

Port Hills Recreation Strategy

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VISION STATEMENTS

To protect and enhance the natural and cultural values and recreation assets of the Port Hills reserves to support their use for a diverse range of complementary recreation activities.

To seek a multi-agency accord for the management of recreation and natural resources on the Port Hills.



Castle Rock

COVER: *Enjoying a walk along the crater Rim Track*

Port Hills Recreation Strategy

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1 Introduction

The Port Hills, stretching from Gebbies Pass to the sea at Godley Head, are perhaps Christchurch's greatest landscape asset. They are also a valued regional recreation resource, offering views, excellent exercise opportunities, and peace and solitude. The varied terrain creates opportunities for a wide variety of activities, with walking and mountain biking the most popular activities, but including, running, paragliding, rock climbing, orienteering, sightseeing and a myriad of other pursuits.

Harry Ell in 1903 became the prime mover in persuading the Council to acquire, fence and preserve areas of historic interest on the Port Hills. He also persuaded landowners to donate land and to link their land with walking tracks, and eventually set up resting places for shelter and refreshment, including the Sign of the Packhorse, Sign of the Bellbird, Sign of the Kiwi and Sign of the Takahe. His grandson, John Jameson QSM, set up the Summit Road Society in 1948 which since then has done much with the Christchurch City Council towards furthering Harry Ell's aim to preserve the upper slopes of the Port Hills for recreational use for future generations.

The publicly accessible land on the hills – approximately 16.5% (2,400 ha) of the total land area – is managed and owned by a number of agencies. While the

Christchurch City Council (CCC) is the dominant provider of public land, the Selwyn and Banks Peninsula District Councils, the Department of Conservation and several trusts provide public recreation resources (approximately 470 ha is provided by trusts). The need for a recreation strategy for the Port Hills has grown from the desire to have a commonly agreed approach to the delivery of recreation services on the Hills. While this strategy has been completed by the CCC, consultation has been carried out with other land providers and it is hoped that the findings of this study will be applied by all providers of public land on the Port Hills.

Christchurch City's Greenspace Unit oversees strategic planning for the city's land holdings on the Port Hills. The regional ranger service is responsible for maintaining the ecological, recreation, landscape, heritage and cultural assets within specific council reserves, and by agreement with Selwyn District Council and the Department of Conservation (DoC). The lack of an agreed strategy for the hills has resulted in an *ad hoc* management style – which has apparently proven successful where a minimum level of provision has been the objective, and much effective and appropriate recreation infrastructure is now in place. However, demands for additional tracks, facilities and other services are common. As a result, the ranger service now

needs to prioritise development proposals while considering the need to protect and enhance the values which make the Port Hills such an interesting and pleasant place to visit. This strategy therefore seeks to identify a common vision for the recreation assets on the hills, and then guide the development of an asset management plan which will include a long-term budget for implementing that vision.

This strategy is based on several pieces of research and consultation and aims to (as per the project brief):

- Review and summarise all appropriate existing recreation reports / information related to the Port Hills. Give an up-to-date assessment of current recreational facilities and standards.
- Describe and, where possible, quantify existing recreational use and values (focus on publicly accessible land) on the Port Hills. Discuss existing use and values in relation to the Recreation Opportunity Spectrum.
- Describe the range of visitor experiences, and factors that contribute, or detract from their experience. An analysis of user conflicts and social carrying capacity should be included.
- Provide an analysis and guidelines for future recreational development (or non-development), especially for the provision of experiences, facilities and activities on the Port Hills. Include commercial development such as concessions.
- Identify (using appropriate survey methodology) barriers and constraints to access for recreation. Identify gaps in provision of experiences, facilities and activities on the Port Hills. Provide an analysis on non-recreational users.
- Integrate recreational values with other key values for the Port Hills such as ecological, heritage, cultural, landscape and drainage values.
- Discuss future demographic and recreational trends and provide an analysis for the long-term future Port Hills use (40 years ahead).
- Guide the Christchurch City Council's Greenspace Unit in how to best use information from the Recreation Strategy for improved management on the Port Hills. This information is for both immediate and long-term use i.e. over a 40-year time frame.



Bowenvale Traverse

1.1 Planning framework

The Port Hills Recreation Strategy is one element of the plans, strategies and statutory documents which affect land owned and administered by the Council, the 'public' land provided by other agencies (such as the various Trusts on the Port Hills), and privately owned land. Table 1 shows the existing plans and those under preparation, and those that are planned to be developed in the future. The progression is from a set of plans with specific foci to a more integrated planning approach. The smorgasbord of planning reports and regulatory tools is the result of a number of statutory planning requirements (including the Local Government Acts 1974 and 2002, the Resource Management Act 1991 and the Reserves Act 1977 – each with their own set of planning outputs) and issue-specific concerns (generally caused by a lack of relevant policy, such as the Port Hills Grazing Strategy).

The Port Hills Recreation Strategy is largely in response to an issue-specific concern. (Such as where best should we spend money on recreation developments on the Port Hills?) It is expected that as planning becomes more advanced and comprehensive, and many pressing issues are resolved, comprehensive and integrated planning work will proceed.



Opening day for new Bowenvale Downhill Track

Figure 1: Port Hills & Neighbouring Reserves

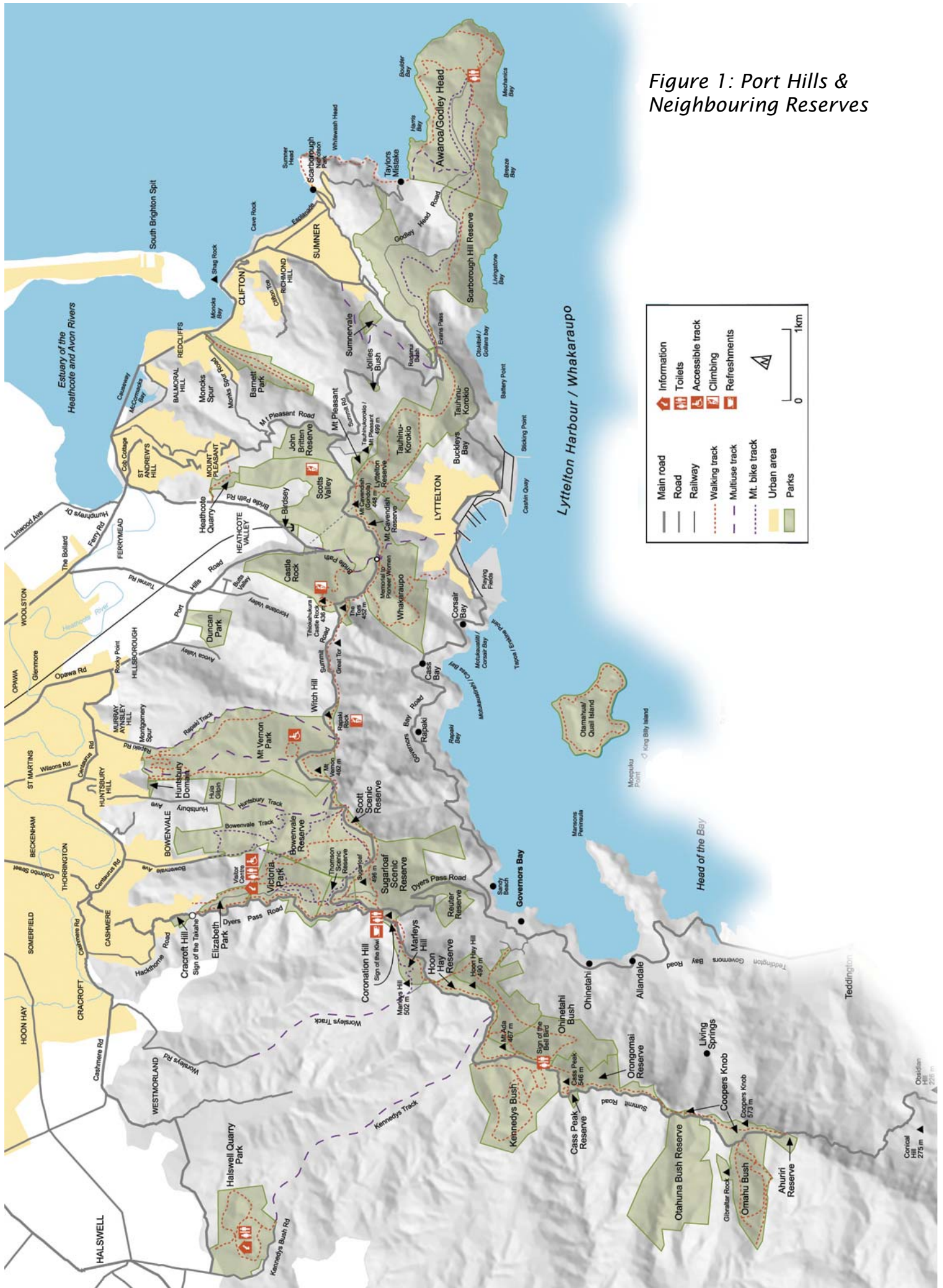


Table 1. Status and Impact of Planning Tools on the Port Hills

Timing of plans	Christchurch City Council land	Other 'Public' Land	Private land
Existing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Christchurch City Plan ▪ Reserve Management Plans (inc Cashmere Spur And Bowenvale Valley Reserves Management Plan, July 1991) ▪ Port Hills Grazing Strategy ▪ Waterways and Wetlands Asset Management Strategy ▪ Recreation and Sports Strategy ▪ CCC Parks Asset Management Plan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Mt Vernon Management Plan ▪ Godley Head Farm Park Management Plan ▪ Trust Deeds ▪ Christchurch City Plan ▪ Banks Peninsula DC District Plan ▪ Ohinetahi Bush Reserve Management Plan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Christchurch City Plan ▪ CCC Port Hills Acquisitions Strategy ▪ ECAN Natural Resources Regional Plan ▪ Summit Road Protection Act, Selwyn and Banks Peninsula Plans
Underway 2003/04	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Open Space Strategy ▪ Natural Environment Strategy ▪ Biodiversity Strategy ▪ Citywide Planting Strategy ▪ Area Plans ▪ Port Hills Recreation Strategy ▪ (Port Hills Asset Management Plan) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Banks Peninsula Reserve Management Plans ▪ Awaroa / Godley Head Coastal Park development plan 	<p style="text-align: center;">← Partners →</p> <p>Aiming to solve some problems (such as trespassing and parking on private land)</p>
Post Local Government Act amendment – 2003/06	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Community Planning (comprehensive community plans under the Local Government Act 2002) ▪ Canterbury West Coast Sports Trust Regional Physical Activity Plan (has regional park component) ▪ Summit Road Society Regional Park Vision Paper ▪ Non-statutory Reserve Management Plan for CCC reserves on the Port Hills ▪ Regional Park Concept 		
Five to ten years (City Plan review period)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Proposed Integrated Catchment Planning 		

2 Previous Port Hills Recreation Planning



The last comprehensive recreation strategy for the Port Hills was completed in 1986 by the Canterbury United Council. The *Port Hills Recreation Study* (September 1986) reported the following conclusions:

1) *The Port Hills offer four broad types of recreation experience:*

(a) *aesthetic - providing a backdrop to Christchurch, visual diversity and panoramic views;*

(b) *spiritual - peace, solitude;*

(c) *challenge - provided by the variety of landforms;*

(d) *discovery - opportunities to explore natural and historic features;*

(e) *social - sharing recreation experiences.*

There are opportunities for a wide spectrum of recreational activities within a confined area of the region, and close to most of the region's population. The Port Hills constitute a major regional recreation resource.

(2) *The use of the Port Hills for recreation is likely to increase with the increasing amount of leisure time becoming available to people, as the cost of transport increases, as the region's population becomes more heavily skewed towards older age-groups and with increased visitor numbers to the region.*

(3) *The diversity of recreational use and mobility of users suggest that in planning for future recreational use, the Port Hills be treated as a single planning unit. There is a continuing need for a co-ordinated planning approach involving territorial local authorities, user groups and private and public landowners.*

(4) *Of the five broad areas identified in the study the areas between the Sign of the Kiwi and the Sign of the Takahe, and some areas identified within the area around the Bridle Path and Mt Cavendish are the most suitable for commercial tourist or recreation development. The area between the Sign of the Kiwi and Gebbies Pass, and Mt Pleasant to Godley Head should be protected as a remote experience location.*

(5) *Given the special significance of the Port Hills both as a regional landscape element and recreation area, the public purchase of selected areas of land, must also be seen as a priority. The immediate challenge lies in continuing to negotiate and manage "access" to appropriate lands for recreational use.*

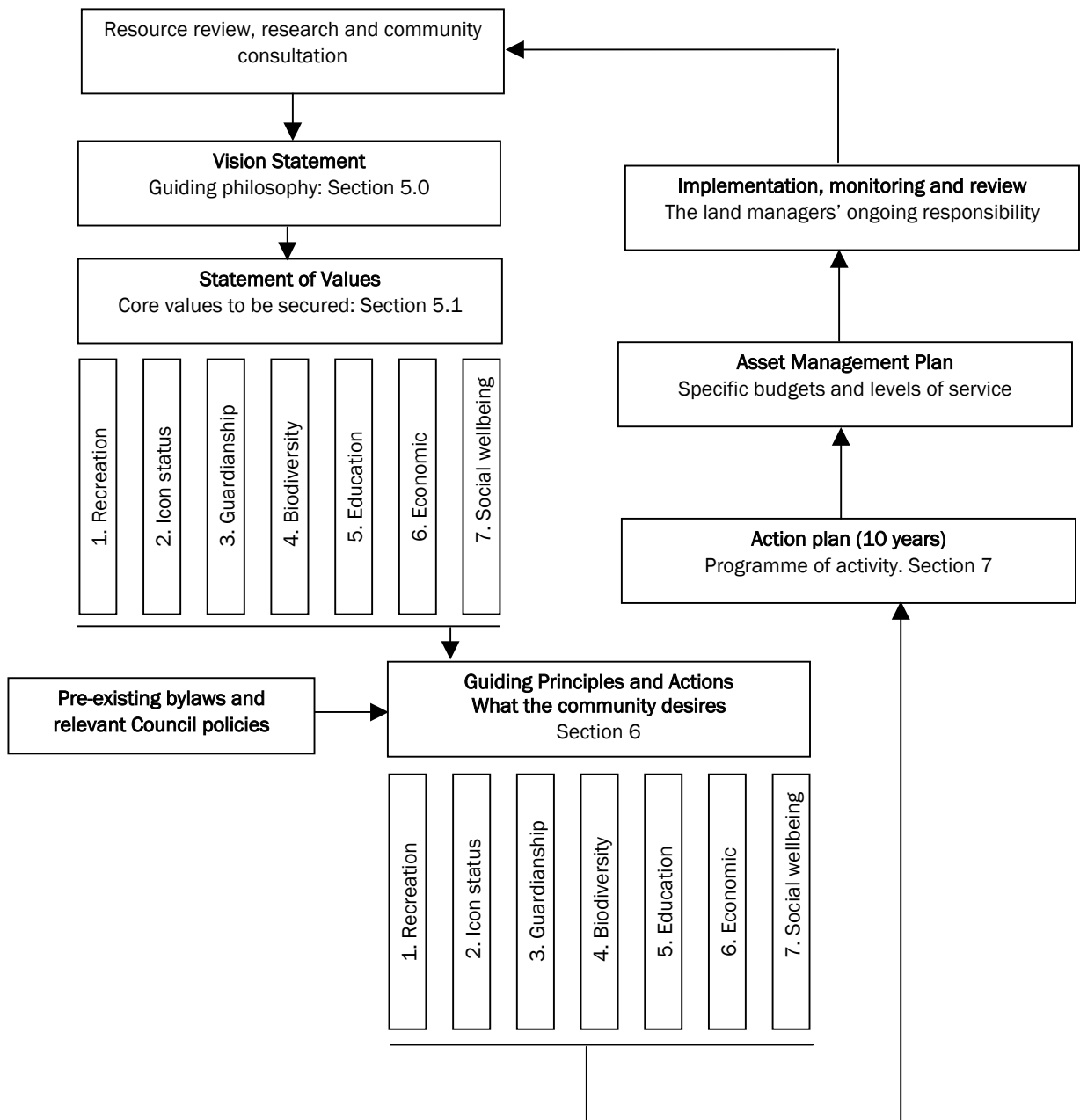
(6) *The recreational use of land, most often in conjunction with other objectives, should be seen as an increasing and valid use of much of the Port Hills. This provides a number of immediate challenges for management. These lie in a number of activities, such as facility provision and maintenance, determining the size and placement of amenities, and in providing spaces to accommodate and enhance the experience of small family groups and others.*

This strategy has found the Canterbury United Council (CUC) study to still retain a high degree of relevancy. The values identified by the CUC were those identified in the site survey and focus groups in this strategy (see Section 3.2). We still recommend that the Port Hills be treated as one planning unit (see Section 6.3). The recommendations made by the CUC to develop areas of the Port Hills for 'remote experiences' and others for more intense use reflect the management zones proposed in Section 6.1 of this report, and site developments carried out since the mid 1980s. Council has adopted and acted upon an acquisition strategy (Section 8.1.6), giving effect to the CUC's fifth recommendation. This strategy further supports the CUC's final recommendation.



3 Approach

The following table shows how this recreation strategy is constructed. The darker boxes are developed in this document.

