

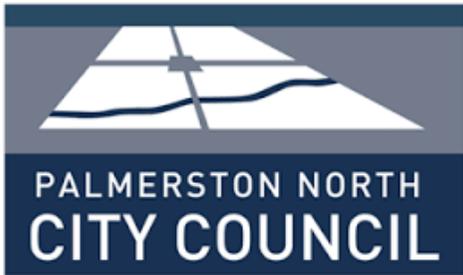
Memorial Park

Reserve Development Plan
2017 - 2027

Prepared for Palmerston North City Council
August 2017

W Y F I N D E R

Landscape Planning & Strategy



Title: Memorial Park Reserve Development Plan

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Cover photograph: Memorial Park by Shannon Bray





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Introduction

Memorial Park

Memorial Park is located on Napier Road, near the eastern edge of Palmerston North City. The park is 4.9ha in size.

It is located in a former quarry that was excavated to provide gravel material for the construction of the Palmerston North to Napier Railway that once ran alongside the main road. The 'Terrace End' railway station used to stand in the location of what is now the upper car park, although this was demolished when the railway was relocated to the north side of the city in the 1960's.

The park has two distinctive areas. On the eastern side is a competition standard playing field (which is primarily configured for football), that is surrounded by a circular concrete open stand with seating for approximately 8,000 people. The ground is home to Manawatū based football clubs.

The western side of Memorial Park contains a shallow paddling pool, roller skating rink, children's playground and a large duck pond.

These facilities are set within a park maintained for high amenity that includes grassy areas, specimen trees and planted borders.

A narrow set of steps connects the two sides of the park, although they are largely cut off from each other by the earth mound on which the stadium seating is located. A locked vehicle gate also provides access between the two sides, this being adjacent to an under-utilised public toilet facility.

The Fitzroy St entrance features the Workers' Memorial which was erected in 2011. Each year on 28 April an event at the site is sponsored by Unions Manawatū which brings together a cross-section of community groups to remember those killed, injured or made ill at work.

Limited parking on the western side (playground) of the park is provided at the lower level, however the majority of parking is located along the top terrace adjacent to Napier Road (where the railway line was previously located).

Purpose

This document serves as a Reserve Development Plan for Memorial Park for the period 2017 to 2027. The purpose of the plan is to:

- Document the existing values and characteristics of the park
- Consider a longer term strategy for enhancing these values and characteristics
- Set out recommendations for the enhancement, replacement and addition of existing or new facilities within the park
- Set out recommendations for the longer term development of the park layout
- Provide a set of priorities for development expenditure over the next ten years

The document has been prepared in consultation with PNCC staff as well as key stakeholders and references historical information and recent public perception studies.

Existing Values and Characteristics

Sportsground

The sportsground within Memorial Park has a distinctly functional character. Whilst the playing field is the key focus, this part of the park is dominated by the concrete stadium that surrounds the field on three sides. This is exacerbated by the solid concrete sloped bunds at each end of the field, and the long concrete wall that extends at the base of the seating area along the longest axis.

The wall is painted white, but is stained in many places by the steel fence and pipework that is installed around it. This fence extends around the perimeter, effectively separating the playing field from the seated area.

A low, grey, facilities building is located on the northern side of the playing field, and this is

somewhat screened by scrubby vegetation and a series of small palm trees. A corrugated iron shelter extends across some of the seating area on the southern side.

The sportsground is surrounded by a green timber fence which provides a definition of the park boundary, but does not screen the surrounding residential dwellings.



Whilst the playing field is in good playable condition and is clearly well maintained, the heavy presence of concrete in the remainder of this area of the park presents an overall drab visual character. Undoubtedly on game days when the stadium is full (or near full), there will be an sense of celebration and excitement within the park, this will be dampened by the presence of the concrete bunds at each end of the field, and a lack of connectivity between players and spectators.

The planting is also patchy and without a unifying theme or style.

Playground and Pond

The western end of the park has a mixed character. The dominating elements are the paddling pond, 1950's style mini-grandstand and the large naturalised duck pond at the far western end. Large mature specimen trees are dotted throughout the park, and combined with the large areas of grassland provide for an overall high amenity.

