

Waihi Beach Community Māra Management Plan

Waihi Beach Road Recreational Reserve (north)

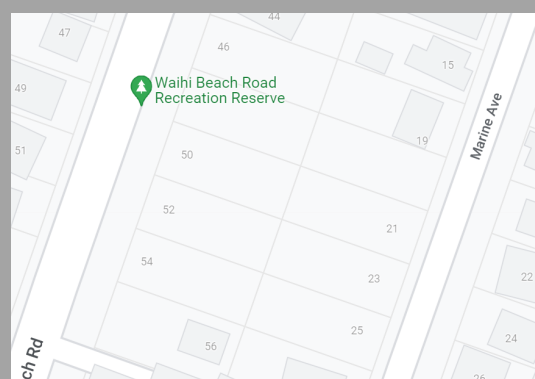
Document Purpose

The purpose of the Community Garden Management Plan is to ensure mutual understanding between the Western Bay of Plenty District Council (WBOPDC), and the Waihi Beach Community Māra Management Team (WBCMMT) as to how the community garden will operate.

The proposed garden will sit on half of the Waihi Beach Road Recreational Reserve on plots 17,19,21, 46,48 & 50 as detailed in the plans below. This will enable people to play touch rugby or cricket, which has been identified as the main use of the reserve during the summer periods. From general observation, the reserve is under-utilised, with only an occasional dog walker or being used as a cut-through. There are only four permanent residents living alongside the reserve situated at nos 43, 44 & 47 Beach Road and 26 Marine Avenue. Mr. Brian Davidson resides at No. 44 Beach Road, adjacent to where the proposed garden is going to be situated. He and fellow residents are very supportive of the community māra and have been involved in the initial discussions.



Satellite image



Map image

Overview

The māra is primarily focused on tiakitanga, manaākitanga, and whanaungatanga. It will be sited at the north end of Beach Road Recreational Reserve and will be fully accessible including sensory gardens for those with autism and accessible gardens for the disabled or elderly. The māra will be focused on community resilience and sustainability, feeding the community free kai, it will also be a living piece of interactive art, focusing on indigenous plant sovereignty, and any customary practices/tikanga alongside the deep-rooted principles of permaculture. The concept here would be focusing on Matariki and 'a time for reflection' – this essentially is the only indigenous public holiday internationally and should be celebrated here at Waihi Beach. The garden design will be based loosely around the nine whetū, each an individual garden with its own kōrero.

The kura will hold an intrinsic role in mapping out and designing the māra, working together with other people such as Dave MacCalman looking at accessibility needs for the disabled. There will be amazing experiential learning outcomes as well as a class-based educational focus on Matariki. The tamariki will provide digital pūrākau/pakiwaitara, which will be uploaded from a QR code at each of the nine gardens/whetū, an example is attached at appendix A.

The māra would also like to incorporate traditions that may not centre purely on the stars but their gaze shifting to the Whenua below. What is important to Te Whānau a Tauwhao, when Matariki comes onto the horizon. The māhi with Te Whānau a Tauwhao and the Kura with the tamariki designing the whetū gardens have been completed and added to the design, including cultural additions.

A range of sites around Waihi Beach were considered as part of the site selection process. This site chosen has the maximum potential to achieve the vision as detailed above for the following reasons:

- It is fairly flat so assists with accessibility requirements
- In close proximity to the Kura
- 100% buy-in from the adjoining permanent residents
- Sufficient sunlight and shade
- Good soil quality
- Protected by the ranges
- Far enough away from the sea
- Access to the Plunket building for kitchen & toilet facilities
- Good parking ability on Marine Avenue
- Agreement in principle from WBOPDC Reserves and Facilities - 'Letter of Support'

Governance

The WBCMMCT consists of 8 community members who will manage the vision and development of the māra, this committee has already been formed. Currently, there is considerable interest from the shedders at the Menz Shed and in general, from the community - wanting to be involved with maintaining the garden. We will be appointing a part-time community māra coordinator due to the complexity of the garden and the permaculture aspects; this will be factored into any funding applications. The infrastructure of the garden and what will be growing will also be factored into how many volunteer hours will be required each week, with a consultation at Waihi Beach RSA and an opportunity for volunteers to sign up. The overall governance will run through Live Well Waihi Beach.

