



Get involved trapping in parks

ccc.govt.nz/volunteer-in-parks

Conservation projects in our city's parks are a great way to get involved and connect with your community.

From planting, weed control and trapping, many Ōtautahi citizens are taking action to look after our urban biodiversity.

Find out if there is a conservation project operating near you by visiting ccc.govt.nz/parks-and-gardens/volunteer-in-parks/. Volunteer trapping is only permitted in some parks.

New projects need approval from the Christchurch City Council before you start, and an assigned ranger contact. Find out who your local ranger is by contacting Christchurch City Council (CCC).

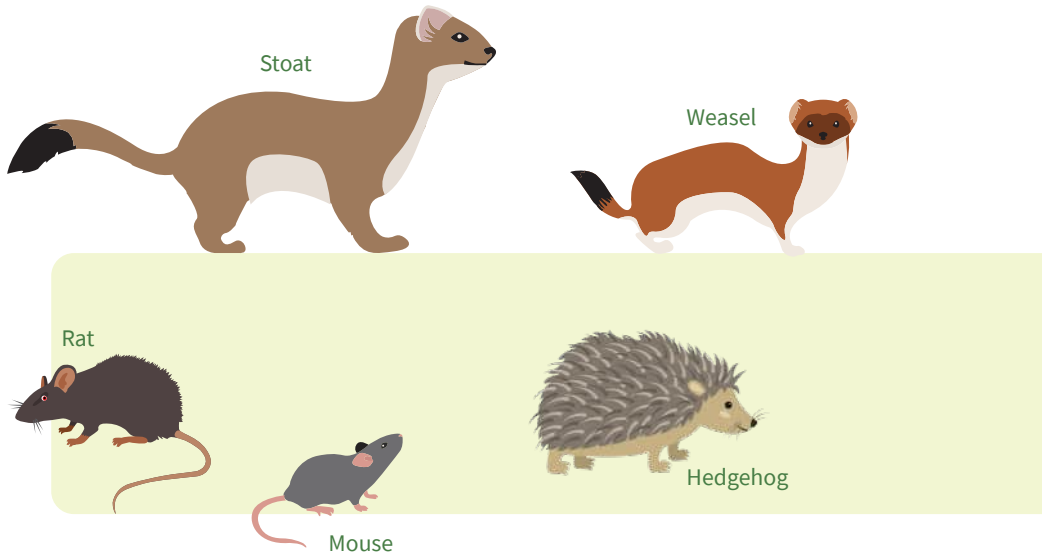
Why trap?

Trapping is one way to help protect our native biodiversity from pest animals. However in an urban environment with lots of predators it might not be that effective. That's why it's always good to start by asking some important questions:

- What is the purpose of your project? What are you trying to protect?
- Does your group have all the necessary skills and time to commit to do the mahi?
- What support do you need?
- Who else needs to be involved?
- How will you keep track of your progress and measure your outcomes?

Trapping projects on council land MAY be approved if:

1. The parks are in priority areas, where key biodiversity values have been identified and need protection.
2. There is already an active group doing other conservation work such as planting and weed control and the predator control will form part of a wider plan.
3. We can be confident traps are properly chosen, placed and looked after to ensure the safety of parks users and pets.

