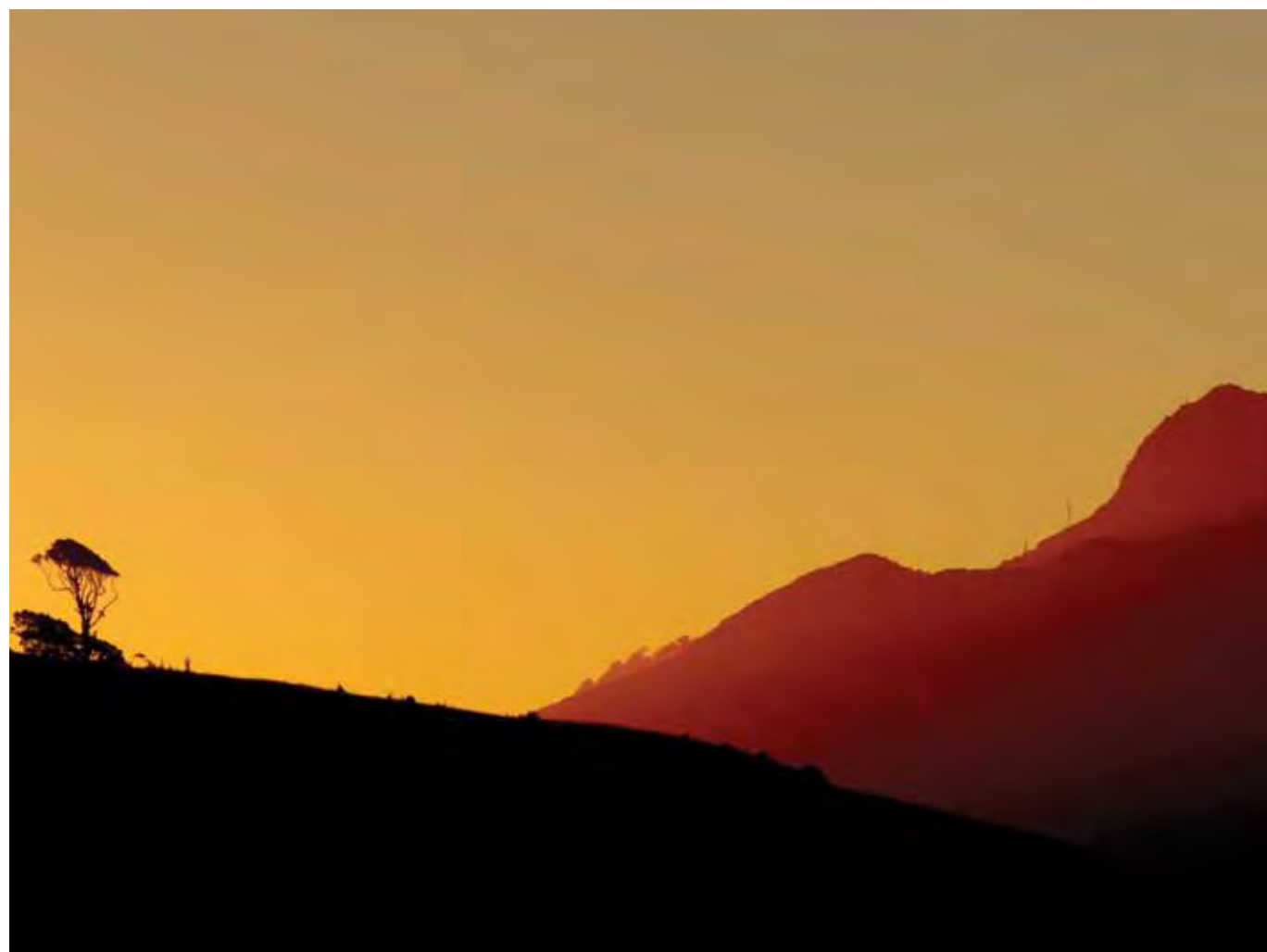




Christchurch City Council
**Public Open Space
Strategy 2010-2040**

Ōtautahi/Christchurch and Te Pātaka o Rākaihautū/Banks Peninsula



STRATEGY COVER:

A close-up leaf image was chosen for the cover graphic because it represents a number of aspects important to public open space, namely;

Naturalness encompassing elements such as trees, global biodiversity, a hint of Christchurch’s Garden City character, colour and seasonal change.

Pattern and form. The graphic shows organic pattern and is reminiscent of waterway networks and urban settlement and transportation systems. It is also indicative of the high degree of open space interconnectedness and greenness needed to make urban living healthy and desirable.

Note: Throughout this document the Christchurch District or the District covers the geographical areas of Metropolitan Christchurch and Banks Peninsula administered by Christchurch City Council. Christchurch or the City covers the Christchurch urban area and Metropolitan Christchurch.

Disclaimer: There is no binding commitment on the Christchurch City Council to proceed with any prospective project detailed in this document. Council spending priorities are reviewed frequently, including through the Council’s Long Term Plan (LTP) process. All decisions as to whether or not a project will commence remain with the Council.

Foreword



Public Open Space is a defining feature of Christchurch and Banks Peninsula’s character and identity – one of the reasons why people choose to live, work and visit in our District.

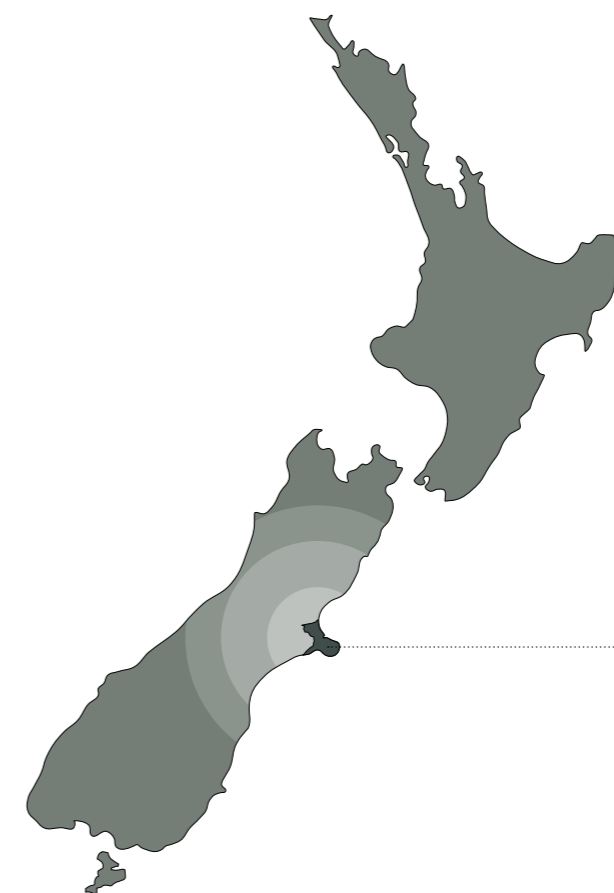
Provision of public open space was a fundamental part of colonial planning for the District. In this knowledge, the City Council has developed the Public Open Space Strategy to ensure that the quality and extent of public space enhances the district and the level of use and enjoyment experienced by residents and visitors.