Overall the maintenance of the park is high, this is particularly evident in the lack of significant graffiti, the plushness of the lawns and surrounding planting, and the cleanliness of the paddling pool and public toilets. However, many of the facilities within the park are showing their age as a result of prolonged public use. There are also a number of facilities which are not regularly used or are not used altogether.

It is clear that the paddling pool was initially installed prior to the Fencing of Swimming Pools Act, and the galvanised wire-netting fence has been installed as a safety measure more recently. Whilst this has outward opening sprung gates in a number of locations, the fence effectively cuts off historical access routes and introduces a functional character to the overall park aesthetic. The steel seats and rubbish bins, although painted, also contribute to this somewhat industrial character.

The duck pond introduces a country park characteristic, further enhanced by the spacious grassland and open vegetation. At the time of assessment, the pond itself was murky, and the riverstone surrounds covered in litter, bird feathers and leaf fall. Overall these lowered the overall attractiveness of the pond as a destination, highlighting the importance of keeping this area well maintained.





Historical References

Despite its name and history, there are surprisingly few historical references within either side of the park.

The main entrance way to the playground is dominated by a brick gateway complete with cross and memorial plaque, and there is a disused flagpole located near the duck pond. The sunken nature of the park suggests its history as a quarry.

Newspaper records of the day recount the traumatic events surrounding the death of a Railway worker in the ballast pit in 1904. The Coroner's report details a large amount of information on the work undertaken in the locality and identifies that this was the largest gravel pit in the region operated by the Railways.

A website search on Memorial Park provides sketchy historical references, but in general the focus on activities and facilities within the park.

The presence of the wheelchair swing and various projects that provided ramp access throughout the park indicate historical attempts to increase accessibility options within the park.

The concrete skating rink is a unique feature of Memorial Park, and it is apparent that it is well used. The grandstand structure is less used and struggles to demonstrate its purpose, this largely as a result of the steep angle and depth of the seating area.

The changing room building servicing the paddling pond is significantly removed from the pool area, and has a stronger connection to the playground than anything else. Although constructed in concrete block, the building has a Māori 'whare' architectural style, and as a result is a relatively prominent feature of the park.

The toilet block near the entrance to this side of the park is newly constructed in a typical municipal style. In this regard it is considered a functional building that reflects little of the overall character of the park.

The playground is traditional in style and contains a collection of 'off the shelf' steel and plastic play equipment. Although the safety fall matting ties much of the equipment together, overall there lacks any prominent theme or flow between the playground areas.

Perhaps the most notable characteristic of this part of the park is the brightness of colours used around the paddling pool and buildings. The use of a single colour palette (currently yellow and red) has a unifying effect that helps tie all of the facilities together.

Recently constructed gabion walls, together with native planting, adds a new modern theme to the park, and are somewhat out of character with the use of concrete and masonry walls elsewhere.





Public Perceptions

Throughout June 2016 a series of public engagement exercises were undertaken to understand public perceptions of Memorial Park. This included engagement with key stakeholders, the local neighbourhood, an open day and on-site user surveys. The complete findings of this engagement study can be found in the accompanying report to this document.

The key values identified by the stakeholder group were as follows:

- WWII and Historical Memory
- Family and Social
- Safety and Accessibility

Sport and Active Recreation, and Environmental also rated as important values for the park.

Survey respondents were asked to rank a series of park values, and 'Social and Family' received the greatest response.

The overall findings of the engagement work identified that, in terms of facilities, the following items would most like to be seen at Memorial Park:

- Water sports
- Mind/Body
- Playground
- Skating
- Social

Although stakeholders considered the historical associations to be important, the public respondents had greater interest in the actual facilities and activities that could be undertaken at the park.

Overall family, socialisation and play (especially water fun) were the three most popular values people held for Memorial Park. It is a place where people come to swim, to stroll and to picnic.

Accessibility

As part of a wider parks strategy, it is recognised that there is significant opportunity for Memorial Park to be developed with accessibility in mind.

In January 2016, an accessibility audit was undertaken by consultancy firm Be Accessible. The park was provided an overall score of 64%, or bronze level.

As part of the development plan for Memorial Park there is a desire to improve the accessibility throughout park to reach the gold standard rating assessed by Be Accessible.

