



AWAHURI FOREST-KITCHENER PARK TRUST

Background

Council established the Awahuri Forest-Kitchener Park Trust in July 2014 to progress the restoration and development of Awahuri Forest-Kitchener Park in addition to managing the day-to-day operations of the reserve.

The Trust operates as both a Charitable Trust and a Council Controlled Organisation.

Originally known as Kitchener Park Trust, Council approved the request to change the name of the Trust to Awahuri Forest-Kitchener Park Trust on 16 October 2014.

Kitchener Park is a 13.98-hectare remnant of ancient lowland swamp podocarp forest located 4.5 kilometres southeast of Feilding. There are three distinct landscape character areas within the reserve:

- Bush area
- Central Entrance area
- Undeveloped area

Use of Kitchener Park is wide-ranging with schools, scientists and university groups accessing the reserve for educational purposes and scientific research as well as the community using the area for recreational purposes. Due to its historical and ecological significance, Kitchener Park is also the starting point for the Te Kawau Heritage Trail and includes a boardwalk to enable entry through swampy areas, which would otherwise be inaccessible.

With the Trust still relatively new, it is exciting times as the Trust continues to work toward protecting and enhancing the ancient forest and surrounding reserve areas for the benefit of the Manawatu region.

Manawatu District Council is seeking forward thinking individuals that can add to the skill set of the current board. Expressions of interest in the position of Chair of the Board are also invited.

If you fit the criteria and are interested in being an Awahuri Forest-Kitchener Park Trustee, please send a completed application form and your CV to:

Richard Templer
Chief Executive
Manawatu District Council
Private Bag 10 001
Feilding 4743

Applications close 5pm Friday 25 January 2019.

For an application form and more information about the Trust, go to www.mdc.govt.nz or collect an information pack from the Council office at 135 Manchester Street, Feilding.

Queries can be directed to Richard Templer at Richard.Templer@mdc.govt.nz or telephone 06 323-0000.

Richard Templer
Chief Executive



What is the purpose of the Trust?

The Trust's objectives are set out in the Deed of Trust:

- a) To assist in the ecological restoration, management and enhancement of the land at Kitchener Park and for this purpose to maintain a five year plan which, with an annual budget, will be made available to the Settlor for its approval prior to the commencement of each financial year;
- b) To steer and co-ordinate the raising of funds to assist the restoration, management, enhancement, promotion and further development of the land at Kitchener Park;
- c) To encourage community access to Kitchener Park, and foster knowledge of and interest in the ecological restoration activity at Kitchener Park;
- d) To ensure the continued protection and restoration of Kitchener Park where possible and restore biodiversity values;
- e) To create a safe haven for native plant and animal species, controlled for plant and animal pests;
- f) To collaborate with other relevant organisations and individuals to reintroduce locally extinct or threatened plant and animal species, to ensure their long term survival;
- g) To develop self-sustaining threatened species populations which will act as source populations for the creation of future community restoration projects in the Manawatu District;
- h) To care for some special collections, including the podocarp, epiphyte and lichen collections presently established at Kitchener Park;
- i) To support scientific and historic research of the Kitchener Park ecosystem or components thereof;
- j) To educate the public, especially school children, about the need to conserve and protect native forest environments in New Zealand.

Deed of Trust

Elements of the Trust:

- The Settlor (Council) controls and manages the scenic reserve known as Kitchener Park
- Appointment of Trustees is vested in the Settlor (Council)
- Trustees number shall not be fewer than four nor more than six
- Trustees are not paid but may be reimbursed for actual and reasonable out of pocket expenses in carrying out responsibilities
- One half of the Trustees shall resign every 18 months. Trustees are eligible for reappointment at the sole discretion of the Settlor (Council)
- Income, benefit or advantage shall be applied to the charitable purposes of the Trust



Trustee Core Competencies

Trustees must have a commitment to the ecological restoration, management and enhancement of the land at Awahuri Forest-Kitchener Park for the benefit of residents of the Manawatu region.

The Trust requires a balanced set of skills, knowledge and experience to meet its objectives. We are seeking to attract an individual who possesses the following core competencies:

- an understanding and appreciation of: ecology and protection of the natural environment
- an ability to think strategically
- business skills, including an understanding of the relationship between governance and management
- an understanding of Legislative requirements of Council Controlled Organisations under Section 5 of the LGA 2002
- grant application experience
- financial knowledge and reporting requirements
- business planning
- clear communicator
- team player, and
- is committed to both the Trust and the Manawatu region.

In addition, the following qualities would also be desirable:

- the ability to take a wide perspective on issues
- common sense, integrity and a strong sense of ethics
- organizational awareness
- an appreciation of the role of the Council as a shareholder
- the confidence to ask questions
- an ability to work in a team, and
- willingness to regularly attend Board meetings, and participate in committee work if required