The Strategy closely aligns with the Urban Development Strategy in seeking a healthy, liveable and

attractive Christchurch and Banks Peninsula environment that will assist us in remaining competitive on the world scene.

The Strategy provides a vision, goals, objectives, concept plans and priorities for existing and future public open space over the next 30 years. In addition to Council provision, relationships with other agencies, Rūnanga and private landowners will become increasingly important over the coming years to achieve future open space objectives which residents are proud of.

Bob Parker
Mayor



CHRISTCHURCH DISTRICT

The Public Open Space of Christchurch District is vital to the well-being of residents.

Kaitiakitanga (Stewardship)

MŌ TĀTOU,Ā, MŌ KĀ URI
ĀMURI AKE NEI

FOR US AND OUR
CHILDREN AFTER US

“It would be difficult to overstate the vital role that green infrastructure can play in preparing towns and cities for climate change.”

(From: Hallmarks of a Sustainable City. Published in 2009 by the Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment (CABE) UK edited by Paul Brown.)

“By creating stepping stones or green corridors of favourable habitat we encourage native birds back into cities... Our city portals, parks, streets and traffic islands project strong messages to citizens and visitors. To reflect heritage there should be a strong presence of native, noble trees and striking hardy shrubs.”

(From: Urban Greening Manual, How to Put Nature into Our Neighbourhoods Application of Low Impact Urban Design and Development (LIUDD) Principles, with a Biodiversity Focus, for New Zealand Developers and Homeowners. 2008 Landcare Research Science Series No. 35).

“One of the most significant public health crises of our generation is the increase in obesity which is a risk factor for a multitude of chronic diseases including cancer, diabetes and heart disease. The increasing treatment costs of diabetes alone threaten to consume our entire health budget not counting the lost productivity costs and the human costs. Changes in the food environment, work culture and the built environment have led to the ‘perfect storm’ of obesogenicity. As we build our new cities we must ensure that opportunities for incidental exercise and active transport options are prioritised.”

Dr Anna Stevenson
Public Health Physician
Community and Public Health
Canterbury District Health Board

“A recent economic study found that conservation in New Jersey yields ten dollars in local investment for every one dollar spent on conservation. Yet all too often, we still hear the argument that creating parks and conserving land is too expensive, especially in hard economic times.”

Trust for Public Land Update, 2009, San Francisco, Ca. USA.

PHOTO: VIEW OF THE CITY
FROM PORT HILLS RESERVE.
PUBLIC OPEN SPACE DEFINES
AND COMPLEMENTS URBAN
AND RURAL LIVING.



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Executive summary

The Public Open Space Strategy sets out a vision for public open space over the next 30 years, the time span of the Urban Development Strategy. It provides a vision, goals, objectives and priorities to guide the efforts of the Council and its partners in the provision, development and maintenance of public open space.

Public open space faces a number of major challenges over the next 30 years. These include:

- » The pressures of urban intensification and related issues potentially resulting in the loss of environmental quality, including opportunity for establishment of large trees, recreation and green space.
- » Protection and enhancement of the Garden City image and maintenance and enhancement of City identity.
- » Protection and enhancement of, and access to, the District's unique and diverse natural, cultural and heritage landscapes.
- » The need for large peri-urban natural areas and 'wild' places to provide relief and to escape from the built environment.
- » Provision of appropriate quantity and quality of parks, squares and green spaces for a projected further 84,000 people by 2040.
- » Street enhancement for a variety of users and environmental enhancement.
- » Use of the road network (formed and unformed), waterways and rural areas to provide greater opportunities for community recreation activities and environmental benefit.

The strategy provides a set of concept plans covering Christchurch District Identity, Banks Peninsula, Christchurch City, Central City, Akaroa and Lyttelton townships and a level of development plan to provide a graphic overview of the Council's vision for the next 30 years. The Public Open Space Strategy has a close relationship with other Council Healthy Environment Strategies (see page 11). There are necessary overlaps between strategies but each has a different emphasis. The Strategy will affect the District Plan to the extent that the plan will need to take the strategy into account when future changes to the plan are made. The strategy is non-regulatory and does not propose any restrictions on private land use except by negotiation and agreement with the owners. Tables are also included outlining guidelines for open space provision. These will assist with setting Long Term Plan (LTP) budget priorities, including the Council's parks acquisition programme and the Development Contributions Policy.

The Council, in partnership with other agencies, private trusts, iwi and the community, aims to provide a public open space network that will enhance Christchurch City and make it a pleasant, safe, healthy and sustainable place to live for future generations.



PHOTOS: (RIGHT, FROM TOP).
ROADSIDE WATERFALL, BANKS
PENINSULA. HAGLEY PARK, PORT
HILLS AND CHRISTCHURCH CITY.

Ngāi Tahu's Relationship With Open Space

Ngāi Tahu are the tangata whenua of the Christchurch City District and they hold manawhenua (customary authority and rights) within this territorial area.

Six Papatipu Rūnanga represent the interests of whanau and hapū in each of six takiwā (tribal areas) that lie wholly or partially within Christchurch District. These are: Te Ngāi Tūāhuriri Rūnanga, Te Hapū o Ngāti Wheke (Rāpaki), Te Rūnanga o Koukourārata, Te Rūnanga o Ōnuku, Wairewa Rūnanga and Te Taumutu Rūnanga. Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu was established by the Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu Act 1996 to give a legal identity to the tribe and to represent the tribal collective of Ngāi Tahu Whānui, which is comprised of those of Ngāi Tahu, Ngāti Mamoe and Waitaha descent. However, Papatipu Rūnanga are kaitiaki (guardians) of natural resources within their own takiwā (as recognised in the Ngāi Tahu Claims Settlement Act 1998).

NGĀI TAHU'S RELATIONSHIP WITH OPEN SPACE

Ngāi Tahu inhabited the area of Christchurch / Ōtautahi and Banks Peninsula / Te Pātaka o Rākaihautu for centuries before European settlers arrived and have a traditional responsibility, as kaitiaki (guardian), to care for the whenua (land) and natural resources within their tribal area.

Te Pātaka o Rākaihautū (the storehouse of ancestor Rākaihautū) is the ancient Māori name for Banks Peninsula, in reference to the abundant natural resources once found there. The name Ōtautahi refers to a significant ancestor and chief – Tautahi – who lived at the kāinga of Koukourārata and used the swamplands around the Avon River / Ōtakaro. These names reflect Ngāi Tahu's strong ancestral connection to these places.

The provision of adequate quality public open space, particularly waterways and areas of natural and cultural value, is important to Ngāi Tahu. These areas provide a link to the places and practices of Ngāi Tahu tūpuna (ancestors). Some are still important for mahinga kai (food and resources) gathering, whereas others that are degraded have the potential to be restored for these values. In Christchurch in particular, public open space contains the only natural features left within a largely built urban environment that provides connection for Ngāi Tahu with their cultural heritage. These spaces contribute to a sense of identity and place for Ngāi Tahu within urban areas, as well as being integral to sustainable city living.

Public Open Space can also protect and sustain indigenous species and biodiversity. Ngāi Tahu's relationship with these species, developed over centuries, remains an important part of their culture.

The importance of Ngāi Tahu's relationship with wāhi tapu and wāhi taonga (sacred and treasured places) and particular indigenous species is recognised through the Ngāi Tahu Claims Settlement Act 1998 and tribal policy documents.

