

TE POU MATARIKI

National Park Village / Waimarino
Community Revitalisation Plan
2024 – 2027



ABOUT THE COVER IMAGE

The plan's cover image was created by Uenuku tohunga whakairo Kura Te Wanikau-Tahana-Tūroa and was gifted to the village to symbolise this community revitalisation kaupapa (project). Kura connects Uenuku, Tamakana and Tamahaki, the Iwi of Te Korowai o Wainuiārua, in overseeing the Waimarino | National Park Village Community Revitalisation Plan Project Steering Group. He ensures accountability to tribal and community aspirations, provides guidance and offers a te ao Māori lens to the work.

The image depicts ngā maunga (the mountains) from the perspective of Waimarino | National Park Village, thought to be at the centre of the universe for Te Korowai o Wainuiārua. It honours and celebrates Te Whare Matariki, a site of significance that once stood amongst the kainga at MotuTūroa, Waimarino. The manaia flowing through the illustration hold multiple meanings. People may associate them with guardianship of the kaupapa, or see them as bringing energy and strength to the work. They are also a reminder of balance and well-being. Playing the role of messengers, they may connect to other meanings depending on the viewer's interpretation, thus recognising the diversity of perspectives that weave together in the planning.

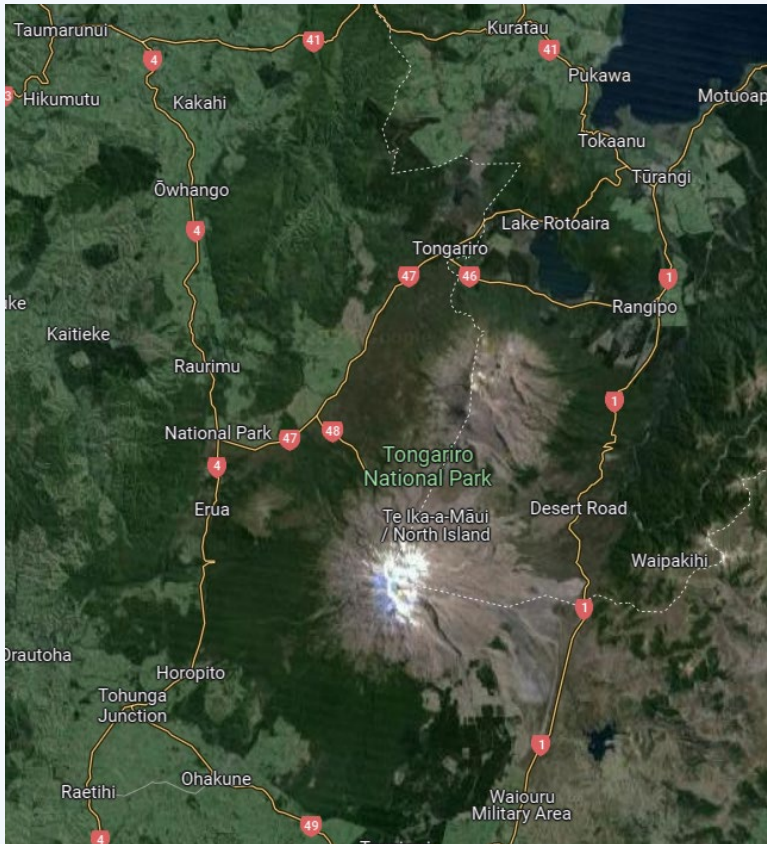
In mahi toi (art), manaia are usually filled with patterns that provide meaning and help tell a story. In this case, Kura intentionally created the manaia without these patterns, symbolising the potential of the kaupapa. Over time, as the community develops its own future, the manaia may be filled with patterns that tell that story. Future iterations of this plan may include these evolutions.

The stars of the Matariki cluster shine brightly just above Waimarino | National Park Village and often feel like they are almost close enough to touch.

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ABOUT NATIONAL PARK VILLAGE / WAIMARINO



National Park Village / Waimarino is a small settlement in the middle of the Ruapehu District. It sits just outside the boundary of Tongariro National Park which is recognised for both its natural and cultural values as one of only 29 Dual World Heritage sites in the world.

At an altitude of 825 metres, the village is the highest urban township in New Zealand. It is located at the junction of State Highways 4 and 47, halfway between Ohakune and Taumarunui. It's a 20-minute drive from Whakapapa ski field and 25 minutes to the start of the Tongariro Alpine Crossing.

The permanent population of National Park Village / Waimarino is about 230.¹ The population increases in the winter with people who normally live elsewhere relocating for the ski season (primarily people who own a house in the village), as well as an influx of ski area staff. There

are upwards of 1100 visitor beds with accommodation providers busy 10 months of the year.

The surrounding settlements of Erua to the South, Raurimu to the North, and Whakapapa Village at the base of Ruapehu enjoy close ties with the village. One local speaks of the role of the village in the surrounding area: "It's in the middle of everywhere and National Park has just enough to keep you going, no matter what you run out of."

