

Open Space Asset Management Plans

Are they still relevant?





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Reflecting BACK to look FORWARD



We prided ourselves on being AM leaders – but practise has fallen behind guidelines/standards



AMPs become merely 3 yearly LTP support documents – often outsourced. We don't appreciate the strategic value of a good AMP



AM staff capability and capacity is often limited.
“if everything is URGENT, nothing is STRATEGIC”



Not very many AM systems are used to optimise decision making, both practical works planning and investment planning



Stress in the workplace. (stressed response results in a reduction in strategic and creative cognitive processes)

*“Those who
cannot
remember the
past are
condemned to
repeat it”*

George
Santayana

Reflecting BACK to look FORWARDS

We need to convert good Asset Management **theory** into good **practice**:

- ▶ Senior management commitment to AM
- ▶ Resource allocation in AM planning area
- ▶ Review and invest in the development of 'good' LOS/KPIs and performance measures
- ▶ Time and dollar investment on AM system setup and data improvement
- ▶ Need movement towards mature AM systems and processes that underpin optimised, data-informed decisions

Current Noise

HEAD-START PATHWAY

Core Services

wellbeings removed from LGA

Rates Caps

Fuel Price / uncertainty

back to basics
value

'nice to have'

cost of living

Proactive/Planned



Nature **whanau**
Resilience

liveability Trails
Sport **HEALTH**
Recreation PLAY



Biodiversity
ecology **climate**
adaptability

Canopy Shade
adaptation **water**
erosion





"A **thriving city** is not measured by how tall it grows, but by the spaces it leaves for people to live, play and connect"

"Intensification shapes our skyline, but open space shapes our wellbeing"

**Proactive
Asset
Management
planning
enables us to
achieve our
Parks vision
and goals**

Rapid population growth will intensify demand



- ▶ The golden triangle is projected to hold over half of NZ's population and GDP within 20-30 years. More people = more pressure on parks, reserves, sports fields, walkways, green spaces.
- ▶ Ensures LoS of existing green assets are maintained despite heavier use.
- ▶ Helps officers present a robust case for future investment
- ▶ The quarter acre dream
- ▶ Colour Steel fences!

Nature-Based Solutions & Green Infrastructure

Greater focus on environmental and sustainability drivers:

Using parks for **stormwater attenuation**, wetlands, and flood resilience

Creating **urban cooling networks** through shade trees and **green** corridors

Embedding **biodiversity restoration** into open space planning

Leveraging ecological assets as part of **climate adaptation strategies**

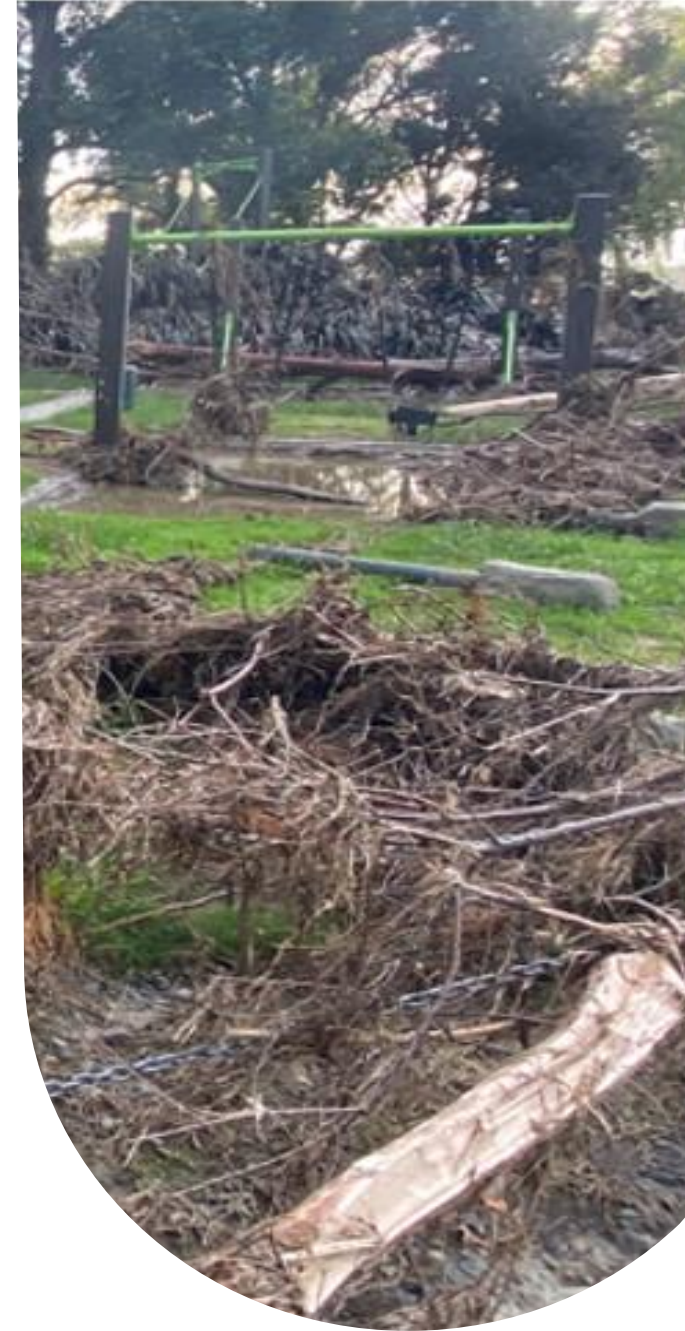
This shifts parks from “nice-to-have” to essential climate infrastructure

Climate-resilient park design & lifecycle planning

Asset management frameworks need to shift to:

- ▶ incorporate climate risk profiles for each park or asset type
- ▶ use climate-adapted materials (e.g., drought-resistant turf, permeable surfaces)
- ▶ focus on heat mitigation, shading, and water reuse
- ▶ plan renewals that increase resilience, not just replace like-for-like

Climate pressures make parks the frontline of adaptation planning.



Smart Technology & Data-Driven Asset Management

New digital tools are transforming how parks assets are monitored and managed *and AMPs present the case for adoption and investment in smart technology.*



- ▶ IoT sensors for irrigation, lighting, bins, toilets, and turf moisture
- ▶ Automated asset condition assessments using drones, LiDAR, or computer vision
- ▶ GPS-tagged maintenance workflows (mowers, arboriculture)
- ▶ Digital twins (virtual models) for park networks
- ▶ Predictive analytics for tree risk, playground failure, or renewal cycles

Data will increasingly drive smarter, more efficient, lower-cost asset management strategies



Risk management

Good Asset Management Planning enables risks to be well managed and mitigated:

- ▶ Public use related health and safety risks
 - Tree-related risks
 - Water related risks (drowning, contamination)
 - Playground risks
 - Exposure

Key Risk Management practices in your AMP:

- ▶ Identify and prioritise risks (and assets with critical risks)
- ▶ Robust RM systems and processes very important
- ▶ Identify and implement mitigation measures
- ▶ Regular reporting and accountability





Kaitiakitanga is a strategic objective in the AMP

Environmental and
Cultural Stewardship
Community Outcomes

Co-owned, co-governed, co-managed opportunities

Incorporates Māori values and kaitiakitanga (guardianship) principles.

Encourages native planting and ecosystem restoration.

Promotes sustainability and biodiversity through land and water management.



Community ownership through engagement

- ▶ Ensures open spaces remain safe, accessible, and inclusive.
- ▶ Supports physical and mental wellbeing, recreation, and social connection. Hauora.
- ▶ Builds community ownership through engagement and consultation.