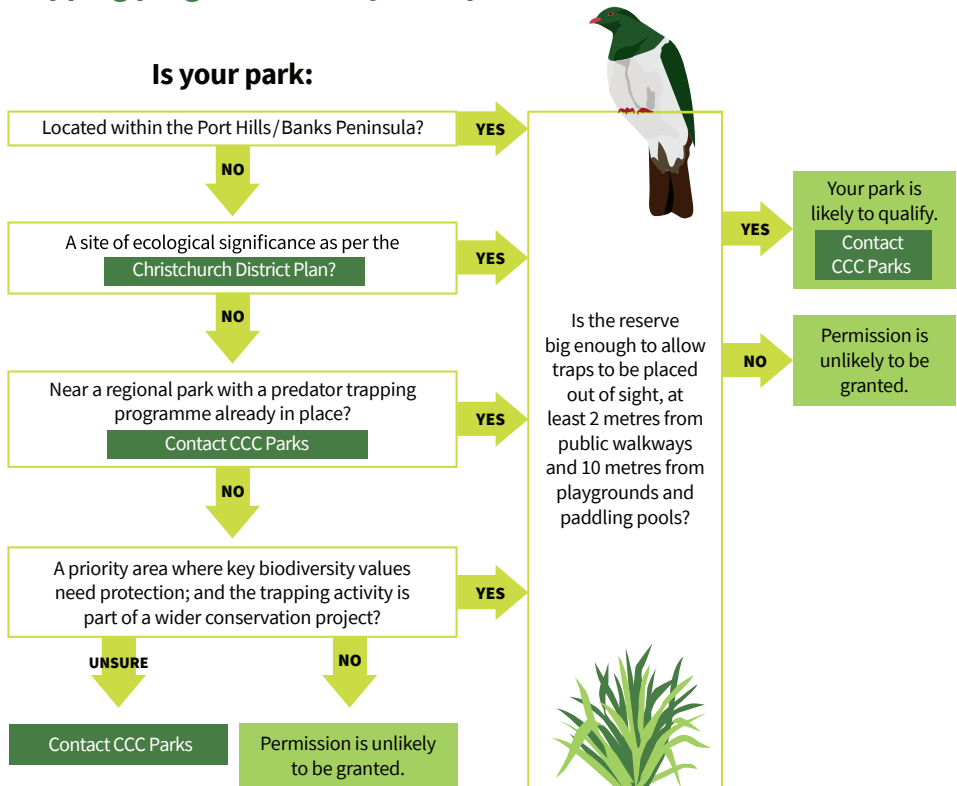


Which parks?

Traps are not appropriate in all council parks. Contact council to determine if your chosen park is suitable for trapping or if there is a group already operating in the area.

You may be directed to an alternative park nearby if your first choice doesn't fit our criteria.

Can I set up a community-led trapping programme in my local park?



parks.volunteers@ccc.govt.nz

Port Hills and Banks Peninsula

Christchurch City Council is a signatory to the Banks Peninsula Predator Free 2050 vision. This is a multi-agency MOU.

The Summit Road Society is managing the Predator Free Port Hills groups and backyard trapping programme, but is available to support groups operating on parks land as well.

Contact secretary@summitroadsociety.org.nz or telephone (03) 349 3409.

predatorfreeporthills.org.nz

pestfreebankspeninsula.org.nz

Coast and plains regional parks

Several of our larger regional parks already have community-led trapping programmes in place. If you are new to trapping, you might wish to join in one of these projects to learn and gain experience before starting your own.

See the map of volunteering locations at ccc.govt.nz/volunteer-in-parks

Red zone parks

As new areas are transferred from LINZ to council management, new opportunities for community involvement become available.

Not every park will be suitable, or safe for volunteers.

Community/urban parks

Most of our urban parks are too busy or too open for trapping to be appropriate or safe. Some urban parks in the Port Hills, beside key waterways or near regional parks, may be suitable.



Do we need to be part of a group?

Council parks do prefer to work with groups, but a keen individual can run a trapline as long as you can do so safely. However, it's a lot easier to maintain and regularly check a trapline if you have someone to help you. We strongly recommend you join a group.

If you are new to trapping, we may buddy you up with an experienced trapper for support and mentoring.

Groups should have a project service agreement signed between the Group and Council, which includes a health and safety plan.

Individual trappers working alone will need to complete a competency checklist, sign the council's volunteer supervisor form and have a health and safety plan – a template is provided.

Any new project based on the Port Hills should register with the Predator Free Port Hills programme.

Community groups currently trapping in parks

Visit ccc.govt.nz/volunteer-in-parks to see a map of all volunteer groups currently trapping in council parks.



Before trapping starts, volunteers must:

1. Attend an introductory workshop and complete a competency checklist.
2. Sign either a project service agreement (groups) and/or a volunteer supervisor form (individuals)
3. Provide a health and safety plan to council (will form part of the agreement above)
4. Undertake monitoring on their chosen site to determine what predators are present, in significant numbers to make trapping worthwhile.