For Uenuku | Te Korowai o Wainuiārua, this area is the centre of the universe, and the maunga are sacred. The village and surrounding plateau is known as Waimarino, referring to the "calm waters" pooling on the plains as they flow from the maunga. In July 2023 the Iwi celebrated the settlement of their Treaty Claim. Iwi, hapū and whānau are key partners in the development and implementation of this plan which has been designed to re-energise and boost all the peoples in the village, collectively.

From the late 1800's to the mid-1900's, the local economy thrived on the native timber milling industry which was enabled by the completion of the North Island Main Trunk line in 1908. The railway line runs along the western boundary of the village, and immediately north of the village descends 140 vertical metres over just 2kms via the famous Raurimu Spiral which has been designated as a "significant engineering heritage site".

The Tongariro National Park has attracted visitors since the late 1800's making tourism important to the lifeblood of the village. From the early days of the Whakapapa ski area in the mid-1900s and continued development over the decades, tourism has become the primary focus for the local economy. In recent decades the village has positioned itself to become the base for year-round activities for locals and visitors, including snow sports, single and multi-day tramping, mountain biking, water sports, hunting, and fishing.

¹ Statistics NZ, October 2023

We who call the village home are, like the alpine environment in which we live, resilient and resourceful. We revel in our outdoor playground all year round, and we look out for each other and our visitors.

We are mums and dads and grandparents. We are tamariki and rangatahi. We are Māori and pākehā. We are business owners and employees. For some of us this is our second home. We are lovers of the great outdoors. For all of us, the maunga we look at every day are taonga (treasures). We are stoked to live in this little village in the centre of the universe!



A note about the name of our village: In October 2023, Uenuku | Te Korowai o Wainuiārua made an application to Ngā Pou Taunaha o Aotearoa, the New Zealand Geographic Board, to return the name from National Park Village to Waimarino. The application attracted 2500 submissions and their decision is anticipated later in 2024. We have included both in this plan. Once the outcome of the application is known, references in this plan will be updated.



Image used with permission from Conrad Smith, Life Captured Photography.

HOW TE POU MATARIKI CAME ABOUT

The first Village Plan was developed in 1993 by the National Park Village Progressive Association Incorporated (NPVPAI). Over the last three decades, the focus of this plan has been advocating to Council for improved infrastructure (primarily roads and footpaths), the management of the community hall on Carroll Street, and the development of walking and cycling trails in and around the village. The village is indebted to the commitment and mahi (work) of the Progressive Association over the years.

On 31 May 2023 the Ōwhango National Park Community Board approved the development of a new town revitalisation plan by, and for, National Park Village, which was to be based on an inclusive, community-wide engagement process to understand the aspirations and priorities of today's village community.

Consultation with the community was held over a month in July and August 2023.

A plan was drafted based on all the community input and then the Steering Group sought further feedback on the draft plan at the end of May 2024. That feedback helped to finalise the plan for adoption by the Ōwhango National Park Community Board on 13 August 2024 (date TBC).



Te Pou Matariki marks a shift in focus from the previous Village Plan in that it reflects the village's aspirations for holistic revitalisation, including a focus on social and cultural connections amongst the locals. The earlier Village Plan focussed mostly on the infrastructure needs of a visitor town. This plan, while acknowledging the critical importance of domestic and international tourists for our local economy, seeks to build up the permanent community, including those who live away from the village but who own property here and see it as their second home.

CONSULTATION 1 - *The Future of National Park Village*



Feedback open
12 July to
13 August 2023



**3 Kōrero & Kawhe
drop-in sessions**
sticky notes +
verbal feedback



Input from

- All ages (from the young to the “young at heart”)
- Village newcomers and long-timers
- Tangata whenua
- Local community group
- Business owners



Community survey
45 responses



Community hui
9 September 2023

30 people

CONSULTATION 2 - *Te Pou Matariki draft*

Community hui
25 May 2024

12 people

Feedback Open
22 May –
26 June 2024

Community survey
17 responses



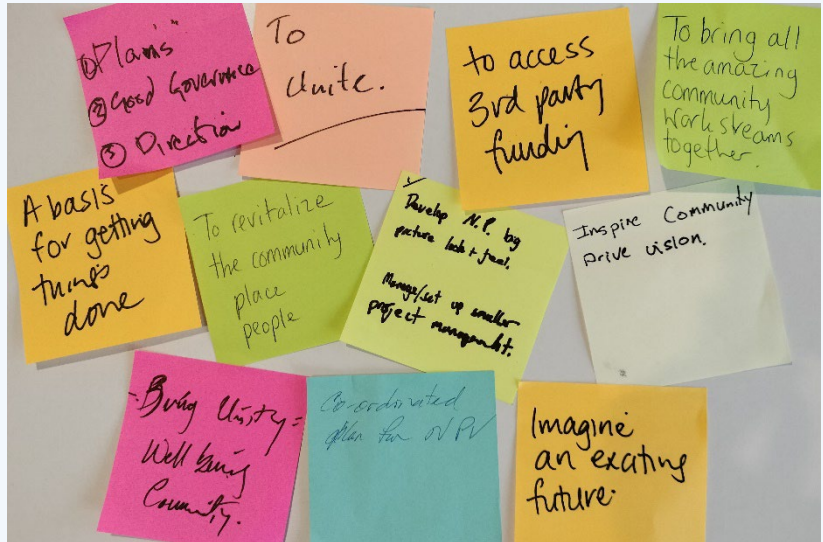
Adopted by Ōwhango National Park Community Board

THE PURPOSE OF TE POU MATARIKI, OUR COMMUNITY REVITALISATION PLAN

The purpose of Te Pou Matariki is to provide a focus for action in the village that everyone can get behind. The aspirations and actions come directly from the feedback given by members of the village during two rounds of consultation. The goal is to bring unity and provide a clear direction for community action. Everyone has a role to play in making this plan happen!

