

Opunoke...

is the Maori name for the western area of the reserve hill that overlooks the Kawerau township.

In pre-European times, the large open valley atop the reserve was used by the Ngati Tuwharetoa tribe as 'maara' or gardens for growing kumara. The meaning of the name Opunoke relates to the plentiful yield these gardens produced ('pu' meaning tribe or many, 'noke' meaning worms).

The warm grounds of the geothermal area at the base of Opunoke (opposite the town swimming pool) proved ideal in helping the kumara to sprout.

There may be evidence of kumara pits near the water storage tanks. These would have been used for storage of kumara through the winter months.

Monika Lanham

The reserve is named after the late Monika Lanham. She was a councillor and deputy mayor of Kawerau and a woman who for many years was involved with education and industry in local community.

The reserve is managed by the Kawerau District Council with support from the community.

Trees for babies

Each year families with a new baby are welcome to register their baby's name with the Council. Around Arbor Day there is a ceremony and registered families are given a tree to plant in Monika Lanham Reserve to celebrate their new arrival.

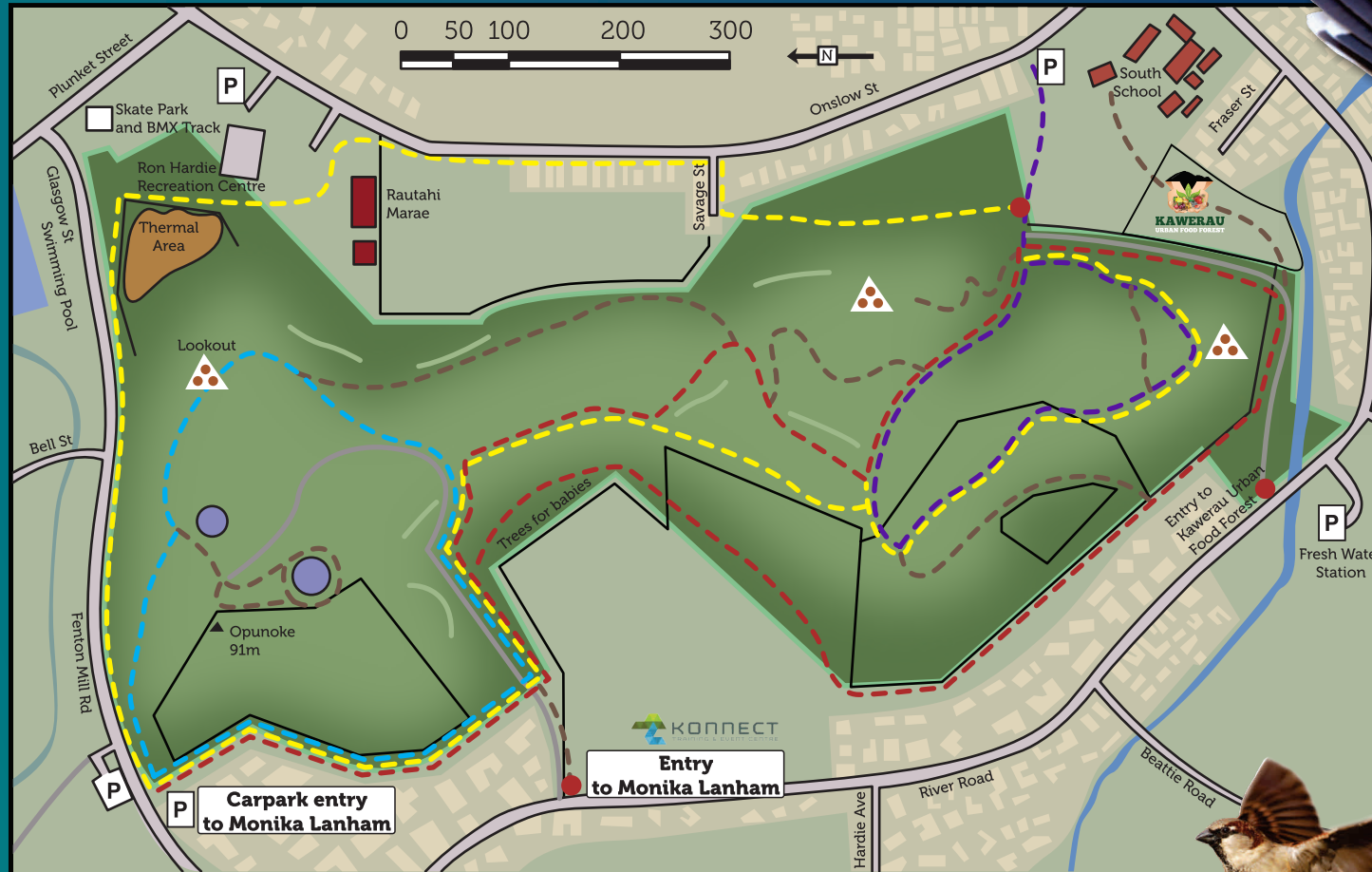


Monika Lanham Reserve

Kawerau



Map of Monika Lanham Reserve



Key

- Main tracks
- Minor tracks
- Entrances
- Access Road (locked)
- Reserve boundary
- Reservoirs
- Fences
- Archaeological features
- Steep slopes

	Yellow Track	Perimeter Walk	approx. time = one hour	Steep
	Red Track	West Walk	approx. time = one hour	Easy
	Blue Track	Lookout Loop	approx. time = half hour	Easy
	Purple Track	South Loop	approx. time = half hour	Steep



Restoring Nature

There is an eleven year programme in place to restore the Monika Lanham reserve. The aim is to:

- Restore the indigenous vegetation cover and make links to other natural areas
- Provide high quality habitats for indigenous wildlife
- Provide a recreational resource for visitors and residents of Kawerau

The programme includes removing plant pests like blackberry and ivy, and many exotic trees (such as eucalypts and poplars); then planting the cleared areas with native trees. Most of the planting has been done by members of the Kawerau community, including Iwi, Kawerau South School, Rotary Club of Kawerau, Kawerau Intermediate School, Keep Kawerau Beautiful, Kawerau Garden Club, Kawerau Scout Group, Grey Power and Community Work Teams. Many residents have purchased native trees through the Kawerau District Council to plant. Significant financial and technical support has been provided from Environment Bay of Plenty through the Environmental Enhancement Fund.