Open space is also a means of protecting sites of significance and cultural landscapes where Ngāi Tahu's heritage and stories are reflected in natural landscape features. In acquiring land for

public open space purposes, the Council needs to recognise the potential benefits for protecting culturally important sites and landscapes. It also must be responsive to the possible threats from public access or certain activities to wāhi tapu and culturally sensitive sites.

Rūnanga will need to be consulted about areas of open space interest and possible recreational routes within their takiwā, as will Māori land owners and trusts where these areas and routes overlap or are adjacent to Māori reserve land.

PHOTO: WAITANGI CELEBRATIONS, OKAINS BAY.



Early European Settler Influences On Open Space

From the earliest settlement, immigrants to the Christchurch District shaped the land and waterways to provide for their physical and cultural needs. The cultural influences of many nations have provided the rich cultural and built heritage upon which the District has developed.

An excellent example of the impact settlers had on our open and built space / environment is at Akaroa, on Banks Peninsula.

The French settlers (and a few Germans) arrived on the Comte de Paris at Akaroa on 19 August 1840, bringing with them plants and animals that would enable them to live and enjoy their new environment. They and subsequent settlers developed a garden and built heritage that is still evident today.

The landscape pattern of our civic and rural areas was determined early in the development of this European settlement. The town plan for Akaroa was designed and drawn up by 1855 and the French Cemetery is the oldest consecrated cemetery in the South Island. By the middle of the 19th Century, Akaroa had developed as a thriving seaside resort.

In contrast, the development of Lyttelton was more directly tied to the settlement of Christchurch and the port. The First Four Ships arrived at Lyttelton in 1850 and settlement occurred on the plains, although earlier settlers had occupied land at Pūtaringamotu / Riccarton Bush in 1843.

Christchurch was a planned settlement. Edward Jollie's distinctive 1850 survey design of central Christchurch included Barbadoes Cemetery, Hagley Park, and Cathedral, Latimer and Cranmer Squares and space for a botanical garden. Christchurch is notable as one of only four international cities with a clearly defined central grid street and squares pattern.

The development of rural Banks Peninsula provided for the needs of settlers and responded to demand for raw materials, such as timber and agricultural products for developing towns, business, industry and export to overseas markets. Over time the interaction of natural forces and rural activities has moulded the landscape to produce a landscape pattern that is enjoyed by many visitors to Banks Peninsula. However the Peninsula is also the home of many long established rural communities who value its natural character and relative isolation as well as depending on the land for a living.

THE GARDEN CITY

The Christchurch Garden City term was initiated by John Eldon Gorst, one of the British special envoys to the Christchurch International Exhibition in 1909 and promoted by the Christchurch Beautifying Association.

"Beautifying Societies emerged in New Zealand towns as part of a wider intellectual and aesthetic movement which celebrated the 'natural' world as an antidote to urban development. The first urban beautifying society in New Zealand, the Dunedin Amenities Society, formed in 1887, charged with planting trees on city reserves and conserving the natural environment as the 'means of healthy and elevating recreation for its inhabitants'. Christchurch Beautifying

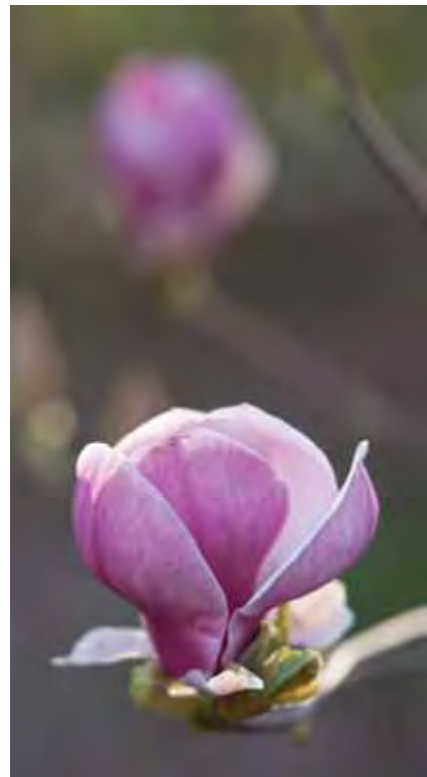


PHOTO: MAGNOLIA, BOTANIC GARDENS.

MAP: EDWARD JOLLIE 1850 SURVEY MAP OF CENTRAL CHRISTCHURCH

ARCHIVES NEW ZEALAND/TE RUA MAHARA O TE KĀWANATANGA CHRISTCHURCH OFFICE [ARCHIVES REFERENCE: CH765, 1/32]

Association formed in 1897 to 'plant and otherwise beautify the uncultivated public places in the city'. One of its first tasks was to transform Mill Island on the Avon River into 'a piece of old primeval forest'. Other towns followed Christchurch's lead, and by the middle of the twentieth century these sentiments were echoed by beautifying societies in almost every major urban centre in New Zealand.¹¹

¹¹http://fennerschool-associated.anu.edu.au/envirohist/newzealand/newsletter/2008/aug_edmunds.php

The Garden City tradition is still very evident in Christchurch private gardens, heritage homesteads, floral plantings, notable trees and plantings reflecting seasonal change and Christchurch parks, especially the Botanic Gardens, Mona Vale, Risingholme, Avebury and Abberley Parks.

These features have a powerful influence on the character and identity of urban Christchurch. Combined with the unique

PHOTOS: MONA VALE GARDEN AND HERITAGE PARK. HERITAGE ROSE, MONA VALE.

characters of Lyttelton and Akaroa and rural heritage places and plantings, the features all reflect the garden and landscape heritage of Christchurch District.

The challenge will be in retaining these traditions built up over the last 170 years, in a growing City, to integrate them with other environmental and cultural values.



01

Process of strategy development

The Public Open Space Strategy process was initiated in 2007 with a public forum.