This plan is also important for supporting community fundraising efforts. We can't rely on Council funding to implement all the initiatives in this plan. We will need to look wider for funding opportunities.

Third-party funders want to know that our funding applications are tied to a bigger picture for the village than just a one-off project. This plan shows how our community initiatives are part of a big vision for the village that is inspired by the stars of Matariki, which guide us towards a holistic approach to community wellbeing.



From the practical to the inspirational, this is a brainstorm by the Steering Group on the purpose of Te Pou Matariki,

OVERSIGHT OF THE PLAN AND REPORTING ON PROGRESS

Ōwhango National Park Community Board has charged the National Park Village / Waimarino Community Plan Project Steering Group (the Steering Group) with the oversight of the community engagement, development, and implementation of the plan. The Steering Group provides progress reports to the Community Board on a regular basis.

The Steering Group is made up of representatives from groups within the community.

Who is the Steering Group?

The NPV Town Revitalisation Plan Steering Group is made up of representatives from

- National Park School,
- NPV Business Association Inc.,
- NPV Progressive Association Inc.,
- Ruapehu District Council,
- Ōwhango-National Park Community Board,
- Uenuku Charitable Trust.

KEEPING OUR PLAN UP-TO-DATE

The Community Revitalisation Plan is intended to be reviewed and updated every three years (or sooner if appropriate). This timing aligns with the three-yearly review cycle of the Ruapehu District Council’s Long-term Plan (see Appendix 3: Funding the projects in this plan.). This will ensure the village’s goals and aspirations are considered as part of Council’s strategic planning and budgeting process.

Since this is a new plan in 2024, the Steering Group will review it in August 2025, one year after its adoption by the Community Board.

The following review will take place in early 2027, led by the Steering Group and in consultation with the village community.

HOW YOU CAN GET INVOLVED

Te Pou Matariki is a community-owned plan. It needs everyone’s participation to make it work. **If there is a project in the Action Plan that interests you *LET THE STEERING GROUP KNOW!*** Contact any of the members of the Steering Group to have a chat about how you might help out. You don’t need any super powers, just a heart for your community and a willingness to pitch in.

OUR ACTION PLAN – AN OVERVIEW

The plan below is an overview of our Action Plan (see page 16 for more detail).

What?	Who?	Year 1 (July 2024 – June 2025)
1. Village Look and Feel		
1.1 Village Character Plan	Steering Group with Council	✓
1.2 Pedestrian and family friendly village roads	Steering Group with Council	Village speed review Address trucks parking at night
1.3 Village clean-up day*	Requires a coordinator	
1.4 Mid-winter lights*	Requires a coordinator	
1.5 Gorse/broom blitz*	Progressive Association	Spring*
1.6 Most beautiful garden*	Requires a coordinator	Spring / summer*
1.7 Enhancement of SH4	Formal project team set up by Steering Group/Council	
1.8 Welcome pack for newcomers	Requires a coordinator	
1.9 Community Response Plan	Council and local emergency services	
2. Social and Recreation		
2.1 Skatepark	Skate Park Project Team	Planning underway Nov 2023
2.2 Pump track	Will require a champion	For future consideration
2.3 Tennis Courts	Requires a champion	
2.4 Community swimming pool	School and Steering Group	Investigations 2024
2.5 Walking and cycling tracks	Progressive Assn.	Conversations with Iwi
2.6 Community Hall	Progressive Assn.	Prepare Hall Management Plan
2.7		
2.8 Village support network	Requires a champion	
2.9 Village potluck dinners	Steering Group	✓ (Four events)
3. Honouring Our Past, Telling Our Stories		
3.1 Set up a village arts and culture group	Requires a champion	
3.2 Matariki celebration*	Uenuku / Te Korowai	Winter 2024*
3.3 Progress the Night Sky Initiative	Business Assn.	(Principles to be incorporated into the Village Character Plan. See 1.1)
3.4 Memorial garden	Progressive Assn.	Investigations underway
3.5 Village website	Progressive Assn.	Set up underway
3.6 ANZAC Day dawn parade		Annually on ANZAC Day
4. Local Business Support		
4.1 Business development activities	Business Assn.	Ongoing
4.2 Village housing review	Council	✓
4.3 Business promotion and marketing	Business Assn.	Ongoing
5. Infrastructure		
5.1 Priorities set by Community Board	Ōwhango National Park Community Board	Identify prioritise Submit to RDC Annual Plan
6. Caring for Our Environment		
Feedback on the draft plan (June 2024) pointed out the absence of environmental initiatives. The Steering Group will consider incorporating a more specific environmental focus in future iterations of this plan.		
Riparian planting and stream restoration		
Sustainability/Carbon footprint initiatives		
Alignment with Council's Zero Waste efforts		

*These projects could be initially run as a one-off event, then held regularly/annually if there is the desire within the community.

