

# Wharemauku

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House of Ferns

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A central park for a future city





# A new opportunity

As Paraparaumu continues to develop as the centre of what will likely become Kāpiti City, an exciting opportunity arises. A new central park and permanent greenspace among existing civic and commercial areas.

A key driver for this opportunity is the creation of wetland/lake areas for stormwater management for approximately 80 acres of unbuilt land west of Rimu Road.

This area encompasses the Wharemauku Stream which runs from the hills above Paraparaumu, through the centre of Coastlands Shopping Town, into the unbuilt land towards the new expressway and continues through to Raumati Beach.

It is proposed this new permanent greenspace be called **'Wharemauku'**.

# Wharemauku

translates to *'house of ferns'*

Wharemauku's translation reminds us that once the whole region was a wetland forest with rare translucent ferns amongst other native plants and trees forming the canopy.

It is envisaged in this proposal to restore the Wharemauku Stream with plantings, supported by a forest nursery focussed on providing the plants and trees that grew on this site originally, allowing this new park to mature as the city grows around it.

Added to this is the desire for a new wharenuī/cultural centre that recognises Puketapu Hapū o Te Atiawa ki Kāpiti. This wharenuī would become a place to reflect the Kāpiti story, a place of connection for iwi and the wider community. The wharenuī will also provide a meeting place for learning, reflecting our connection to the earth, the sky and the ocean, *"te whenua, te rangi me te moana"*.



Land for wetlands/stormwater reticulation, a forest nursery and a multi-purpose modern wharenuī, will require several parties working cohesively together.

For these parties, Ngahina Developments, Puketapu Hapū o Te Atiawa, Kāpiti Coast District Council and surrounding local stakeholders, a first stage would be creating a unified solution

for stormwater reticulation, followed by the restoration of the Wharemauku Stream with riparian planting and connection to existing walk/cycleways. This will create open areas that will allow for events, outdoor performances and other community gatherings.





# Whale Song

The proposed new greenspace will also provide a location for “Whale Song”, a sculpture by local artist Mike Fuller that symbolises New Zealand’s cultural connection to whales and the whaling history of this region.

Ngahina Developments, seeing this vision as an essential part of the town centre’s future, have committed to providing land for Whale Song, on a one acre site alongside Wharemauku Stream.

The new park will restore the ‘mauri’ of the region - establish a community memory of mana whenua, restore a key environment and express our whaling history in a stunning sculpture.

The seven whales of Whale Song, humpbacks in a family pod, will provide a major attraction to locals and visitors. It will be one of the largest bronze installations in the world.



# Forest Nursery

The Forest Nursery is an educational environment for anyone who has an interest in the origins of our traditional medicines, building materials and some of the food and craft materials that our native forests provide.



# Forest Canopy

The forest canopy will be protected. The organic design of the canopy building invites a human-nature interaction without interrupting from a hard architectural aesthetic.

The structure will over time incorporate with the planting and the new saplings and ground cover will be protected by successive mature trees.

Rising pathways transform into canopy bridges so that native plants and trees of all sizes can be explored by visitors. Small stages throughout the structure can allow school groups and educators space to observe and make presentations.