Monitoring

Monitoring is an important first step to determine the types of pests present in your park, and if they are in significant enough numbers to make trapping worthwhile.

The type of pests will determine the best trap to use.

This will also give you a baseline to measure progress against. Regular monitoring will help you keep track of whether you are making a difference and help guide your control work.

- [Monitoring tunnels and ink cards](#)
(good for detecting rats, stoats, weasels, ferrets and hedgehogs)
- [Chew cards](#) (possums)
- [5 minute bird counts](#)



Which traps are allowed on council parks?

There are lots of traps on the market, with different animal welfare ratings.

Council has pre-approved the following traps for use in our parks:

1. Victor Professional PCR mod traps inside wooden boxes - target: Rats and mice
2. DOC 200s inside wooden boxes - targets: rats, stoats and hedgehogs
3. Trapinators - targets possums. Limited to remote parks only, with extra conditions about location and use, to ensure the health and safety of children and pets.

Traps in public areas will need to be labelled so that it's easy to tell which traps have permission to be in the park.

Members of the public are strictly forbidden from trapping with live capture traps and shooting in Council parks.



Reporting

Volunteer trapping projects should keep good records of their catches, hours and supplementary monitoring such as five-minute bird counts.

TrapNZ

Trap.nz is a free service used throughout NZ for recording trap, bait, monitoring, and biodiversity outcome data.

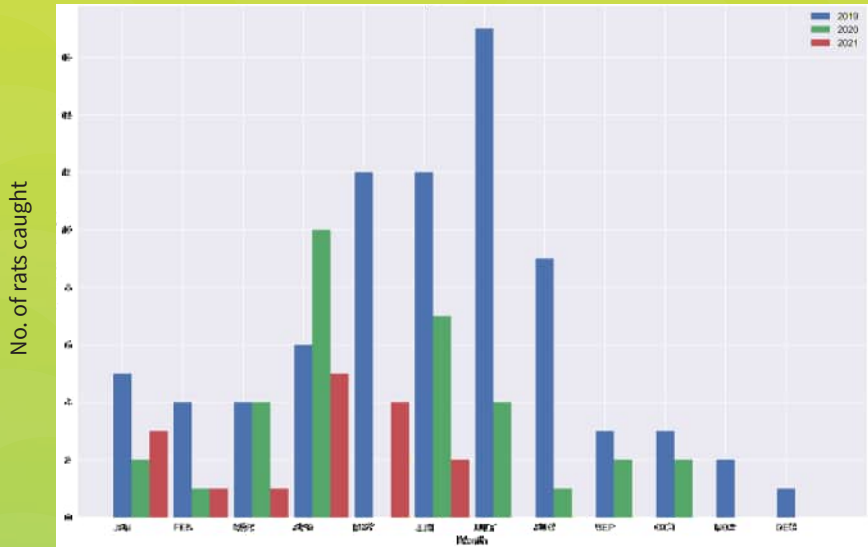
Council staff use TrapNZ to record their own trapping projects. New groups will work with their ranger contact to set up a TrapNZ project with shared access.

Port Hills Website

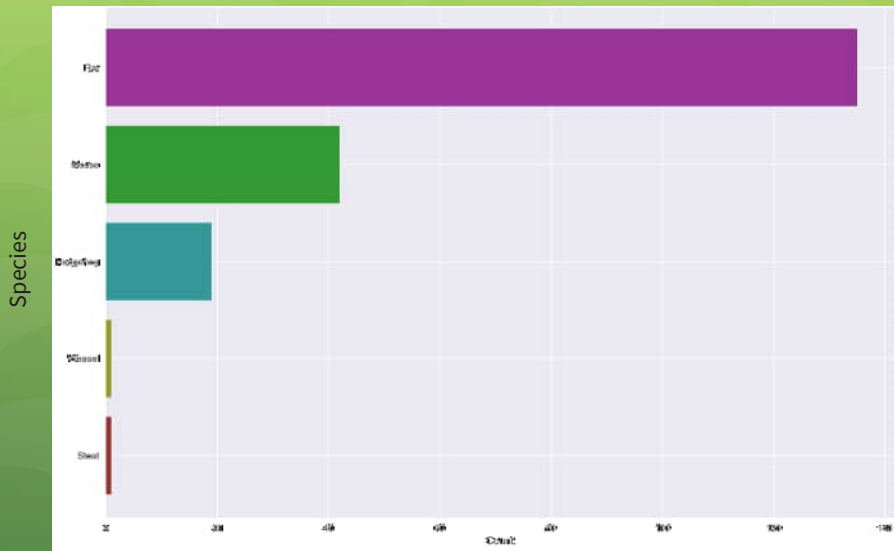
Predator Free Port Hills has their own GIS-based reporting tool, which gives public access to the big picture of trapping across their rohe.