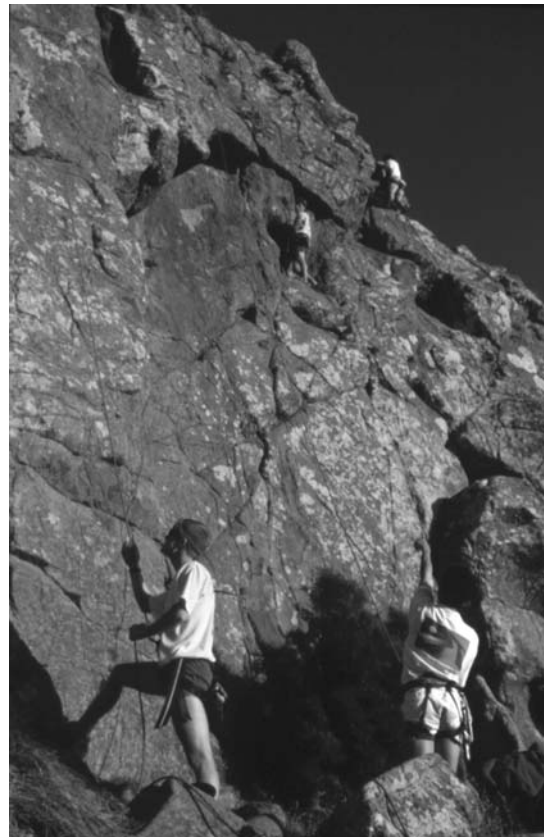


3.1 Method

The Port Hills Recreation Strategy is based on five areas of study:

- ✓ A review of previously published information on the history and use of the Port Hills. An annotated bibliography is appended.
- ✓ A survey of recreational visitors to the Port Hills. Four hundred people were questioned during their visit to the hills in April of 2002. The key results of the study are included in this section.
- ✓ Ten focus groups with approximately 140 people from:
 - Taitapu Primary School
 - Lyttelton residents
 - Governors Bay residents
 - Ecologists
 - Christchurch residents
 - Cashmere Primary School
 - Selwyn District
 - Rapaki Marae
 - Recreation groups
 - Selected individuals
- ✓ Consultation with a project reference team of keenly interested individuals (ecologists, landscape architects, land owners, resource managers, Department of Conservation representatives, and representatives from several trusts).
- ✓ The distribution of a draft document to all those who attended focus groups and other interested parties, the review of some 30 submissions on that document and a review of subsequent modifications to the strategy by the project reference team.

A special thanks must be made to the children who contributed to the study. The primary school pupils identified almost all the issues raised by the adults (even a luge). While they never mentioned the word chomophytes¹, their understanding of the social and environmental issues related to open space management is outstanding, and is therefore very comforting.



Rapaki Rock

¹ Cliff-dwelling plants.

3.2 Results

3.2.1 Recreation Survey

The complete survey has been printed as a separate volume by the CCC (*Port Hills Recreation Survey 2002, June 2002*).

The objective of the survey was to question a random sample of 400 recreational visitors to the Port Hills reserves during the survey period via face-to-face interviews. Approximately 40 surveyor days in the first half of April 2002 at 17 sites were achieved, with 10 days on site. A total of 414 questionnaires was completed. Of those, 17 were of visitors who had previously been surveyed and were undertaking the same main activity. Those respondents were not questioned further, and the result was 397 completed questionnaires.

The survey had seven focus areas:

1. Demographics. Respondents represented the nation's age profile, although there was a low number of respondents from the 70+ age group. Males were over-represented, as were those in full-time employment. Respondents had a higher level of tertiary and secondary qualification than the New Zealand average. The percentage of Maori participants was low (2%) compared with the national average, and comprised less than a third of the percentage of Maori in the South

Island population (7%). Most respondents lived in Christchurch, and the proximity of their home was not necessarily a determining factor in their visiting the Port Hills, with Cashmere and St Albans the two top contributing suburbs.

2. Activity. The primary recreation activities carried out on the Port Hills were walking, mountain biking, sightseeing and running (see Table 2). Dog walking, exercising, rock climbing, picnicking, road cycling and driving were other significant activities. Table 2 shows that mountain bikers were the most 'loyal' users of the Port Hills, with just over 70% of all their annual mountain biking activity taking place on the Port Hills. Mountain bikers were also more likely than walkers to do more than one recreational activity on the Port Hills. Walkers, runners and dog walkers were a little less loyal with just over 50% of their annual activity time spent on the hills. Sightseers named the most alternative locations for their activity, and dog walkers the fewest. Dog walkers visited the Port Hills the most frequently and were the most likely to only walk their dogs on the Port Hills (24% 'Total loyalty') and were also the most likely to visit the hills for dog walking only (53% 'Focus'). All user groups are largely made up of residents of Christchurch or the Lyttelton Harbour basin ('Local'), although sightseers are more likely to be from other areas.



Mount Pleasant

Table 2: User group profiles for the Port Hills

Main Activity	Percent of respondents ²	Focus (percent of respondents who visit the Port Hills for only their main activity)	Loyalty (percent of all activity time spent on the Port Hills)	Total loyalty (percent of respondents who do their main activity on only the Port Hills)	Frequency (average number of visits in the past 12 months)	Alternatives (average number of other locations for main activity)	Local (percent of respondents who live in Christchurch or Lyttelton Harbour)
Walking	40%	41%	55%	20%	56	2.2	90%
Mountain biking	17%	27%	71%	12%	63	2.3	96%
Running	10%	16%	52%	11%	81	2.1	92%
Sightseeing	10%	33%	38%	19%	11	2.4	74%
Dog walking	4%	53%	53%	24%	108	1.6	100%
Exercising	3%	15%	34%	0%	54	1.8	92%
All (inc 'other')	100%	30%	56%	17%	52	2.2	89%

3. Location. The most popular entry and exit sites on the Port Hills were the Sign of the Takahe, Rapaki Track, Sign of the Kiwi, Taylors Mistake and Victoria Park. Several sites stand out as 'start points' for activities, including Sign of the Takahe, the bottom of the Rapaki Track and the bottom of Huntsbury Track. Victoria Park, Ferry Road and Bowenvale Avenue were more likely to be destinations or end points. The Rapaki Track was popular for running and mountain biking, with mountain bikers more than twice as likely to be riding uphill. Walkers, runners and dog walkers appear to begin and complete their visits at, generally, the same locations. Sightseers and mountain bikers are more likely to enter and exit at different points, with almost 60% of sightseeing trips starting at the Sign of the Takahe, but only 28% finishing there. Ferry Road was described as an exit point by 20% of

sightseers. The high use areas of the Port Hills were Elizabeth Park, Victoria Park, Bowenvale Park and the Sign of the Kiwi. Use drops, but was still relatively high, for Rapaki Rock, Taylors Mistake to Breeze Bay, the top of Kennedys and Worsleys Tracks, and Castle Rock and the northern half of the Bridle Path.

4. Change over time. Respondents were asked if they felt their main activity 'in this area' was better, worse or the same as the first time they visited, and why they felt things had changed. The majority thought things were better or the same. Only 4% felt things were worse. The biggest single reason for a positive change in perception was more or improved tracks (66% of 'better' reasons). Better or more signs were also noted. Of the 16 'worse' responses, four related to mountain bikes.

² Note that the levels of response for each activity relate only to the respondents to the survey. The survey is not fully representative (it did not continue throughout the year and only canvassed visitors to reserves rather than the entire Port Hills area) and so the relative levels of patronage are only indicative of the actual level of activity.

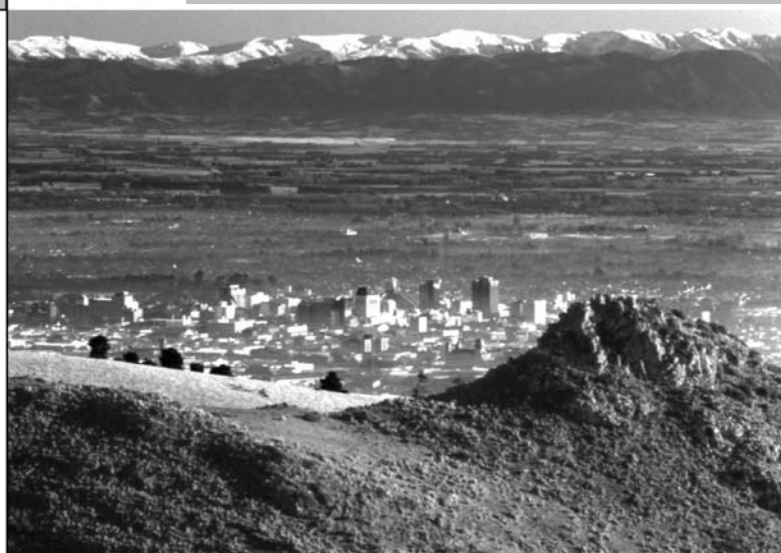
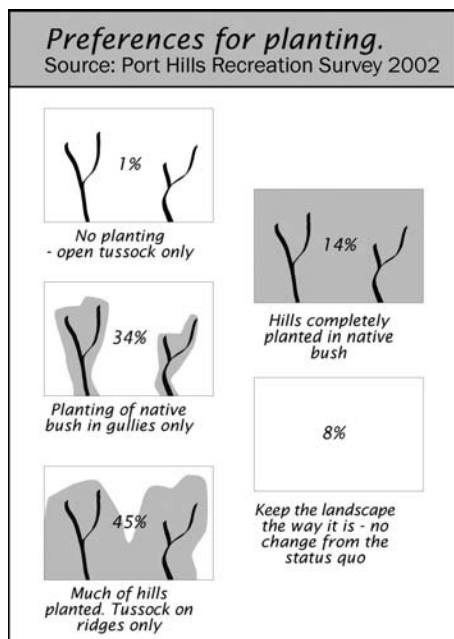
5. Conflicts. Respondents were asked whether they saw or interacted with other visitors to the Port Hills on 'this or other visits'. A total of 61 respondents (15%) said they had no interactions with other visitors. Five percent of interactions were considered to be negative, 13% neutral and 82% were positive. A third of negative interactions were caused by vehicles, and a quarter by mountain bikers. Five negative interactions (i.e., 0.6% of all interactions) were considered 'major' (that is, resulting in physical injury). Of those five 'major' interactions, two were the result of a 'recreational collision' with cyclists being clipped by vehicles. One was the result of two dogs fighting (injury to the dogs) and two related to vehicle break-ins.

6. Perceptions and satisfaction. Respondents were asked if they had ever visited the Port Hills and been dissatisfied with their experience. Sixty percent said 'no'. The main reasons for dissatisfaction were weather (41%), rubbish (6%) and 'muddy' (3%). Sixty-three percent thought the Port Hills were moderately natural or partially modified, while 21% thought they were highly natural. In terms of preferred levels of revegetation of the Port Hills, respondents generally favoured planting all but the ridge lines or planting only the gullies. The least preferred options were complete revegetation, no planting or the status quo. The scenarios presented and levels of response are shown below.

7. Improvement and general comments. Respondents were asked if there were any recreational or commercial activities they would not like to see on the Port Hills. While 14% could not name an activity, 16% stated 'any commercial activities' as being undesirable, while another 12% did not want 'residential housing'. Motorised activities, if included as one group, accounted for 21% of responses. A wide range of reasons were given for not wanting those activities. Twenty-four percent related to noise, and 5% related to the perceived danger of the activity. Most other reasons related to damaging or 'ruining' the naturalness of the hills. Respondents were asked if anything could be done to improve their experience of the Port Hills. Just over half replied, 'no'. More toilets, water fountains and track maintenance were the main requests.

Survey Results: Important Features

Respondents were asked to rank their top three most important 'features' of the Port Hills from a list of key words. Exercise, views and accessibility were mentioned most frequently. Respondents were also asked why they chose to undertake their main activity in the study area. The views (19%), proximity to home (10%), the exercise (5%) and good tracks (4%) were the main reasons.



3.2.2 Focus groups

Attendees at focus groups were asked a series of set questions, the results of which are summarised below. A full set of data are held by the Greenspace Unit.



Coastal view from Castle Rock

Issue and number of comments		Response
Values	<p>What are the special qualities of the Port Hills? What are the underlying and defining values that we should retain?</p> <p>220</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Accessibility: close to the city – tranquillity close to the city – explorable ▪ Cultural: High points treated with respect – names give memory of Tipuna – living record of whakapapa ▪ Flora and fauna, Natural environment: fresh air – remoteness – not tamed – landscape generally ▪ History: Maori – European – gun emplacements – Bridle Path ▪ People: different to city people – smiles on faces ▪ Recreation: Variety of experiences – always something to do ▪ Uniqueness: Geological origin – biodiversity ▪ Views
Agency cooperation	<p>The publicly accessible land on the Port Hills is owned and managed by a number of agencies: Banks Peninsula DC, Selwyn DC, DoC, Summit Road Society, Mt Vernon Trust, Gama Foundation, iwi, private land owners and the Christchurch CC. Do these agencies need to cooperate, what issues are common and how can a joint vision be achieved?</p> <p>145</p>	<p>Yes – because of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Common issues: signage – revegetation – recreation pressure – private land rights – access / tracks – signs – weed control – animal pests – biodiversity protection – legislation – fire control – fencing – outstanding landscapes – different levels of service ... ▪ Co-operation: who is the watchdog? – integrated catchment management – shared responsibility ▪ Public doesn't care or notice the boundaries ▪ Joint vision required: avoid duplication – overall ecological strategy – recognise natural attributes of land – compatibility of 'district' plans – each agency has expertise <p>But:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Crucial but difficult without teeth – 'Up to a point' – involve but don't overload volunteers – respect for individual agency's goals and co-operation to see those goals achieved – misconception that all hills are publicly owned <p>By:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Regional park concept – ECan? – CCC take lead role – BPDC lacks finance – Summit Rd Protection Soc good example of inter-party representation – joint adherence to management plan – all agencies agree on short, medium and long term goals

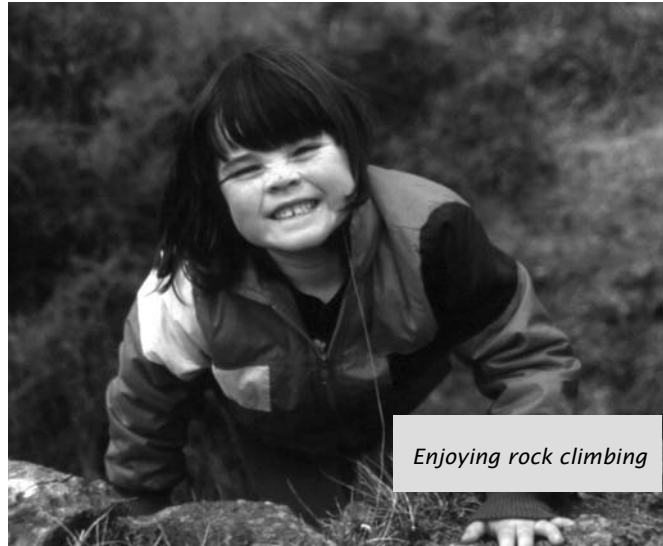
<p style="text-align: center;">Levels of service</p>	<p>What levels of service should managers of recreation assets aim for? Should the Port Hills offer an urban park experience or a relatively remote and 'untamed' adventure? Should we zone the hills, treat some reserves differently or aim at an even level of service throughout? Consider especially, track standards.</p> <p>127</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ People want a variety of tracks and experiences (for different abilities and interests) ▪ Keep as natural as possible ▪ Encourage walking and biking ▪ Don't create a 'chocolate box' scene like the Lake District ▪ Adequate but not excessive signage ▪ Can't be everything to all people ▪ Develop according to visitor numbers ▪ Inter-party similarities ▪ Level of development limits conflict by excluding mountain bikers ▪ Recognise natural attributes of land – use land base to guide development ▪ Zoning of activities and experiences ▪ Don't make zones too exclusive – still need variety ▪ Track standards at present are not too bad
<p style="text-align: center;">Facilities</p>	<p>How many facilities do we need on the Port Hills? Think about car parks, toilets, tracks, information services and so on.</p> <p>122</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Access: make private land more clear – need freedom to go where you want – loop walks – mid-elevation walking tracks ▪ Facilities: enough there – more picnic areas with tables – more seats – use rocks for seats – keep low-key and strategic – fewer human structures the better – luge ▪ Information: Interpret history – information maps in areas with longer tracks – more signs – a centrally located map ▪ Parking: Reconfigure Castle Rock Carpark – area to park cars with unrestricted view of city – off-road parking is an issue ▪ Rubbish: More bins – no more bins ▪ Toilets: Need information on where toilets are – more toilets – no toilets on tracks – toilets at each carpark – toilets at high use sites (climbing, paragliding) ▪ Water – more drinking fountains at start of tracks between Bridle Path and Kiwi
<p style="text-align: center;">Commercial</p>	<p>What role should commercial recreation opportunity providers play?</p> <p>133</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ No noisy or intrusive activities ▪ Parapenting / paragliding, rock climbing OK ▪ Helicopters – No! ▪ If it fits with existing uses ▪ Choose where placed carefully – maybe zone to manage ▪ Luge from gondola ▪ No built facilities, structures ▪ Depends on what and where ▪ Where they can assist with maintaining assets – education – interpretation ▪ Embrace and restrict – partnerships ▪ Commercial activities have ability to dominate areas
<p style="text-align: center;">Threats</p>	<p>What are the greatest threats to the public enjoyment of the Port Hills?</p> <p>147</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Housing ▪ Animal and plant pests ▪ Fires / arson ▪ Intrusive commercial development ▪ Overuse by recreators ▪ Vandalism ▪ Private ownership ▪ Litter and rubbish ▪ Noisy activities ▪ Pine plantations ▪ Lack of integrated planning