The report identified a number of potential improvements to the park to achieve an increased rating. These include the following:

- Using stronger colour contrasts on accessible and safety equipment
- Installing ramps with handrails as an alternative to stairs where possible
- Handrails should be secure, graspable and 840-900mm above the ground surface
- Displaying clear signage throughout the park
- Clearly identifying the site exits through signage
- Maps displaying different areas of the park and facilities
- Incorporating ground tactile indicators to assist with navigation and changes in the environment
- Ground surfaces throughout the park should be even and well maintained
- Distinguishing main access routes into the park and gates into the pool area
- Consistently clear edging on the paths, around the pond, splashpad and pool
- Increase safety around the pond with distinguishable edging or a barrier
- Providing shelter in areas used as drop off/pick up zones
- Ensuring accessible paths are clear of obstacles
- Ensuring fixed objects are detectable by a person using a cane
- Meeting paths width requirements of a minimum of 1200mm
- Providing a clear direct route to accessible toilets
- Upgrade toilet and changing room facilities to increase accessibility and use
- Improving seating options with arm rests and backrests
- Providing designated carpark for parents close to the entrance
- Ensuring all parking signage is clear and visible





Summary of Values Assessment

Overall it is considered that there are three key values which need to be reflected within the park:

Socialable, Family Fun

The park should encourage family groups to come and enjoy the surroundings, interact with each other and enjoy the play facilities. Within this value, play should be focussed on water themes (paddling pool and other water), roller skating, and traditional playground.

Safe and Accessible

The park needs to provide a safe environment where there is low risk of crime, good sightlines and an overall feeling of security. At the same time, the park should attract people of all abilities and provide facilities for those who have disabilities.

Remembrance

The park needs to reflect its heritage and name, particularly in remembering workers, the worker who died in 1904 while working on extracting the railway ballast, and those fallen in the World Wars. The park has a strong connection to women at war, whether they served abroad or kept the country moving at home.

In addition, the sports park needs to continue to serve as an important home ground facility for the Manawatū United team. In this regard, it should instill a sense of pride and local connection.

Continuing the high level of maintenance is important for all of these values, ensuring that the park feels clean, that there is no rubbish, and graffiti is quickly removed.

Buildings and structures should be tied into a consistent theme with similar painting palette.

Older facilities should be removed or upgraded as efficiently as possible, with less good-quality equipment being preferred over more poor-quality equipment.

Drainage around the grandstand should be considered to eliminate the existing draingae onto the skating track.

Opportunities to ensure high levels of visibility across the park, and particularly between the two sides of the park is important.

The planting palette should be consistent across the park, and provide for a high level of amenity (combined with low maintenance requirements).



Warwick Smith/Fairfax NZ

Sportsground

A park of two halves, or two parks?

Memorial Park is a park of two halves, each side catering for completely different activities and different audiences. For the most part, the sportsground is self-managing under existing maintenance regimes, and needs limited longer term development investment. The playground side of the park requires a more extensive management and development. It's longer term development will require more detailed planning and investment.

It is suggested, therefore, that the park be separated into two management regimes that cater for the unique values of each space.

Memorial Park is the home ground for Manawātū based football clubs, therefore the teams colours and logos should be incorporated into the park.

A colour palette has been identified using the foundation colours of the Manawātū based clubs, matched with additional complimentary colours. Using these colours to paint the clubhouse, the back fence, stadium, seats and concrete wall at the end of the field will help refresh the sports ground. These colours could also be used throughout the playground side of the park to create unity between the two halves.

It is suggested that the football club will paint the concrete wall at the north end of the sportsground with their logos, club colours or words related to their club.

The council will work with Central Football to upgrade the existing changing rooms, to meet national standards for the number of change facilities required.





Connectivity

The future strategy for the sportsground quite simply needs to be continued management of the ground for field sport, particularly football. The existing management regimes for this area of the park can continue.

In terms of development, it would be desirable to reduce the prominence of the concrete banks at each end of the pitch, and also try to create better connectivity between the playing area and grandstand.

In the first instance, an engineering review is required to determine whether it might be possible to build up a grassed earth mound against the concrete banks. Key considerations will include insuring stability of the bank, and adequate drainage. 3D modelling of slopes will also be important to ensure that the grassed area can be adequately maintained - steeper areas may require planting, or some additional retaining walls may be necessary.

An alternative to a grass earth mound is to paint the concrete with mural patterns, using hard-wearing concrete paint (such as road-marking paint). A mural depicting the colours and patterns of the local football teams, is likely to be more appropriate than an image. The painting palette can be extended to other areas of the sportsground - as shown on the plan on the following page.

