

# PEKAPEKA WETLAND Restoration Project

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Towards the 20th century a new understanding of the importance of wetland biodiversity began to emerge. As a result, the Hawke's Bay Regional Council (HBRC) began researching Pekapeka wetland and began its restoration. In 1996 willow control began as the main focus for restoration and by 2005 many of the trees stood as bare trunks in open water.



A plan was formed to create a visitor interpretation area that promoted public education about the sustainable value of wetland ecosystems while highlighting its cultural importance and historical management.

There are many volunteers and interest groups that are involved in the restoration at Pekapeka. Many help by attending planting days and working bees.

In order to make the site's history visible, existing materials from the site have been used in its development. For example, railway sleepers are used for bollards and seating. Paths that lead to viewing points and interpretive signs are made of limestone from the local quarry. In a couple of areas, rubble from the old hotels are exposed and fenced off, leaving it to tell its own story about our historical treatment of wetlands.

There are plans for more planting, boardwalks and paths throughout Pekapeka, as well as a railway station so that the art-deco train can bring day-trippers.

In 1997  
Pekapeka was  
granted Waahi  
tapu status

"Our supermarket". A description of Pekapeka Wetland, given by local iwi when consulted on its importance to them.