<p>Weaknesses</p>	<p>What are the greatest weaknesses of the current recreation management of the Port Hills?</p> <p>48</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Fragmented ownership ▪ Access issues – better definition ▪ Disjointed agency co-operation ▪ Grazing management ▪ Lack of holistic recreation vision between organisations – lack of big picture
<p>Opportunities</p>	<p>What are the greatest opportunities that Port Hills recreation managers should recognise and capitalise on?</p> <p>61</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Historical interpretation ▪ Volunteer groups – ‘user upkeep’ ▪ Community ownership and involvement ▪ Consensus on values – moving to ‘unitary authority’ – regional park ▪ Flora and fauna restoration – bush corridors ▪ Diversity ▪ Cultural background ▪ Awareness and buy-in from businesses
<p>Strengths</p>	<p>What are the greatest strengths of the recreation scene on the Port Hills, and its recreation management.</p> <p>46</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Good management ▪ Rangers – presence and enthusiasm – committed staff – PD ▪ Accessibility / proximity ▪ Diversity of experience ▪ Don’t react to squeaky wheels ▪ Lack of development ▪ Well-educated / disciplined users
<p>Barriers to participation</p>	<p>Are there activities you would like to do on the Port Hills, but for some reason are unable to? What activities are they? Are the barriers to your activity structural (such as track design, private land) or personal (you’re too busy looking after dependents, for example)?</p> <p>61</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Equestrian trekking / riding ▪ Luge ▪ More orienteering ▪ Rock climbing for younger kids – Kidsfest opportunity <p>... and a bit of everything</p>
<p>Conflicts</p>	<p>What do you think are the main recreation conflicts on the Port Hills and what do you suggest could be done to reduce these conflicts? Consider both changes to structures (such as tracks) as well as providing information and changing visitors’ expectations.</p> <p>85</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Walkers and bikers – walkers should give way – different tracks – colour code tracks ▪ Cyclists and vehicles on roads ▪ Farming – when closed for farming or grazing requirements ▪ Dogs – people / farming / wildlife conflicts ▪ Stock on reserve land / road ▪ Commercial activities ▪ Rock climbing – vegetation – ‘mess at Rapaki rock or walkway’ ▪ Grazing and weed management

The future	251	10 years	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ More birds, more bush ▪ Luge ▪ Horse track ▪ Pest plant and animal control ▪ Limit housing – stop it now. ▪ Heritage interpretation ▪ Improved signage
		20 years	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Lots of birds ▪ Control pest plants and animals ▪ Reintroduction of missing species – weka – tui ▪ More bush / planting / regeneration ▪ Opportunity to enjoy all current activities – keep range of recreation opportunities
		50 years	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ More native birds / plants / forest ▪ No pests ▪ Native bush walks ▪ Good if the same as now – everything we have now – as is now but more mature ▪ Won't be many places left like the Port Hills – special ▪ Walking stick hire ▪ Tussock grasslands with really big tussocks ▪ Not spoilt – still peaceful ▪ Know the many layers of ecological history via interpretation, brochures, panels ▪ Emphasis on developing entire Banks Peninsula as national park by getting land when it comes available



Crater Rim walkers



3.3 Demand and demographics

Since 1991, the Hillary Commission and SPARC (Sport and Recreation New Zealand) have completed several national *Sport and Physical Activity Surveys*. Various publications have resulted from these studies, all showing reasonably consistent levels of participation in the nation's most popular forms of physical activity. Table 4 is based on a 1996 study, which reports on 'short' and 'long' walks (later studies group these into 'walking').

Walking is the nation's most popular form of activity outside the home. More people cycle than play touch rugby, rugby union or netball. Mountain biking is carried out by 10% of men and 3% of women, and by 6% of the population as a whole (rugby union is played by 5% of the population). These participation patterns have remained reasonably consistent, with the 2001 figures reporting a 61% level of participation in walking for men and 81% for women,

Table 4: Top ten sports and physical activities for men and women (1996)

Men	Women
1. Gardening (44%)	1. Gardening (63%)
2. Short walks (29%)	2. Short walks (45%)
3. Long walks (29%)	3. Long walks (43%)
4. Swimming (26%)	4. Exercising at home (33%)
5. Golf (25%)	5. Swimming (32%)
6. Exercising at home (24%)	6. Aerobics (20%)
7. Running/jogging (19%)	7. Exercises classes/gym (18%)
8. Cycling (18%)	8. Cycling (14%)
9. Exercise classes/gym (16%)	9. Netball (11%)
10. Touch (14%)	10. Tramping (10%)

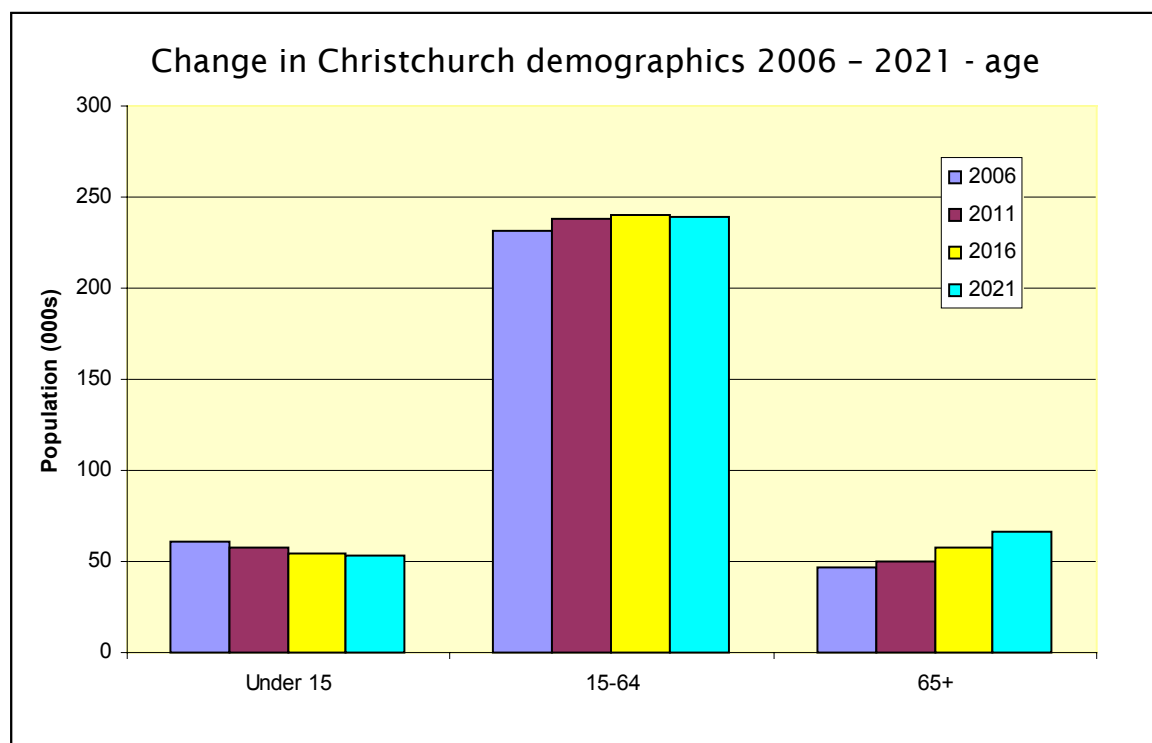
overtaking gardening at 52% and 67% respectively (different survey techniques have been used, however). Walking grows in participation as the sample ages, while cycling participation peaks between 18 and 34 years. It is interesting to review the difference in the level of participation in walking and cycling, compared with rugby and cricket, considering the levels of investment and profile given each activity. Needless to say, the Port Hills is a key resource for both these, and other popular forms of recreation.

Levels of participation are likely to grow considering the greater emphasis being placed on the benefits of a healthy lifestyle and the nation's changing demographics.

According to Statistics New Zealand's 'medium' population projections³, New Zealand's resident population is anticipated to grow by 630,000 or 16 percent over the next two decades, from 3.88 million in 2001 to 4.51 million in 2021. About 90 percent of this population growth will occur in the North Island. The population of the South Island is expected to reach the one million mark in 2021. This represents an increase of 60,000 or 7 percent over the 2001 figure of 940,000.

The population of Canterbury is projected to increase by 54,000 to 550,000 in 2021. It will then be home to 55 out of every 100 South Island residents, compared with 53 per 100 in 2001. The age profile will shift towards the older age groups (see the chart below), with, potentially, greater leisure time, longevity and increased levels of physical fitness than their ancestors.

The Port Hills will remain a key recreation resource for the foreseeable future, with gradually increasing demands for resource provision. Local population influences are likely to affect demand in the growth areas of south-west Christchurch and rural residential development areas in the Selwyn District. Central and local government and several non-government organisations (especially cancer and diabetes) will also continue promoting the benefits of physical activity to the nation. Hopefully these campaigns will succeed in increasing the use of the Port Hills for recreation.



³ Statistics NZ, 31 March 2003 release, based on 2001 census

4 Scope



This recreation strategy covers a broad range of values associated with the Port Hills. During the research and consultation phase of the development of this strategy it became apparent that recreational users of the Port Hills valued their experiences for numerous reasons – many of which went well beyond what would normally be described as a ‘use’ value. ‘Use’ values are, in this case, those associated with physical activity – the act of walking, mountain biking, running and walking the dog, for example. They rely on a network of tracks, facilities and open spaces.

Stakeholder feedback made it clear that the Port Hills is more than just a place to get some exercise and a little fresh air (although those things are very important). The cultural and natural values of the hills and their quiet presence as a major landmark for residents of the Christchurch plains and Lyttelton Harbour, combine to create a complex recreation resource. The management of exotic and indigenous plants, the enhancement of our understanding of the hills’ complex cultural and natural heritage and the maintenance of their significant landscape values were regarded as core roles of the hills’ recreation managers.

While the management of values such as landscape and biodiversity have not been addressed explicitly through the consultation phase of this project, the scope of this strategy does include these values where they have a significant effect on recreation. The development of comprehensive landscape and biodiversity plans are parallel and/or subsequent activities to this one, and in the future it is expected that a comprehensive and inclusive strategy will be created – probably under the larger umbrella of integrated environmental management.

In the meantime, this strategy will serve to advise the development of an asset

management plan (AMP) for the Port Hills. The AMP will direct the expenditure of capital, maintenance, operations and renewal money on the assets managed by the Christchurch City Council over the next ten years, with the objective of achieving and maintaining an appropriate level of service for all Council’s management activities on the hills (essentially, getting the right quantity and quality of services). Elements of that AMP – such as those associated with biodiversity management – will refer to the management programmes currently underway, until such time as a more comprehensive treatments offer more guidance.

The scope of this strategy is therefore broad. However, where recreational ‘use’ of the Port Hills is a management issue, the strategy should be considered to be the main guiding reference. Where other values are considered (such as biodiversity), this strategy offers advice from a recreation perspective, but it is not the last word.

The subsequent planning steps include the development of non-statutory management plans for all the reserves administered by the Christchurch City Council Ranger Service, and which serve a regional catchment. This would include the Port Hills Regional Area, the Coastal Regional Area (Bottle Lake Forest, Spencer Park, Travis Wetland and the coastal margin from Brooklands to Taylors Mistake) and the Plains Regional Area (Groynes, Styx and Savannah Grasslands). Such a plan would include management of all the values associated with those reserves (ecology, landscape, recreation, culture, heritage and commercial activities).

Geographically the strategy includes the reserves listed in Section 7.1.

5 Vision



Vision Statements

To protect and enhance the natural and cultural values and recreation assets of the Port Hills reserves to support their use for a diverse range of complementary recreation activities.

To seek a multi-agency accord for the management of recreation resources on the Port Hills.



Harbour view of Port hills

5.1 Statement of Values

While the values identified in this section of the report may be considered to identify a number of issues that surpass the brief of a strict recreation strategy, stakeholders have indicated that the effective management of these values are pivotal to sustaining the Port Hills as a recreation resource.

5.1.1 Recreation

The 2002 visitor survey identified a range of 'use' values for the Port Hills. Exercise, views and accessibility were mentioned most frequently. Respondents were also asked why they chose to undertake their main activity in the area. The views (19%), proximity to home (10%), exercise (5%) and good tracks (4%) were the main reasons. While the landscape is a key attraction ('views'), exercise is a very important reason for visiting the hills (perhaps because the rest of Christchurch is largely flat). While we acknowledge that recreation is so much more than just 'exercise', this information makes it clear that visitors wish to actively use the Port Hills. In a sense, they are there to be visited, to be walked on, to be ridden over, to be climbed and to be sat on. Most visitors are walkers, but a significant portion are mountain bikers. Many people walk their dogs, climb, parasail, jog and use the play equipment at Victoria Park. Some want

peace and solitude, but many visitors regard meeting other people on the hills to be a positive part of their trip. The challenge in managing this value is in maintaining the right quality and quantity of facilities to support the demands of visitors, while not compromising the social and natural environment (for its own sake and for the benefit of visitors).

5.1.2 Icon Status

The Port Hills is an icon which gives definition to Christchurch City, and which marks the beginning of Banks Peninsula. Their manifestation as a single entity with one name, their variety of natural features, and their domineering landscape presence spanning three local authorities, has created a wide community of interest. While a large proportion of the hills are in private ownership – but are viewed by many as a public asset – their icon status means they rest in our collective vision as a 'public good'. Their sound management lends prestige to the city, and their visibility means that almost any change in management direction is quickly noticed and commented upon.

In a recent Environment Court hearing, the judge stated that, 'The Port Hills define Christchurch as Table Mountain defines Cape Town and the harbours are to Auckland and Wellington, and Arthur's Seat defines Edinburgh'.

Maintaining the value of the Port Hills as an icon – as a landscape anchor for Christchurch – is a challenging task. It is rare for an icon to change while not attracting concern. Research carried out as part of this study indicated that the 'status quo' was an acceptable condition for the Port Hills for many people, although improved vegetation cover was almost universally desired. However, land management practices will change over time in response to new demands (such as greater use for recreation) or to improve the existing environment (by increasing biodiversity, for example). The challenge is therefore one of responding to, and managing, these changes in such a way that the icon status of the Port Hills is never lost. Land uses may change and the appearance of the hills may alter, but they must still anchor Christchurch.

5.1.3 Guardianship

The publicly accessible land on the Port Hills is owned and/or managed by numerous agencies, including: the Banks Peninsula District Council, Selwyn District Council, Department of Conservation, the Summit Road Society, Mount Vernon Trust, Gama Foundation and the Christchurch City Council. In addition, Environment Canterbury has a role in controlling activities which have an effect on the natural environment. Te Hapū o Ngāti Wheke, a hapu (sub-tribe) of Ngāi Tahu, based at Rapaki Bay, holds manawhenua over the Port Hills and is a partner with other land management agencies for the Port Hills.

All these agencies exercise their guardianship for many of the same purposes, and all seek to ensure their land management practices are sustainable. There is little public understanding of the different roles of each of these agencies, and most visitors are unaware of the different status of the land units on the hills – which can result in conflicts with private landowners. The challenge in securing the value of sound guardianship for the benefit of visitors to the Port Hills is in; developing a common accord between land managers, in identifying a set of facility standards that give recreational visitors a ‘seamless experience’ and which direct activities in appropriate directions, and in assisting visitors in developing their own sense of guardianship.

Many recreational activities on the Port Hills are organised by a number of voluntary groups/clubs for their members, including the Summit Road Society⁴, a number of tramping clubs, walking groups and educational institutions, all of which encourage their members to develop a sense of ownership of the Port Hills. This is made apparent through the number of volunteer hours spent on weed control, planting, track construction and maintenance. Volunteers recruited and supervised by the Summit Road Society, for example, contributed 3,100 hours of labour in 2002.

⁴ The Summit Road Society has fostered the concept of guardianship since its formation in 1948. It works in close association with the Christchurch City Council's Ranger Service to 'enhance, preserve and protect the natural environment, beauty and open character of the Port Hills of Banks Peninsula for people to enjoy.' It arranges monthly outings on the Port Hills for members and the general public. It receives some financial support from the City Council.

5.1.4 Biodiversity

A common theme that was apparent in almost all consultation carried out in the preparation of this strategy was the relationship between the quality of natural environment and the pleasures of the visitor. While there were many opinions as to just what a ‘natural’ environment is on the Port Hills, there was agreement that more native plants, insects and birds would be a great improvement. The rationales used included pure environmental reasons (biodiversity for its own sake), erosion mitigation and personal reasons (‘we like walking through bush’, ‘the tussock is wonderful’). Many stakeholders proposed a limited number of ‘trackless’ reserves, managed purely for conservation purposes, and many desired to experience some ‘wilderness’ in their backyard – especially mature bush. The challenges in managing this value are manifold; including identifying just what a ‘natural’ environment is, considering the environmental and cultural heritage of the hills, identifying the management practices that can help create these ‘natural’ environments, and in managing their use for recreation - where appropriate - to ensure their long-term survival.

5.1.5 Education

The value a person places upon a resource is largely dependent upon their personal associations with the site and their understanding of its social and physical environment. While many visitors and local residents understand components of the Port Hills’ underlying values, and therefore adopt a personal sense of guardianship, many of the values of the hills – especially their cultural and ecological values – are often not immediately apparent. By fostering increased knowledge about the Port Hills, their value to individuals and the community is also increased. This value then adds to the nation’s appreciation of the need for sustainable management of environmental and cultural resources, the methods for achieving this, and the role of individual responsibility. There are many mechanisms for increasing our individual senses of guardianship for the Port Hills – including volunteer programmes, signs, interpretation, recreation programmes, school education programmes, marketing and by gaining access to the media.