The track needs to be retained as it is popular for skaters, and is also used by runners, skateboarders, walkers, learner cyclists and wheelchair athletes.

It is proposed that alterations will be under taken on the rainwater downpipes on the grandstand, to avoid water on the the skating track.

There is interest in making sure gates on the sportsground can be locked so Central Football can have a secure facility.

Planting

Developing the planting for both the sportsground and the rest of the park will be an important part of creating a connection throughout Memorial Park. Using a simple planting palette that will be suitable for use throughout the whole park will be key.

Additional planting will need to be complimentary of the existing vegetation in the park and reasonably low maintenance.

The suggestions above provide a preliminary outline of the recommended planting choices, including trees, shrubs and ground cover vegetation.

Adding trees into some areas of the park will provide shade and help break up some of the larger areas and hard surfaces. Titoki or similar trees would be appropriate for this.



Scale 1:1000

Concept Development Plan

- | | | |
|----------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1. Improve connectivity between Sportsground and Memorial Park | 4. Paint concrete wall in bright colours | 8. Repaint back fence in bright colours |
| 2. New toilet facilities | 5. Paint seats bright colours | 9. Paint concrete with Manawatū based clubs colours and logos |
| 3. Planting | 6. Repaint clubhouse in bright colours | 10. Upgrade changing rooms |
| | 7. Paint stadium in bright colours | |



Memorial Park - Theme

Memorial Park Identity

Memorial Park currently lacks a unifying identity. Whilst it has important historical values, these are lost in the park, which appears simply as a collection of random equipment and features. The park needs a new theme that provides a new sense of place.

As identified earlier in this report, the park has a strong connection to wartime, and remembrance is a key value. There is significant opportunity to exploit this theme in a way that is serious, but adds interest and colour to the Park.

The biggest opportunity for establishing this new theme is through the use of murals throughout the park. These could be located on existing buildings, or on new walls recommended to be constructed in latter parts of this plan. Picking up a 'fun' 1930's style of mural, would be a way of introducing the remembrance element.

In addition, to help connect such artwork to specific features of the park, and tie it into a strongly New Zealand focus, it is recommended that the ANZAC poppy symbol features highly in the built forms and colouring.

As a way of making a local connection, there is an opportunity to include murals of local war personalities. These might be of local people who served in the war, or who provided significant support at home during wartime. This could feature a selection of notable woman, reflecting the historical connection of the park to women at war.

There has been interest and enthusiasm in including specific people and groups in relation to this theme. Proposed murals include, a mural of the 28th Maori battalion and a remembrance wall showcasing 5 or 6 local heroes.

A specific area in the park has been dedicated to remembering workers who have been killed, injured and made ill at work, and contain the Workers' Memorial.

The heroes mural should consist of 5 or 6 important identities from Palmerston North. These could include people of equally significant value as follows.

- Tui - New Zealand Forces Club
- Regular Soldier
- Polish Army league - female volunteer
- War service Auxillary - Female volunteer
- Rangitane Politician and war recruiter
- Fallen worker

Discussions are underway with the NZDF/Army (linton) to install a feature gun and fix the existing flag pole to further enhance the theme within the park.

Interpretative signage needs to be installed throughout the park to help people understand and connect with the theme. Signage should be developed in association with RSA, City Library Historians and Palmertston North Heritage Advisory Group.

Park Development

Design Concept

The proposed development plan, on the following page, provides an overall concept for the longer-term enhancement of the park and its facilities.

As much as possible the existing equipment, including the play and skating equipment, has been retained. It is the intention that, as much as possible, this equipment is 'refreshed' - largely through painting.

The overall layout of the park is also to be retained, however a stronger connection between the park and the sportsground is achieved by the demolition of the existing toilet block. This could be replaced with a smaller more modern facility that also provides good accessible access.

The next few sections of this plan outline the key development items, before a summary is provided at the back of the report together with preliminary costings.

Splash Pads and Water Play

A significant component in the development of Memorial Park will be the expansion of water play. It is proposed, a splash pad is incorporated into the development of the park. A splash pad will complement the existing paddling pool facilities and increase the opportunity for interaction with water.