The terms of reference for the WBCMMT are to:

- Maintain the management plan for the site and ensure key principles are communicated to garden users.
- Oversee the development and management of the community garden, ensuring alignment with the management plan.
- Ensure the site is kept in a safe and tidy condition, notifying WBOPDC of any new hazards, unauthorised activity, or potential dumping that occurs.
- work to engage the community to maintain interest and sustainability of the garden into the future.
- maintain regular communication with the WBOPDC through a single point of contact (SPOC) - Live Well Waihi Beach/Sustainable Waihi Beach.
- Membership of this is open, but it is expected to be made up mostly of members of the surrounding community and visiting kura such as Goldfields school.

As the WBCMMT is not a standalone entity, the licence to occupy will be, therefore, c/o Waihi Beach Community Led Development Society Inc. The committee will work closely with Live Well Waihi Beach and Sustainable Waihi Beach to ensure the long-term sustainability of the project, working with Katikati Taiao when necessary to utilise Kai Go when we may have any excess produce.

Funding

A funding plan has been developed to ensure sustainable funding for the establishment and ongoing operation of the māra. Discussions are underway with potential funding partners, including TECT, Lotto, Valder Ohinemuri Trust and local funders for smaller items. Implementation of the māra will be staged as funding allows. The first tranche of funding has already been applied for through the WBOPDC match fund to purchase three hot composters.

A sponsorship programme will also be introduced to the wider community who may not wish to volunteer but contribute in other ways to the māra. Each 'whetū garden' will have an opportunity to be sponsored with the Mātāriki whetū being the central hub of the māra and the most prestigious with regard to sponsorship. All sponsorship signage will be prescribed by the WBCMMT and will be in keeping with the whole ethos of the māra.

The fundholder for the community māra will be Waihi Beach Community Led Development Society Inc a memorandum of understanding has been agreed in principle with Live Well Waihi Beach, and the infrastructure is in place for the management of funds.

Communication

Regular communication will take place between WBOPDC and the SPOC. It will be the responsibility of the WBCMMT to report new hazards, dumping or vandalism and check before the development of or changes to signage, fencing, infrastructure or buildings that vary from what is agreed in the management plan.

The SPOC will;

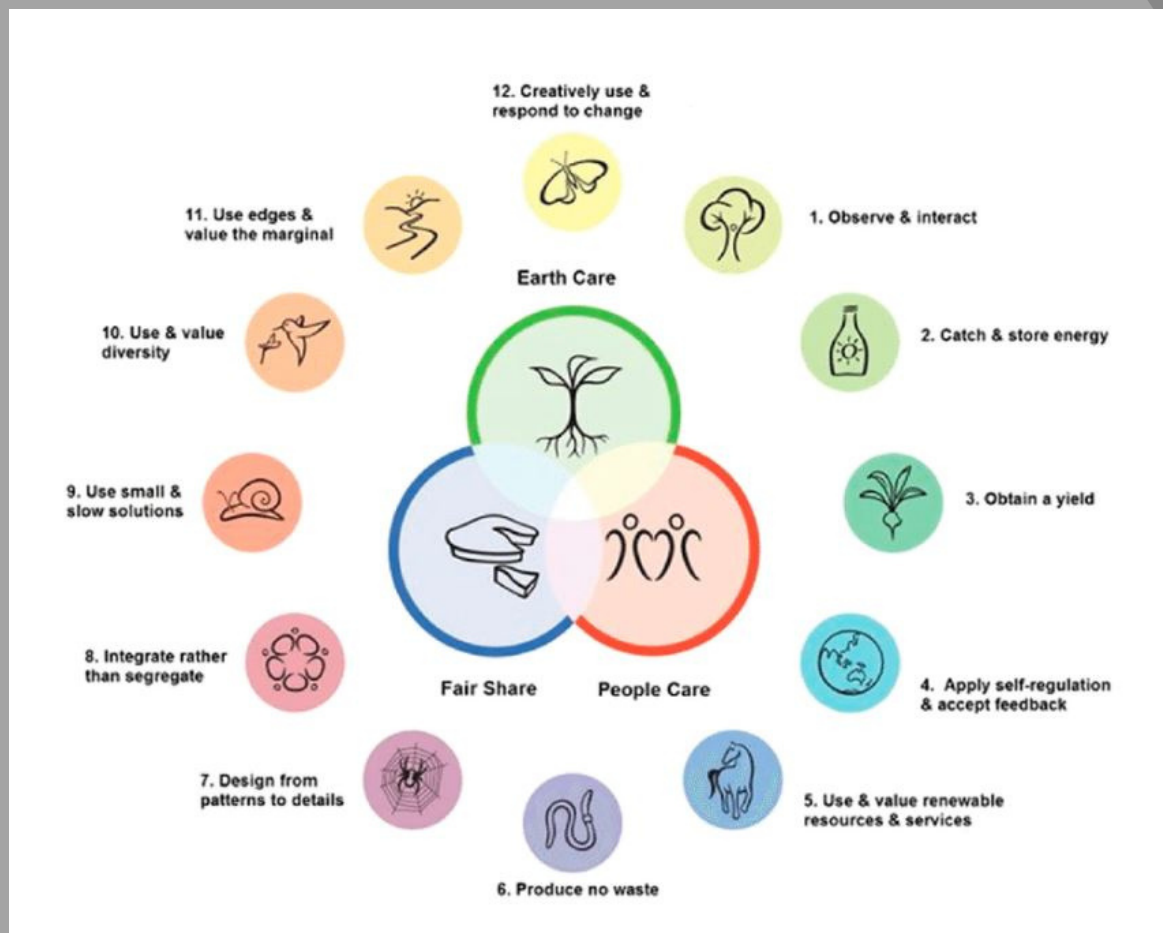
- Work collaboratively with WBOPDC to arrange meetings and reviews
- Keep all partners fully informed
- Act as the first point of reference between the stakeholders and also as a liaison person for external contacts
- Communicate between the stakeholders on matters that arise that may be of interest to either partner.