5.1.6 Economic

The Port Hills is an asset to tourism and to commercial recreation activities targeted at local residents. These commercial activities add to the spectrum of recreation pursuits that visitors can access (not many of us own parapents, for example) and benefit the community via a boosted economy and employment. In some cases there is no difference between the environmental effects of a commercial activity and that of a casual visitor (such as a guided walker and a walker escorted by a knowledgeable friend). In other cases, a commercial activity is significantly different (such as the Christchurch Gondola).

Stakeholder feedback indicated support for a variety of commercial recreation activities on the Port Hills, with the proviso that they complement the range of recreation activities currently taking place. The impacts of noise were the greatest concern (for all recreation activities, not just commercial). Recreation managers on the hills face the challenge of balancing the demand for commercial recreation opportunities with the need to maintain a social environment that benefits, or does not compromise, casual users of the hills and which does not unduly effect the natural environment.

5.1.7 Social wellbeing

Recreation has many benefits. Numerous studies outline the benefits of physical activity and community involvement through recreation. Physical and mental health are perhaps a person's greatest asset, and inactivity and social isolation can destroy both. By including 'social wellbeing' as a value of Port Hills, we direct recreation managers to use the hills to enhance our physical and mental health. This goes beyond merely providing a recreation resource with nice tracks and sufficient toilets. It involves encouraging use of the hills for recreation and social interactions via such things as outreach programmes, school visits, targeted recreation events, marketing and volunteer programmes. It also directs facility managers to address any design issues that may act as barriers to participation for different sectors of the community – including physical and cultural barriers. This assists compliance with Council's existing policies on supporting older persons and people with disabilities. It is also a wise use of assets. Many open space resources provided by local authorities are not used to capacity, and while there will be debate over what the social and environmental carrying capacity of an open space resource is, they should be used to their fullest advantage – thereby maximising their social utility. In essence it recognises the need for Council to operate as a proactive advocate for physical recreation, rather than just a passive provider of resources.



Port Hills Matai

6 Guiding Principles and Actions



These guiding principles describe the community's desire for how the recreation values of the Port Hills will be realised. Specific actions are suggested, based on feedback from the consultation process, and the project team's interpretation of all data gathered through the research phase.

The principles are written as statements of outcome. That is, describing a future preferred status or achievement.

6.1 Recreation

The objectives developed here are based on a set of assumptions that have been identified through the consultation and research process (items marked with a tick are based on the *Port Hills Visitor Survey 2002*):

- There is a clear demand for a variety of experiences on the Port Hills, from rough and remote routes to easy accessible play areas.
- The Port Hills offer an accessible 'getaway' experience which contrasts from that available in a normal urban environment, providing opportunities for exercise, the experience of a range of 'natural' environments and views over the plains, harbour and peninsula.
- There is a clear desire for limiting the number of built structures on the Port Hills: tracks, toilets, signs, interpretation, drinking water and parking are the basic facilities sought, but there is a desire to ensure they do not dominate the reserves.
- The current level of supply of tracks is generally considered to be adequate, although there are several key areas of additional provision that could be addressed.
- Demand for the supply of additional car parking spaces is low, and the cost of creating more space is very high. At peak times it is accepted

that some roadside parking is inevitable.

- ✓ Walking and mountain biking are the two main uses of Port Hills, followed by sightseeing, running and dog walking.
- ✓ Better tracks and signs are the main reasons visitors think the Port Hills has improved over time.
- ✓ For visitors, the most important 'features' of the Port Hills are; exercise, views, accessibility and peacefulness.
- ✓ Over half of visitors surveyed stated that there was nothing that could be done to improve their experience. Of those visitors who sought improvement, the requests were for more or better tracks (6%), toilets (6%), drinking water (6%) and signs (4%).
- ✓ There is generally a low level of conflict between users on the Port Hills.

Visitors to the Port Hills seek a range of experiences, ranging from remote, where few other people are encountered, few facilities are expected and the natural quiet can be enjoyed, to social experiences with high levels of development where family picnics and games can be held and coffee and ice creams can be purchased. By maintaining a range of 'management zones' which define the level of management intervention at a site, we can ensure that this range of experiences is provided for.

This desire for a range of activities remains unchanged since the Canterbury United Council's (CUC) recreation study of 1986 (see Section 2.0). This study proposed a Recreation Opportunity Spectrum (ROS) classification for reserve land on the Port Hills (for an explanation of these classes see Section 8.3) The ROS management framework is designed to assist recreation managers maintain recreation settings by matching land capability and management interventions with visitors' expectations. This same classification approach has been applied to the Cashmere Spur

and Bowenvale Valley Reserves Management Plan (section 8.1.20).

The CUC reserves classed within the ROS framework of relevance to this plan are shown in Table 5. Those added by the 1991 Cashmere Spur And Bowenvale Valley Reserves Management Plan are shown in bold.

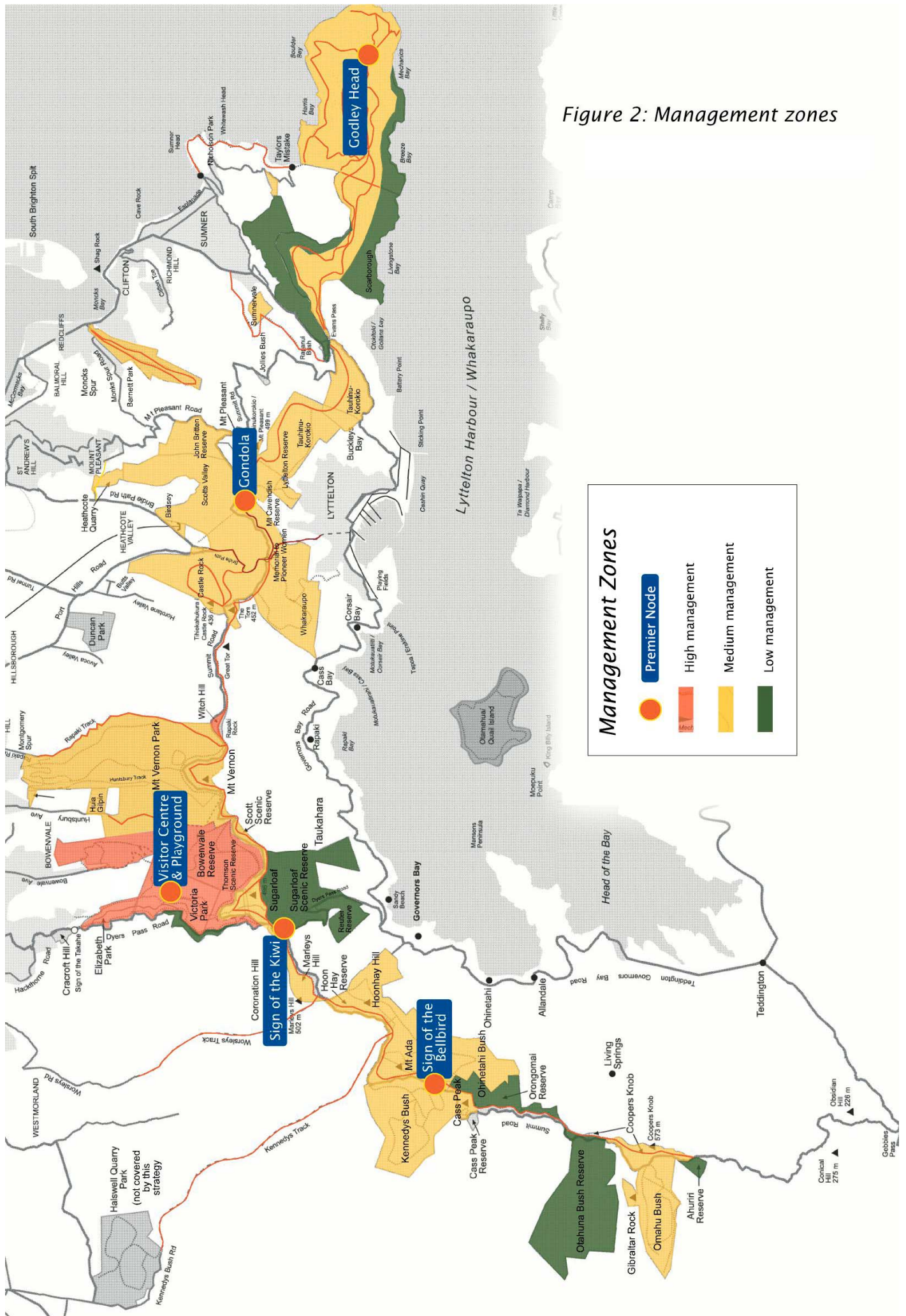
This study has resulted in the identification of four levels of management zoning, described in Section 6.1.1 and Figure 2. This includes reserves added to the CUC's 1986 list. The management zoning used here results in the lumping together of Recreation Opportunity Classes 1 and 2 and the identification of 'premier nodes' which are drawn from throughout the classes. Godley Head, for example, shows increased demand since the 1980s and now includes a 'premiere node' within the main car parking area, but is otherwise managed for 'medium management'.



Table 5: 1986 CUC Recreation Opportunity Classes

Recreation Opportunity Class 1	Recreation Opportunity Class 2	Recreation Opportunity Class 3	Recreation Opportunity Class 4	Recreation Opportunity Class 5
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Sign of the Kiwi 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Victoria Park (in part) ▪ Barnett Park ▪ Kennedys Bush (at Summit Rd) ▪ Sign of the Bellbird ▪ Elizabeth Park 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Victoria Park (in part) ▪ Jollies Bush ▪ Lyttelton 101 ▪ Thomson Park ▪ Mt Pleasant ▪ Douglas Scenic Reserve 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Kennedys Bush ▪ Hoon Hay Reserve ▪ Sugarloaf ▪ Coopers Knob ▪ Godley Head Park ▪ Bowenvale Park ▪ Mt Vernon Park ▪ Buckley's Bay ▪ Cass Peak ▪ Witch Hill Reserve ▪ Tors Scenic Reserve ▪ Mt Cavendish ▪ Scott Scenic Reserve 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Ahuriri Bush

Figure 2: Management zones



6.1.1 Recreation Management Zoning

1 The Port Hills reserves will be managed within a framework of zones of intensity of management (see Figure 2):

- Premiere nodes: Victoria Park Visitor Centre area and playground, Sign of the Kiwi, Sign of the Bellbird, Godley Head historic buildings, Women's Memorial, Bridle Path Summit Road Carpark, and Gondola = 'urban' standard of development with high levels of maintenance, services and easy access, including where appropriate, toilets, water, play equipment, manicured open space, high quality interpretation, ample parking and directional signs throughout. These areas will be managed primarily for their recreation, education, heritage and landscape values, ensuring access for a wide range of abilities, interests and activities. Visitors can expect a social environment and rapid response by managers to asset failures and track damage.

- High Management: Bowenvale, Crater Rim Walkway, Scarborough Hill Reserve, Huntsbury Track, Whitewash Head Track and major Godley Head tracks = high quality tracks, adequate parking, directional signs. These areas will also be managed primarily for recreation, education, heritage and landscape values as for premiere nodes, but 'access for all' may not be possible. Management responses to track damage or non-critical asset failure will be actioned in the short-term.

- Medium Management: Remaining reserves and tracks (not listed in Premiere, High or Low Management) = variety of tracks standards, from medium quality to low, with generally only limited parking. Minimum signs throughout. Management will be for a range of values and responses to track damage or asset failure will be on a routine basis. Visitors can expect semi-remote experiences and will require tramping-quality shoes.

- Low Management: Sugarloaf Scenic Reserve, Reuter Reserve, Orongomai Reserve, Otahuna Bush Reserve, Ahururi Reserve. Name signs will be provided at the roadside. These areas will be managed primarily for their conservation values.

Action: These zones are to be used to direct, in a general sense, responses to requests for facility development and to guide managers in their management activities.

6.1.2 Access

The future of recreation on the Port Hills will rely to a large extent on protecting the existing open spaces from residential and other forms of inappropriate development, ensuring access by recreational users to all available areas. Council's operative acquisitions strategy (reviewed in Section 8.1.6) is a direct response to this issue. Within this strategy, a set of enhancements to access have been identified via focus groups and the 2003 recreation survey.

- 1 The Christchurch City Council Parks & Waterways Access Policy (October 2002) implementation strategy will be completed for the Port Hills.

Action: Development costs to be incorporated into Council's Capital Expenditure Programme.

- 2 Opportunities for the development of a low-level contour tracks on the northern flanks of the Port Hills and around the harbour basin will be explored and consultation carried out with neighbouring local authorities, local communities and landowners.
- 3 Additional linkages from the plains and the harbour basin to the Summit Road will be explored, including near Gebbies Pass and Cass Bay on the harbour side, and south of Kennedys Bush Track from the plains. Linkages will also be explored between Omahu and Otahuna Reserves.
- 4 Investigate the upgrading of existing tracks within bush reserves to allow more access into areas of podocarp forest, including a potential link between Otahuna and Omahu Bush.

- 5 A walking route across the top of Mount Pleasant be explored to create a loop track with the Crater Rim Walkway.
- 6 Investigate future use and grade of Castle Hill Reserve 4WD track.
- 7 Trials of different grades of mountain bike tracks in Bowenvale and Victoria Parks will continue. Downhill mountain biking will be managed within Bowenvale and Victoria Parks only.
- 8 Reopening opportunities for the Heritage Trail between Sumner and Taylors Mistake will be investigated.
- 9 Pending Council ownership of Richmond Hill farm, a mountain bike linking Major Hornbrook Saddle to Evans Pass will be investigated.
- 10 Investigation will be carried out for a potential mountain bike track to link Witch Hill with Castle Rock Reserve. This would complete the mountain bike track between Kennedys Track and Godley Head.
- 11 A walking track linking Heathcote Quarry with John Britten Reserve will be developed.
- 12 The Bowenvale Reserve tracks complex damaged in the winter storm of 2000 will be redeveloped.

Action: Investigation and track development costs to be incorporated into Council's Capital Expenditure Programme. Council staff will map new proposed routes and consult with stakeholders regarding implementation options (see Sections 6.3.1 and 6.1.3 (2)).



Memorial to Pioneer Women and Jane Deans Seat

- 13 The development of equestrian facilities will be investigated between Rapaki and Godley Head, and where possible/practical incorporated into existing facilities. As new reserve land is acquired, opportunities for incorporating equestrian facilities will be investigated.

Action: Council staff liaise with equestrian representatives, identify suitable routes and develop a proposal for consideration by stakeholders (see Sections 6.3.1 and 6.1.3 (2)).

- 14 Additional tracks on the Port Hills will be limited and considered on a 'proven need' basis, after consideration of their potential to enhance the recreation setting, their environmental effects, impacts on the Port Hills' recreation values as defined by this strategy and impacts upon other visitors.

Action: When requests are received for significant additional facility development, reference will be made to this strategy and the objectives communicated. Where benefit is seen, an investigation will be completed and recommendations made to stakeholders (see Sections 6.3.1 and 6.1.3 (2)).

- 15 Council will continue to manage service standards by monitoring use levels and visitor and stakeholder satisfaction.

Actions: Council will review and continue to implement its track use monitoring programme. Liaison will continue with users and stakeholders over management of recreation facilities and services via ongoing consultation and development of the inter-party recreation resource management forum (see Section 6.3.1).

- 16 Provide a comprehensive map of the recreation assets, including tracks, on the Port Hills, as per the recommendations of the Port Hills Interpretation Plan.

Action: Implement Port Hills Interpretation Plan.

6.1.3 Track standards

- 1 A variety of track standards are maintained, from rough, steep and difficult routes, to tracks accessible by people using wheelchairs.

Action: Implement National Tracks and Outdoor Visitor Standards (SNZ HB 8630:2004).

- 2 Port Hills stakeholders are consulted when a track's grade is reviewed.

Action: Key stakeholder agencies are advised of proposals to alter a track's grade and any final decision is based on a consultative procedure.

6.1.4 Conflict

- 1 Recreational conflicts are minimised by educating resource users about their individual responsibilities within the Port Hills Reserves.

- 2 Where separation of different activities is necessary, suitable signage is installed and communication with user groups maintained.

Action: Signs, interpretation and publications clarify codes of conduct and defined restrictions on particular activities. A Port Hills Sign Plan is developed to co-ordinate this action.

- 3 Where tracks border or intersect private land, appropriate signs are installed to indicate the boundary of the reserve.

Action: A standard sign is developed in consultation with private land owners and installed at locations where trespass is a recognised problem.



Godley Head gun emplacement

6.1.5 Facilities

- 1 Built structures on the Port Hills are kept to a minimum, but zoned 'high' recreation management areas will be provided with appropriate services. Memorial plaques will only be permitted in only exceptional circumstances where high relevance and significance is evident.
- 2 Toilet facilities will be maintained in the following locations: Victoria Park, Sign of the Kiwi, Sign of the Bellbird, Castle Rock and Godley Head.
- 3 Drinking water supplies will be maintained in the following locations: Victoria Park, Rhodes Spring at Coopers Knob, Bridal Path Heathcote carpark, Sign of the Kiwi, and at John Britten Reserve to replace that at the top of Mount Pleasant Road.
- 4 Large-scale car parking will be maintained in only the high use zones. That is: Victoria Park, Sign of the Kiwi and Sign of the Bellbird.
- 5 Off-road parking will be maintained at the existing summit road locations (Figure 3) (see Section 7.0).
- 6 Car parks will be managed to minimise inappropriate use of vehicles, to increase their landscape values and to improve standards of safety.
- 7 Formal, built seating will not be developed in medium and low management zones.
- 8 Launch sites for paragliding and model airplanes will be adequately provided for within the currently existing sites (Figure 4).
- 9 Rock climbing will be adequately provided and managed for within the currently existing sites (Figure 4).

Action: No additional structures, excluding information signs, will be developed within the low and medium management zones.