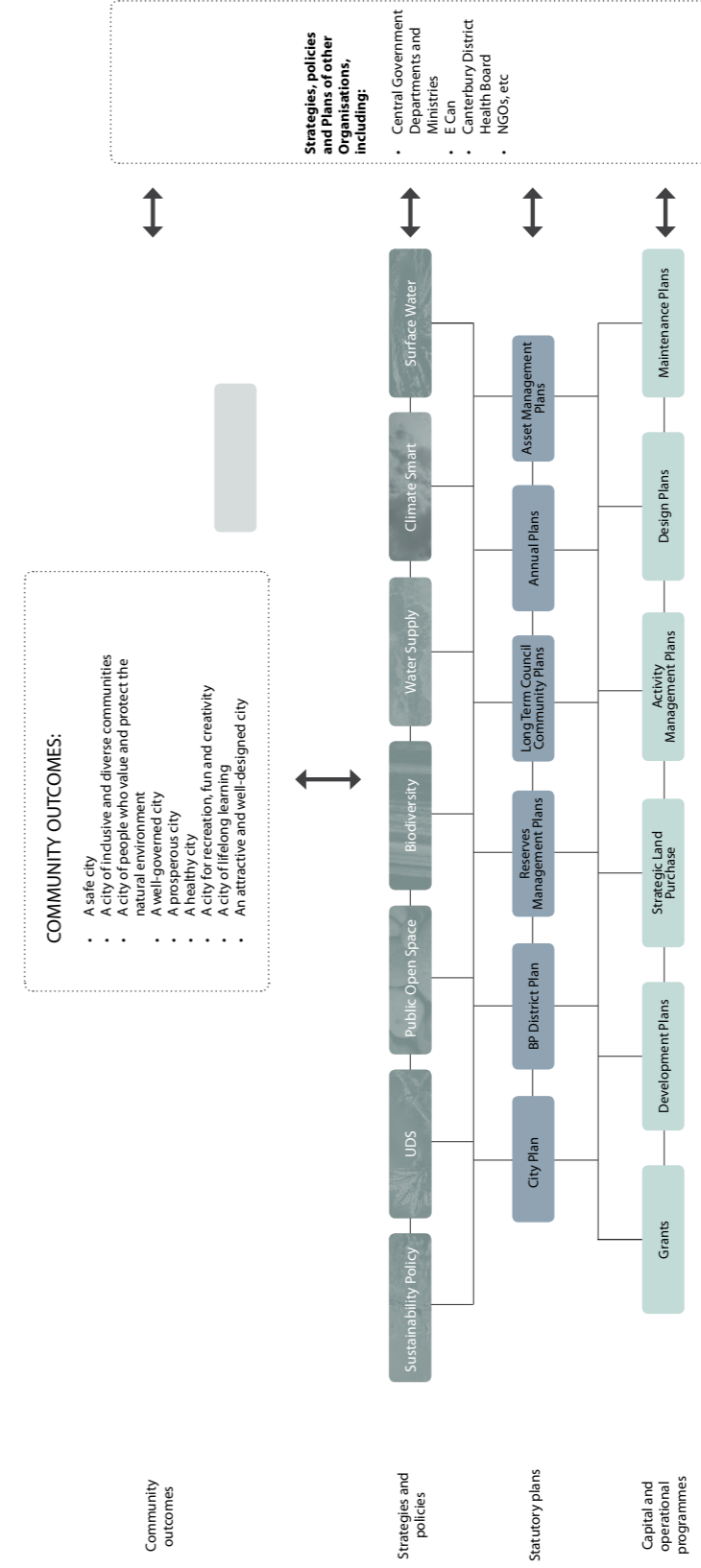
A survey of Christchurch District residents was conducted to explore issues related to preferred living environments, city identity and recreation needs. This information and further input from forums on Urban Development Strategy implementation, the Gehl Study of the inner central city and meetings with key stakeholders have provided a good basis upon which to build the current strategy.

The strategy has been developed by Council staff in association with key stakeholders, technical experts and Councillors. The Open Space Strategy covers the territory administered by the Christchurch City Council.

PHOTO: BOATING ON THE AVON, SPRINGTIME.



Christchurch City Council's Strategy, Policy and Planning Framework for Key Healthy Environment Strategies



02

Strategy scope and overview

The purpose of this strategy and subsequent implementation is to:

- » Provide for the health, recreation, amenity, cultural and environmental needs of Christchurch District residents through provision management of public open space.
- » Maintain environmental resilience through provision and maintenance of public open space.
- » Protect places of cultural significance.
- » Contribute to and shape the character and identity of the District.
- » Provide a strategic overview for the provision of publicly accessible open space.
- » Set criteria for decisions on the protection, acquisition, development and management of open space.
- » Guide asset planning and multi-functional use of public open spaces.

This strategy deals with public open space, providing an overview on its maintenance and how much and where it could be located over the next 30 years. The strategy's primary focus is on public parks, roads and waterways/ coastline managed by the Council. Some of this public open space is located outside the City Council administrative boundaries. Account is also taken of land not administered by the Council that makes a contribution to, or has the potential to contribute to, the provision of publicly accessible open spaces, such

as school grounds, privately owned parks held for public benefit and Department of Conservation parks.

It also provides a mandate for the Council to use covenants and legal agreements, where appropriate, to promote public open space values on private land in consultation and voluntary agreement with landowners and the community. It does not deal with open space in general, the seabed or foreshore, traffic management or cover matters such as non public landscape character, or management of rural amenity / working landscapes.

The Public Open Space Strategy is non-regulatory and provides the Council with priorities and targets for future action. Initiatives resulting from this strategy will be undertaken within funding criteria determined by the LTCCP.

Any land purchased for strategy purposes will be approached on a 'willing seller, willing buyer' basis. Concept plans are indicative only. The strategy will not impose any restrictions on private land use activities. Before any strategy proposals for private land are implemented, further engagement with land owners and community groups (as appropriate) will be undertaken. Any change in land use on private land will be a result of negotiation and agreement with the owners.

WHAT IS PUBLIC OPEN SPACE?

For the purposes of this strategy, public open space is divided into the following categories:

Green Spaces are land areas that are largely covered in vegetation, including parks, conservation land, cemeteries and margins of water bodies. These areas are predominantly for recreation, visual amenity, protection of biodiversity and cultural heritage. Examples are Hagley Park, Victoria Park, Avonhead Cemetery and Travis Wetland.

Blue Spaces are surface water bodies or waterways occurring on the surface of the land, such as lakes, rivers and streams. Public land adjoining or providing access to beaches is also included. In addition to providing recreation, visual amenity, protection for biodiversity and cultural heritage, they also perform an important drainage function for the City. Examples are Horseshoe Lake, Te Roto o Wairewa / Lake Forsyth, Roto Kohatu Reserve and Avon River.

Grey Spaces primarily refers to the street network. In addition to its primary transportation function, it also provides for passive recreation, amenity, potential connectivity between parks and other civic features, as well as area for exercise.

Grey spaces also incorporate elements of green, such as grass berms and plantings and make a major contribution to the landscape character of the city. A high proportion of urban Christchurch's open space consists of street networks. Examples of roads enhanced for pedestrian use include civic squares, pedestrian malls and living streets such as Cathedral Square, City Mall and New Regent Street.

AN OVERVIEW OF EXISTING PUBLIC OPEN SPACE

Christchurch City has a tradition of providing ample green open space, access to the outdoors and relative ease of access to rural areas and other desirable destinations. These features contribute to the quality of life enjoyed by our growing population. Public open space is provided by the Christchurch City Council (CCC), Environment Canterbury (ECan), the Department of Conservation (DoC) and charitable trusts.

Geographically, metropolitan Christchurch public open space is sited on an alluvial plain characterised by a patchwork of parks located at regularly spaced intervals linked by a grid and radial pattern of streets crossed by five main rivers. The metropolitan area is framed by the Waimakariri River to the north, the ocean to the east and the Port Hills to the south.

PHOTOS: (LEFT TO RIGHT) CITY PARK, STREET TREES AND NEW BRIGHTON PIER.

Banks Peninsula provides a vivid contrast to urban Christchurch. It is characterised by an eroded volcanic landscape centred on two caldera harbours, Akaroa and Lyttelton. The nature of the public open space on Banks Peninsula is also different. The publicly accessible park space in rural Banks Peninsula is widely scattered and in some cases access is difficult. The majority of publicly accessible land in the rural areas is contained within five large parks: Orton Bradley and Hinewai (managed by Private Trusts), Te Oka Farm and Misty Peaks (CCC) and Ellangowan (DoC). These areas cover more than 3500 hectares. Generally, most other parks are relatively small and concentrated in the main townships of Akaroa, Lyttelton and Diamond Harbour.