When? Indicative timing for projects	
Year 2-3 (2025 – 2026)	Year 4 and beyond (2027 ⇨)
Non-regulation signage to promote safer speeds	
✓	✓
✓	✓
Med-long term project. Project initiation could begin in 2025/26 financial year.	Med-long term project.
✓	
Fundraising, design	Construction
Summer 2025/26	Annual summer usage
Ongoing	Ongoing
Fundraising and implementation	Ongoing fundraising and implementation
✓	✓
✓	✓
✓	✓
Ongoing	Ongoing
Ongoing	Ongoing
Submit to RDC Long Term Plan	Ongoing
✓	

3-YEARLY REVIEW / UPDATE OF PLAN

OUR VISION, VALUES, AND ASPIRATIONS

OUR VISION:

A welcoming, thriving, and resilient village, connected to each other and our environment.

OUR VALUES:

- **PEOPLE:** Our village is friendly, supportive, welcoming, and generous. Connected to te tangata (each other)
- **PLACE:** Our village is inspired by the maunga, the night sky, the bush. Connected to te taiao (our natural environment).
- **LIFESTYLE:** Our village is relaxed, and loves an adventure. Connected to the mauri (the spirit of the place).

OUR ASPIRATIONS

- Our whole community is thriving.
- Our young people (tamariki and rangatahi) have plenty to do and are encouraged to contribute
- The social and physical needs of our seniors (kaumatua) are met
- Our businesses are prospering and resilient
- Our natural environment is flourishing
- Our village looks tidy and welcoming
- The stories of our village are seen and heard
- Our unique location is celebrated
- Decisions for our village contribute to a bright future

TE POU MATARIKI – GUIDING OUR ASPIRATIONS



Matariki helps us tell the story of the many facets of our natural world (te taiao), its connections and interaction with people (tangata), and provides a link from the past to the present and into the future. It shines a guiding light on our community values, aspirations, and action plan, which have been drawn from the consultation feedback in August 2023.

Matariki teaches us about:

- **Connection, prosperity, wellbeing:** Being connected to each other and our environment gives us a sense of belonging and helps us thrive.
- **A healthy natural environment:** Te taiao is an interconnected system of life. We humans are part of that system; our health is affected when our environment is not healthy. We honour and respect te taiao and the role it plays in our physical, social, and economic wellbeing.
- **Honouring the past, telling our stories:** We understand that where we have come from shapes who we are today.
- **Looking to the future, leaving a legacy:** Decisions we make today impact our future and future generations.

THE NINE STARS OF THE MATARIKI CLUSTER

MATARIKI

Mother to all the stars, Matariki provides connection to the environment and inspiration to gather together. She advises wellbeing and provides the power to heal. She signifies reflection and hope. High and bright in the sky, she brings peace, health, and good luck.

PŌHUTUKAWA

Pōhutukawa signifies the importance of spirituality. She is connected to those who have passed on, particularly in the year since the last rising of Matariki, and she encourages us to honour and remember them. We are connected to the people who have gone before us and the people yet to be born. The past ties

us together. Pōhutukawa guides reflection on what has happened, the lessons to take from loss, and the loss of opportunity to shape the present. Being grateful also reminds us that our actions today affect the future.

TUPUĀNUKU

Associated with new plants that grow from the earth, Tupuānuku guides the cultivation and harvest of kai (food), rongoā (medicinal provisions), and natural fibres that can be grown in the ground. Therefore, the whenua (land) is a living being that supports all life. The life provided by these humble offerings reminds us to be humble, and to work hard as we work with Tupuānuku to tend these precious offerings.

TUPUĀRANGI

Tupuārangi is related to new growth from the sky. Giving life to birds, insects and the kai (food), rongoā (medicinal provisions), and the natural resources trees provide. Tupuārangi guides the relationships between us and te taiao (nature) as we harvest, access, and connect to what it offers. Just as the sky and the thriving forest provide these gifts, we can be inspired to share our personal gifts with others.

WAITĪ AND WAITĀ

Wai means water. Waitī connects to fresh waters and the plants and animals living in springs, streams, rivers, lakes and wetlands. We accept the responsibility to protect the health of freshwater and the waters that feed into it and flow out of it, prioritising its mana. Our community works to make sure our headwaters and the rivers are pure for all.

Waitā is related to the ocean, ki uta ki tai (from the mountains to the sea). Wellbeing and the quality of our water environments go together.

Although Waitī and Waitā are unified, they are a reminder that nothing in nature is identical, and this diversity should be preserved for future generations. Wai is a reminder that a path can always be found and that if something is cherished and difficult to obtain, we should hold onto it tightly.

