

Riversdale Beach Community Plan Summary 2024-2034

The Riversdale Beach Community Plan has been developed by the Riversdale Beach Community Association (RBCA) to set out community priority goals and ways to achieve them over the next 10 years. This is a summary of the plan. A copy of the full plan can be found on the Riversdale Beach Community Association Facebook page: @RiversdaleBeachCA


The plan was developed following engagement with the community, and those with a connection to the area, through workshops, interviews, and targeted engagement with local hapū, Whareama School, the Riversdale Beach Surf Life Saving Club, staff and elected members of Masterton District Council (MDC) and other key organisations like Greater Wellington Regional Council (GWRC).



Riversdale Beach
Community Plan

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This table sets out the vision, priority areas, and actions in the plan. The plan sets out a number of projects and initiatives that have yet to be costed or funded. This work would be required prior to implementation.

Riversdale Beach Community Plan

Vision statement – Riversdale Beach – A community that cares for its

Key Priority Areas

1. Protecting and understanding our natural coastal environment

To provide a healthy and resilient environment (beach, sand dunes, parks and reserves) that supports and enhances our village’s biodiversity and natural heritage, and to actively plan for climate change.

2. Safeguarding our rural beach character and sense of place

To encourage a slower relaxed pace of life that protects our rural beach character and celebrates our village’s heritage.

Foundation Actions- underpin much of the way the plan will be implemented

The Riversdale Beach Community Association will take the lead role in implementing

- a)** RBCA governance review regarding how the community plan will be implemented,
- b)** Develop a Community Communications Plan regarding the Riversdale Beach
- c)** Resourcing and Funding - Investigate funding for a part-time Community Plan
- d)** Develop an external funding and grants plan that identifies potential funding
- e)** Continue to maintain effective working relationship with MDC, including appointing

Enabling Actions

1. Natural Environment

1.1 Providing better information and communication about how to care for our beach and sand dunes, and be a low impact resident and visitor

1.2 Controlling and monitoring pest animals

1.3 Managing the impacts of human activities and coastal erosion on our sand dunes

1.4 Controlling pest plants, education and monitoring

1.5 Monitoring and influencing responsible dog control to protect nesting birds and other wildlife

1.6 Influence water quality improvements to all Riversdale’s streams

1.7 Encourage active local community action towards climate change

2. Rural Beach Character

2.1 Providing better information and communication about subdivisions, shared streets, active transport choices, litter prevention and local history

2.2 Encouraging a slower pace of life culture

2.3 Encouraging low impact development and sensitive design

2.4 Celebrating our heritage



coastal environment, rural beach character and one another.



3. Fostering our community spirit and vibe	4. Enhancing our community organisations, facilities and assets	5. Ensuring our infrastructure meets community needs
To strengthen and maintain active partnerships with bach owners, visitors, mana whenua, local authorities, community stakeholders and volunteers (RBCA, local clubs etc), to provide a vibrant, safe, inclusive village community.	To continue to provide quality community organisations, facilities and assets that offer choice, are accessible, meet community needs and connect people to the coast.	To provide reliable infrastructure assets and services that meet community needs and that are adaptable to our changing climate



the plan with regular communication with Masterton District Council and the local community for example setting up a RBCP Steering Group under RBCA Community Plan coordinator opportunities for specific projects/actions a place-based relationship manager and one point of contact.



3. Community Spirit and Vibe	4. Community organisations, facilities and assets	5. Infrastructure
3.1 Providing better information and communication about local regulatory rules, considering others and keeping safe	4.1 Coordinating greater collaboration between our community organisations and local businesses to provide a quality range of visitor and recreational experiences	5.1 Better information and communication required about subdivisions, MDC service request process, shared streets and active transport choices
3.2 Ensuring community safety	4.2 Celebrating our volunteers and encouraging the leaders for tomorrow	5.2 Ensure a safe and reliable Riversdale Beach access road and shared local streets that protect our rural beach character
3.3 Prioritising and supporting community events	4.3 Providing more recreational trails	5.3 Ensure reliable wastewater and stormwater assets and positive outcomes for water quality and quantity
3.4 Emergency preparedness	4.4 Upgrading beach access areas (Bodle Drive and Southern Reserve)	5.4 Reduce and control our rubbish
3.5 Providing access to health services	4.5 Providing visitor facilities and services e.g. more seats, fitness trail, EV charge station etc.	

The following tables set out a summary of actions identified to date. (for more detailed information, download the full plan from the Riversdale Beach Community Association Facebook page: @RiversdaleBeachCA).

- Immediate priorities are quick wins that can be started now and achieved in the short term (within 6-12 months).
- High will be undertaken as resourcing allows.
- Medium will be completed once high-priority items have been completed.
- Future priorities can be started once high and medium-priority items are underway.
- Business as Usual (BAU) are those activities that are already happening. Continuing to deliver these activities will contribute to achieving the outcomes of the plan.

