

Open Space Zones

Our vision for Lower Hutt is to create a city where everyone thrives.

To do this, we need to protect and improve our natural environment and grow our city in a way that is sustainable and meets the needs of all of us who call Lower Hutt home. One of the ways we do this is through the District Plan, which sets the rules for how we use land and develop our city.

The District Plan is going through a top-to-bottom review. How do we protect what we love and provide what we need as a city? That's where you come in – feedback on the draft plan is open until 15 December 2023. Following that, we'll have a statutory submission process on a proposed plan in 2024.

From protecting the environment to managing natural hazards and preserving our built heritage, there's a lot to consider. The District Plan is an important document that influences the future of our city, so find out more and have your say!

Find out more at hutt.city/dpreview



How much is changing?



Little

A lot

Open spaces are vital for recreation, access to green space and for people's physical and mental wellbeing. The way we manage our open spaces depends on their main purpose.

We're proposing to change from having two types of open space zones to three:

➔ **Natural Open Space Zone (NOSZ)** generally applies to large parks and reserves owned or administered by Hutt City Council, Department of Conservation or Wellington Regional Council. These include East Harbour Regional Park, Belmont Regional Park and the Wainiuomata/Orongorongo Water Collection Area.

This zone allows only for a low level of development to retain natural values and ongoing enjoyment for the community.

➔ **Open Space Zone (OSZ)** generally covers the city's smaller urban parks for a range of recreation and community activities with limited facilities and buildings. This includes cemeteries and the areas along Te Awa Kairangi/Hutt River and the Petone Foreshore.

➔ **Sport and Active Recreation Zone (SARZ)** covers sports grounds, club rooms and land used by organised sports and active recreation. Examples include Hutt Recreation Ground and Petone Memorial Park.

This zone has higher use and more built development, providing ancillary buildings like clubrooms, changing rooms and toilets as well as lighting and car parking areas.



What are we proposing?

The current District Plan includes two open space zones, but we're proposing to recategorise our existing open spaces across three new zones.

This is due to National Planning Standards requiring us to change the names of the zones we use, but also enables us to more clearly define the different types of open spaces across our city.

However, the overall approach to how these open space areas are managed is unchanged.

FAQs

What kind of feedback can I give about the permitted activities in these zones?

While areas in Open Space zones are primarily for recreation and conservation, these zones can provide for a range of other activities such as visitor centres, huts and camping areas, coffee carts and food trucks and other retail activities that support events and activities taking place in the area. We're keen to hear your thoughts on the activities that should be permitted.

How will the proposed changes affect my local sports ground or club?

The Draft District Plan should not result in any significant change to how clubs operate. Council is not proposing any rule changes for sports and active recreation on these sites.

Why is there a lot more open space land shown in the draft District Plan maps compared to the current District Plan maps?

In the current District Plan there are large areas of our regional parks that have a rural zoning. The Natural Open Space Zone is considered a much more appropriate zoning for these parks, which means that large areas that were previously shown with a rural zoning are now mapped in the Natural Open Space Zone.

We're keen to hear from you

Go to hutt.city/DPSurvey or drop off your submission at any Hutt City Council neighbourhood hub.