The council will fund a small splash pad, but if the council is successful with funding applications there is the prospect of constructing a larger splash pad.

There are a number considerations towards the incorporation of a splash pad.

Splash pads can accommodate a variety of ages by integrating different aspects and features that target different audiences.



Features could range from fountains low to the ground and low-pressure jets for toddlers that are easy to turn on, through to action-reaction play features that involve multiple kids to produce responses from the water by stepping on different jets or by moving things.

Splash pads help to enhance interactions between users and encourages children and teenagers to get moving in different ways than a pool while still interacting with water.

It will be important to address surface treatments and safety aspects, as well as design considerations in collaboration with accessibility.



Concept Development Plan

- | | | |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Entrance gates painted 2. Entrance wall and gun 3. Heroes feature wall 4. Paddling pool fence and surrounds upgraded 5. Paddling pool slide 6. Splash pad 7. Upgraded accessible play facilities | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8. Retain Slides 9. Sensory garden 10. Upgrade grandstand and seating 11. Upgrade roller skating rink 12. Gear and rental shed for skates 13. Skater music platform 14. Family picnic areas and BBQ's 15. Seating and retaining wall 16. New Toilets | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 17. Open link to sportsground 18. Boardwalk and viewing platform 19. Planting 20. Accessible paths 21. Pond filled in 22. Possible additional splash pad area - external funding dependant 23. Lighting around skate rink - subject to external provision and installation |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

Main Entrance

The large wall and gates, located at the main entrance at street level provide the key visual connection between the park and the street. It is important that the gate ties in with the theme of remembrance which will be evident throughout Memorial Park.

Currently the walls are brick and don't work in unison with the other features throughout the park. While there are buildings in memorial park that have brick facades, they have been previously painted.

It is proposed that the existing buildings in the park are repainted with murals connected to the theme of remembrance. Therefore it would be appropriate to do the same with the gates at the entrance to the park.



Concept Only - mural design to be confirmed

Driveway

As you reach the bottom of the car park there is evidence of an old gateway. Rather than removing this, the proposal is to enhance it and create a second visual entrance with a short wall on either side of the road. This could also be an appropriate spot for the 20-pound gun donated by the Army.

As with the main entrance this could be painted with a mural similar to those proposed throughout the park and the gates of the main entrance.

Adding in planting along the entrance and driveway will enhance the experience for users, while adding a painted edge to the footpath will help with accessibility.



Concept Only - mural design to be confirmed

Entrance and Feature Wall

The lower car park is the main entry point into Memorial Park. Currently this is dominated by a fence that blocks access to set of stairs leading down to the paddling pool. The new toilet block is also a prominent feature.

The proposal is to create a new 'arrival area' in the shape of a poppy, potentially painted or finished in a red colouring and featuring a flag pole in the centre. This would be framed by a curved retaining wall, with the steps demolished and converted to a planted area. The pool fence would be relocated closer to the pool.

The concave side of the wall would provide an opportunity for a mural depicting local historic heroes and potentially some history about the park in keeping with the overall theme. Welcoming signage to the park could also be located here. On the convex side, a larger mural could be painted, or the wall simply painted in one of the new striking colours.



Concept Only - Mural design to be confirmed

Existing Buildings

Working with the theme of wartime and remembrance provides the opportunity to rejuvenate existing buildings throughout the park with themed murals and bright colours.

As mentioned earlier, it has been proposed the murals could depict images of relevant and important people connected with the local history, wartime and remembrance. Or simply be images that are in keeping with the theme.

The colour palette suggested to be used within the sports ground could also be used throughout the rest of the park to brighten the buildings, walls, steps, play areas and features such as rubbish bins, seats, bollards and signs. This would help tie in the two halves of the park while rejuvenating the existing buildings.



Concept Only - Mural design to be confirmed



Concept Only - Mural design to be confirmed

Roller Skating Rink

The roller skating rink is currently being re-ground to provide a smooth skating surface, and the surrounding fences being repaired and upgraded. Skating line markings are proposed to be painted on the completed surface.

An existing shed adjacent to the rink can be used for storing gear, or as a rentals facility.

Amenity trees are planted as a circular avenue around the roller skating rink, to help frame and define the activity area.

Skater Music Platform

The roller skating rink provides a great opportunity for roller-disco, or similar such music events. The construction of a small platform between the rink and the pool will provide a space for a simple music set up, whilst also creating a degree of separation between the two activities.

