

31 January 2025

Tamahere Reserve (Crawford Quarry)

(Local purpose reserve – primary purpose is a quarry site)

30 Tauwhare Road, Tamahere

Recently, TCC received from Council a Land Disposal Report prepared by The Property Group Limited, dated 29 April 2021

This Report is a concern as it contains information which does not make sense or is simply untrue. All of the Committee has this report and a copy of our email to TPGL sent 5 December 2024 and again on 28 January 2025, seeking clarification. Councillor Crystal Bevis has offered to make enquiries at Council to seek the answers and for Council to obtain the information needed to verify/clarify statements which may be misleading or untrue. The Report bias is to direct an outcome which is not the best for the Tamahere community.

Council wants two things:

1. Change the reserve designation

Currently our community is best served by NOT changing the reserve designation from a quarry. Changing makes a change in the power and authority dynamics which could result in outcomes our Community does not seek.

2. Change the reserve name

The name proposed by Council overrules our Committee and is not founded on a logical reason to make the change. Google maps clearly shows the two separate locations for the Tamahere Park ('and Piazza' should be added to this name) and the Tamahere Reserve ... there is no confusion as to which site is which. The Tamahere Reserve name has existed for decades, it is well known.

TTC and TMRT were the only two submitters to the **Councils Public consultation** and submission opportunity (Monday 19 February 2024 to Monday 18 March 2024). Both submissions opposed the proposal.

There are major issues with Council, the Reserve and its future care. Maybe **Council should not have a role in the future of this Reserve**. We have a decision to make.

Historically, for many decades, the Council spend nothing maintaining the Reserve.

Council then leased the Reserve to Regal Haulage for Regals to set up a truck wash facility for their trucking fleet. For many years large truck and trailer units drove into and out of the site, accessing it from the top of the hill opposite Woodcock Road ... all when it was a 100kph or 80kph zone. This only came to an end at the request of TCC.

We are **not aware of**:

- the total number of truck movements per day
- any accidents directly caused by those truck movements
- the total lease income paid to the Council
- what the Council did with the lease income

We do know:

- Council is failing its statutory obligations – it has never prepared a management plan for the Reserve and it seems the Minister has never approved a management plan for the Reserve as required by s.41 of the Reserves Act 1977.
- the Council must review and update the management plan and Public notice must be given as to the terms of the draft management plan, or any review/updates before it can be approved by the Minister ... but there has been no Public notice given by Council
- The Reserve is a total of 4.7424 ha (11.7187256 acres). Supposedly the whole of the property was “**classified as Local Purpose Reserve (site for Quarries)**” in 1981, but the NZ Gazette only provides for 1.5415 ha to be held “**as a reserve for a local purpose (site for a quarry)**”
- What of the other 3.2009 ha? It may not have a reserve status of any description.
- A large flat area, with access available direct from the top car park, could be mowed and used for any number of community purposes, including a generous area for dogs to have a unleashed run
- The large planting of pine trees on the site are now at end of life. They could be milled and a contractor may exchange the cost of milling, clean up and recovery for the rights to the timber sale proceeds, so no cost to the ratepayers
- 6 of these old pine trees have fallen during adverse weather events in the last 3 years. 1 landed parallel to Tauwhare Road. The others have caused damage to other trees, tracks and recent improvements within the site.
- Council is unwilling to manage the exit of these trees so are very likely to attempt closure as the cost effective solution to mitigate risk from these old trees ... contrary to what the community wants done
- The community banded together some 14 years ago to take steps to remove the gorse, blackberry and other wilderness weeds and trees which grew as a result of the Councils failure to maintain
- That team of volunteer workers put in thousands of hours, clearing the waterway, building tracks and board walks plus extensive ongoing maintenance
- TMRT was formed by these volunteers so they had “status” with the Council
- Council and TMRT now have an MoU and volunteers have completed “courses” to give them a bit of paper the Council will recognise to say they can operate a chainsaw, spray weeds, etc for their wider work in Tamahere
- The Council contributed some funds for the board walk built in 2016 and was happy for TMRT to build the second board walk. Jacqui Church opened this board walk for the Council
- Council does not have any of the board walk structures added to its “Asset Register”. Is this deliberate? ... it means the Council has no obligation to maintain these assets, so it is not doing so.

- Native plantings in the Reserve by TMRT have been carefully designed to restore some of the original flora and fauna to the Reserve, along with removal of exotics
- Seeds from 23 species in the Reserve are now used by plant growers to produce eco sourced plants for gullies in Tamahere, Hamilton, Cambridge and elsewhere.
- The Reserve is a valuable resource to Tamahere, with thousands of visitors, school trips and others seeking to learn about our native plants and streams, wildlife and water life including eels which thrive in this new clean environment

The Community has an expectation that the Council will meet its legal obligations to spend funds it has taken from local ratepayers to properly maintain this Reserve e.g. weed and pest control on a regular basis. BUT it appears Council has deliberately determined NOT TO SPEND ANY MONEY on maintenance of the Reserve

Council has various reports and information about the Reserve, including Arborists Reports. This information is not being shared with TCC and TMRT are also being kept in the dark. **Is this deliberate by Council?**

In recent months Council has suggested access to the Reserve top carpark is “not safe” due to entry and exit issues opposite Woodcock Road, where the road speed has been reduced to 60 kph for Tauwhare Road!

Maybe this is due to staff changes or ignorance of the site history or some political reason which TCC has not been consulted on ... who knows. IS THIS ACCEPTABLE? Is it now time that the Councils piecemeal approach to the various issues with the Reserve come to an end?