Key Contacts

Organisation	Name	Contact Details
WBOPDC Reserves and Facilities	Peter Watson Steven White Emma Woods	07 7571 8008
WBCMMT SPOC	Pippa Coombes	027 378 0007
Live Well Waihi Beach	Pippa Coombes	027 378 0007

Gardening planning and management

The emphasis will be on organic gardening using permaculture design; which is centered around mimicking natural systems. The ethics and principles of permaculture are:



Crop planning

Planning for the propagation, sourcing of plant material, garden bed preparation and planting will be arranged by the community māra coordinator and in collaboration with hapū.

Sourcing of plant material

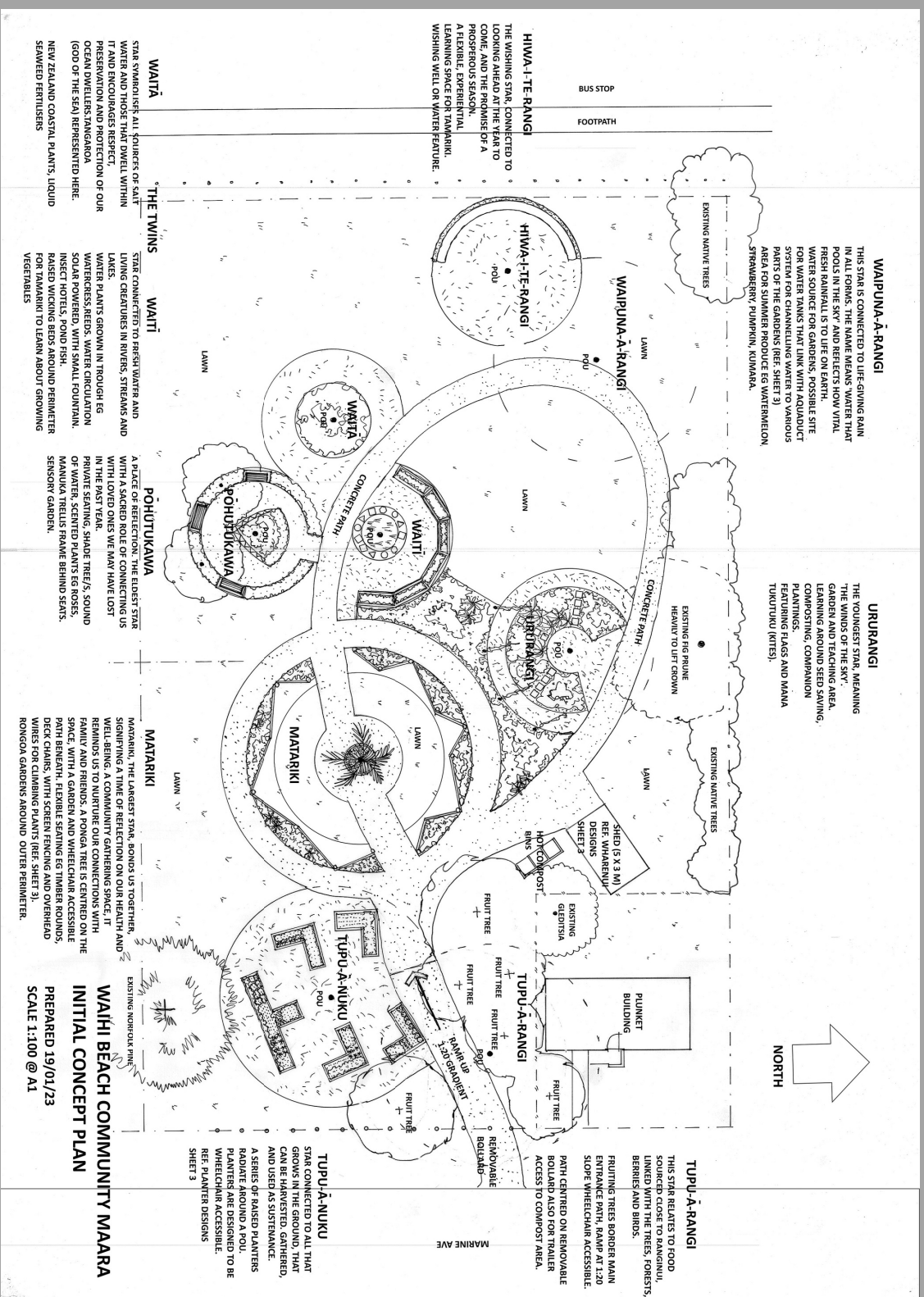
The funding sought will allow for the acquisition of seeds, seedlings and plants. We will collaborate with other local organisations to share seeds and plant material; and, where practical, seek seeds and plant material suited to our local environment to ensure it thrives. We will practice seed saving where practical; to increase the resilience of our system and reduce reliance on external inputs.

Obtaining and valuing our yield

It will be a 'communal community māra', with the kai to be shared and distributed among gardening whanau and the wider community; through existing systems such as the Kura and Marae; and potential links with KaiGo in Katikati (who distribute unused kai to those in need).

In keeping with the principle of 'obtaining a yield'; the māra will be designed and managed as such to ensure that good yield functions as a reward that encourages, maintains and replicates the system. These rewards are like positive feedback loops that amplify the original process or signal. We would like to see the garden be successful, produce valued and utilised efficiently and the community māra system replicated in other areas around Waihi Beach to ensure the resilience and wellbeing of our community.

COMMUNITY MĀRA CONCEPT DESIGN



COMMUNITY MĀRA VISION



COMMUNITY MĀRA VISION

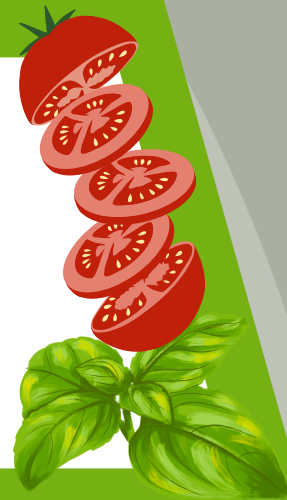


What will be grown?