WAIPUNARANGI

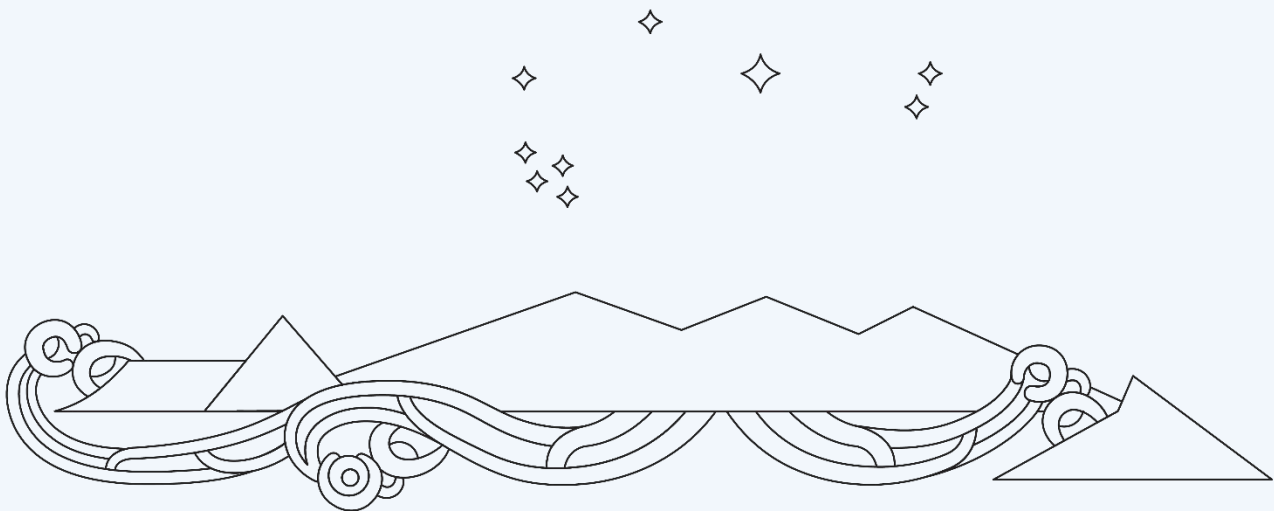
Waipunarangi signals the year ahead, the clouds, rains, and snow; unique features of our community. Waipunarangi balances the water that pools in the sky and connects it to the earth below. Water nourishes and cleanses habitats and life. Climate change affects weather patterns, which puts pressure on the environment and impacts us. Nature also provides those who look carefully with insight into the coming weather.

URURANGI

Ururangi relates to the winds of the sky which affect air quality, visibility of the night sky, and weather conditions. Winds impact our environment and how we live. Being close to the maunga, we are cleansed by the winds of Tāwhirimātea, the god of the weather. Winds are powerful messengers; they feel their way around, shifting, adapting and carrying the potential for renewal and change. Generational navigational wisdom draws upon reading the wind to know when to be wary and when to harness its energy.

HIWA-I-TE-RANGI

Hiwa-i-te-Rangi is connected to the promise of prosperity ahead. She is the guardian of our wishes, sent with the hope that they are realised. She inspires the preparation and planning for individual and collective actions, then provides light and motivation to step into the unknown. Hiwa-i-te-Rangi supports us to navigate the signs provided by the other stars to press ahead and not turn back when faced with obstacles.



OUR ACTION PLAN

The actions in this plan have been identified through village consultation that took place in August and September 2023 and each will contribute to our overall vision:

A welcoming, thriving, and resilient village, connected to each other and our environment.

Each project or initiative will need local support and cooperation to organise. Some are short-term, or one-off projects, others are large projects that will take several years, considerable fundraising mahi, and a lot of commitment.

It is important to note that not all work needs to start straight away. Some initiatives might not begin for a few years, but they are included in the Action Plan to keep them on the horizon.

HOW YOU CAN GET INVOLVED

Te Pou Matariki is a community-owned plan. It needs everyone's participation to make it work. If there is a project in the Action Plan that interests you LET THE STEERING GROUP KNOW! Contact any member of the Steering Group to have a chat about how you might help out. You don't need any super powers, just a heart for your community and a willingness to pitch in.

If you have an idea for a new initiative that will contribute to the village aspirations LET THE STEERING GROUP KNOW!

TRACKING PROGRESS

As the plan progresses, the Steering Group will review the planning and outcomes of projects and initiatives through the lens of the stars of Matariki and the aspirations of the village to assess how well our projects are contributing to our community vision.

The group responsible for each project will report to the Steering Group. Frequency will be determined on a case-by-case basis.

The Steering Group will report on progress to the Community Board at least twice annually. It will also provide regular updates to the village community using various communication channels.

The Community Board will report periodically to Ruapehu District Council on how the plan is progressing.

1. VILLAGE LOOK AND FEEL

The look and feel of our village is important to us. Our village sits beneath our maunga Hauhungatahi, Ruapehu, Ngauruhoe, and Tongariro, and our village is inspired by their mana.

Feedback from our community tells us that we could do better keeping our village tidy and well maintained. Enhancing the visual appeal of the village will help to promote pride and a sense of identity.