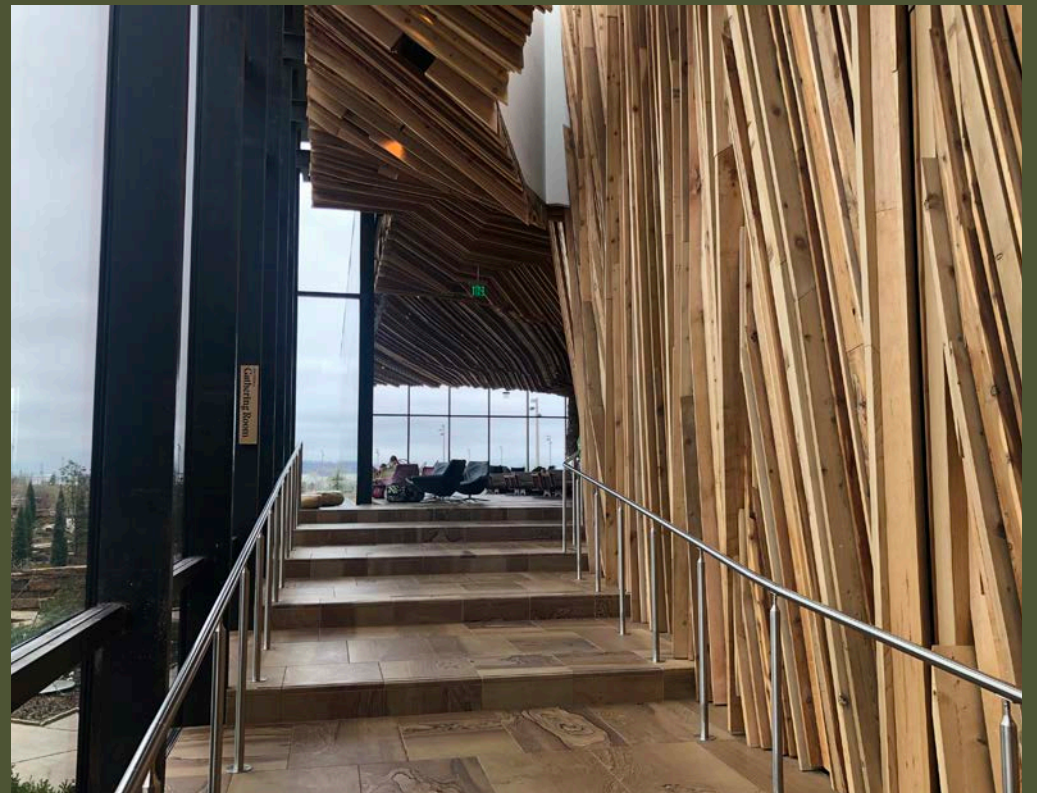




# Wharenui

While serving its typical purpose of a communal meeting place, the Wharenui will play host to a permanent collection of traditional and contemporary Māori art. The interior decorated with carvings and tokotoko depicting the significance of the district.

The exterior built in a traditional format but from contemporary materials will have a look that makes it stand apart from other civic buildings, while still being familiar as part of the district public space.



# Heart of the new city

This 'heart of the new city' will provide connection to the Library, proposed Children's Playground and the Coastlands Aquatic Centre on one side - and Coastlands Shopping Centre, along with future buildings, residential, offices, cafes and public amenities on the other.



# Staged development of Wharemauku

This staged process will realise significant opportunities for Kāpiti.

## Stage 1:

Stormwater reticulation wetlands/lake

## Stage 2:

Wharemauku Stream restoration  
/forest nursery/pathways/access

## Stage 3:

Construction of the wharenuī and build and  
installation of Whale Song

## Stage 4:

Commercial development of the available  
stakeholder lands.

# Strengthening our community

Ngahina developments will see construction of multiple buildings for government regionalisation, bulk retail, commercial office space and food outlets bringing much needed jobs to the region.

This will lead to significant resilience for existing business (commercial/tourism/retail) and long term sustainable, job growth for the Kāpiti Region.

Following are employment estimates that will result from this staged development, including construction and long term FTE within the various buildings proposed already.

- Direct Employment during construction  
**100-200 PTE/FTE** (including Whale Song construction)
- Spaces built for Government Office Workers  
**500+ FTE**
- Economic Impact  
**1000+ FTE** (Government/Civic/Commercial Precinct)
- Wharenui/Cultural Centre  
**20-50**
- Indirect Impact  
**500 FTE**





# The intention

It is the desire of this document and its proponents to stimulate a revisit to Kāpiti's Long Term Plan and Town Centre Plan, for Wharemauku to be embodied in these planning strategies.

This fits with Government's urban design planning outcomes, creating desirable spaces to "live, work and play". Improvement in health outcomes,

wellbeing and identity are seen as proven from this approach to our future.

This proposal will provide a key component to environmental education, conservation and community connection to the whenua and ecology of the region.

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# Ngā Mihi

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