

## 8. *Sanders Park*

### **Description**

Location: Cutfield Road, New Plymouth West  
Legal description: Section T New Plymouth TOWB  
Section 233 Fitzroy DIST  
Lot 7 DP 14318  
Size: 4.50 hectares  
Reserve Status: Subject to the Reserves Act 1977  
Reserve Classification: Recreation reserve



### **Physical description**

Sanders Park is a sports park located in New Plymouth West. It is situated between Cutfield Road, Gladstone Road and Wallace Place. It provides three fields which are used for rugby, cricket and touch. Vehicle access is via Gladstone Road. Pedestrian access exists around the entire perimeter including a track from Rossiter Crescent.

The park is Open Space A Environment Area in the District Plan. These areas are used primarily for organised sports and recreation. Such areas will normally have associated buildings such as clubrooms, changing sheds or toilet facilities. The park is surrounded by Residential A and Western Park to the north east.

### **Tangata whenua interests**

This reserve is within the tribal rohe of Te Atiawa Iwi and Taranaki iwi. The area is of historic and cultural significance to Ngāti Te Whiti and Ngā Mahanga-a-Tairi hapū.

### **Land status and acquisition history**

Section T New Plymouth TOWB was acquired by New Plymouth City from the School Commissioners for the Taranaki Provincial District in 1951 for recreation purposes. The land is subject to the Reserves Act 1977 and was classified in 1981.

Section 233 Fitzroy DIST was originally a section of Belt Road. This section of the road was stopped in 1976 pursuant to the Municipal Corporations Act 1954. In 1980 the Council resolved to declare the land to be reserve pursuant to Section 14 of the Reserves Act 1977 and classify it as a Recreation reserve.

In 1984 the New Plymouth City Council obtained Lot 7 DP 14318 from a Trust. Although it is held subject to the Reserves Act 1977 for the purpose of a recreation reserve, it has never been formally classified.

### **History and cultural values**

#### *Previous Use of the Park*

Sanders Park was previously a past refuse dumping site. The western bank of Sanders Park was used as a dump for approximately 30 years. The gully and bank have been rehabilitated since Rossiter Crescent was developed. This bank is now covered with grass, bush and trees and a pathway joins Sanders Park with Rossiter Crescent.<sup>1</sup>

The sports fields has previously been used for rugby, cricket and touch rugby, softball, kite flying, number of expo's, Hole in One Golf Tournament, gala days, and informal golfing.

#### *Name of the Park*

Sanders Park is named after Charles Score Sanders (1851-1933). He established Ngaere Gardens in the 1880s then moved to New Plymouth about 1912 to a farm in Westown where he created a well-known garden 'Dartmoor' around his house. Sanders Park is part of Sander's original farm in the area.

The original name of the park was Tukapa Ground. Around 1892 Tukapa RFC practiced on a paddock across Gladstone Road from the present park, where Hoyle Place is now located. Their main playing ground was Western Park until the 1920s when they moved to Sanders Park/Tukapa Ground.

### **Existing improvements**

The existing improvements within the reserve include:

Two rubbish bins, barriers, fence, two seats, steps, path/walkway, ten floodlights, signage, a carpark, road, a shelter, and clubrooms building.

There is a storm water pipe running diagonally from the western to the northern boundary of the park.

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<sup>1</sup> 'Investigation of Past Refuse Dumping Sites in Taranaki', Technical report 94-67. Taranaki Regional Council. March 1995.

### **Uses and activities**

Sanders Park is a sports park with three fields available which are currently used for rugby, cricket and touch. The club rooms are owned by the resident club.

The general openness of Sanders Park makes it popular for many other informal recreation activities including kite flying.

The following club holds a land only lease at Sanders Park:

- Tukapa Rugby and Sports Club for their clubrooms building (lease renewable every 21 years)

### **Management objectives and specific policies**

- 1) The Sanders Park Management Plan 1980 shall be revoked and replaced with this plan.
- 2) The developed areas of this park will be managed as a sports park suitable for formal and informal sport and recreation.
- 3) Future development of Sanders Park will be in accordance with the development concept including:
  - i. Future removal and replacement of Poplar Trees
  - ii. Continuation of Pohutukawa specimen tree planting around the perimeter
  - iii. Extension and sealing of the carpark
  - iv. Re-levelling of the field directly in front of the clubrooms
  - v. Removal of the grass wicket between fields 1 and 2
- 4) A lease will be maintained with Tukapa Rugby and Sports Club for their clubrooms. Any extensions to the footprint of the existing building will be considered on a case by case basis in accordance with General Policies for Council administered reserves.
- 5) When conditions permit the fields are available to be used as overflow car parking for large events at Yarrow Stadium.