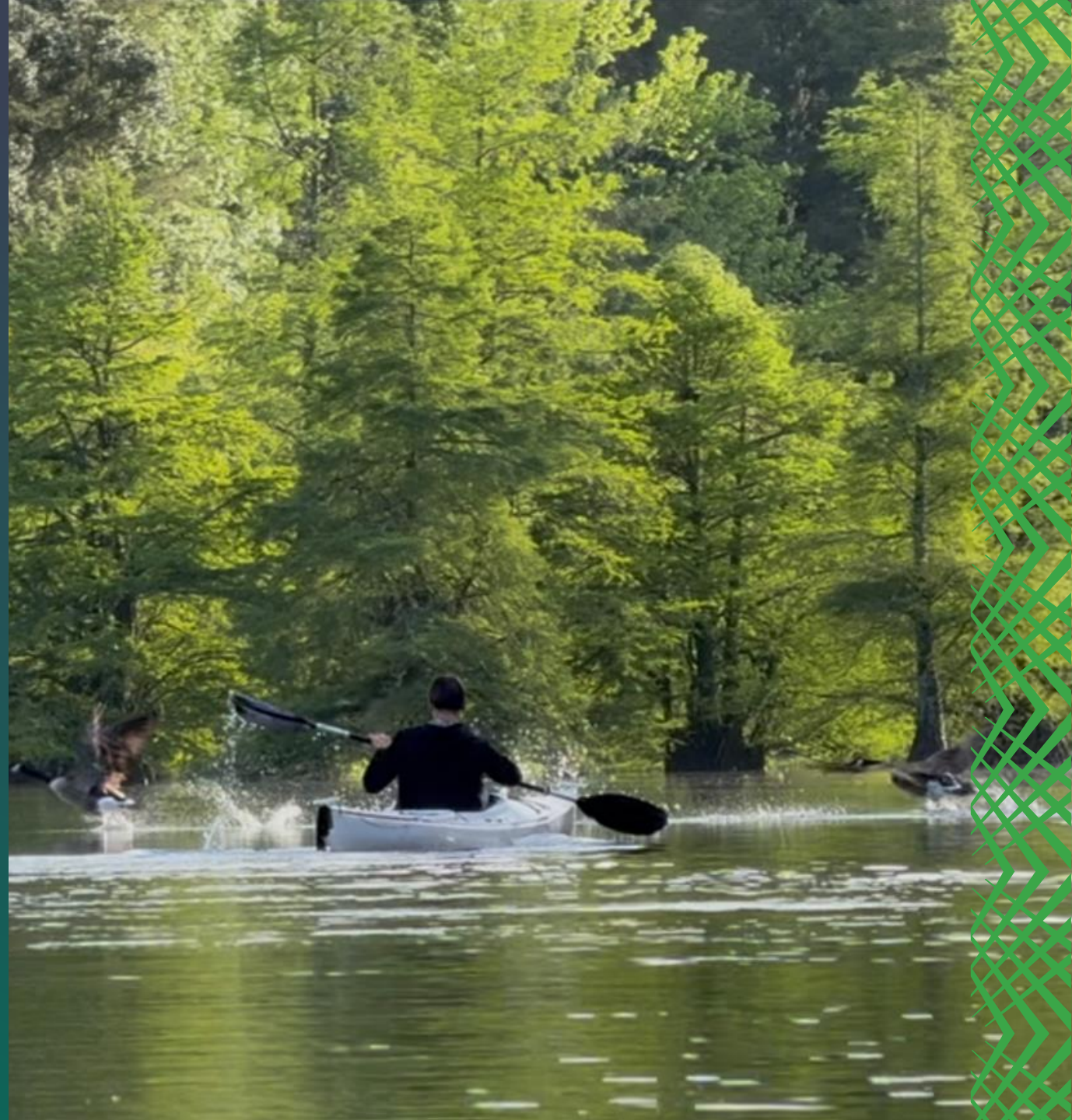
AMPs provide decision support and accountability

Enables evidence-based decision-making and transparent reporting

good quality data is essential for this.

Key take-aways

1. Learn from the past
2. Understand future demand trends
3. Invest in future planning with all stakeholders
4. Embrace technology
5. Ensure adequate capability and capacity
6. Integrated risk management front and centre



Thank you

Questions and discussion