Action: Part of Port Hills work programme (see Section 7.0).

- 10 The opportunity to develop campsites at Godley Head and other reserves for educational groups only and with limited numbers within a booking system will be explored.

Action: Consultation with educational groups to be carried out.



Picnic near Sign of the Bellbird

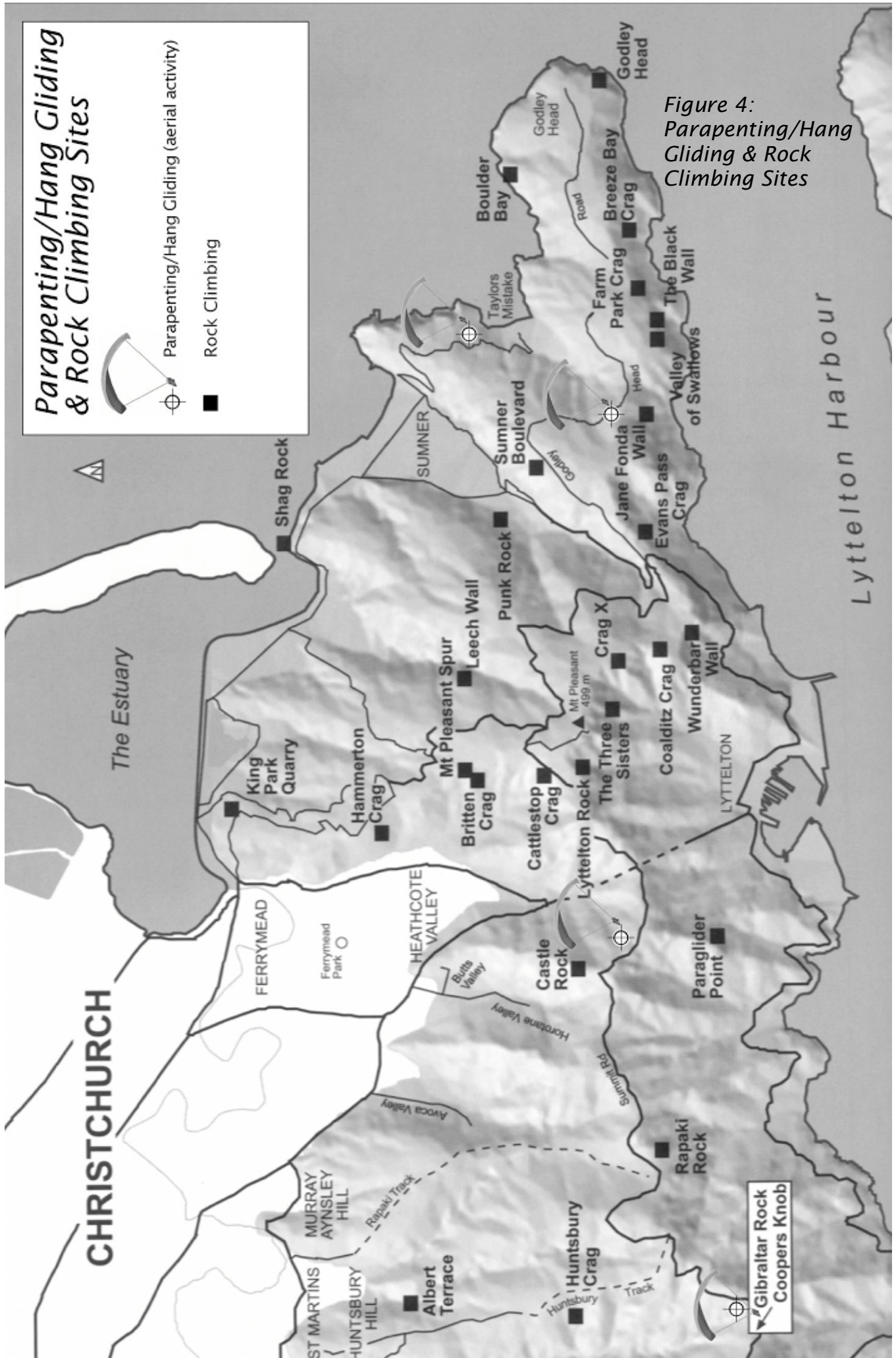


Figure 4: Parapenting/Hang Gliding & Rock Climbing Sites

6.2 Icon Status

The Port Hills' role as a regional icon is maintained and enhanced. The community's growing recognition of their icon status leads to increased support for the sustainable management of their natural and cultural values and use for active and passive recreation.

6.2.1 Manawhenua

- 1 To recognise and uphold the values of Ngai Tahu in the future management of the Port Hills.

Action: Consult Te Hapu O Ngati Wheke for management decisions related to the Port Hills.

- 2 Raise awareness about Ngai Tahu history and association with the Port Hills.

Actions: To work with and resource Te Hapu O Ngati Wheke, to identify names and stories for features and locations on the Port Hills; To use Maori names where they exist on all signs and to include interpretation material describing the origin and meaning of these names in the Port Hills Interpretation Strategy; To include interpretation regarding Ngai Tahu mythology and history associated with the Port Hills at the Visitor Information Centre in Victoria Park.

6.2.2 Communication and Education

- 1 To communicate events and works on the Port Hills to interested parties.

Actions: Maintain a newsletter service to volunteers and other interested parties. This may involve existing communication devices (such as the City Scene and CCC website) or a dedicated newsletter (see also Section 6.3.2).

6.2.3 Landscape

- 1 Landscape features of the Port Hills are not compromised by recreation developments



Heliohebe Lavaudiana

6.3 Guardianship

The principle of Guardianship seeks to develop two core objectives. The first is co-operative management of recreation opportunities on the Port Hills by those agencies which have some form of statutory obligation to provide access for the public (whether by Trust deed or national legislation). The second is the development of an individual sense of guardianship by those who visit the Port Hills.

Te Hapu O Ngati Wheke, a hapu (sub-tribe) of Ngai Tahu, based at Rapaki Bay, holds manawhenua over the Port Hills and is a partner with other land management agencies for the Port Hills.

6.3.1 Inter-party forum

- 1 The Christchurch City Council works with other central and local government and trusts with land holdings on the Port Hills to gain accord regarding the development and management of recreation resources on the Port Hills (including DOC, ECan, Summit Road Society, Selwyn District Council, Banks Peninsula District Council, Gama Foundation, Port Hills Park Trust and Te Hapu O Ngati Wheke).

Actions: Council develops a recreation resource management forum for the Port Hills, using the draft of this document as a discussion point. Accord is sought on relevant principles and actions. The forum investigates means for engaging other land owners.

6.3.2 Volunteers

- 1 People are able to become involved in the management, development and maintenance of the Port Hills via a range of targeted and co-ordinated volunteer programmes.
- 2 Volunteer 'longevity' is encouraged by frequent communication and rewarding experiences.

Actions: The ranger service develop a regional volunteer database and a regional programme of activities offering a variety of volunteer opportunities and regular communications.

6.3.3 Legal status

- 1 A review is completed of all reserves administered by territorial authorities to ensure land is held under appropriate forms of statutory protection.



Anhwei and Anamei, Godley Head

6.4 Biodiversity for Recreation

Consultation has shown that the quality of the Port Hills' natural environment relates closely to the quality of the recreation experience of the visitor. While other planning mechanisms will advise the restoration of ecosystems on the Port Hills, it is necessary to show the guiding principles for increased biodiversity that will benefit recreational visitors.

6.4.1 Biodiversity

- 1 Refer to the outcomes of the CCC Biodiversity Strategy and the Port Hills planting strategy (in preparation at time of publication of this report).

6.4.2 Vegetation enhancement

- 1 Areas for the development of 'bush tracks' will be identified. Acquisition of existing bush stands on the Port Hills and additional planting and the facilitation of natural regeneration will be the main means of increasing the amount of bush accessible to the public.
- 2 Forest reserves, links and corridors are established between the upper south west Port Hills, the plains and Mount Herbert, and between the upper Port Hills and the harbour basin.

Actions: The generalised vegetation management scheme proposed by the existing Council's *Port Hills Acquisitions Strategy* will guide development (Figure 5). Sites on the wider Port Hills area and other Banks Peninsula sites close to the city will be considered for acquisition. Tussock grasslands will be managed to maximise their health and vigour via adequate grazing, monitoring and management of access.

The *Port Hills Acquisitions Strategy* details three major character types, namely: forested landscape; open tussock grassland; and coastal aspect. These character types dominate the Port Hills and form a strong base for existing and future recreation opportunities. The three vegetation 'character areas' are:

Forested Landscape – native forest / bush birds

The upper hills between Dyers Pass Road and Gebbies Pass have the highest potential in the immediate Christchurch locality for a unique 'bush' experience resplendent with native birds. Upper Port Hills valleys and tops between Hoon Hay Valley and Coopers Knob area were predominantly wooded prior to European arrival. Remnant and regenerating bush and shrubland occupies much of the existing reserve area and beyond with the potential for native forest to recover an area of over 2000 ha, potentially the largest bush area east of the Canterbury foothills.

Open Tussock Grassland – open tussock landscape / views

This extensive rolling landscape forms a distinctive central city backdrop and provides opportunity for unique outdoor recreation experiences. Rolling tussock slopes, prominent volcanic dykes and lava sheets, spectacular city and harbour views, and a wealth of native grassland and rock outcrop plants set the scene for walking, mountain biking, running, horse riding, rock climbing, paragliding and sightseeing.

Coastal – sea / wildlife / history

The open headlands of Scarborough and Godley Head are dominated by the ocean. On clear days the Kaikoura mountains and the eastern promontories of Banks Peninsula are clearly visible. Seabirds are common especially near the sheer coastal cliffs. Remnant coastal bush still occupies sheltered spots on the harbour side. The persistent easterly sea breezes provide opportunity for the city's best paraglide training area in upper Taylors Mistake valley. The historic WWII coastal emplacements, tunnel and walkways add a special flavour to this coastal recreation experience.

In addition, a fourth character area has subsequently been identified: Rock refugia. These are scattered throughout the Port Hills where rock faces are protected from grazing and fire. These environments provide habitat for several endangered plant species, as well as invertebrates and lizards.

6.4.3 Species protection

- 1 Recreation activities may be restricted in areas where native plants and animals with limited distribution and/or seasonal sensitivity are threatened (eg, chomophytes).

Action: Identify areas with threatened species of concern, identify recreational activities which may threaten these species and communicate restrictions where necessary.

6.4.4 Education

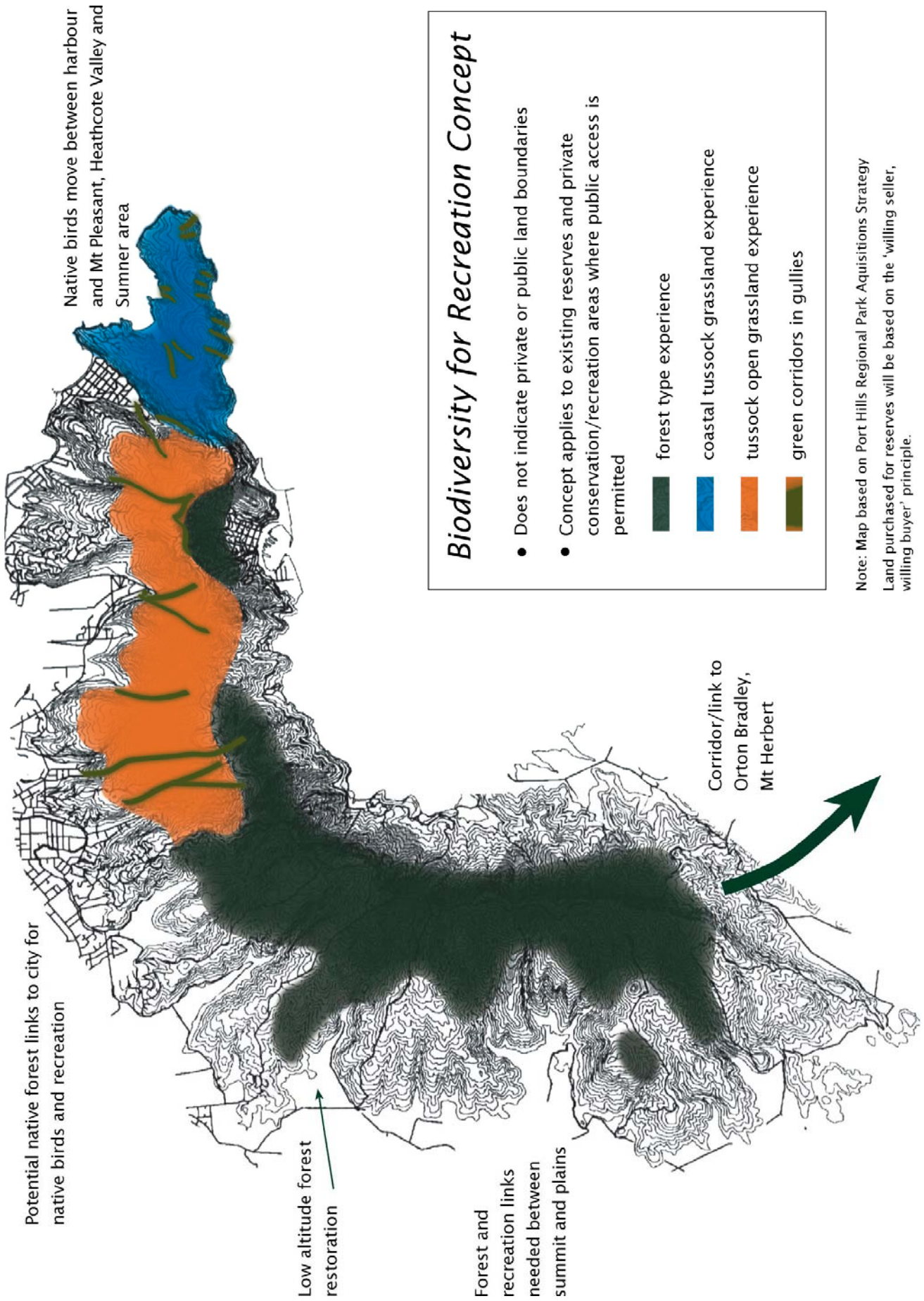
- 1 Key representatives examples of each eco-type in the Port Hills reserves will be identified and interpretation used to show how the vegetation cover has changed over time and what the future potential is.

Action: Continue development of interpretation plan for the Port Hills Visitor Centre and Victoria Park area (see 6.5.1).



Holiday Programme -
Lyttelton Bluffs

Figure 5: Generalised character areas



6.5 Education

On-site education opportunities can help achieve many objectives, most of which enhance the recreational experience and environment, including:

- Management objectives for directing appropriate visitor behaviour (environment and facility protection),
- The quality and depth of an individual's experience resulting from a greater understanding of a site's values and history,
- A more 'efficient' visitor experience resulting from the identification of locations where a visitor's expectations can best be met,
- Increasing the value the public places on the retention and effective management of the resource.

The ranger service currently undertakes a range of on-site educational programmes.

6.5.1 Interpretation

- 1 Continue to develop the visitor centre at Victoria Park as detailed in the Port Hills interpretation plan.

Action: Part of Port Hills work programme (see Section 7.0).

- 2 A field interpretation sign plan will be developed and installed with reference to park management zones.
- 3 Education programmes coordinated through the LEOTC (learning experiences outside the classroom) programme will continue (see Section 6.6.2).

6.5.2 Holiday programmes

- 1 Holiday interpretation programmes will continue (for example, Kidsfest Rangers activities).

6.5.3 Volunteers

- 1 Volunteer programmes will continue as per Section 6.3.2



Planting Day

6.6 Social well-being

Open space and recreational activities are generally recognised for their capacity to enhance people's lives through physical and mental well-being. The Christchurch City Council has a range of policies (see Appendix 1) that focus on supporting all sectors of the community in their pursuit of health and happiness. The Port Hills, by offering a variety of recreation settings and challenges in close proximity to the city, creates an opportunity for leading all sectors of the community into a more active and healthy lifestyle.

6.6.1 Marketing

- 1 Develop relationship with regional media to publicise activities and events on the Port Hills (via CCC central communications team).

6.6.2 Education Programmes

- 1 Continue and expand education programmes, summer interpretation and volunteer programme.

6.6.3 Barriers to participation

- 1 Identify 'access for all' facilities in high management zones (Figure 2).

Action: Implement track service standard policy to ensure complete compliance at 'access for all' sites (see section 6.1.3).

6.7 Economic

The Port Hills are currently used by a number of commercial enterprises, including paragliders, photographers, mountain bike hire and tour guides. Commercial use of the Port Hills was often derided during the consultation process for this strategy. However, when discussion focused on the current suite of commercial uses, it became apparent that, with some exceptions, all 'quiet and complementary' activities were either un-noticed or considered a natural part of the recreation scene.

6.7.1 Commercial activities

- 1 To allow commercial activities where they broaden the recreational, cultural and environmental values of the Port Hills reserves, and do not compromise the current suite of recreational opportunities.
- 2 To assess any proposal for commercial activities or developments considering the following factors:
 - Does it fit with the purpose and management objectives of the Port Hills?
 - What are the positive and negative impacts on the values of the Port Hills?
 - Does it fit the recreation experience being promoted on the Port Hills?
 - What are the other options for this site if the facility/activity didn't go ahead?
 - Where else does/could this activity or facility occur?
 - Does it contribute to achieving Christchurch City Council's goals and objectives?
 - Is it in accord with identified trends, demographics, community needs?
 - Is there a priority?
 - What benefits or disbenefits with the activity/facility provide?

