

LOWER
RATES



HIGHER
RATES

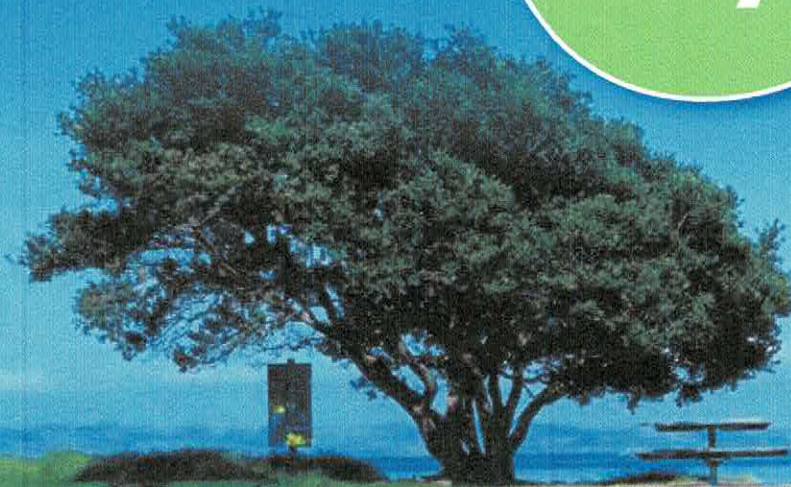
PROPOSAL 1:

Reducing mowing and garden maintenance

OPTION 1 –
Keep the current gardens
and mowing schedule

OPTION 2 –
Reduce service levels

Have your
say!





Why we're proposing this

Across our district, parks, reserves, berms and gardens are maintained at different levels. Some areas receive more frequent mowing and have higher maintenance gardens. Other areas are maintained less often. This means we have a mix of premium, standard and basic maintenance levels across the District which could be reduced to help limit next year's rates increases.



What would change

We're proposing to reduce some mowing and garden maintenance across the district. **These changes could save up to \$450,000 per year.** These changes would mean some areas look less manicured, with grass growing longer between mowing and fewer gardens.

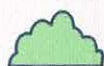
WHAT WE CURRENTLY DELIVER



Seasonal flower beds



Frequent mowing of parks, road berms, cemeteries and road median strips



Shrub garden maintenance



Annual Onehunga weed spraying

WHAT WE'RE PROPOSING



Simpler planting with no seasonal flowers



Replacement of shrub beds with grass or hard surfaces



Reduced garden maintenance



Less frequent mowing of parks, median strips, cemeteries and other public spaces. No mowing of most berms



Cancel Onehunga weed spraying



Here's what it looks like in more detail



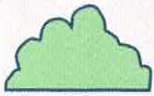
Seasonal flower beds

We currently maintain over 200 m² of garden beds in high-profile locations that require replacing annually (including flowers beds). These are expensive to maintain. We're proposing to replace these beds with lower-maintenance options such as shrubs, grass or in some cases, hard surfaces.



Onehunga weed spraying

We currently spray Onehunga weed to avoid those pesky prickles. This programme is costly and has limited long-term effectiveness, as weeds often return from nearby untreated areas. We're proposing to stop this spraying programme and not replace it with any other targeted weed control programme. This change may affect our coastal protection work as current spraying helps control other dune weeds.



Shrub bed maintenance

We're proposing to reduce shrub maintenance at some sites. This might result in:

- removing some shrub beds altogether
- maintaining some shrub beds less often
- carrying out maintenance only when issues arise.

Most shrub beds in high-profile or busy locations would continue to be maintained as they are now. Sites selected for change are generally in less-visited areas or contain mature planting that doesn't need as frequent care.



Mowing our reserves

We are proposing to reduce how often we mow some of our reserves. Not all will be affected. Changes would mainly occur in:

- areas that are used less often, particularly in winter
- sites that are low-lying, wet or steep, where mowing can be difficult or unsafe
- locations where maintenance costs are relatively high compared to levels of use.

In some cases mowing would be reduced during winter or extended wet periods. In other locations, mowing frequency may be reduced year-round.