Project / initiative	Description
1.1 Village Character Plan 2024/25	Shows how the village will visually express its unique character and identity. A character plan sets out a common vision for the look and feel of the village that will guide future development and projects, small and large. It points to further projects that can be included in future revisions of this plan. A village character plan will provide guidance and focus for things like: - Theming for building and structure design - Streetscape design - Planting and vegetation - Interpretive signage - How certain spaces can be used to encourage social connection It will also help with creating a plan for the enhancement of State Highway 4 (see 1.7 below).
1.2 Pedestrian and family friendly village roads Starting 2024/25	Work with Ruapehu District Council to look at reducing vehicle speed within the village. Concern was raised in the feedback about the speed used by some vehicles in the village, especially near the school.
1.3 Village clean-up day* (Requires a coordinator)	Work together to tidy up our sections and street frontages around the village.
1.4 Mid-winter lights* (Requires a coordinator)	Brighten up the village and celebrate our favourite season!
1.5 Gorse/broom blitz* Spring	Hold a working bee to remove gorse/broom in the village and its surrounds.
1.6 Most beautiful garden* Spring/Summer	A time for those with green thumbs to shine and the rest of us to look on in admiration.
1.7 State Highway 4 enhancement Timing TBC	Create a sense of arrival in the village. This is a major project that will require a lot of time and resources. It will involve working with stakeholders like Iwi, Waka Kotahi NZTA, and Council.
1.8 Welcome pack for newcomers (Requires a coordinator)	Show our manaakitanga by welcoming newcomers to the village in a small, but tangible way This could include local information on what there is to do, social opportunities, how they can get involved, vouchers, etc.
1.9 Community Response Plan	Increase the resilience of our residents and visitors in the event of an eruption or other natural disaster.

**These projects could be initially run as a one-off event, then held regularly/annually if there is the desire within the community.*

Options for future consideration: The Village Character Plan may prompt additional projects or initiatives that could be considered. Roadside clean up days, food truck festival, special nights at restaurants.

2. SOCIAL AND RECREATION

We love our village lifestyle. We live in a natural playground and love getting out in it. Community feedback told us that we would also like to see more village-based recreational and social activities and facilities. This will give our families, young people, our seniors, and our visitors, more to do within the village. Social opportunities like classes and clubs will give us opportunities to socialise and learn new skills

Project / initiative	Description
2.1 Skatepark Planning underway Nov 2023	Design and build a skate park for people of all ages and abilities. <i>Planning underway Nov 2023</i> The facility would ideally have areas for friends and whānau to interact with skaters and each other.
2.2 Pump track	Design and build a pump track for people of all ages and abilities. <i>For future consideration</i> The facility would ideally have areas for friends and whānau to interact with skaters and each other.
2.3 Tennis court (Requires a champion)	Investigate options for a village tennis court. The original tennis court, located on Ward Street, is in a state of disrepair. The land was recently identified as being owned by Te Korowai o Wainuiārua in its Treaty Settlement (July 2023). The Progressive Association has requested a renewal of the lease.
2.4 Community swimming pool	Investigate options for community use of the National Park School pool. <i>Investigations 2024</i> The land on which the pool is located is owned by Te Korowai o Wainuiārua, the pool and fixtures are owned by the school, and the building was erected by the community in the mid-90s. The roles and responsibilities of all these parties will need to be considered when determining an appropriate community-use arrangement.
2.5 Walking tracks	Development and improvement of walking and cycling tracks around the village. <i>This is a collaborative project between the Progressive Association and Te Korowai o Wainuiārua, as the owners of a significant amount of the land in the village. .</i>
2.6 Community Hall	Renovate the hall for the needs of today's community. The management and maintenance of the Community Hall is currently the responsibility of the NPVPA. A Management and Maintenance Plan will be developed to guide future operations and investment in the hall.
2.7 Dog Park	Finish the development of the dog park along Pehi Road. Signage is currently being prepared (date). Maintenance provided by Council. Further developments can be initiated by locals if desired.
2.8 Village support network (Requires a champion)	Set up a Neighbourhood Support Group
2.9 Regular village potlucks	A regular opportunity to gather around kai and good company, to build social connections. A trial of four potlucks in year one, then assess ongoing frequency.

Options for future consideration: Ideas from the feedback included hot pools, wet weather options, fitness classes, arts and craft workshops, social sport, market days, monthly get togethers, annual festival.

3. HONOURING OUR PAST, TELLING OUR STORIES

Our village has a rich history, but we could do better at telling it. One of the themes from the community feedback was the desire to include more Māoritanga (explanations and examples of Māori culture and stories), art, storytelling, and events. This will increase our sense of connection to, and ownership of, our special village.

Project / initiative	Description
3.1 Village Arts and Culture group (Requires a champion)	Set up a group to promote and support the celebration of village history, telling our stories, and hosting events in the village. Requires a champion. The group would need to have broad community representation.
3.2 Matariki celebration Uenuku Te Korowai	Hold an annual event that celebrates Matariki Organised and led by Uenuku /Te Korowai.
3.3 Night Sky Initiative 2024/25	Principles to be incorporated into the Village Character Plan (See 1.1 above)
3.4 Memorial garden Investigations underway Autumn 2024	Create a space to honour and remember those who have passed on. Locations and concept currently under investigation by the NPV Progressive Association.
3.5 Village website Set up underway Autumn 2024	Create and maintain a village website that can be used by locals and visitors. Currently under development by the NPV Progressive Association.
3.6 ANZAC Day dawn parade Annual	ANZAC Day dawn parade
3.7 Observatory	A space to bring back the concept of using the stars as part of Māori ocean navigation.