Overall, Christchurch City Council manages more than 950 parks, cemeteries, riverbanks and garden areas covering some 9000 ha, including more than 2300 km of footpaths, 73 km of off street cycleways, 58km of on street cycleways and 57,000 m2 of amenity areas and outdoor pedestrian malls.

Christchurch City Council public parks provision currently stands at around 1.1 ha / 1000 people for neighbourhood parks, 3.5 ha / 1000 for sports parks and around 18.1 ha / 1000 people for regional parks.

PHOTO: TE ROTO O WAIREWA / LAKE FORSYTH.



PHOTO: TE OKA FARM, COUNCIL'S
900 HECTARE SOUTHERN BAYS
RESERVE, BANKS PENINSULA.



PHOTOS: (LEFT TO RIGHT)
HIGH DENSITY URBAN LIVING,
PORT HILLS CRATER RIM AND
SUMMIT ROAD.

OPEN SPACE CHALLENGES

To date, Christchurch City Council public open space includes parks, waterways, beaches, streets and civic areas that provide high levels of open space area for residents.

However, the most significant issue for Council will be how to provide sufficient parks and public open space for the growing urban population, particularly within areas where there will be higher housing densities as signalled by the Urban Development Strategy (UDS).

Higher household densities are already occurring within new greenfields as well as inner city areas, with less private space available to residents. Provision of public open space (parks, pedestrian friendly streets, and green spaces with large trees) to compensate for less private space will be essential to make high density living acceptable to Christchurch residents, especially those who have a cultural expectation to have attractive abundant private and public space.

In the central city, projected residential growth areas will be situated in existing commercial and business areas that are

currently deficient in parks and quality streetscape. Provision of an acceptable public living environment will be costly and should occur before or parallel to the residential development. Who pays for open space infrastructure and the timing of this is a key issue for the Council.

Levels of public park provision in Christchurch District are broadly similar to other major municipalities in New Zealand, with the exception of regional parks where Auckland and Wellington have higher levels in proximity to urban areas. While current provision of parks is generally good by world standards, it is not necessarily up to best practice standards. There is a lack of diversity and maintaining our local parks to an acceptable level is an issue.

Christchurch District has an extensive network of formed and unformed legal road corridors. This network is well geared for motorised transport, but not particularly well set up to encourage pedestrian and cycle travel. Current public use of Council-owned unformed roads is also very limited. Access along major Christchurch waterway corridors is generally well provided for and

reasonably well linked along the main urban rivers. However, there are issues regarding sustainable maintenance of riverbanks as more riparian areas are set aside for waterway management, conservation and recreation purposes. Linking access along waterways, between parks and creating pedestrian friendly roads in the urban areas is an ongoing issue.

Whilst protection of biodiversity and recreation access has improved markedly in recent years the proportion of protected land on Banks Peninsula (outside of the Port Hills ecological district) is low, approximately 7.6% compared to more than 22% percent on the Port Hills. Environmental changes have severely reduced the water quality of Te Waihora / Lake Ellesmere and degraded Te Roto o Wairewa / Lake Forsyth, reducing potential for mahinga kai, recreation and biodiversity. Public access to some beaches on Banks Peninsula is inadequate, with many bays having no legally formed public access. Provision of public facilities such as toilets could often be better.

Currently, visitor numbers to many of the outlying areas in Banks Peninsula still appear to be relatively low. It is unlikely to change quickly, given lack of information on attractions and road access limitations. However, the current wide availability of 4WD vehicles helps to remove the constraints of steep gravel access roads. Considerable work is still required around the provision of public open space in Banks Peninsula that will benefit the Christchurch District community and visitors.

PHOTOS: (TOP TO BOTTOM)
BOTANIC GARDENS FLORAL
DISPLAY. LE BONNS BAY IS A
POPULAR BANKS PENINSULA
DESTINATION.



**OUTSTANDING ATTRIBUTES
OF CHRISTCHURCH DISTRICT
PUBLIC OPEN SPACE INCLUDE:**

- » Hagley Park, the Botanic Gardens, Victoria, Cathedral, Latimer and Cranmer Squares, Worchester Boulevard, the City Mall and the Avon River provide an outstanding public open space framework for the central and western parts of the Central City with high natural and amenity and recreation values.
- » Current provision of parks in suburban Christchurch is generally good with the majority of parks within easy walking distance of residential areas.
- » Avon and Heathcote River environments provide two of the few natural corridors across urban Christchurch.
- » The Port Hills parks network provides an almost continuous permanently protected landscape backdrop to the southern side of urban Christchurch.
- » Summit Road between Evans and Gebbies Pass provides easy access to protected natural environments and views across urban Christchurch, while from Hilltop to above Akaroa

permits panoramic views of Banks Peninsula.

- » Banks Peninsula and greenfield areas to the south and north of Metropolitan Christchurch contain significant areas of cultural and natural heritage and character as well as strong contemporary importance for Ngāi Tahu and their culture and traditions.
- » Some of the best family swimming bays on Banks Peninsula, such as Wainui, Le Bons and Okains bays, are readily accessible and have public facilities.
- » Large parks such as Hinewai, Misty Peaks, Te Oka Farm, Styx Mill Basin, Travis Wetland and McLeans Island provide core conservation havens for biodiversity and provide easy access to nature for urban residents.
- » The Council's vision for the Styx River is to create a greenway across northern Christchurch.
- » Development of a Waimakariri Regional Park by Environment Canterbury will provide enhanced public access to a potentially high quality natural environment for residents of northern Christchurch.



PHOTO: STREETSIDE / MATURE GARDEN PLANTING IS A FEATURE OF MANY CHRISTCHURCH SUBURBS.

OPEN SPACE ISSUES INCLUDE:

- » Tree plantings that are part of the Garden City Christchurch character are slowly being eroded by infill residential development. Unless measures are introduced to retain green open space in urban Christchurch, this process will escalate as intensification proceeds.
- » Provision of adequate parks space is needed to meet the day-to-day requirements of existing and future residents in areas with open space deficiency and urban intensification including the Central City.
- » Christchurch streets are dominated by motorised transport so that relatively few inner city streets are pedestrian-friendly.
- » Current development contribution levies will not provide the same amount of park space in residential growth areas compared with pre-2009 levels.
- » The Central City is deficient in character-enhancing tree plantings south and east of the Avon River corridor toward Moorhouse and Fitzgerald Avenues and north of the Avon River toward Bealey Avenue.

