
- Maintains and develops a walkway along the lake shore
- Provides two options for a re-located trail bike area (with reshaped landforms) which would be monitored for impact on wetland fauna
- Plants riparian and wetland species to enhance the ecological value at the lake shore.

Eastern ecological area:

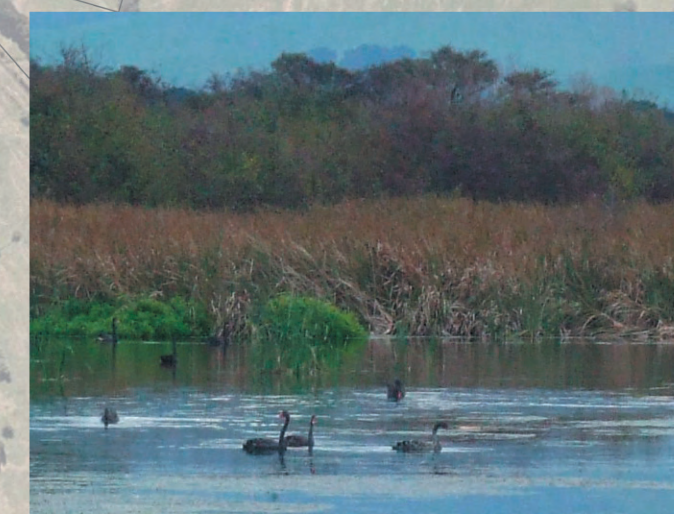
- Protects and restores native plants to provide habitat for birds at Simmonds Lagoon
- Removes existing alders along the lagoon edge within five years and replaces them with native species
- Creates walkways along the lagoon and lake with boardwalks for access through wetlands where appropriate, to allow views and protect birds and freshwater fish habitats
- Provides bird hides with information for bird watching
- Relocates the existing trail bike area and restores lake dunes
- Redefines vehicle access to protect the wider wetland and delta area
- Upgrades existing toilets and creates a carparking area for visitors
- Keeps existing picnicking and camping area under macrocarpa and pine trees and develops additional picnicking and camping areas
- Retains a passive recreation area for future recreational or ecological development.



View looking southwest from Lake Domain to Rimutaka Range



Current grassed area near the yachting clubroom



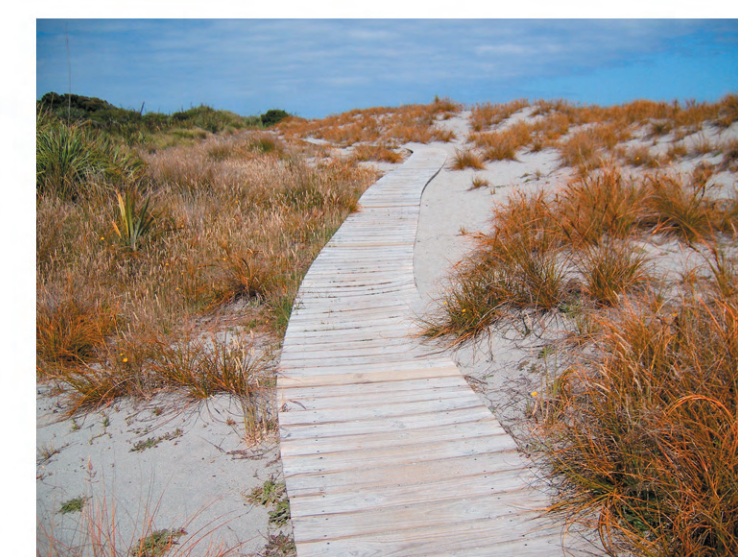
Simmonds Lagoon enclosed by exotic alder



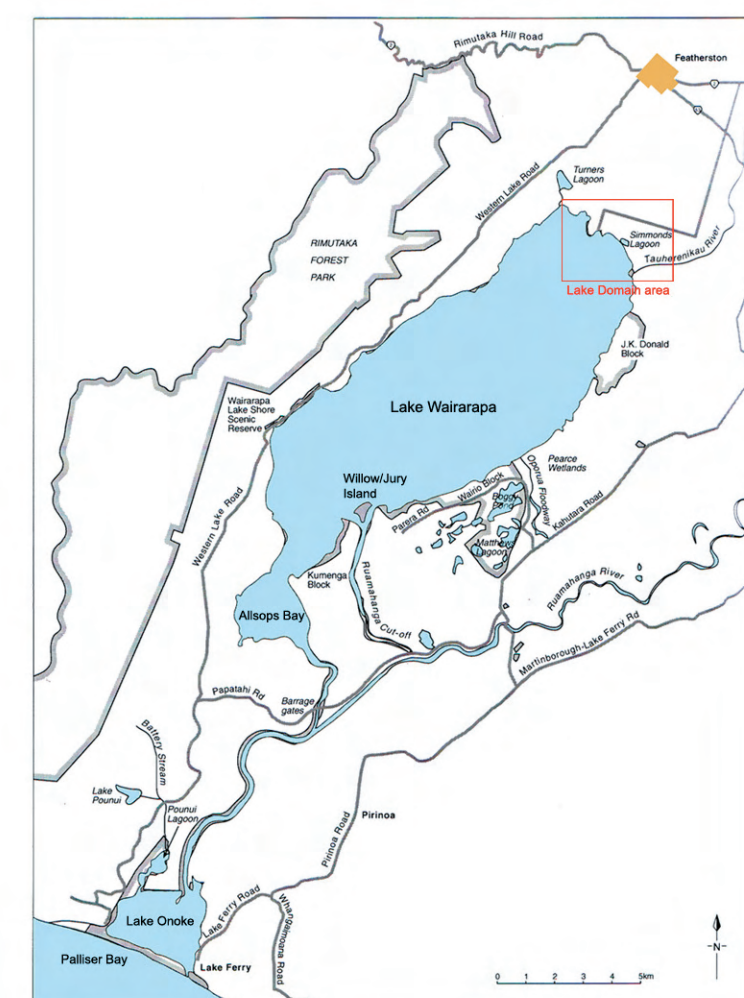
Biking trails on the existing dune areas



Stock have access to some areas of the domain



Examples of potential recreational activities: camping, boating, fishing, lagoon and Tauherenikau River mouth delta access, beach access through restored dunes (planted in pingao)



Lake Domain Location