Options for future consideration: Once an Arts and Culture group is set up, new initiatives will likely emerge for future iterations of this plan. Suggestion from the feedback: social events to attract people from outside the area

4. LOCAL BUSINESS SUPPORT

Our local businesses are passionate ambassadors for our village to our domestic and international visitors. They provide employment for our locals. The National Park Village Association Inc. has been promoting the village since the Ruapehu eruptions in the mid-1990s.

Feedback in August 2023 indicated an overall desire for increased commercial activity in the village - more cafes and shops. However, a key challenge for businesses is the lack of affordable, long-term housing in the village. This makes it difficult to establish a stable, local workforce and support the local economy.

Some business owners also said they would benefit from opportunities to learn about ways they could improve their business systems and practices.

Project / initiative	Description
4.1 Business support and development activities Ongoing	Facilitate business support and development activities to build confidence, capacity, and resilience in our local businesses. Activities occur throughout the year as opportunities arise.
4.2 Village housing review 2025?	Undertake a housing review to understand the challenges and identify opportunities for addressing the lack of affordable, long-term housing in the village.
4.3 Business promotion and marketing Ongoing	Led by the NPV Business Association.

Options for future consideration: (Think about when the plan is reviewed in 2026)

5. INFRASTRUCTURE

Village infrastructure is owned and managed by Ruapehu District Council and includes:

- roads and footpaths,
- drinking water, waste water and stormwater,
- waste management (rubbish bins and the transfer station),
- lighting,
- public toilets.

The Ōwhango National Park Community Board sets the priorities for infrastructure maintenance and development in the village and contributes to Council's long-term planning and budget setting processes.

Feedback from the community in 2023 provided a lot of useful insight into the priorities of the village when it comes to infrastructure. The Community Board considered this feedback as it discussed priorities with Council at the end of 2023 in preparation for the 2024 – 2024 Long Term Plan

Project / initiative	Description
5.1 Priorities set by Ōwhango National Park Community Board	To be confirmed in 2024/25 financial year.



APPENDIX 1: NATIONAL PARK VILLAGE / WAIMARINO WELLBEING FRAMEWORK

OUR ASPIRATIONS	WHAT WE ARE COMMITTED TO	HOW WE WILL MEASURE SUCCESS	RELATED PROJECTS FROM OUR ACTION PLAN
Our whole community is thriving.	We want to do what we can to ensure that all residents and out of town property owners have a sense of belonging and feel supported.	- Residents and out of town property owners report that they have a sense of belonging and feel supported.	1.3, 1.4, 1.6, 1.8, 1.9, 2.1→2.9, 3.1, 3.2, 3.3, 4.1,
Our young people (tamariki and rangatahi) have plenty to do and are encouraged to contribute.	We will ensure that there is a range of recreational activities for our young people available in the village.	- Demonstrable progress on projects from the Action Plan (per individual project plans)	2.1→2.9
	We will actively include our young people in village planning and decision-making.	- Youth representation on organised groups in the village	1.1→1.8, 2.1→2.9, 3.1→3.5
The social and physical needs of our seniors (kaumatua) are met.	We want to provide opportunities for our seniors to connect with each other and the wider village community.	- There are opportunities for our seniors to connect with each other and the wider community.	1.3, 1.4, 1.6, 2.1→2.9, 3.1→3.4, 1.9
Our businesses are prospering and resilient.	We will facilitate opportunities for businesses to build capability so that they can achieve their own goals.	- A business development programme is developed for the village.	1.9, 4.1, 4.2, 4.3
	We will welcome new businesses and ensure they are well supported	- New businesses feel welcomed and supported by the local business community	
	We work to promote our village and its offerings to a national and international visitor market.	- Sustained or improved visitor numbers	

OUR ASPIRATIONS	WHAT WE ARE COMMITTED TO	- HOW WE WILL MEASURE SUCCESS	RELATED PROJECTS FROM OUR ACTION PLAN
Our natural environment is flourishing	We promote and uphold the Tiaki Promise	- Examples of rejuvenation are evident in our natural environment	1.5, 2.5, 3.3, 6
	We will support the protection of our flora and fauna and waterways		
Our village looks tidy and welcoming	We will work to improve the visual appeal of the village, both along SH4 and within the village itself.	- Our street frontages will be tidy - Vegetation will be well managed on the road sides - There will be an increased sense of community pride in the look and feel of the village - We will have participated meaningfully in Council's District Plan reviews for our village	1.1, 1.3, 1.4, 1.5, 1.6, 1.7, 6
The stories of our village are seen and heard	We will tell our stories in an inspiring and engaging way	- Our stories are told through a variety of ways in and around the village	1.1, 1.7, 1.8, 2.9, 3.1, 3.2, 3.3, 3.4, 3.6, 4.3
Our unique location is celebrated	We will hold regular events in the village that welcome locals and visitors.	- An Events Coordination Group will be set up (could be part of Arts and Culture group) - An annual event calendar is developed and maintained	1.3→1.6, 3.1→3.4
	We will actively celebrate our unique location.	- Our unique location is celebrated in a variety of ways in and around the village	1.1, 1.7, 2.5, 3.1→3.5
Decisions for our village contribute to a bright future.	We will develop a future decision-making framework for our community groups to use	- Our community groups and individuals are using the future decision-making framework	1.1, 1.5, 1.7, 1.9, 2.1→2.8, 3.1→3.8

APPENDIX 2: CONSIDERING NEW PROJECTS OR INITIATIVES FOR THE VILLAGE

Throughout history, stars have united many cultural ways of being as people look to them to seek knowledge, understanding and inspiration.