Action: Process applications as required by the Christchurch City Council's Commercial Recreation Policy to ensure commercial activities on the Port Hills complement the current recreation settings.

6.7.2 Resource protection

- 1 To limit or control activities which:
 - Require the construction/placement of permanent structures and fixtures,
 - Generate mechanical noise,
 - Displace existing recreational visitors,
 - Impact negatively on environmental and culture values,
 - Threaten heritage assets and values.

Action: To consider the above five issues when assessing applications for leases and licences, on Christchurch City Council's Port Hills reserve and where new recreational and other developments are proposed.

7 Major asset review



This section reviews the major recreation assets provided on the Port Hills, their current status and their intended future level of development. An asset management plan and revised capital works programme will be developed after this strategy has been adopted.

7.1 *Parks and Reserves considered by this strategy*

Reserve	Area (ha)	Reserve Status	Ownership	Manager
Ahuriri Reserve	6.8	Scenic	Crown	CCC
Barnett Park	40.4	Recreation	CCC	CCC
Bowenvale Park	236.1	Recreation	CCC	CCC
Buckley's Bay*	9.4	Scenic	Crown	DoC / CCC
Cass Peak Reserve	3.4	Scenic	Crown	CCC
Castle Rock	88.9	Scenic	CCC	CCC
Coopers Knob	21.5	Scenic	Crown	CCC
Coronation Hill Historic Reserve	2.2	Historic	Crown	CCC
Douglas Scenic Reserve	1.9	Scenic	CCC	CCC
Elizabeth Park	16.3	Recreation	CCC	CCC
Godley Head Farm Park*	292.6	Reserve	Crown	DoC / CCC
Heathcote Quarry Reserve	6.7	Recreation	CCC	CCC
Hoon Hay Reserve	16.5	Scenic	Crown/CCC	CCC
Huia Gilpin Reserve	8.0	Recreation	CCC	CCC
John Britten Reserve	35.2	Freehold	CCC	CCC / John Britten Trust
Jollies Bush	1.3	Scenic	Crown	CCC
Kennedys Bush	137.2	Scenic	Crown/CCC	CCC
Lyttelton 101*	28.8	Scenic	Crown	DoC
Marleys Hill	20	Recreation	CCC	CCC
Mount Cavendish Reserve	25.7	Scenic	Crown	CCC
Mount Pleasant Reserve	5.6	Scenic	Crown	CCC
Mount Vernon Park	223.8	Freehold	Port Hills Park Trust	Port Hills Park Trust
Ohinetahi Bush	138	Freehold	Summit Rd Society	Summit Rd Society
Omahu Bush	106	Freehold, QEII	Gama Foundation	Gama Foundation
Orongomai Reserve	52.8	Scenic	CCC	CCC
Otahuna Bush Reserve	120.9	Scenic	CCC / Selwyn DC	CCC
Pioneer Women's Memorial	0.017	Historic	CCC	CCC
Rapanui Bush	1.0	Scenic	CCC	CCC
Reuter Reserve	21.8	Scenic	CCC	CCC
Scarborough Hill Reserve	217.8	Recreation	CCC	CCC
Scott Reserve	7.3	Recreation	CCC	CCC
Scotts Valley	126.9	Recreation	CCC	CCC
Sugarloaf Reserve	112.5	Scenic	Crown	CCC
Summit Lookout Reserve	0.1	Freehold	CCC	CCC
Tauhinu-Korokio*	120	Scenic	Crown	DoC
Thomson Park	26.5	Scenic	Crown	CCC
Tors Scenic Reserve	5.5	Scenic	Crown	CCC
Victoria Park	72.7	Recreation	CCC	CCC
Whakaraupo	86	Freehold	Banks Pen DC	Banks Pen DC
Witch Hill Reserve	4.8	Scenic	Crown	CCC

* The Department of Conservation and the Christchurch City Council operate under a Memorandum of Understanding for joint management of some recreation and biodiversity issues on these reserves.

7.2 Tracks on reserves

This section lists all the main tracks within the reserves covered by this strategy. The current and preferred class of each track is defined (see Appendix 8.2 for definitions). The current and preferred conditions are also given according to the following scale:

Note: The CCC will move to implement the Standards NZ SNZ HB 8630:2004 for tracks and visitor structures, and the grades shown

below will be modified according to that manual.

Track condition

1. Very good condition
2. Minor defects only
3. Significant maintenance required
4. Requires renewal or upgrade
5. Unserviceable

Table 6: Tracks on reserves. Current and preferred grades and conditions

Track name	Reserve	Current Grade	Preferred Grade	Current Condition	Preferred Condition
4WD maintenance track	Castle Rock	Grade 2. Walking Track	No change	2	2
4WD maintenance track	Coopers Knob	Grade 2. Walking Track	No change	2	2
4WD maintenance track	Scotts Valley	Management track	No change	2	2
4WD maintenance track	Otahuna Bush Reserve	Management track	No change	2	2
4WD maintenance track	Reuter Reserve	Management track	No change	3	2
Anaconda	Godley Head	Grade 2. MTB Moderate	No change	1	2
Ahuriri loop	Maintenance track	Management track	No change	5	5
Albert stream track	Mt Vernon	Grade 2. Walking Track	No change	2	2
Barnett Park Walkway	Barnett Park	Grade 2. Walking Track	No change	2	2
Bivy track	Ohinetahi Bush	Grade 2. Walking Track	No change	2	2
Boulder Bay Walkway	Godley Head	Grade 2. Walking Track	Grade 1. Easy Walk	2	1
Bowenvale downhill MTB	Bowenvale	Grade 2. MTB Moderate	No change	2	1
Bowenvale Traverse MTB	Bowenvale	Grade 2. MTB Moderate	No change	2	2
Bowenvale Walkway	Track to Bush head	Grade 2. Walking Track	No change	2	2
Bowenvale Walkway	Track to Victoria Park	Grade 2. Walking Track	No change	2	2
Bowenvale Walkway	Track to summit	Grade 2. Walking Track	No change	2	2
Bowenvale Walkway	Multi-use section valley floor	Shared Use	No change	2	1
Bowenvale Walkway	Bowenvale Gravel 4WD track	Grade 2. Walking Track	No change	1	1
Bridle Path	Scotts Valley	Legal Road	Shared Use	1	1
Captain Thomas track	Scarborough Hill Reserve	Shared Use	No change	2	1
Cass Peak loop track	Cass Peak reserve	Grade 2. Walking Track	No change	2	1
Cass Ridge track	Ohinetahi Bush	Grade 2. Walking Track	No change	2	2

Table 6: Tracks on reserves. Current and preferred grades and conditions					
Track name	Reserve	Current Grade	Preferred Grade	Current Condition	Preferred Condition
Cass Ridge track	Ohinetahi Bush	Grade 2. Walking Track	No change	2	2
Castle Rock Mountain Bike track	Castle Rock	Grade 2. MTB Moderate	No change	1	2
Cavendish bluffs track	Mount Cavendish	Grade 2. Walking Track	No change	2	2
Cedrics track	Sugarloaf	Grade 2. Walking Track	No change	1	1
Coopers Knob side track	Coopers Knob	Grade 2. Walking Track	No change	2	2
Crater Rim Walkway	Godley Head	Grade 2. Walking Track	No change	2	1
Crater Rim Walkway	Tauhinu-Korokio	Grade 2. Walking Track	No change	2	2
Crater Rim Walkway	Coronation Hill Historic	Grade 2. Walking Track	No change	2	2
Crater Rim Walkway	Tors	Grade 2. Walking Track	No change	2	1
Crater Rim Walkway	Whakaraupo	Grade 2. Walking Track	No change		
Crater Rim Walkway	Scarborough Hill Reserve	Grade 2. Walking Track	No change	1	1
Crater Rim Walkway	Mount Cavendish	Grade 2. Walking Track	No change	1	1
Crater Rim Walkway	Marleys Hill	Grade 2. Walking Track	No change	2	1
Crater Rim Walkway	Hoon Hay Reserve	Grade 2. Walking Track	No change	2	2
Crater Rim Walkway	Orongomai Reserve	Grade 2. Walking Track	No change	2	1
Crater Rim Walkway	Witch Hill Reserve	Grade 2. Walking Track	No change	2	2
Crater Rim Walkway	Coopers Knob	Grade 2. Walking Track	No change	2	1
Crater Rim Walkway	Sugarloaf Mitchells track	Grade 2. Walking Track	No change	2	1
Daza's MTB	Victoria Park	Grade 3. MTB Difficult	No change	2	2
Drop track MTB	Victoria Park	Grade 3. MTB Difficult	No change	2	2
Dry ridge track	Mt Vernon	Grade 2. Walking Track	No change	2	2
Fantail track	Kennedy's Bush	Grade 2. Walking Track	No change	1	1
Farm track	Mt Vernon	Grade 2. Walking Track	No change	2	2
Faulkners track	Ohinetahi Bush	Grade 2. Walking Track	No change	2	2
Gilpins Track	Sugarloaf	Grade 2. Walking Track	No change	2	2
Godley Head MTB track	Godley Head	Grade 2. MTB Moderate	No change	3	1
Gum tree MTB	Victoria Park	Grade 2. MTB Moderate	No change	2	2
Halswell quarry track	Halswell Quarry Park	Grade 1. Easy Walk	No change	1	1
Harry Ell walkway	Victoria Park	Grade 1. Easy Walk	No change	1	1
Harry Ell walkway	Elizabeth Park	Grade 1. Easy Walk	No change	1	1
Heathcote Quarry track	Heathcote Quarry Reserve	Grade 2. Walking Track	No change	2	2
Holdsworth track	Kennedy's Bush	Grade 2. Walking Track	No change	2	2
Huntsbury	Bowenvale	Grade 2. Moderate	No change	2	1
John Britten track	John Britten Reserve	Grade 2. Walking Track	No change	2	2

Table 6: Tracks on reserves. Current and preferred grades and conditions					
Track name	Reserve	Current Grade	Preferred Grade	Current Condition	Preferred Condition
Jollies Bush track	Jollies Bush Scenic Reserve	Grade 2. Walking Track	Grade 1. Easy Walk	2	1
K2 MTB	Victoria Park	Grade 2. MTB Moderate	No change		
Kahukura loop track	Castle Rock	Grade 2. Walking Track	No change	2	2
Kahukura Track	Castle Rock	Grade 2. Walking Track	No change	2	2
Kirks track	Omahu Bush	Grade 2. Walking Track	No change	2	2
Lamar track	Mt Vernon	Grade 1. Easy Walk	No change	2	1
Latters Spur track	Elizabeth Park	Grade 2. Walking Track	No change	2	1
Latters Spur track	Victoria Park	Grade 2. Walking Track	No change	2	1
Lava Flow	Bowenvale	Grade 3. MTB Difficult	No change	2	2
Lower fence line MTB	Victoria Park	Grade 4. MTB Extreme	To review	2	2
Major Hornbrook	Richmond Hill	Grade 2. Multi-use Moderate	No change	2	2
Marlelys MTB track	Marleys Hill	Grade 2. MTB Moderate	No change	2	2
Mt Vernon Valley track	Mt Vernon	Grade 2. Walking Track	No change	2	2
Mt Vernon Valley Shared Use track	Mt Vernon	Shared Use	No change	2	2
Nationals MTB	Victoria Park	Grade 3. MTB Difficult	To review	2	2
No track	Mount Pleasant	Potential to develop track			
Nth Boundary track	Ohinetahi Bush	Grade 2. Walking Track	No change	2	2
O'Farrells track	Ohinetahi Bush	Grade 2. Walking Track	No change	2	2
Old Dyers Pass track	Douglas Scenic Reserve/ Victoria Park	Shared Use	No change	2	2
Orongamai	Kennedy's Bush	Grade 2. Walking Track	No change	2	2
Prendergasts track	Omahu Bush	Grade 2. Walking Track	No change	2	2
Quarry Rim Track	Halswell Quarry Park	Grade 1. Easy Walk	No change	2	1
Quarry track	Kennedy's Bush	Grade 2. Walking Track	No change	2	2
Radi Garden MTB	Victoria Park	Grade 4. MTB Extreme	To review	2	2
Rhodes track	Omahu Bush	Grade 2. Walking Track	No change	2	2
Rogers track	Mt Vernon	Grade 2. Walking Track	No change	2	2
Scarborough MTB track	Scarborough Hill Reserve	Grade 2. MTB Moderate	No change	2	2
Searchlight tunnel track	Godley Head	Grade 2. Walking Track	No change	2	2
Stan Helms Track	Whakaraupo	Grade 2. Walking Track	No change		
Tawhairaunui trail	Victoria Park	Grade 1. Easy Walk	No change	1	1
Thomsons Multi-Use Track	Thomson Reserve	Shared Use	No change	1	1
Totara track	Kennedy's Bush	Grade 2. Walking Track	No change	1	1
Totara track	Ohinetahi Bush	Grade 2. Walking Track	No change	2	2
Trig IV track	Hoon Hay Reserve	Grade 2. Walking Track	No change	2	2
Upper fence line MTB	Victoria Park	Grade 4. MTB Extreme	No change	2	2
Whitewash Head Track	Legal Road	Grade 2. Walking Track	No change	3	1
Whakaraupo track	Whakaraupo	Grade 2. Walking Track	No change	2	2
Witch Hill MTB Track	Witch Hill	Grade 2. MTB Moderate	No change	2	2
Worsley's track	Marleys Hill	Grade 2. Vehicle track Moderate	No change	2	2

7.3 Assets on Reserves

This section lists all the main assets within the reserves covered by this strategy. The current and preferred conditions are also given according to the following scale:

Track condition

1. Very good condition
2. Minor defects only
3. Significant maintenance required
4. Requires renewal or upgrade
5. Unserviceable

Asset	Reserve	Notes	Current Condition	Preferred Condition
Car Park	Victoria Park		2	1
Car Park	Victoria Park	Parking for 25 cars	1	1
Car Park	Victoria Park	Parking for 20 cars, sealed	1	1
Car Park	Castle Rock	Lay-by type, limited safe parking	2	2
Car Park	Godley Head Lower	Will need reviewing depending on future development levels of area	2	2
Car Park	Bowenvale	Parking for 8 cars	1	1
Bridle Path Car Park	Scotts Valley	Sealed parking for 10 cars	2	2
Car Park	Elizabeth Park		1	1
Car Park	Kennedys Bush	Sealed, rock edge Parking for 20 cars	2	2
Car Park	Omahu Bush	Parking for 10 cars	2	2
Car Park	Heathcote Quarry Reserve	Small carpark for three vehicles	2	2
Car Park	Summit Road	Parking for 30 cars requires design work to limit misuse	3	2
Ahuriri Car Park	Summit Road	Limited to two cars	2	2
Allendale Car Park	Summit Road	Roadside parking investigate widening and formalising	3	2
Cass Car Park	Summit Road	Parking for three cars off road in lay-by	2	2
Hoonhay (Kennedys Track) Car Park	Summit Road	Parking for 15 vehicles requires base course and levelling	3	2
Hoonhay South Car Park	Summit Road	Southern entrance, parking for 10 cars	2	2
Hoonhay Middle Car Park	Summit Road	Central reserve, parking for 4 cars	2	2
Hoonhay North Car Park	Summit Road	Northern entrance, parking for 6 cars	2	2
McVicars Car Park	Summit Road	Parking in lay-by for 10 cars, requires formalising and base course	3	2
Sign of Kiwi Car Park	Summit Road	Parking for 20 cars	1	1

Thomsons Car Park	Summit Road	Lay-by parking for 30 cars requires design work to limit misuse	2	2
Bowenvale Car Park	Summit Road	Parking for 30 cars requires design work to limit misuse very unsightly	3	2
Scotts Reserve Car Park	Summit Road	Informal parking for 6 cars	2	2
Rapaki Car Park	Summit Road	Parking for 30 cars requires design work	3	2
Witch Hill Car Park	Summit Road	Informal parking off road for 15 cars	2	2
Castle Rock Car Park	Summit Road	Roadside parking for 8 cars safely limited opportunity for further development	2	2
Major Hornbrook Car Park	Summit Road	Parking on roadside for 8 cars	2	2
Jollies Car Park	Summit Road	Roadside parking for 3 cars	2	2
Evans Pass Car Park	Summit Road	Parking for 10 cars design work required to enhance area	3	2
Taylor's Lookout Car Park	Summit Road	Parking for 10 cars main launch area for parapenting	2	2
Livingston Car Park	Summit Road	Parking for 6 cars design work required to enhance	3	2
Breezes Car Park	Summit Road	Parking for 8 cars design work required to enhance	3	2
Godley Car Park	Summit Road	Parking for 80 plus design work required if further development desired	2	1
Drinking fountain	Castle Rock	Standard fountain	1	1
Drinking fountain	Scotts Valley	Standard fountain	1	1
Drinking fountain	Coopers Knob	Historic spring. Stone work requires yearly inspection.	2	2
Memorial	Castle Rock	Wayside cross	4	1
Memorial	Coronation Hill Historic Reserve	Memorial with kiwi sign hanging from it	1	1
Memorial seat	Castle Rock		1	1
Memorial shelter	Mount Cavendish	Women's memorial shelter	2	1
Memorial shelter	Kennedys Bush	Bellbird stone building, popular with picnics and events.	2	1
Memorial shelter	Coronation Hill Historic Reserve	Sign of Kiwi Building	1	1
Memorial shelter	Jollies Bush Scenic Reserve	Stone and concrete memorial, wooden bench seat, requires heritage survey and work programme	2	1
Picnic table	Victoria Park	Designed and built by Trust. Macrocarpa	1	1
Picnic table	Castle Rock	Standard table, poor condition. Replace with 'quarry' style table	3	1
Plane table	Mt Vernon	Stainless steel plane tables	1	1
Playground equipment	Victoria Park	Standard modular equipment. Requires further landscaping, non urgent.	2	1
Seat	Victoria Park	Standard park bench	1	1
Seat	Victoria Park	Standard park bench	1	1
Seat	Castle Rock	Historic seat for Cressy	1	1
Seat	Castle Rock	Historic seat for Sir George Seymour	1	1

Seat	Heathcote Quarry Reserve	Project with Lions club	1	1
Shearing shed	Scarborough Hill Reserve	Shearing shed with office and ablution block	2	1
Shelter (picnic)	Victoria Park	Sth lions project. Three shelters, wood with central tables within	2	1
Shelter (picnic)	Mt Vernon	2 shelters with interpretation to be added later	1	1
Sign information	Godley Head	Map	1	1
Sign interpretation	Castle Rock	Info on history, track distance. Copies at Victoria park	1	1
Sign interpretation	Godley Head	Interpretation map showing tracks and distances	1	1
Sign interpretation	Mt Vernon	Interpretation panel/map	1	1
Sign interpretation	Scotts Valley	Interpretation panel, history and map	1	1
Sign interpretation	Scotts Valley	Interpretation on history and map	1	1
Sign interpretation	Omahu Bush	Map with small amount of interpretation.	1	1
Toilet (composting)	Castle Rock	See design detail	1	1
Toilet (composting)	Kennedys Bush	See design detail	1	1
Toilet (sewer mains)	Victoria Park	Double block, 2 pans,	2	1
Toilet (sewer mains)	Victoria Park	Double block 3 pans 1 urinal when due for replacement consider composting toilet	2	2
Toilet (sewer mains)	Godley Head	Concrete double unit.	1	1
Toilet (sewer mains)	Coronation Hill Historic Reserve	Stone toilets, three pans, 1 urinal	1	1
Viewing platform	Victoria Park	Design detail on file	1	1
Visitor centre	Victoria Park	Historic, refurbished shelter. Ongoing development as visitor centre	1	1



*The more it snows,
Tiddely pom*

8 Appendices



8.1 Appendix One: Selected Literature Review

8.1.1 Banks Peninsula: A Coastal Recreation Planning Study - Volume 1

August 1978

Ministry of Works and Development, Christchurch

This study aims to provide background information on which to base specific planning decisions concerning the coastline and to suggest policies which might be adopted by local authorities. It covers, as they were, Akaroa Country, Mt Herbert County (including Lyttelton Borough) and the Wairewa County.