Changes may apply to part of a reserve or the whole site.



Road berm mowing

We currently mow berms along a number of roads identified as tourist routes. We're proposing to review and reduce the number of roads on this list, meaning berm mowing would no longer occur in those locations.

We'd continue to mow some areas, but less often:

- traffic islands and median strips
- berms next to Council-managed sites (because we're the landowner)
- berms at locations near private properties where we already have formal agreements in place.

We'd keep maintaining higher-use areas such as sports fields and key public spaces at current levels.



Which areas would be impacted?

This proposal would be implemented district wide. You can see affected areas at a glance in the maps below. Find out more on [tcdc.govt.nz/annualplan26-27](https://www.tcdc.govt.nz/annualplan26-27).

WHANGAPOUA

● Garden changes

We'll maintain garden shrubs in Whangapoua township gardens less often

● Reserve mowing changes

No winter mowing (June – August) on Hamiora Esplanade Reserve, Whangapoua South End Reserve

● Berm mowing changes

We'll no longer mow berms on Mangakahia Drive, Tangiora Avenue

MATARANGI

● Garden changes

Shrub maintenance less often on Kenwood Drive, Puka Crescent, Totara Place, Kauri Crescent, Kowhai Avenue, Ocean Close, Matarangi Drive and Kelly Jade & surrounding reserves

● Reserve mowing changes

No winter mowing on Matarangi Entrance (May to October) and The Pines, Village Green, Bluff Road Reserves (June to August)

● Berm mowing changes

We'll no longer mow berms on Matarangi Drive, Harbour Drive

WHITIANGA

● Garden changes

- Whitianga Council Office gardens (replacing seasonal beds with grass)
- Hei Esplanade (maintaining shrubs less often)
- Lyon Park (removing shrubs)
- Moewai Sports Park (removing seasonal beds; maintaining shrubs less often)

● Reserve mowing changes

No winter mowing (June – August) at Hilton Park Recreation Reserve, Tom True Reserve, Cholmondley Street Reserve, Impala / Springbok Reserve, Moewai Park Reserves

● Berm mowing changes

We'll no longer mow berms on Buffalo Beach Road, Joan Gaskell Drive, Campbell Street, Cook Drive, Lee Street, Monk Street, Park Lane, Racecourse Road (outside residential private property), Wharekaho Road, Discovery Drive

KUAOTUNU

● Garden changes

We'll maintain Kuaotunu Village shrubs less often but we'll remove Kuaotunu Reserve shrubs

● Reserve mowing changes

No winter mowing (June – August) on parts of Kuaotunu Reserves including Kuaotunu Recreational Reserve

COOKS BEACH

● Garden changes

We'll remove Cooks Beach Hall shrubs

● Reserve mowing changes

No longer mow parts of River View Road Reserve, Marine Parade Reserve, Long Reach Purangi Estuary Reserve

● Berm mowing changes

We'll no longer mow berms on Purangi Road, Rees Avenue, Captain Cook Road & Service Lane, Resolution Rise

FERRY LANDING

● Reserve mowing changes

We'll no longer mow the lower portion of the Ferry Landing Cemetery and other wet areas in winter (May to October)

DISTRICT-WIDE CHANGE

● Onehunga weed spraying

We'll no longer spray for Onehunga weeds

● Traffic island and median strips

We'll mow grassed traffic island and median strips less frequently while maintaining minimum road safety standards).

KEY

● Garden change

● Reserve mowing change

● Grassed road edges (berm) mowing change

(NB: Council-owned berms and berms with a previously entered arrangement will continue to be mown).

KEY

● **Garden change**

● **Reserve mowing change**

● **Grassed road edges (berm) mowing change**

(NB: Council-owned berms and berms with a previously entered arrangement will continue to be mown).