Through our conversations with our key partners; we have established a list of vegetables, fruit and taonga indigenous species that our community would like to grow at the māra. Space and season permitting, we intend to grow a selection of the following:

Spring/Summer planting

- Peruperu - Potatoes (early spring)
- Kumara (Aug/Sept)
- Tomato
- Kaanga - Corn
- Korau - Pumpkin
- Basil
- Salad greens
- Beans
- Zucchini
- Spring onion
- Beetroot
- Cucumber
- Capsicum
- Kamokamo - winter squash
- Chilli
- Zinnia
- Sunflower
- Cosmos
- Sow carrots, parsnips, swede for winter



Autumn/ winter planting

- Broccoli
- Cauliflower
- Cabbage
- Coriander
- Lettuce
- Peas
- Kareti - Carrot
- Beetroot
- Kale
- Rengamutu - NZ spinach
- Kowhitiwhiti - Water cress
- Garlic
- Leek
- Ruruhoe - Mustard Greens
- Onion
- Celery
- Borage
- Calendula
- Viola
- Sweet pea
- Tithonia



Perennials/shrubs/trees

- Comfrey
- Herbs - mint, thyme, rosemary, sage, oregano, peppermint, parsley
- Florence fennel
- Globe artichoke
- Yacon
- Taro
- Strawberries

Fruit trees

- Mandarin
- Lemon
- Lime
- Avocado
- Orange
- Fig (existing)

Rongoa

- Kawakawa
- Manuka
- Pikopiko - fern shoot



Buildings and structures

Please refer to the community māra plan for the proposed placement of the buildings and structures listed below. Their final placement is set out in the plan strategically but is open to negotiation with Council and neighbours if required. The layout and strategic planning of the garden has been developed for ease of removal and/or relocation if required in the future. There may be further cultural elements added to the plan during the educational programme that will be rolled out at the kura. These additional items will be added to the plan and discussed with WBOPDC.

Raised beds

These are proposed for a number of the gardens which will be constructed from untreated timber. These will be accessible raised beds so are located near the entrance.



Multiple access raised beds



Lazy Susan accessible raised bed

Garden shed

This will be designed to replicate a Wharenui and will also be a workable piece of art, the builder is renowned locally for his Wharanui playhouses.. The shed will be secure (no windows) and large enough to store tools, mulchers, wheelbarrows, motor mowers and smaller power tools. The Wharenui does not require any consent due to its size and is pleasing in appearance.



Playhouse Wharanui example



Playhouse Wharanui example

Hot composting bins

Funding has been sought for a system of three hot composting bins, please refer to page 9 with regards to more information about the hot composting process. These bins have been chosen due to their aesthetically pleasing natural look and non-ordourus system.



Carbon Cycle Co. Hot composters set

Buildings and structures cont....

Water storage

Water security is paramount and harvesting rainwater is essential for this project, assisting with watering the māra when there are Council water restrictions in place or in times of low rainfall. Two rainwater harvesting tanks will be sited on the māra and have been designed to complement the natural environment (Dimensions are 1950x1230x1230). These will be placed on the plan at a later date due to location and Whetū māra design.



Plunket building

An agreement is currently underway to utilise the Plunket building as a hub for Live Well Waihi Beach, this will provide kitchen, toilet and office facilities. The memorandum of understanding between LWWB and Plunket will ensure that the building is kept in a neat and tidy way with specific māra working days with a budget of \$2500 per annum to use the space. Only the SPOC and LWWB Environmental coordinator will have the access codes for the building to ensure it is not abused.

Greenhouse/seeding benches

The current design has not taken into consideration a greenhouse, however, ideally, one would be implemented over time and through further funding applications. It is requested that this option is left open for discussion at such a time we have the capacity to purchase and maintain a greenhouse/seeding benches.

Shelter

An area of shelter will be incorporated into the design, and more than likely will be part of the Whetū māra Mātāriki. This design element will again be incorporated as part of the educational programme at the Kura and will be linked to the celebration of Matariki and kites.

Signage

Posts with QR codes with tamariki pūrākau as seen at appendix A, pouwhenua, signage explaining the whetū māra design, any sponsorship signs in keeping with ethos of the māra.

Mowing and Maintenance

The garden will be kept tidy and free of weeds through weekly gardening sessions TBA. Mowing and other required maintenance will be undertaken by members of the WBCMMT or, if required, professional tradies. The Council will continue to mow the balance of the reserve outside of the licenced area.

Weed and pest control

- Weeds and pests are to be controlled using Integrated pest management strategies. This means to intentionally include elements (whether plants or animals) in the garden which provide predators for those animals which would otherwise make your crop their prey. This can be achieved through companion planting, regular observation and 'digital control' (removing slugs and snails with your fingers).
- The use of synthetic weed and pest control is discouraged as it does not fit the organic ethos of the garden.
- Rats, mice, hedgehogs, and possums (if required) will be controlled using traps supplied through the Predator Free Waihi Beach programme. These will be checked and maintained regularly by volunteers.