Projects based in the Port Hills can use this easy system, and the Society can provide some mentoring if needed.

Rat catches per month at Cracoft Reserve



Catches per species at Cracoft Reserve 2019-21



Finding traps and funding

Contact [Summit Road Society](#) to purchase traps. The society has a stall on the second Saturday of the month at the Mt Pleasant Farmers Market.

SRS sell four different kinds of traps at a subsidised price to households on the Port Hills and Lyttelton Harbour and run regular workshops and events for backyard trappers (including by zoom).

Online suppliers:

<https://shop.predatorfreenz.org>

Community trap libraries

Several communities operate trap libraries to support local backyard trappers.

- [Little River](#) - Every second Sunday of the month at Okuti Valley road before the Okuti Hall.
littlerivertraplibrary@gmail.com
- Akaroa - Open every second Saturday of the month, 10am-12.
akaroalibrary@gmail.com
- <https://www.facebook.com/PFSumner> - via Sumner Community Hub
predatorfreesumner@gmail.com
- [Lyttelton Library of Tools and Things](#) – open Wednesday evenings and Saturday mornings
lytteltonlotts@gmail.com
- [Richmond trap project](#)

Funding

Christchurch City Council – [Biodiversity Fund](#) for private land or [Strengthening Communities](#)

[Community board lightbulb funds](#) are a good option if you just want a couple of traps to get started, or to run a small event to help form a group of keen locals.

- [Predatorfree 2050 website](#) lists a number of funding opportunities
- [DOC predator-control grants](#)
- ECAN – [Waitaha action to impact fund](#)

Training

Council in partnership with Summit Road Society run introductory training workshops twice a year for groups and individuals wanting to start a new project.

The introductory workshop will cover:

- Monitoring – how to install and interpret tracking tunnels
- H&S – general principles, working alone, trapping safety, disposing of animals
- Reporting requirements – demo PFPH and/or TrapNZ reporting system
- Demo of two traps – victors and DOC200s
- Advice on placement, bait, regular checks
- Practice trap setting and complete competency assessments
- Reporting

Find out when the next workshop is: parks.volunteers@ccc.govt.nz

The Toolkit: Predator Free 2050 has been developed specifically for community-led predator control projects. This resource includes beginner tips, trap and bait profiles, how-tos, and funding resources. The DOC Predator Free 2050 toolkit can be accessed at doc.govt.nz/predator-free-2050

Other recommended training

- First aid ([Red Cross](#) and [St Johns](#) run regular courses in Christchurch)
- [In safe hands](#) - a toolkit for community groups by Conservation Volunteers New Zealand
- [Predator trapping methods](#) - Two-day micro-credential workshop
- [Five minute bird counts](#) – free micro-credential workshop [Five minute](#)
- Predator Free Port Hills runs workshops regularly.

Health and safety

Council takes the health and safety of our volunteers very seriously. We expect our volunteers to behave responsibly for their own safety and for the safety of other park users.

Health and safety management plan templates are provided by council. Each group should complete the template with their site-specific information and share this plan with their council contact to form part of their agreement.

The plan should also be shared with all trappers and members of your group and should be a living document, with new mitigations added as new hazards are identified.