Key priority area 1. Protecting and understanding our natural environment

Action #	Action description	Priority
1.1	Identify and coordinate key environmental information and messages	Immediate
1.2	Work with GWRC, DOC, and NZ Forest and Bird to understand the main animal pests and how to control and monitor these pests (includes rabbits, cats and stoats) and encouraging property owners to continue to control rats and mice	High
1.3	Continue work to protect the NZ Dotterel and other coastal breeding birds	High
1.4	Work with MDC and GWRC to understand the main pest plants and develop a Riversdale Beach Coastal Planting Guide	High
1.5	Monitor if garden waste dumping is an issue	Future
1.6	Work with MDC Animal Control and provide more information regarding dog off-leash areas and being a responsible dog owner.	High
1.7	Establish a local Riversdale Beach Water Quality Steering Group	High
1.8	Obtain more information on the effectiveness of dune plantings and coastal erosion minimisation and communicate with local community including local workshops. Continue working with MDC and GWRC to protect the sand dunes.	High
1.9	Decide on projects for which MDC Community Climate Fund funding could be applied for by May/June 2024.	High





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Key priority area 2. Safeguarding our rural beach character and unique sense of place

Action #	Action description	Priority
2.1	Identify key information and messages that help promote the rural beach character of Riversdale Beach	Immediate
2.2	Work with the Wairarapa Regional Walking and Cycling Coordinator to promote active forms of transport choices	High
2.3	Work with MDC to ensure infrastructure and public facilities are designed in sympathy to the rural beach character	BAU
2.4	Investigate options for improving litter control and management, especially during the busy summer period.	High

Key priority area 3. Fostering our community spirit and vibe

Action #	Action description	Priority
3.1	Work with Police to develop a community education campaign regarding responsible quad bike use	High
3.2	Continue support of alcohol bans and to ensure Police presence at Labour weekend and New Year's eve.	BAU
3.3	Continue to publish an annual Riversdale Beach community events and celebrations calendar	BAU
3.4	Continue to work with Wellington Regional Emergency Management Office (WREMO) & the Riversdale Beach Golf Club to host a series of resilience events including reviewing the RB Emergency Response plan over Summer 23/24	Immediate

Key priority area 4. Enhancing our community organisations, facilities and assets

Action #	Action description	Priority
4.1	Continue to publish the annual Riversdale Beach service directory.	BAU
4.2	Encourage effective succession planning training and development for our local community organisations including ensuring critical information and processes are documented.	Medium
4.3	Investigate a public recreational trail from the Village to the Homewood Storeroom along the coast	Future
4.4	Continue to maintain the recreational trails in the Southern Reserve.	BAU
4.5	Investigate developing a fitness trail within the village – one piece of equipment a year.	Medium
4.6	Upgrade Bodle Drive Area, Karaka Reserve and the entrance to the Southern Reserve	High
4.7	Establish a local Riversdale Beach Water Quality Steering Group	High
4.8	Install more seating around the village which is sensitive to the rural beach character.	Immediate
4.9	Investigate options for providing an electric vehicle charging station.	Medium
4.10	Investigate provision of a dump station.	Future
4.11	Work collaboratively with MDC and the contractor to improve the presentation and hygiene of public toilets.	BAU

Key priority area 5. Ensuring our infrastructure meets community needs

Action #	Action description	Priority
5.1	Continue to promote the MDC Request a Service process and continue to work with MDC to improve response times and outcomes from requests.	Immediate
5.2	Work with the Wairarapa Regional Walking and Cycling Coordinator to promote active forms of transport choices	High
5.3	Work with MDC to identify appropriate locations for new street lights	Medium
5.4	Continue to work with MDC to investigate effective stormwater systems	BAU
5.5	Continue to work with MDC to provide and maintain public rubbish bins throughout the village, with increased servicing during peak visitor periods.	High

We'd like to thank everyone for their contributions to making Riversdale Beach a great place to live and to visit. We have already achieved so much as a community over the last year or two and want to continue to build on this. Here's a summary of things that have already been achieved by local community members, MDC and GWRC: fixing the entrance to the beach from the surf club, major remediation and improvements to the access road, dotterel protection fences, new Homewood Storeroom café and walks to the air strip, dune planting, planting of trees in the southern reserve, WREMO and Community Plan workshops, DORA bus to assist people with computer learning, assistance given to flood victims including a great community dinner at the golf club, litter surveys of the beach, pilates classes on Tuesdays, and summer events are some good examples...

RBCA are keen to do more in the near future and have identified the following “Quick wins” to focus on over the next 6- 12 months:

- Install more seating around the village which is sensitive to the rural beach character.
- Continue to work with MDC to improve response times and outcomes from requests.
- How to treat the beach info sheet – laminated document for beach users on how to treat Riversdale Beach and preserve it for others’ enjoyment
- Focus on reducing rabbit numbers
- Ensure northern walking trail including bridge is reinforced and saved – work with SLSC, MDC and GWRC.
- Promoting shared corridors – information for visitors to promote taking care on the road especially over summer and long weekends

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