The report acknowledges that the immediate pressures on the Peninsula are those that arise from competing uses, and concentrates on recreational demands and conflicts and problems with coastal beaches. Its emphasis is on coastal pursuits, water based sports, and accommodation of visitors to the area in residential facilities, camping grounds and picnic areas.

A programme of field studies was carried out to assess the recreational role of the Peninsula, evaluate beach resources in terms of potential for recreational use and to identify special features and suggest steps necessary to prevent their loss. This was achieved by a number of methods. Detailed beach data were collected, which consisted of a number of factors for examination and analysis. Each factor comprised component criteria and a system of numerical scoring was devised. This enabled each beach to be evaluated in relation to others in the area. All but remote minor beaches were examined in this way. Other research methods included activities counts at beaches by both volunteer and paid observers during three successive Christmas holiday periods: 1974-75, 1975-76, 1976-77, and interviews with local people. Two pilot surveys were devised: a beach users interview questionnaire; and a holiday accommodation user survey questionnaire. Because of restricted time,

staff resources and poor weather during the survey period, these surveys did not cover a very large sample and the tentative conclusions that were reached are not included in the report. A summary of each beach, using the data collected from each method, is presented.

The conclusions of the report include:

- that the Banks Peninsula is a unique recreational resource that offers a wide range of recreational opportunities:
- The Peninsula beaches are of particular value but, even though there seems to be a large number of beaches, only some are desirable, putting a limited number of beaches under distinct pressure.
- Before opening up new opportunities for active and passive recreation opportunity and experience in the future, investigation of historical and archaeological aspects should be instituted as well as retaining the principles of preservation.
- Future coastal walking tracks, making use of the Walkways Act 1975, should be explored.

The conclusion suggests that the best approach to management of the coastline is one of balancing preservation and opportunity, requiring a general policy of protection but also one that provides for recreational opportunity. Further, that full recognition needs to be given to the importance of the Peninsula coastline in district planning schemes. The consideration of a comprehensive warden or ranger system is also suggested, along with alternative means of providing public access and land use.

8.1.2 Port Hills Landscape Study – Volume One – Study Summary

December 1985

Boffa Miskell Partners Limited

This landscape study was commissioned by Canterbury United Council in November 1984. The brief of this study was ‘to identify the important visual values of the Port Hills, show where they occur and in the light of potential land uses, suggest what management steps would be needed to protect them’. It was believed that resolution of the landscape problems of the northern face of the Port Hills were of immediate urgency and therefore the study concentrated on the northern face of the Port Hills between Taylors Mistake and Landsdown Valley. Boffa Miskell followed an “expert approach”, and also concentrated on the landscape characteristics which gave the Port Hills landscape distinction and identity, rather than rely simply on their scenic value. Definition of the landscape was guided by the visual quality factors of unity, coherence, naturalness and mystery.

The study was intended to assist the Canterbury United Council and member Councils in five areas: to understand the visual values of the Port Hills; to encourage visual improvements to existing landuses; to preclude those landuses which are visually incompatible; to offer guidelines for the management of permitted landscape changes; and, to provide one of the inputs to determine a stable land use zoning pattern on the Port Hills.

The study identified the major unique landscape assets of the Port Hills, and divided the study area into four landscape management zones with recommendations in each zone. Important peaks, rock outcrops, spurs, and areas of tussock were identified with description of their current state, followed by recommendations of management regimes. Views from the Summit Road and landscape detractors were also discussed.

8.1.3 The Port Hills: An Outstanding Regional Feature – Volume 1 – Strategies and Objectives

September 1986

Sheppard and Rout

This study was recommended as a result of the increasing pressure on the various Councils responsible for areas of the Port Hills, in respect to increases in urban zoning. It was decided by a working party, set up in 1981 by Canterbury United Council’s Technical Liaison Committee, that if a management plan for the Port Hills was to be completed, a better understanding of the different types of residential, forestry, farming and recreational uses on the Port Hills was needed. This study’s brief was, therefore, to gather appropriate available data, and where necessary carry out surveys to identify the existing resources in various areas, together with deriving land use and management options. The aim of the study was, “to recommend alternative development strategies as a basis for discussion with agencies, groups and individuals, and to indicate what changes would be necessary to the regional and district schemes”.

The study area was defined as extending over the entire Port Hills area from Godley head to Gebbies Pass and from the foot of the Hills to the North and West over to the Lyttelton Harbour edge. However, due to the greater pressure for development, the study focus is on the northern side of the hills. The report discusses the natural characteristics of the hills, as well as historical and present land use. Urban development, including access, and services, such as water supply and sewage disposal are also discussed, together with recreation, tourism and energy and communications facilities. Recommendations are made, where appropriate, under each heading.

Section 4, *Pressures for change and present land use controls*, sets out the natural physical constraints for land use in the study areas and recommends a list of special geological features on the Port Hills that should be protected. This section also presents land use controls (Regional planning/District scheme and various legislation) that have a part to play in the management of the hills. It is recommended that territorial authorities work together to

produce common provisions and controls for the study area.

The key strategy of this report is that the Port Hills as a whole be recognised as an outstanding natural feature of regional significance. The complementary strategy is the formation of five management areas for the Port Hills, which will guide future land use decisions. This report also details the actions needed, from the proposed objectives, and from whom these actions are required (for example, Canterbury United Council, local authorities, private landowners).

8.1.4 Port Hills Recreation Study

Volume I – Summary and Recommendations

Volume II – Survey Results

September 1986

Canterbury United Council (under supervision of staff of the Parks and Recreation Section and Department of Agricultural Economics, Lincoln College)

These reports present a comprehensive recreation survey study. Volume I presents a summary and recommendations while Volume II presents a brief history of reserves on the Port Hills, traffic analysis and estimate of use, user survey results and a planning framework for recreation. It is one of a number of resource reports co-ordinated by Canterbury United Council.

The brief history of the reserves on the Port Hills summarises Harry Ell's vision of the future of the Port Hills, and the high level of public involvement in maintaining the reserves. Traffic counts and data collected in the traffic survey were used to build a model of traffic movement. The traffic analysis aimed to describe the traffic flows on roads serving the Port Hills, assist in adjusting survey data to a typical day's activity and to provide a basis for extrapolation of data from vehicle numbers to recreational use. The traffic model uses as its baseline an average autumn Sunday. Factors influencing recreational traffic are suggested to be time of observation, day of week and temperature.

For the user survey, four inter-related data collection methods were used, and included two concurrent year-long surveys of traffic and site users. The traffic survey sample

included private motorists, motorcyclists and cyclists entering or exiting a sample zone. The site user survey sample included all recreation participants at known recreational sites. Additional surveys to the site user survey were undertaken to include bus tour operators and organised groups. Results of the user surveys are presented in sections: visitation, activities, motivations, facilities and services, attitudes and beliefs concerning the Port Hills, economic valuation of the Port Hills, demographic characteristics, bus tour operators survey, and organised groups survey. The full methodology is provided.

The report concluded that five broad types of recreation experience were offered by the Port Hills – aesthetic, spiritual, challenge, discovery and social. It suggests that use of the Port Hills for recreation is likely to increase, due to a number of factors, and that planning for future recreation use needs to be a co-ordinated approach involving territorial local authorities, user groups and private and public landowners. The area between the Sign of the Kiwi and the Sign of the Takahe and some areas identified within the area around the Bridle Path and Mt Cavendish are mentioned as areas most suitable for commercial tourist or recreational development. It is suggested that the area between the Sign of the Kiwi and Gebbies Pass, and Mount Pleasant to Godley Head be protected as a remote experience location. This report further recommends as a priority the public purchase of selected areas of land and suggests that recreation use of land should be seen as an increasing and valid use of much of the Port Hills. It acknowledges that this presents challenges for management, such as facility provision and maintenance determining the size and placement of amenities and in providing spaces to accommodate and enhance the experience of small family groups and others.

8.1.5 An Assessment of the Impact on Recreation of the Gondola Proposal

Not dated

Prepared for the Summit Road Advisory Committee of Canterbury United Council

Department of Horticulture, Landscape and Parks, Lincoln College

This report is an assessment of the impact of the, then, proposed Mt Cavendish gondola / restaurant complex on recreation patterns, with regard to user experience and overall recreational use of the Port Hills, and on future recreation opportunities. Information for the study is based on a recreation opportunity spectrum (ROS) framework and an assessment of proposed sites was carried out throughout 1985 and 1986. The three areas of this study include the Bridle Path, the Summit Road above the Bridle Path and Lyttelton. The ROS framework focused on three aspects of the geographic settings: the physical, social and managerial. A description and discussion of existing conditions, and possible changes with the gondola in place, is presented.

The 'appraisal of impacts upon present recreational use' states that the gondola proposal will alter the recreational amenity of the Port Hills for those who seek experiences associated with open space, naturalness and transient social interaction. Using data from the 1985 recreation study, the author cites that 48 per cent of respondents state the 'natural environment' as the reason for enjoying their trip, and when asked how they "valued" the Port Hills, 78 per cent of respondents cited aesthetic reasons (views, location as a viewing platform, location as a backdrop to Christchurch). The conclusion was that the experience will be impaired for these users. Further, the reduction of area available for recreational activity in general is also cited as impairing experience. It is also suggested, however, that the gondola proposal may increase the "value" of recreational amenity for those for whom social interaction, little requirement for the outdoors and facility-based recreation underpins their use of the Port Hills.

The conclusion of this report suggests that the gondola proposal would increase the amount of human modification and social interaction at the proposed sites. This may

attract new users to the sites, while present users may move to other sites on the Port Hills that can better fulfil their experiential needs.

8.1.6 Port Hills Regional Park Acquisitions Strategy

April 1999

Christchurch City Council

Kelvin McMillan

This strategy proposes that the public land on the Port Hills should be protected and developed as park for existing and future generations, and proposes a strategy for acquiring private land on a 'willing seller, willing buyer' basis. This is endorsed by the Proposed City Plan Vol 2, which also strongly supports and promotes sustainable recreation activities and maintenance and enhancement of the Hills' distinctive landscape and natural character.

The strategy document outlines the acquisition strategy scope, and presents a brief history along with discussing natural values, cultural values and major recreation corridors of the Port Hills. It presents seven general principles of the acquisition strategy: skyline protection, landscape integration, ecological sustainability, conservation significance, water quality and catchment enhancement, recreation links and activity protection and historical and cultural values. The strategic objective is stated as "to create an integrated, sustainable Port Hills parks system consisting of three dominant parts (native forest, tussockland, coastlands) that recognises and enhances the Port Hills ecological, visual, geological, historic and recreation qualities for the people of Christchurch, surrounding districts and visitors".

The Port Hills park concept presents the proposed plan. The proposed Park budget and costs, potential community partners and financial support are also presented in this document, together with acknowledgement of the people who assisted in the preparation of this strategy and a reference list.

**8.1.7 Waterways and Wetlands:
Natural Asset Management
Strategy: Volume 2 -
Implementation**

October 2000

Christchurch City Council

This document is one of two volumes that together define the Waterways and Wetlands: Natural Asset Management Strategy. Volume 2 explains that the strategy's context is not simply maintaining an asset to a pre-determined condition. It is essentially a means of satisfying diverse resource management objectives. The overall purpose of the document is to summarise the development of a natural asset management strategy for Waterways and Wetlands, discuss how the strategy fits in with the future direction of the Council and describe how the strategy would be implemented.

The report is divided into four sections: context, strategy summary, alignment with Council's future directions, and conclusions. It is presented in a landscape paper orientation format that suggests use as a presentation document. Section one discusses urban growth, flooding, birdlife, water ecology and city plan objectives.

Section two presents management philosophy, consultation, investment priorities and criteria, budget requirements and financial management, and strategic open space. The main requirements of the strategy are stated as: "To satisfy the Council's resource management policies and objectives; to satisfy the long-term financial planning and hence asset management requirements of the Local Government Amendment Act No. 3; and to present the strategy in a form that can be understood and responded to by the community". The strategy identifies a total of 300 projects spread within 14 project areas. The total expenditure over a forty-year period is \$160 million.

Section three, future Council Directions, discusses community governance and sustainable city. Biodiversity is also discussed in this section. The conclusion of this document states that the process to determine the nature, present condition and desired future conditions of the waterways and wetlands of Christchurch has been completed. It is an investment in

sustainability with long term environmental, social and economic benefits and is an alternative to a reactive utilitarian approach. This report acknowledges that the strategy will be a challenge to put into practice, and that it requires financial planning, review and refinements and future consultation as well as alignment with the Council's future direction. Local community responses to the visions and strategies for each project should be sought.

**8.1.8 Waterways and Wetlands
Natural Asset Management
Strategy: Volume 2
Implementation - Executive
Summary**

October 2000

Robert Watts and Eric Banks

The purpose of this report is to provide an executive summary of the larger document (of the same name). It summarises each section of the larger report and provides full recommendations.

This report provides the council vision and strategy, in presentation form, for specific areas - Port Hills, project area 1; Heathcote Valley, project area 1a, Bowenvale Valley, project area 1b, and Halswell, project area 1c. Further, this document includes a document, with revisions visible, relating to the City Plan objectives and policies.

**8.1.9 Grazing Management of CCC
Reserves of the Port Hills:
Draft Strategy**

September 2001

K McCombs, P Devlin, K McMillan

The purposes of this report are to:

consolidate the relevant existing information available for each reserve (including legal, administrative and practical aspects);

outline the Council's rationale in using grazing as a means of grassland management;

propose a pattern of grazing for each reserve;

and, to outline and facilitate the process of issuing grazing licences.

It states that the Port Hills reserves are managed for a range of values, but primarily they are managed for conservation, recreation and visual values. Fire risk and erosion are also listed as important considerations. The report includes discussion about: vegetation of the reserves; fauna; grazing issues; monitoring; non-council reserves; and the existing legal framework under which grazing of public land operates. Individual reserves are listed with a matrix for each comprising: area, vegetation, grazing, fences, stock water, plant pests, soils, legal and city plan issues.

The actions recommended to assist the administration of grazing of the Port Hills reserves are:

- ensure any new reserves are classified;
- carry out ongoing monitoring of grassland condition:
- ensure sufficient, ongoing budget is allocated to carry out monitoring of vegetation condition;
- ensure sufficient, ongoing, budget is allocated to build and maintain fences;
- investigate the various options regarding who should implement the grazing of each site (licensee or farm manager employment by the council);
- and, produce some information for the public to inform people about the aims of tussock grassland management.

8.1.10 Comments on Grazing Management of CCC Reserves on the Port Hills

Kevin F O'Connor, Professor Emeritus of Range Management

This paper is Professor O'Connor's response to the Grazing Management report. Acknowledging that this report may signal that the imbalance of little planning and public attention to the issues of the maintenance of grassland cover may be coming to an end, he suggests that the report reveals that there may be a long way to go before understanding of maintain grasslands on the Port Hills is reached. He

states that despite its many positive features, the draft grazing strategy has some serious limitations. He discusses these limitations but does suggest that the limitations of the report have arisen more from the limits of the brief, rather than any failing on the authors' part. He states that the authors' attention to detail and overall range of interests are impressive, which leads him to suspect that the report's deficiencies as a grazing management strategy may arise from inadequate specification of what should be in a "grazing management strategy".