The platform is centred on the grandstand, and provides a focus from this seated area.

It is proposed that a 1.8-2.0m high wall be constructed behind the platform, to help reinforce

this separation. This could be painted in a bright colours, or adorned with an appropriate mural, reinforcing the theme of the park.

Ideally a controlled electricity source would be provided, so that skaters can plug in a stereo, or a DJ could set up.

Appropriate lighting will be installed around the skate rink, subject to external provision and installation.



Concept Only - Mural design to be confirmed

Grandstand

The grandstand has potential to be developed into a great place for parents to sit while their children are skating.

The proposal is to concrete the existing steps, and in the process, add a 'middle' step to each level to reduce the overall height of each step. The concrete can then be painted with bright colours to help 'clean it up' and refresh the look.

The back wall has been left open for visibility, but the area behind the grandstand could be planted with native shrubs to help provide a backdrop. The enclosed space could be used as a tuck-shop during skating days. This area needs to be cleaned up and repainted. A mural could be installed on the front face, in keeping with the overall park theme.

A new gate needs to be installed from the bottom of the stand steps into the rink area.



Concept Only - Mural design to be confirmed

Changing Rooms

The changing rooms are in relatively good condition, but do not fit with the theme of the park.

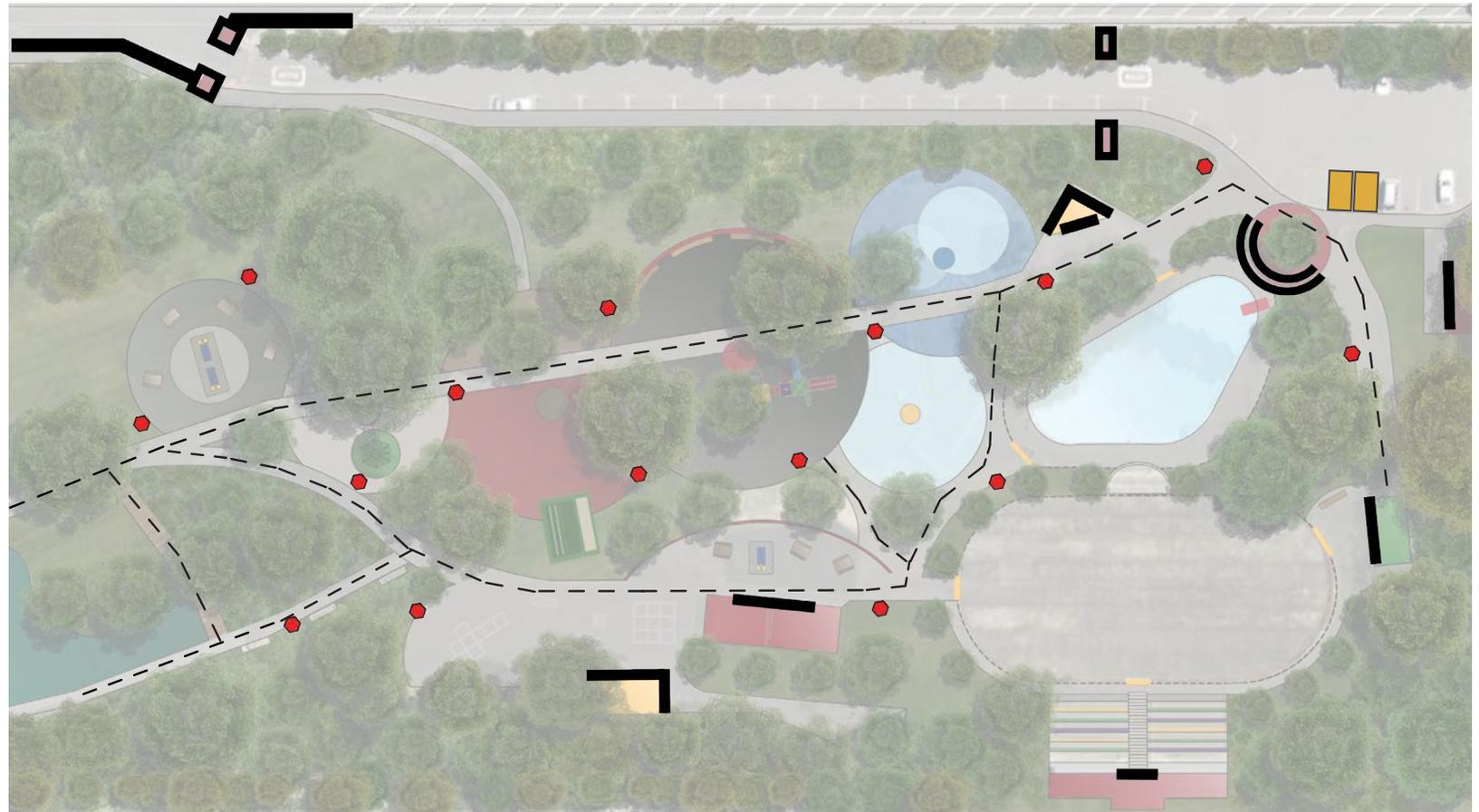
It is proposed that this be rectified through painting the building, and the addition of a mural to the face wall, in keeping with the overall theme of the park.