What is clear:

- Council does not have a mandate to determine what happens with the Reserve, it forfeited that years ago and continues with its disregard for the law.
- Council has failed in all of its legal obligations in the use, maintenance and management of the Reserve and is currently taking every opportunity to avoid its obligations because Council does not want the spend ratepayer funds on this site for anything. TCC cannot support Council with this attitude.
- Ratepayers and locals have an expressed demand and a clear desire to use the Reserve and that will increase with proper signage, maintenance and management of the site, which may need to be done without Council interference
- Ratepayers are levied General rates, with tracks and walkways as the number one need in the Tamahere Ward, and a Targeted rate. Maybe the Targeted Rate in 2022 gave the Council a cop out to their lawful obligations and it thought we might not notice?
- URGENT CHANGE IS NEEDED ... what is it to be?

Charles Fletcher – TCC Chair



Tamahere Recreation Park



Within 1.6 km


Open now

Swimming


Top rated

Results for Tamahere · Choose area


Places :



Tamahere Park
4.5 ★★★★★ (123) · Sports complex
4.4 km · Tamahere
"Nice place to walk the dog and small playground for kids"

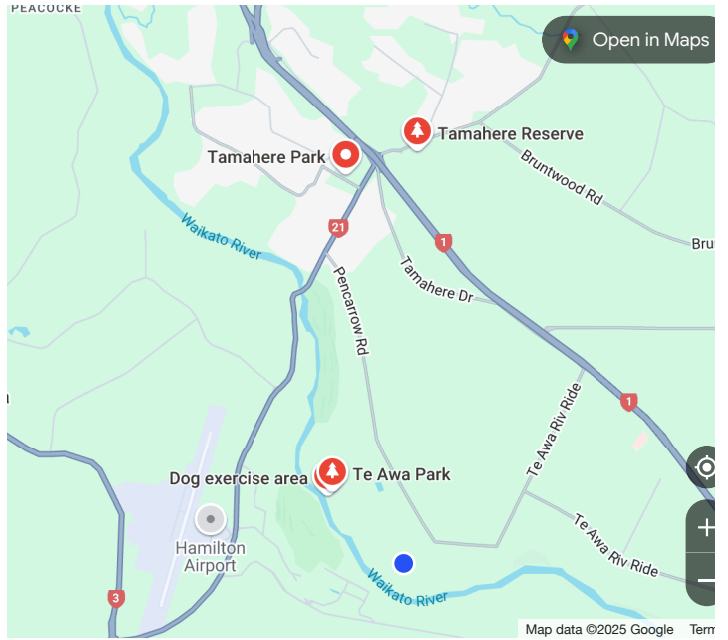


Te Awa Park
4.4 ★★★★★ (29) · Park
1.1 km · 65 Te Awa Rd
"A secret trails down to the creek, fun place"



Tamahere Reserve
4.3 ★★★★★ (58) · Park
4.7 km · 30 Tauwhare Rd
"Great community trails through native and pine forests."

More places →



Boffa Miskell
<https://www.boffamiskell.co.nz/projects/tamahere-vill...>

Tamahere Village, Piazza and Recreation Reserve
The project is made up of five spaces - the village, a piazza framed by the village buildings, a play space, a skate park and a multi-sport field; a shared path ...



Waikato District Council
<https://www.waikatodistrict.govt.nz/recreation/playg...>

Playgrounds and skateparks
Tamahere. Tamahere Park. Where it is: Wiremu Tamihana Drive, Tamahere. What's there: Hammock, climbing modules, slides, basketball half-court, trampolines ...



Waikato District Council
<https://www.waikatodistrict.govt.nz/article/2018/10/15>

Tamahere Recreation Reserve project under control
16 Oct 2018 — The Tamahere Recreation Reserve and Piazza project is under control and there have been no cost blow-outs. That's the message of reassurance ...

Facebook · Momentum Waikato Community Foundation
9 reactions · 2 years ago

Tamahere Park - Waikato District Council
Tamahere as a community has come together in partnership with Waikato District Council to develop Tamahere Park as 'the heart of the ...

AllTrails
https://www.alltrails.com › ... › Waikato › Hamilton

Tamahere Park Loop, Waikato, New Zealand

Enjoy this 0.8-mile loop trail near Hamilton, Waikato. Generally considered an easy route, it takes an average of 18 min to complete.

3.6 ★★★★★ (2)

Missing: ~~Recreation~~ | Show results with: **Recreation**

fosters.co.nz
https://www.fosters.co.nz › develop-projects › tamahere-...

Tamahere Village - Fosters

16 Dec 2024 — Waikato District Council engaged Foster Construction to complete the outdoor spaces; including a playground, central piazza area, cricket ground ...

Journey Kids - Before and After School Care
https://www.journeykids.co.nz › top-10-hamilton-playgr...

Top 10 Playgrounds To Visit In Hamilton

Tamahere Park rounds out our list with its serene setting and family-friendly facilities. This park combines open grassy areas perfect for soccer games with a ...



Tamahere Community Centre
https://www.tamaherecommunitycentre.co.nz

Tamahere Community Centre: Waikato Venue Hire

Tamahere Community Centre is a modern multi-use facility used by various sports groups and fitness classes, school holiday programmes, adult dance classes.

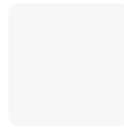
[Venue Hire](#) · [Request a booking](#) · [FAQ](#) · [What's on](#)



Facebook · Playz.co
30+ reactions · 3 years ago

Playz.co - Discover Tamahere Reserve Playground!...

Discover Tamahere Reserve Playground! 55Tamahere Drive, Glenfield/Windy Ridge, Auckland. This quiet neighbourhood playground features a basket ...



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Tamahere recreation park **swimming**



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