- » Metropolitan Christchurch has very limited areas of native bush, wetlands and riparian margins that provide habitat for native fauna that would support accessible and healthy mahinga kai.
- » Improved pedestrian friendly linkages, including streets, are needed within the Central City to link existing open space features.
- » Generally, Christchurch urban parks are not well linked either by pedestrian friendly streets or green or blue open space.
- » Greater clarity is needed over the respective use of development contribution for stormwater mitigation purposes and parks.
- » Gaps still exist in the Port Hills open space framework.
- » Three sides of metropolitan Christchurch are clearly defined by natural boundaries, reinforced by parks. To the east the coastline of Pegasus Bay. To the north the Waimakariri River Regional Park. To the south, the Port Hills parks systems. However, the western side of Christchurch between the City and Selwyn lacks a permanently protected green buffer.
- » Some Banks Peninsula bays, though used by the public, have no practical legal public access.
- » On Banks Peninsula, public access to many areas of outstanding natural landscape, coastal areas, by provision of off road walkways and cycleways is lacking.
- » Increased public access in remote areas has the potential to lead to negative outcomes, including loss of natural and wilderness values and interruption to land use activities such as farming. These issues need to be taken into account when making future public open space decisions.
- » Better access through rural areas for walking and cycling using Council-owned unformed legal roads is needed.
- » The long term use of some Akaroa walking tracks currently crossing private land is not secure.
- » Economic and technical support is required to maintain the viability and current levels of service provided by some of the charitable trusts that manage parks for public benefit.



PHOTO: TE KAIO / TUMBLEDOWN BAY, BANKS PENINSULA.





Part One: The Strategy

03

Vision

To provide, develop and maintain a publicly accessible network of open space to enhance and protect health, recreation and liveability for residents and visitors to Christchurch and Banks Peninsula.

To contribute to maintaining and enhancing the district's environmental quality, landscape character, cultural values and cultural heritage through the public open space system.

PHOTO: PUBLIC OPEN SPACE PROVIDES FOR A WIDE DIVERSITY OF RECREATION OPPORTUNITIES; KITE FLYING AT NEW BRIGHTON.



04

Guiding principles

1. The Council is committed to protecting, enhancing and maintaining the public open space network of Christchurch District for residents and visitors and for environmental and cultural wellbeing.
2. The Council is committed to cooperating and partnering with the community, landowners, agencies, Ngāi Tahu and trusts to achieve overall public good and positive environmental and cultural outcomes.
3. The Strategy recognises the role of other agencies and private initiatives, including commercial ventures, toward successful achievement of the objectives of the Strategy and recognises the efforts of landowners to complement public open space objectives.
4. The Strategy recognises that public open space needs to be designed as an interconnected system.
5. In achieving public open space provision, the Council recognises and upholds the Garden City identity and natural heritage of urban Christchurch and the garden and natural heritage of townships and rural areas.
6. The Strategy recognises that public open space is a key element in protection and enhancement of tangata whenua values.
7. The Strategy recognises that the agricultural community has a role in contributing to sustainable maintenance of biodiversity and attractive rural landscapes within Christchurch District.

Garden City Definition:
For the purposes of this strategy, Garden City is a broad concept that includes Christchurch's biology, horticulture, ecology, heritage places, landscape, amenity and recognises the wide range of cultural influences that contribute to existing and future urban public open space identity, form and character.

PHOTO: RURAL LANDOWNERS MAKE AN IMPORTANT CONTRIBUTION TO PUBLIC OPEN SPACE BY ALLOWING PUBLIC ACCESS ACROSS PRIVATE LAND TO BEACHES AND OTHER FEATURES; OTANERITO BAY.



05

Goals, objectives and priorities for public open space

There are large numbers of initiatives and developments that are desirable to enhance the public open space network of Christchurch District. The highest priority initiatives that the Council considers most important for implementation over the next 30 years are listed on pages 25-34. Chapter 6 (pages 36-67) provides a graphic overview of the Council's public open space intentions for the next 30 years, Chapter 7 (pages 68-69) provides assessment principles for provision and enhancement of public open space and Chapter 8 (pages 72-78) provides guidelines and levels of service for the provision and development of public open space.



PHOTO: HISTORIC PLANTINGS AROUND RICCCARTON HOUSE.

The five overriding public open space strategy priorities for Christchurch District are:

- » Protection and enhancement of Christchurch District's identity including its Garden City attributes, high quality landscapes and indigenous biodiversity.
- » Preparing the City for urban intensification to enhance the health and well-being of its residents as signalled by the Urban Development Strategy.
- » Preparing for future changes in demographics and climate.
- » Provision of resident and visitor access to the District's natural, cultural and heritage attributes.
- » Partnership, efficiency and funding provision.

The overall aim is to take a balanced approach across the wide range of areas that the Council has responsibility for. A more comprehensive and detailed list of actions will be prepared subsequent to the Strategy in a Public Open Space Implementation Plan.



Strategy Goal	Objective / Strategy Concept Plan / Standards (or other relevant document)	Priority Initiatives to 2040 (highest priorities in bold)
<p><i>Goal 1: Provide an accessible, and equitably distributed, multi-use open space network while protecting natural, cultural and heritage values.</i></p>  	<p>Objective 1.1 - Access is provided to places of scenic, heritage, natural and cultural interest, especially to District waterways, coast, lakes and natural and heritage places, features and landscapes, whilst ensuring that biodiversity values are protected.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Christchurch District Identity Concept Plan » Banks Peninsula Concept Plan » Christchurch Concept Plan » Central City Concept Plan » Akaroa Concept Plan » Lyttelton Concept Plan » Christchurch City Council Biodiversity Strategy 2008-2035 » Central City South Master Plan 2009 » South West Christchurch Area Plan » Belfast Area Plan » Styx River Master Plan » Cemeteries Master Plan (completion date 2011) » Transport Plan » Akaroa Harbour Basin Settlements Study 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Enhancement of recreation opportunities and active transport around the following features / areas, transportation routes and destinations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Little River Area • Akaroa Area • Lyttelton Area • Port Hills • Okains and Le Bons Bays Areas • Christchurch urban waterways <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Styx River 'Source to Sea' major recreation routes • Avon River (general) • Avon River (Central City) • Heathcote River • Knights Stream / Halswell River • Avon-Heathcote Estuary Ihutai • State Highway 75 • Medium use Banks Peninsula Roads • Summit Road (Port Hills) • Summit Road (Hilltop to Cabstand) » Protection of natural landscape, coastline, indigenous biodiversity, recreation opportunity and cultural heritage through land acquisition, and/or agreements or covenants within 'Areas of Interest'. See 'Areas of Interest' on the Banks Peninsula and Christchurch Concept Plans and see Christchurch District Identity Plan. » Acquisition of land (approached on a 'willing buyer, willing seller basis) and /or agreements or covenants for public open space benefit with landowners provided within Primary 'Areas of Interest' » Permanent protection of existing Akaroa area 'countryside walkways' crossing private land or replacement with alternative routes. » Major recreation routes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Christchurch to Akaroa Walkway • Banks Peninsula Coast to Coast Traverse • Akaroa Harbour Settlements Recreation Route(s) • Lyttelton Harbour Head to Head Walkway • Urban Christchurch Perimeter Walkway Concept » Review and preparation of policy and guidelines around use of unformed legal roads for possible non motorised recreation use in consultation with landowners and key stakeholders. » Investigate options to provide permanent protection for existing recreation routes currently without legal protection. » Investigate the formation of a non motorised recreation route around Te Waihora/ Lake Ellesmere