In addition, better links are provided from the changing rooms to the roller skating rink and paddling pool. It is proposed that these would be constructed at a slope of 1:12 or less, so that they meet accessibility standards.

The concrete area beside the changing rooms is retained for ball play, including four-square and similar social interaction games.

Key

-  Mural walls
-  Memorial information
-  Accessible paths
-  Accessible parking



Scale 1:2000

Workers' Memorial

Each year on 28 April an event at the site is sponsored by Unions Manawatū which brings together a cross-section of community groups to remember those killed, injured or made ill at work.

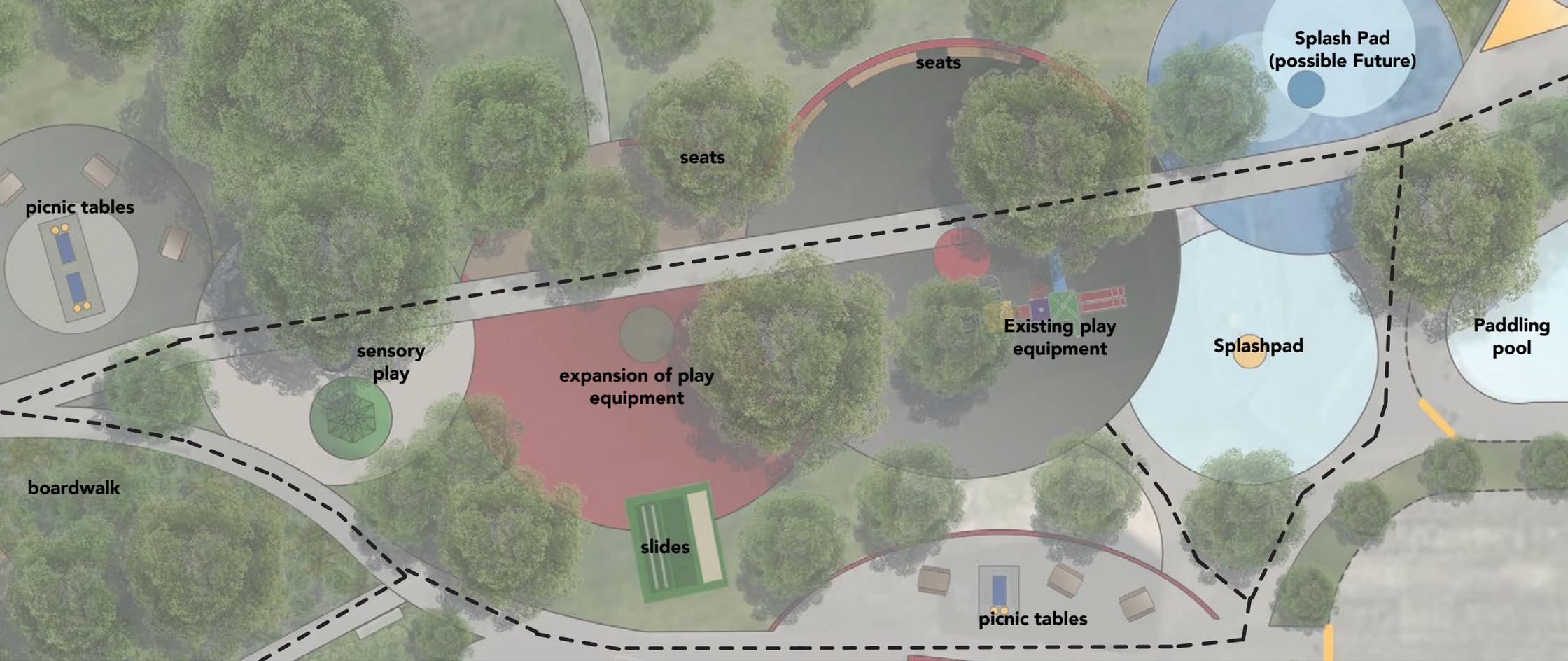
An area in the park has been dedicated to a workers' memorial. This will be dedicated to remembering those workers'.