Professor O'Connor discusses the valuable features of the report for developing grazing strategies and the specific failings in the report as a grazing management strategy. Further, he outlines the essential steps for the development of a grazing management strategy, although stating that the list of tasks is not exhaustive nor beyond debate or dispute. He suggests that the given sketchy outline of possible and highly desirable future action should be recognised as a practical case study in Integrated Environmental Management.

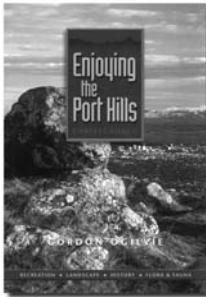
8.1.11 Submission on Grazing Management of the Port Hills within the City from Bowenvale to Godley Head

Mr GB Gerard

This is a submission by Mr GB Gerard on grazing management. G Gerard suggests that the vital visual scene of the clean, grass-covered hills has become an important part of our heritage, which should be protected. He states, firstly, that it is essential that the existing tussock grassland pasture be maintained and enhanced and secondly, the determination of the city planners to plant and protect additional native trees, shrubs and grasses in the area, should be resisted as being an inappropriate use in this particular area. He suggests that the general public is not in the least bit interested in the makeup of the grassland and the sole native plants that anyone and everyone recognise are the tussocks. Further, he states it is wrong, pointless and unnecessary to attempt to reintroduce previously existing species and to demand that areas be preferentially (or not) grazed, compromising the efficiency of grazing and the weed control effort.

8.1.12 Enjoying the Port Hills

October 2000



Gordon Ogilvie

This publication discusses many aspects of the Port Hills. The content of the book is comprehensive, covering: rocks and landscape, reserves, plants and animals, Maori legend and history, farming the hills, bushfelling, quarries and brickworks, transport by sea and river, road train, tram and tunnel, military installations, historic buildings, monuments and memorials, rock climbing, road and mountain biking, and walking tracks. Also discussed in the book are further diversions, amenities and special attractions and the future of the hills. The book is full of beautiful photographs depicting the variety of birdlife, flora and rock formation, as well as the spectacular views. The author sees this book as a guidebook on a locality “long dear” to his heart. The book also raises, in the section titled “The Future of the Hills” unresolved long-term issues. These being, urban development, grassland farming, forestry, pest and weed control, recreational pressure, and land ownership. The author concludes the book with:

“If the Port Hills’ special scientific, historic, recreational and landscape values could be thus enhanced and protected by a well-integrated management plan agreed to by all parties – including private landowners – it would bode well for the future. The Port Hills, safeguarded in perpetuity, should be everybody’s hope and expectation.”

8.1.13 Soil Conservation Guidelines for the Port Hills

May 2003

Bruce Trangmar, Landcare Research

The report identified and discusses the forms and causes of soil erosion on the Port

Hills, focusing on tunnel-gulley erosion and ‘rapid mass movement’ or slips. The area of the Port Hills affected by these types of erosion is identified, 28% of the area affected by tunnel-gulley erosion and 24% affected by slips. The author proposes soil conservation guidelines covering prevention, control and amelioration and correction activities – mostly related to maintaining vegetation cover, managing water discharge and minimising soil disturbance. Remedies for the effects of the October 2000 storm are suggested for six sites.

8.1.14 CCC Older Person’s Policy

This policy states as a key council role the provision of services - notably recreation - which are both outreach and neighbourhood based. A key outcome of this policy is that older citizens can retain their social networks and make lifestyle choices while continuing to participate in community life.

8.1.15 CCC Children’s Policy

Key outcomes in this policy statement relate to children’s access to leisure and recreation with regard to equity of access to opportunity, nurturing communities and creating safe environments. The report seeks for children an outcome of higher self-esteem and a positive worldview. Importantly, the policy identifies council roles associated with advocacy, co-ordinating, resourcing, partnerships and supporting - but stops short of seeking to act as a direct provider of services.

8.1.16 CCC Youth Strategy

This policy documents sets out strategies to address the limitations in experience of young people while acknowledging their future potential as the ‘wealth of our nation’.

Strategies suggested for ensuring youth are supported included; facilitating young people’s participation in policy development; fostering good networks with and between youth agencies and networks; involving Maori rangatahi in decision making; and involving young people with disabilities in planning. Council indicated that at times it would need to advocate on behalf of youth and provide recreation and other services in partnership with agencies such as youth trusts and YMCA. Council also indicated a role for itself in co-ordinating community activities that provide for young people.

8.1.17 CCC Policy on Equity and Access for People with Disabilities

This policy protects peoples' access, inclusion and participation rights to recreation services in Christchurch. It also considers issues such as social justice, human rights, Treaty rights and diversity.

The policy ensures the rights of citizens to be able to access to all council recreation facilities, and that Council will work to advocate on behalf of people with disabilities. Importantly, the policy allows for Council to have a role as either an advocate, partner, planner or, a provider, educator, regulator. It is important to acknowledge council could have a role as a resource provider in some circumstances.

8.1.18 CCC Parks and Waterways Access Policy

The Parks and Waterways Access Policy provides for inclusive use of parks by people with disabilities and also takes into account older people and caregivers with young children. Disabilities occur at all life stages and may be mild or major. There are a wide range of physical, sensory, psychiatric, and intellectual disabilities that result in differing needs of park users and all need to be considered when designing and managing parks and waterways. Christchurch City's aging population is associated with an increased risk of disability and the Parks and Waterways Unit must plan and provide for a growing elderly population with a potentially wider range of needs. Also caregivers with young children may find access to parks restricted by designs that do not accommodate pushchairs or are not suited to children.

Improved access to parks and open space will increase equity as promoted by the City Council Policy on Equity and Access for People with Disabilities. Additionally, improved access has the potential to increase park use by enhancing comfort and convenience for all users and providing significant safety benefits.

8.1.19 Creative Disability Consultancy

Analysis of Feedback from People with Disability, their Families, Carers and Service Providers – CCC Disability Policy

The results of this consultation pointed to needs for wider consultation with a more varied base of people with disabilities when planning recreation facilities and experiences through programmes and events, including those with physical, intellectual, sensory, age related disability, vision impairment, blindness, the deaf community and mental health needs. It was recommended that Council create an incentive fund for Council departments to use to solve some of the issues related to these groups gaining access to recreation services.

8.1.20 Cashmere Spur And Bowenvale Valley Reserves Management Plan, July 1991

The plan includes the following reserves:

Elizabeth Park
Victoria Park
Douglas Scenic Reserve
Thomson Park
Sugarloaf Scenic Reserve (in part)
Scott Reserve
Bowenvale Park

These reserves were grouped together in the management plan because they form a logical management unit which has common boundaries, interrelated topography and vegetation and a shared water catchment. They are also part of the same fire control area.

The conservation and enhancement of the natural and culturally introduced values of the parks provides the basis for the proposed management goals, which are:

Goal 1: To conserve the existing and restore the historical natural values of the management plan area.

Goal 2: To enhance the management plan area as a mixed forest/grassland 'park' providing multiple recreation opportunities.

Goal 3: To promote and enhance indigenous and exotic botanical values.

Goal 4: To promote and enhance indigenous fauna values

This management plan is still operative.

8.1.21 Fifty Years Along the Road

A history of the Summit Road Society Incorporated 1948 – 1998, Jennifer Loughton, published by the Summit Road Society, Christchurch 1998.

This publication, celebrating the 50th year of the Summit Road Society, traces the history of the society and the individuals who contributed to the acquisition and development of publicly accessible land on the Port Hills, and the creation of the Summit Road. As an historical resource, it provides detail on specific events, such as the decision to permit the development of the Mount Cavendish gondola, and the work of particular volunteer groups, such as the Eastenders.

Other publications by the Summit Road Society include a guide and map to the Summit Road (no date), summarising the human and natural history of the Port Hills, and a map, with similar annotations, of Ohinetai Reserve (May 2003).

8.1.22 Sustainable Management of the Port Hills for our Common Future

An address to the AGM of the Summit Road Society on 19 March 2002 by Prof Kevin F O'Connor, Lincoln University Professor Emeritus of Range Management

This address critically reviews current adverse impacts of Christchurch City planning on "sustainable management" of the Port Hills.

Professor O'Connor urges a less piecemeal approach for achieving formulated social, economic, cultural, and environmental objectives.

Subdivision and development plans in effect now take precedence over other enunciated goals and objectives, being carried out without considering implications for other uses. For example, current subdivision and development of spur crests make it virtually impossible to continue pastoral grassland management. The outcomes are loss of native tussock character, ingress of shrub weeds like boneseed, increased fire hazard.

He proposes Integrated Environmental Management of the Port Hills as guiding process for future planning, with greater consideration for management as cultural landscape, where natural and cultural heritage were product of both Polynesian and European culture and required continuing pastoral management for maintenance.

Zoning for rural use, even purchase for reserves, would become effective for heritage conservation only if providing for necessary grazing, as well as respecting soil and engineering limitations for urban development.

Ecological restoration, in valleys, waterways, cliffs and areas of significant remnant woody vegetation requires integrated planning with pastoral management, as well as with plans for separate or joint recreations.



Erosion, coastal Port Hills

8.1.23 Christchurch Mountain Bike Policy 1994

This report identified and assessed existing tracks (at 1994) for mountain biking and investigated some opportunities for construction of further tracks. The study was intended to compliment parallel studies with similar objectives being undertaken by the Department of Conservation in Canterbury at the time. The report incorporated proposals which the Parks Unit of the day considered were most likely to provide for the recreational needs of mountain bikers but which would also reduce conflict with traditional track users. The report was advertised for public comment in May 1992. A hearing was convened on 2 September 1993 to hear the submissions and make recommendations to Council.

Routes of note identified by the study on the Port Hills include:

- Godley Head walkway. At the time no recommendation was made pending DOC's investigations, but subsequently several sections of track on Godley Head were opened for shared use (walking and mountain biking).
- Whitewash Head Track. Pedestrian only.
- Captain Thomas Track. Legal road. The report recommended that the road be closed but subsequently this has not been actioned and the track is promoted as shared use.
- Bridle Path. Legal road. Shared use.
- Rapaki Track. Legal road. Shared use.
- Huntsbury Track. Legal road. Shared use.
- Bowenvale mountain bike track. Mountain bike track.
- Summit Road Traverse. This route extends from Kennedys Track to Godley Head, and currently requires two sections of travel on the Summit Road. The section between Witch Hill and Castle Rock is proposed in this strategy for future investigation as a possible off-road route.
- Victoria Park. A number of tracks within the park were mooted for mountain bike access, many of which have been subsequently developed (Gum tree, Daza's, Drop, K2, Lower fenceline, Upper fenceline, Nationals and Radi Garden mountain bike tracks, and Thomsons Trail as shared use. See Section 7.2).
- Hoon Hay Trig VI track. Pedestrian only.
- Worsleys Track. Legal road. Shared use.
- Kennedys Bush Track. Legal road. Shared use.
- Kennedys Bush Reserve tracks. Pedestrian only.
- Cass Peak Scenic Reserve Tracks. Pedestrian only.
- Coopers Knob. Pedestrian only.
- Burkes Bush Road. Legal road but mountain bikers encouraged to use Kennedys Bush Track.
- Ahuriri Bush Scenic Reserve. Pedestrian only.
- Gerkins Road. Legal road. Shared use.
- Ahuriri Bush Road. Legal road, but upper section unformed and undefined. Shared use on only lower section.
- Crater Rim Walkway. Pedestrian only.

In recent years, additional development has occurred, including:

- Scarborough MTB track (Evans Pass to Godley Head – part of Godley Head Mountain Bike Track through Scarborough Reserve) 3 km
- Thomson's shared use track in Thomsons Reserve 0.7 km
- Mt Vernon shared use track 2.5 km
- Castle Rock mountain bike track 1.5 km

- Marleys Hill (Flying nun) 2 km
- Old Dyers Pass Track (Douglas Scenic and Victoria Park) 2.5 km
- Anaconda mountain bike connection with Taylors Mistake.
- Extensions to the Bowenvale Traverse Track
- Witch Hill mountain bike track. 1 km

8.2 **Appendix 2: Track Service Standards**

8.2.1 **Scope**

The objective of the standard is to provide guidance for park rangers to construct and maintain accessible, walking, multi-use and mountain bike tracks throughout the Christchurch City Council Regional Park network. The standard will also enable rangers to inform visitors about what to expect of a particular track.

Once implemented, the standards will help preserve natural features, enhance recreational opportunities, minimise risk and develop management efficiencies.

8.2.2 **Summary of objectives**

1. Protect and conserve natural resources.
2. Provide appropriate and safe access into regional parks.
3. Establish appropriate low key methods to develop and maintain tracks.
4. Communicate to users, staff and councillors the differences in track classification and reasons for these differences.
5. Enable work to be benchmarked and measured against set standards.
6. Provide a clear format for budgeting, planning and construction.
7. Provide for uniformity in structural design and allow for the ease of bulk purchasing.

Specific design details for drains, stiles, cattle stops, boardwalks, gates, guardrails and barriers, track benching / berming, steps, surfacing, corals and hitching rails are detailed in the *Parks and Waterways Design Manual*. Design detail for signs and track marking are described in the *Parks and Waterways Signs Manual*.

8.2.3 **Accessible Tracks**

These tracks provide the opportunity for visitors with no or reduced mobility to access an outdoors experience. Accessible tracks are also very popular with families. Users can expect frequent encounters with other users.

8.2.4 **Walking Tracks**

Grade 1. Easy Walks

These tracks provide visitors with well-formed walks in easy terrain. Easy walks are suitable for people of all ages and levels of fitness.

Grade 2. Walkways

These tracks provide the opportunity for visitors to walk in modified or natural environments and require a moderate level of fitness. The provision of facilities is not common.

Grade 3. Routes

These tracks allow visitors to explore more remote areas by lightly marked and minimally developed tracks. A moderate to high level of fitness is required

8.2.5 **Shared Tracks**

These tracks provide walkers, runners and mountain bikers the opportunity to explore natural or modified environments using the same track. Tracks are designed and built to minimise any conflict.

8.2.6 Mountain Bike Tracks

Grade 1. Easy.

These tracks provide non-technical riding on well-formed surfaces within easy terrain. Easy tracks are suitable for most ages and fitness levels.

Grade 2. Moderate.

These tracks provide users with purpose built single track. (Narrower than easy tracks) Track surface can be undulating and irregular. These tracks are generally found in moderate terrain where a drop off to the outside of the track may exist. A moderate level of fitness is required

Grade 3. Difficult.

These tracks provide experienced riders with technically challenging conditions. Track surface can be extremely irregular and narrow. These tracks are built in moderate to steep terrain. A high level of fitness is required.

Grade 4. Extreme.

These tracks are for downhill riders. They are very technically challenging tracks on steep slopes.

8.3 Appendix 3: ROS Classes

From Port Hills Recreation Study 1986, Canterbury United Council.

Recreation Opportunity 1

This recreation opportunity class is associated with a highly sociable experience in the predominantly urban area of the Port Hills. Organised sport and facility-orientated activities fall into this category. Opportunities for which factors of convenience and interaction with other people are more important than the surrounding environment. The setting is characterised by an urban environment. The sights and sounds of humans are predominant. Interaction between large numbers of users can be expected. Having challenges and risks afforded by the natural environment are unimportant.

Recreation Opportunity 2

This recreation opportunity class includes moderate social interaction in areas adjacent to the urban area of the Port Hills. Factors of personal convenience and affiliation with other users are as important as the physical environment. The setting is characterised by a substantially modified natural environment in close proximity to urban areas. Sights and sounds of humans are readily evident. The inter-action between users is moderate to high. Facilities are obvious and are generally provided for specific activities, e.g. picnicking, children's playground, golf. Facilities for intensive motorised use and parking are available. The convenience of sites and opportunities are more important than the setting of the physical environment. Having challenges and risks afforded by the natural environment are unimportant.

Recreation Opportunity 3 and Recreation Opportunity 4

Because the Port Hills act as a viewing platform for Christchurch and Lyttelton Harbour, the recreation opportunities available can never be entirely isolated from the urban environment. Thus, R03 and R04 are separated from such environments principally by distance.

Recreation Opportunity 3

These recreation opportunities are associated with either a sociable or solitary experience away from city life in a rural setting. The setting is characterised by a highly modified agricultural environment. The area is frequently used by both motorised and non-motorised activities, e.g. driving for pleasure and walking. Interaction between users is low to moderate with evidence of other users prevalent. Facilities for motorised use and parking are available. Opportunities for interaction with the rural environment are important. Challenge and skill relative to the activity undertaken are important.

Recreation Opportunity 4

The experience associated with this RO class is characterised by a feeling of relative isolation from urban areas. The experience is either sociable or solitary in a pastoral environment. The setting is extensive and has been modified by agricultural practices. Activities associated with this class are predominantly non-motorised. Off-road motorcycling is incompatible with other activities, e.g. walking, picnicking. The conflicts between these activities indicate a need for planning of access and facilities which is compatible with the type of recreation setting to be provided. The separation of conflicting activities may be realised on a time or space basis. Challenge and skill relative to the activity undertaken are important.

Recreation Opportunity 5

This RO class is characterised by relative isolation from socially interactive environments. The evidence of humans (e.g. introduced plants) is subtle. The setting is extensive and no apparent modification is evident. The "naturalness" of the setting is an important part of the experience. Interaction between users is low but there is evidence of other users at times. The area is managed in such a way that regulation is both minimal and subtle. Motorised use is not permitted. A high probability of experiencing isolation from the sights and sounds of humans exists. While challenge and risk are relative to the activity undertaken, independence, tranquillity and closeness to nature may be experienced.