Strategy Goal	Objective / Strategy Concept Plan / Standards (or other relevant document)	Priority Initiatives to 2040 (highest priorities in bold)
<p><i>Goal 1: Provide an accessible and equitably distributed, multi-use open space network while protecting natural, cultural and heritage values.</i></p> 	<p>Objective 1.2 - Parks equitably provide for amenity, and cultural purposes, informal, sport or passive outdoor recreation opportunities, throughout urban areas within the Christchurch District.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Christchurch Concept Plan » Open Space Guidelines & Levels of Service Table » Styx River Master Plan (completion date 2011) » Cemeteries Master Plan (completion date 2011) » Akaroa Harbour Basin Settlements Study » Lyttelton Concept Plan » Akaroa Concept Plan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Provide and develop local parks in urban Christchurch and greenfields sites where parks are deficient (refer to Christchurch Concept Plan for top priority park and reserve development areas in existing residential areas). » Preparation of an outdoor sports plan. » Develop sports parks in areas of increasing demand (or artificial sports surfaces in existing parks as required) and new parks in greenfields sites. » Cater for specialised recreation activities as part of wider parks provision, such as dog parks, jetties, campgrounds and horse riding.
	<p>Objective 1.3 - Inner City and urban intensification areas are provided with appropriate and diverse public open space to meet day-to-day recreation, amenity, health and cultural needs.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Central City Concept Plan » Christchurch Concept Plan » Open Space Guidelines & Levels of Service Table 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Provide new local parks in Central City where parks are deficient. » Investigate opportunities to incorporate Ngai Tahu cultural values into urban park design and development, including the use of indigenous vegetation. » Redevelop and enhance the quality of Cranmer and Latimer Squares to accommodate a wider range of uses whilst respecting their historical status. » Develop parks in urban Christchurch top priority parks deficiency areas, particularly in areas of higher deprivation and population density. » Community gardens will be encouraged on Council open space, especially in higher density residential areas.
	<p>Objective 1.4 - Facilities in parks and recreation areas are effectively located and appropriately distributed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Banks Peninsula Concept Plan » Christchurch Concept Plan » Open Space Guidelines & Levels of Service Table » Akaroa Concept Plan » Lyttelton Concept Plan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Recreation facilities on Banks Peninsula and in Christchurch are investigated and appropriately provided where community and visitor needs are identified (e.g. toilets, camping grounds, shelters, huts etc). » Review and rationalisation of facilities on parks is undertaken including co-location of sports club facilities.

PHOTO: OKANA RIVER, LITTLE RIVER IS IMPORTANT FOR BIODIVERSITY AND ADJOINS A SECTION OF THE RAILTRAIL.





Strategy Goal	Objective / Strategy Concept Plan / Standards (or other relevant document)	Priority Initiatives to 2040 (highest priorities in bold)
<p><i>Goal 1: Provide an accessible, and equitably distributed, multi-use open space network while protecting natural, cultural and heritage values.</i></p> 	<p>Objective 1.5 - The transportation network contributes to public and environmental health, recreation access, amenity and District identity.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Christchurch District Identity Concept Plan » Christchurch Concept Plan » Central City Concept Plan » Lyttelton Concept Plan » Surface Water Strategy 2009 » Open Space Guidelines & Levels of Service Table » Christchurch District Transport Plan » Christchurch City Council 2004 Cycle Strategy » Greater Christchurch Travel Demand Management Strategy » Akaroa Harbour Basin Settlements Study » Akaroa Streetscape Report 2005 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Central City streets are adapted to enhance pedestrian accessibility, use and amenity. » The street renewal programme incorporates pedestrian / cycle, amenity and stormwater mitigation requirements into design and construction parameters. » Safe and appropriate cycleway routes are developed and extended to facilitate increased active transportation. Further investigation is also undertaken to improve cycle and pedestrian safety and increase protection from, and greater equity with, automobiles in the urban environment. » Street tree planting and the development of linear pedestrian corridors is incorporated into appropriate streets including the Metropolitan Christchurch ring and radial road system. (See City Council Infrastructure Design Standard). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Four Avenues • Urban ring route • Major and minor arterial routes » The safe and appropriate co-location of pedestrian and cycle infrastructure with new motorway developments in the north and the south of the City. » The safe and appropriate co location of pedestrian and cycle infrastructure with the rail corridor. » City gateway concepts and appropriate design standards are developed for Metropolitan Christchurch. » The special character and status of the Summit Road(s) and other scenic routes are recognised with an appropriate road classification in the Christchurch and Banks Peninsula District Plans. » Investigate provision of greater recognition for the special status of the Port Hills Summit Road and the objectives of the Summit Road Protection Act.
	<p>Objective 1.6 – Public open space area concept plans will be prepared to meet community and District needs.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » A public open space concept plan will be prepared for the Little River area and Lyttelton Harbour Basin (including detailed review of Lyttelton public open space) in consultation with local residents and other interested parties.

Strategy Goal	Objective / Strategy Concept Plan / Standards (or other relevant document)	Priority Initiatives to 2040 (highest priorities in bold)
<p><i>Goal 2: Ensure public open space is diverse, interesting, and promotes local and District identity (providing for and protecting indigenous biodiversity, iconic landscapes, heritage places, Ngāi Tahu cultural landscapes and views special to each area).</i></p> 	<p>Objective 2.1 - Christchurch District's natural character, local indigenous biodiversity, scenic values and identity are protected and enhanced through the public open space network.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Christchurch District Identity Concept Plan » Banks Peninsula Concept Plan » Christchurch Concept Plan » Akaroa Concept Plan » Lyttelton Concept Plan » Biodiversity Strategy 2008-2035 » Styx River Master Plan (completion date 2011) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » A diverse range of natural landscape, indigenous biodiversity, cultural and landscape heritage is protected by regional parks acquisition, and/or agreements or covenants within 'Primary Areas of Interest' on the Banks Peninsula and Christchurch Concept Plans. Also see Objective 1.1. » Acquisition of land (approached on a 'willing buyer, willing seller basis) and /or agreements or covenants for public open space benefit with landowners provided within Primary 'Areas of Interest' » Consult with Nga Runanga about 'Areas of Interest' and possible recreational routes on the Banks Peninsula and Christchurch Concept plans as part of the implementation process. Note; this does not mean involvement in land purchase negotiations unless Nga Runanga are a party to those negotiations. » Experience of outstanding natural landscape, indigenous biodiversity and heritage is provided by strategic locations of open space corridors and routes. Also see Objective 1.1 and Christchurch District Identity Plan. » The Port Hills backdrop to urban Christchurch and the high quality natural landscapes and coastline in Lyttelton Harbour Basin are protected. See 'Areas of Interest' on the Banks Peninsula, Lyttelton and Christchurch Concept Plans. » Rural backdrops to Akaroa and Lyttelton Townships are permanently protected by covenant and / or public open space. See 'Areas of Interest' on the Banks Peninsula and Lyttelton Concept Plans and Christchurch District Identity Plan. » The Styx River corridor reserves are managed as part of the regional park network. » Indigenous biodiversity restoration is restricted of to plants and animals of genetically appropriate origin.



PHOTO: THE LYTTELTON CRATER RIM RESERVES PROTECT ICONIC LANDSCAPES AND ALLOW VIEWS UNOBTAINABLE FROM THE PUBLIC ROAD NETWORK.


PHOTO: COMMUNITY PLANTING, STYX RIVER.