COROMANDEL TOWN

● **Reserve mowing changes**

No winter mowing (May – October) on Patukirikiri Reserve and parts of Hauraki House Reserve

● **Berm mowing changes**

We'll no longer mow berms on: Tiki Road, Rings Road, Colville Road, Kapanga Road, Whangapoua Road

HOT WATER BEACH

● **Berm mowing changes**

We'll no longer mow berms on Hot Water Beach Road

HĀHEI

● **Reserve mowing changes**

We'll no longer mow parts of Wigmore Stream Reserve

● **Berm mowing changes**

We'll no longer mow berms on Hāhei Beach Road, Grange Road

TAIRUA

● **Reserve mowing changes**

No winter mowing (June to October) of Bennett Drive Reserves, Hornsea Reserves and parts of North End and South End Reserves

● **Berm mowing changes**

We'll no longer mow berms on Tairua Main Road, Paku Drive, Ocean Beach Road, Manaia Road, Vista Paku

TAPU

● **Reserve mowing changes**

No winter mowing (May – October) at Waipatukahu

WAIOMU

● **Berm mowing changes**

We'll no longer mow berms on Waiomu Valley Road

TE PURU

● **Reserve mowing changes**

No winter mowing (May – October) at Te Puru Domain

THAMES

● **Garden changes**

Seasonal garden beds will be replaced with annual shrubs at Thames Council garden, Lower Pollen Street, Thames Historical Museum

● **Reserve mowing changes**

No winter mowing (May – October) at John William Hall Arboretum, The Booms Reserve, Burke Street Dog Park.

We'd mow the Fergusson Drive Stopbank less often, but still year-round

WHANGAMATĀ

● **Reserve mowing changes**

No winter mowing (May to October) at Patiki Bay Reserve and Park Avenue Reserve

● **Berm mowing changes**

We'll no longer mow berms on Tairua Road, Hetherington Road, Martyn Road, Port Road (outside the downtown shopping area), Barbara Avenue, Mayfair Avenue, Ocean Road, Rangī Avenue, Marie Crescent, Patuwai Drive, Sylvia Road, Harry Watt Drive, Oratia Place.

PĀUANUI

● **Berm mowing changes**

We'll no longer mow berms on Pāuanui Boulevard, Centreway, Jubilee Drive, Pāuanui Beach Road

HIKUIAI

● **Berm mowing changes**

We'll no longer mow berms on Hikuai Settlement Road

ONEMANA

● **Reserve mowing changes**

No winter mowing (June to October) of Onemana Drive Reserve

● **Berm mowing changes**

We'll no longer mow Onemana Drive berms.



Who pays for this service?

Ratepayers in each ward fund the service in their area through their property rates. Rates are based on property value and will differ between wards.



WHAT ARE OUR OPTIONS?

OPTION 1 –

Keep the current gardens and mowing schedule

Grass in parks, reserves, berms and other public spaces will continue to be mown as often as it is now throughout the year.

Garden beds, flower displays and landscaped areas will continue to be maintained at their current level.

The pros and cons of this option

- ✓ Public spaces stay tidy and well looked after throughout the year
- ✓ Weeds and pest plants are managed through regular upkeep
- ✓ Parks and open spaces continue to look good
- ✗ Costs more in the short term

Impact on your rates*

No change to this year aside from inflationary movements

OPTION 2 –

Reduce service levels

This is our preferred option

Mowing would be reduced in selected parks, reserves and berms, especially during winter when grass grows more slowly and the ground is wetter.

Some garden beds would be removed, simplified, or replaced with lower-maintenance planting such as shrubs, grass or natural areas.

Higher-use areas, such as sports fields and key public spaces, would continue to be maintained as they are now.

The pros and cons of this option

- ✓ Costs ratepayers less in the short term.
- ✗ Spaces may look less tidy
- ✗ Weed growth may increase
- ✗ Parks may feel less well cared for
- ✗ Issues may take longer to fix
- ✗ Costs could increase later if maintenance is delayed too long

Impact on your rates*

A reduction of \$17.94 on average (-0.38%) compared to this year

Neither option will impact our debt levels

*Rates figures provide an indication of the impact on an average residential property, but they will vary for each property.

These items are being consulted on under sections 95, 82, and 83 of the Local Government Act 2002.