

General

[RPS]

Policy 9.1.1 – The following areas are identified as having a high degree of importance for public access and the Marlborough District Council will as a priority focus on enhancing access to and within these areas:

- * (a) **Wairau River from State Highway 63 bridge to the sea;**
- (b) **high priority waterbodies for public access on the Wairau Plain and in close proximity to Picton, Waikawa, Havelock, Renwick, Seddon, Ward and Okiwi Bay;**
- (c) **coastal marine area, particularly in and near Picton, Waikawa and Havelock, Kaiuma Bay, Queen Charlotte Sound (including Tory Channel), Port Underwood, Kenepuru Sound, Mahau Sound, Mahikipawa Arm and Croiselles Harbour, Rarangi to the Wairau River mouth, Wairau Lagoons, Marfells Beach and Ward Beach;**
- * (d) **connections would be made with other public land (including esplanade reserves) or other land where esplanade strips or access strips already exist; and**
- (e) **the Queen Charlotte Track.**

[RPS, D]

Policy 9.1.9 – Enhance public access through:

- * (a) **development of networks for cycling and walking in both rural and urban areas; and**
- * (b) **facilitating public access and recreational use of Marlborough District Council owned or administered land.**

In order to promote opportunities for walking and cycling in Marlborough, there need to be places available for people to undertake these activities. While in many cases these opportunities are evident within urban areas, in rural areas they are sometimes less evident. Improving public access for cycling or walking (including within the hills, plains, farms and vineyards and along rivers and coastal areas) will be important. In some cases this will extend to identifying new routes, but may also include seal widening or sealing shoulders on existing roads, or identification of specific cycle lanes.

In addition, there are areas of Marlborough that are served by networks of rivers, tributaries and streams with significant opportunities for access. Many of the rivers have legal roads or other forms of public reserve running along their edges. (In addition to being corridors into the landscape, rivers provide significant opportunities for the creation and/or enhancement of tracts of ecological habitat.)

The more populated area of the Lower Wairau Plain has a recorded history of flood plain management with stopbanked river floodways. Much of the floodway land is in Council ownership, thus public ownership of riparian margins is high and public access can be readily achieved.