Water use

- Water supply to the reserve is metered, and usage costs oncharged to the group??? (this was the situation for other garden - depends what you have confirmed.)
- An accessible water refill station will be installed for people to source drinking water in the heart of the garden along with accessible table and furniture.
- A tap will be installed in the centre of the garden as per conversation with the reserves and facilities team.
- The garden operation will be expected to comply with any water restrictions in place.
- The garden will adopt sustainable water use principles such as mulching to retain water, and incorporate onsite rain water capture and storage where practical in line with the principle of capturing and storing energy.
- Using drip irrigation instead of a sprinkler or hand-watering makes a lot of sense for both raised beds and traditional in-ground gardens, as a drip system can not only conserve water and save time in the garden, but it can also be beneficial to the plants, by delivering the optimal amount of water right to the root zone and boosting growth rates and yields. This system is expensive to install but over time will save costs if maintained correctly.
- We have used this formula to calculate the volume of water that we could potentially harvest per annum:
$$\text{Annual rainfall} \times \text{catchment} \times \text{co-efficient \%} = 918 \text{ (mm rainfall)} \times 160 \text{ (roof size in sq m)} \times 0.9 = 132,192 \text{ litres per annum.}$$

Waste and composting

- Where practical, the garden will strive to 'produce no waste'; and value potential waste as a resource and an opportunity.
- Composting is an integral part of organic vegetable growing - ensuring the recycling of important nutrients and supplying of free compost for growing.
- The composting system will be designed to recycle any organic matter generated on the site; but may also have the capability to process small volumes of compostable packaging and food waste from the surrounding area.
- Funding has been sought for a hot composting system whose management will be overseen the coordinator.
- The composting area will be established focussing on hot and aerobic compost to reduce the likelihood of any odour, flies or vermin. When managed in accordance with best practice, ensuring the correct ratio of carbon and nitrogen, the compost should not smell.
- An operating procedure will be prepared for the composting system to ensure it is managed effectively. Training and advice will be sought from the bin supplier and other groups using the same system prior to implementation.
- Any other rubbish unable to be recycled on the site will be removed for recycling or disposal.

Management of vandalism & security

- Vandalism can be reduced and security and safety increased by involving the whole community in the garden and making it a positive, fun and safe space for all
- Tools and gear will be locked in the shed
- The garden will be fenced to ensure that there is no general access – this fencing will be in keeping with the cultural elements of the māra
- Immediate neighbours will keep an active eye on the garden
- We acknowledge that people may help themselves to crops; however, in small amounts, this is a minor issue as they will be used to provide nourishment where it is needed
- Vandalism will be acted upon immediately by repairing and cleaning damaged infrastructure and talking to the offender(s)
- Alcohol and drugs are not conducive to a safe community space and are therefore not tolerated at the garden. Police will be notified if required
- WBCMMT will maintain regular communication with WBOPDC regarding the above issues
- If anyone in the garden feels threatened, the best course of action is to quietly and calmly leave the area and return when it is safe to do so. Contact Police if there is threatening behaviour

Noise

- Working bees and gatherings will be held during daytime hours
- No loud parties will be held in the garden
- The whetū garden nearest No.44 Beach Road, Waipuna-a-rangi will be designed in consideration to the adjacent neighbour

Health and Safety plan

- Health and Safety are the responsibility of those participating. WBCMMT or WBOPDC is not liable for any injury. A first aid kit will be available on-site during working bees and kept in the shed.
- The WBCMMT will work to identify, minimise and eliminate potential health and safety risks on an ongoing basis.
- Participants in organised events will be made aware of any hazards or risks on the site while they are working in the garden; however, participants will be at their own risk.
- Where the use of machinery is required, users are to be trained on the correct use and ensure the use of correct PPE.
- Volunteers working in the garden will be inducted to ensure their understanding of our Health and Safety Plan.

Risk Register

Please refer to the WBCMMT Induction and risk register document as attached at appendix B.



AVA & TE ATARAU