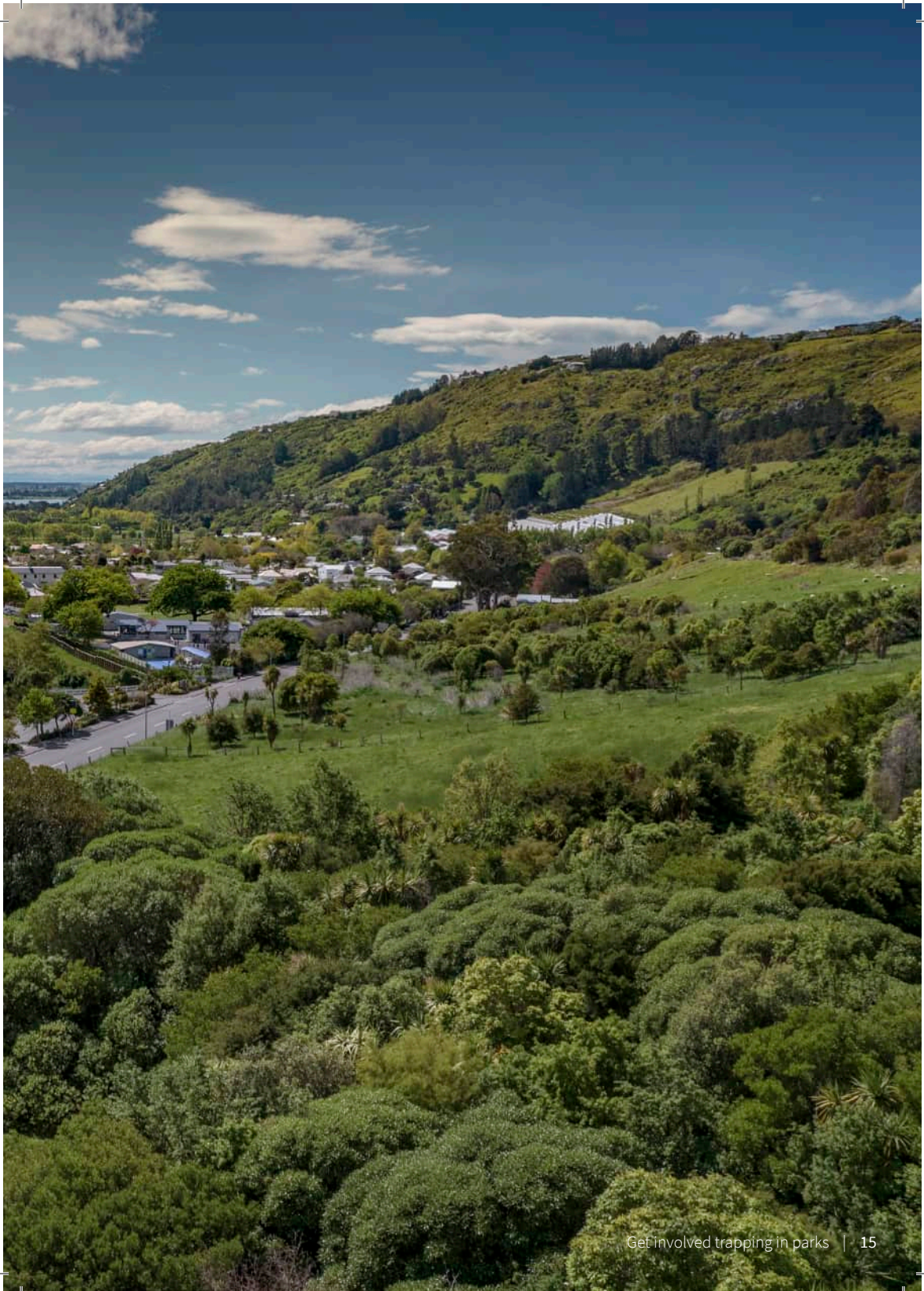
Disposing of animals

- Where possible, dig a hole and bury the carcass in the park.
- If this is impractical, then small bodies (rats, mice) should be double-bagged and placed in the red bin.
- Large amounts and possum carcasses need to be taken to the transfer stations for disposal.
- Living Earth is not consented to process animal carcasses (only domestic food scraps), hence not being able to put these in the green bin.









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February 2022

Find out more

For more information email:
Parks.Volunteers@ccc.govt.nz

ccc.govt.nz/volunteer-in-parks