The memorial will be a feature point within the park and could be enhanced by developing the surrounding gardens.

Remembrance Discovery Plan

The remembrance discovery walk will be building on the history and information of the 5 or 6 heroes that will be illustrated in the mural on the curved feature wall, located at the lower entrance to the park. Information located around this, will introduce the identities and portray a story about their lives.

The information about the heroes will be displayed around the park on poster bollards, playground equipment and seating areas. Displaying the information and collective stories throughout the park will help to incorporate the theme and encourage interaction and movement throughout the park.



Poppies Play Space

The play areas have been set out to loosely follow the ANZAC Poppy symbol. This could be enhanced through the use of deep red coloured safety matting, with black central circles.

The central poppy is located around the existing play equipment, much of which can be retained and enhanced by the addition of further equipment connected together.

A new water play area is proposed near the paddling pool, with picnic tables located nearby for adult supervision.

A new 'sensory play' area is included which would be designed to include sensory plants, particularly with bold colours, textures and/or aromas.

Where possible existing trees are retained throughout the play areas in order to provide natural shade. The existing footpath is also retained.

All new play equipment should be designed with accessibility in mind, so that it accommodates not only children in wheelchairs, but also those that might be partially sighted or blind, or have other mobility difficulties.

Bright colours should be used for all play equipment, in keeping with the overall park theme.

Paddling Pool Surrounds & Fence

The existing pool fence dominates the park, and detracts from the attractiveness of the pool. The fence needs to be replaced, and in the process relocated to frame the pool better, creating opportunities for planting and increased amenity.

The new pool fence should be simple in form and black in colour (such as the fencing currently being installed adjacent to the main road).

The number of gates has been reduced in the plan, such that the only entry points will be from the new water play/splash pad area, and opposite the toilet block. The gates could be more easily identified with the use of bright colours.

To enhance accessibility, the surrounds around the pool need to be resurfaced, ideally in exposed aggregate concrete, although this surface may be able to be laid directly on top of the existing pavers.

It is proposed a slide is added into the paddling pool. This will require appropriate accessibility and meet the relevant safety requirements.

Duck Pond

The duck pond is a popular feature within the park. The overall pond area is divided in two, the large open pond at the south end and a smaller more enclosed section at the north end.

While the pond is a significant feature in Memorial Park the smaller portion of the pond has issues with rubbish and debris collecting and is not particularly visually appealing. The sides and surrounds of this smaller section of the pond are steeper and less manageable for accessible access. It is recommended that this smaller section of pond is filled in and planted.

There are known concerns regarding the safety of the edges, particularly from a accessibility perspective. It is therefore proposed some of the paths directly adjacent to the pond are converted to 'boardwalks' with edges to prevent wheelchairs from running off. The area around the boardwalks can be planted with riparian native shrubs.

The concept plan also recommends placing a boardwalk type feature through the 'peninsular', and adding sensory native plants in this location.

Picnic and BBQ

The large open flat space provides a good area for informal football, cricket or other active play. Therefore, it is proposed that this space be retained for this purpose.

In addition, existing and new BBQ's can be relocated to this area, together with picnic tables and additional seating.

Trees in this part of the park should be limbed relatively high, both to allow for active play underneath, but also for enhanced visibility across the park. Additional trees can be planted around the outside of the area, being sure to leave a large area of open space.

The concept plan also identifies a second BBQ area, outside the changing rooms. This raised flat area provides a viewpoint over the park. This space currently has some existing play equipment, that could be relocated to the expansion of the play space.



W ▲ Y F I N D E R

Landscape Planning & Strategy