Alongside our community vision, values, and aspirations, the stars of Matariki provide guidance when prioritising, selecting, and planning ideas, projects, or initiatives. Together, the stars are a beacon for navigating why and how work develops, a way to prompt holistic thinking about the actions we can take to promote community wellbeing. Looked at alongside the vision, values and aspirations of the village, we can see whether a project is a good fit for the village. For example, when thinking about a new project or initiative, the following questions could be considered:

TE POU MATARIKI	VISION, VALUES AND ASPIRATIONS
How will this project or initiative fit within Te Pou Matariki framework? - How can the description of each of the stars inform your planning? (pg 14 & 15) <i>Matariki</i> <i>Pōhutukawa</i> <i>Tupuānuku</i> <i>Tupuārangi</i> <i>Waitī and waitā</i> <i>Waipunarangi</i> <i>Ururangi</i> <i>Hiwa-i-te-rangi</i> - Does your project align fully or partially with each star description? - Is there an actual or potential conflict with a star description where mitigations need to be factored in? - How do the stars of Matariki, as a cluster, help you think about your project in a holistic way?	How will this project or initiative contribute to the following: OUR VISION: A welcoming, thriving, and resilient village, connected to each other environment. OUR VALUES: PEOPLE: Our village is friendly, supportive, welcoming, and generous. Connected to te tangata (each other) PLACE: Our village is inspired by the maunga, the night sky, the bush. Connected to te taiao (our natural environment). LIFESTYLE: Our village is relaxed, ,and loves an adventure. Connected to the mauri (the spirit of the place). OUR ASPIRATIONS: - Our whole community is thriving. - Our young people (tamariki and rangatahi) have plenty to do and are encouraged to contribute - The social and physical needs of our seniors (kaumatua) are met - Our businesses are thriving and resilient - Our natural environment is thriving - Our village looks tidy and welcoming - The stories of our village are seen and heard - Our unique location is celebrated - Decisions for our village contribute to a bright future

APPENDIX 3: FUNDING THE PROJECTS IN THIS PLAN.

There are a range of ways to fund the projects and initiatives in this plan.

Community Fundraisers

For smaller projects, community fundraisers like sausage sizzles and raffles may be sufficient.

Community Grants funding

For the larger projects funding may need to be sought from community grants funding organisations. This process can take some time and coordination and not all funders serve this area. www.generosity.org.nz digital search facility for funding information in Aotearoa.

Local Councils

- **Ruapehu District Council**

In the past, there has been a reliance on Council to fund village revitalisation activities. Ruapehu District is a large geographical area with a small ratepayer base. Council's key funding responsibility is for core infrastructure, however it often has a small pool of community funding available (see below). It is not realistic to expect Council to fund large (or many) projects in all of the communities across the district.

In some cases, Ruapehu District Council may provide funding through a contestable fund, or from its operational budget. In this case, it would usually be "seed funding" to help support wider fundraising efforts.

The only contestable fund currently available through Council (as of July 2024) is the Pride of Place Fund. More information can be found on Council's website.

Projects developed through Community Plans with Council's Community and Economic Development Team, will be part funded through the Long Term Plan process.

Long-term Plan – Council's 10-year budget, reviewed and updated every three years. The next Long-term Plan will be adopted in June 2027, so any requests for funding will need to be ready by around September 2026 to be considered as part of the budget review process.

- **Annual Plan** – In years two and three of the Long-Term Plan (ie. July 2025-June 2026, and July 2026-June 2027), Council prepares an annual plan to address any required updates to the Long Term Plan for the coming year. The Annual Plan is adopted in June of the relevant year. Council may consider funding requests as part of this process. Like the Long-term Plan, any requests for funding will need to be ready by around September of the previous year to be considered as part of the budget review process. **Horizons Regional Council**

For projects with an environmental focus, Horizons Regional Council may also have a funds available. Their long-term and annual planning processes occur on the same cycle as Ruapehu District Council

APPENDIX 4: RELATED STRATEGIES AND PLANS

- National Park Village Business Association Strategic Direction 2023
- National Park Village Progressive Association Village Plan (January 2021)
- Tahia Ko Puanga Destination Management Plan 2023, Visit Ruapehu
- Te Korowai o Wainuiārua | Uenuku Strategic Plan (*currently under review*)
- Ruapehu District Council Wellbeing Framework 2023
- Long -Term Plan 2024-34, Ruapehu District Council
- Annual Plans (prepared in 2025, 2026), Ruapehu District Council
- Night Sky Strategy (*on hold due to resourcing constraints*), Ruapehu District Council
- National Park School Plan