Strategy Goal	Objective / Strategy Concept Plan / Standards (or other relevant document)	Priority Initiatives to 2040 (highest priorities in bold)
<p><i>Goal 2: Ensure public open space is diverse, interesting and promotes local and District identity (providing for and protecting indigenous biodiversity, iconic landscapes, heritage places, Ngāi Tahu cultural landscapes and views special to each area).</i></p>  	<p>Objective 2.2 - The open space network underpins and enhances the Garden City image of Christchurch and upholds the landscape heritage of Akaroa, Lyttelton, small settlements and rural communities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Christchurch District Identity Concept Plan » Christchurch Concept Plan » Central City Concept Plan » Open Space Guidelines & Levels of Service Table » Christchurch City Council Biodiversity Strategy 2008-2035 » Akaroa Harbour Basin Settlements Study » Akaroa Streetscape Report 2005 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Conservation plans are prepared to protect the landscape quality of iconic Garden City features such as Hagley Park / Botanic Gardens. » The natural heritage of Christchurch and its Garden City image is enhanced by parks, mall, civic square, riverbank and street planting, including indigenous species. » A planting master plan is prepared for all of Christchurch District. » Parks provision and minimum size standards are reflected in District Plan provisions and the Infrastructure Design Standard (IDS). See Open Space Guidelines & Levels of Service Table. » The Garden and Heritage Parks network is increased to include a wider variety and distribution of Garden and Heritage Parks in urban Christchurch, rural areas and townships.
	<p>Objective 2.3 - Heritage values are retained, including places of cultural significance to Ngāi Tahu, notable trees, heritage buildings, places and objects, through the provision of public open space.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Assessment of heritage values and places is undertaken and land is acquired to protect places that contribute to public open space quality and character, such as heritage buildings, cultural landscapes and horse grazing areas. » Ngāi Tahu are consulted and involved in the assessment of places of cultural importance. » Council will evaluate the impacts of increasing public accessibility in remote areas, on the natural character, heritage, cultural and ecological values when investigating access routes in consultation with Nga Rūnanga, local residents and other key stakeholders. » In area development planning, parks and waterway acquisition and development, the Council will work with Nga Rūnanga to identify key areas where habitat restoration could provide for cultural values and viable mahinga kai.

Strategy Goal	Objective / Strategy Concept Plan / Standards (or other relevant document)	Priority Initiatives to 2040 (highest priorities in bold)
<p><i>Goal 3: Encourage community awareness and support and develop partnerships for open space provision, development and maintenance.</i></p>	<p>Objective 3.1 - Public awareness of open space opportunities is improved.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Increased information is provided to assist users accessing open space opportunities (e.g. signs, interpretation material etc).
	<p>Objective 3.2 - Joint land purchase, management, covenants, legal agreements and other mechanisms and technical support partnerships with Ngāi Tahu, other organisations, agencies, community groups and individuals are investigated, promoted and utilised as applicable.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Partnerships are developed to identify important cultural and heritage sites. » Council and Ngāi Tahu work together through individual Nga Rūnanga, to identify priority areas of cultural value, including cultural landscapes, mahinga kai and areas of restoration, for addition to and protection within the public open space network. » Joint land purchase, management and technical support partnerships with Ngāi Tahu and other organisations, agencies and individuals are promoted. » The Council will contribute to the coordinated management of open space (providing public benefit), in cooperation with other agencies, organisations, Nga Rūnanga, community groups, land owners and individuals
	<p>Objective 3.3 - Council, community and private initiatives to protect and enhance public access to open space, including access on private land, are appropriately supported.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » The Council continues to support trusts, landowners and community groups who provide not-for-profit public open space and environmental benefits for the District through the grants system, funding assistance, rates relief and other Council resources. » Mechanisms will be investigated to provide better financial security for those with a legal mandate to provide not-for-profit public open space benefits including public access.



PHOTO: MONA VALE HISTORIC GARDEN PARK.

Strategy Goal	Objective / Strategy Concept Plan / Standards (or other relevant document)	Priority Initiatives to 2040 (highest priorities in bold)
<p>Goal 4: Ensure open space provision and management is sustainable.</p> 	<p>Objective 4.1 - Development contributions and other funding or acquisition mechanisms provide for and significantly assist in the development of parks, waterways and street amenity, reflecting the open space needs and expectations of the City.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Christchurch District Identity Concept Plan » Banks Peninsula Concept Plan » Christchurch Concept Plan » Central City Concept Plan » Akaroa Concept Plan » Lyttelton Concept Plan » Open Space Guidelines & Levels of Service Table » Surface Water Strategy » Styx River Master Plan (completion date 2011) <p>Objective 4.2 - Sustainable management of public open space including reduction of waste, minimisation of the environmental effects of Council activities and promotion of greenhouse gas reduction initiatives.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Sustainability Policy 2008 » Climate Change Strategy 2010. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » The Development Contributions Policy is reviewed and updated to cater for public open space needs, and other methods of providing public open space are explored to meet shortfalls. » A review of existing parks to determine if there is surplus land that could be sold or exchanged for more useful properties. <p>» Carbon sequestration schemes applicable to Council land are investigated and initiatives implemented.</p> <p>» Council capital and maintenance programme implementation is up-to-date with best practice methodology and energy efficient technological innovations.</p> <p>» Preparation of a Public Open Space Strategy Implementation Plan and a city-wide overview of development and maintenance priorities for parks, the surface stormwater network and street planting.</p> <p>» Opportunities for greater use of food producing plants in public open space areas are investigated.</p> <p>» Investigate funding and other mechanisms to ensure public open space is appropriately maintained.</p>
	<p>Objective 4.3 - Monitoring programmes for the management and enhancement of Council open spaces are established, coordinated and maintained.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Development and monitoring of open space standards. » Regular monitoring of open space accessibility, deficiency and to determine the impacts of additional provision and improved links. » Regular monitoring of the current carrying capacity of open space areas, particularly sports parks, to provide an accurate estimation of community need. » Council undertakes an economic analysis of the values of parks to the community.



06

Strategic vision concept plans

The following seven concept plans provide a graphic overview of the Council's public open space intentions for the next 30 years. Implementation of these plans will be reliant on funding provisions through the LTP, partnerships, consultation and negotiation with other agencies, Ngāi Tahu, business and individuals. The Council will work with Nga Rūnanga to identify areas of cultural value, indigenous habitats and species important to Ngai Tahu that could be considered for protection and restoration within the public open space network

The concept plans cover:

1. Christchurch District open space identity
2. Te Pātaka o Rākaihautū / Banks Peninsula and Kaitorete Spit open space
3. Christchurch open space
4. Central City open space
5. Akaroa open space
6. Lyttelton open space
7. Christchurch District Public Open Space Development Guide

AREAS OF INTEREST AND RECREATION ROUTES

The Banks Peninsula, Christchurch, Akaroa and Lyttelton Concept Plans show generalised Areas of Interest. These indicate where the Council may wish to negotiate land acquisition (approached on a 'willing seller, willing buyer' basis) or enter into agreements with landowners. Areas of Interest have been prioritised into two groups – Primary and Secondary. See the Concept Plans for a more detailed explanation of the areas.

Primary Areas of Interest: These areas are primarily located close to urban and rural settlements, popular recreation routes such as the Summit Road (formed and unformed), popular beaches and outstanding natural landscape features such as Mt Herbert and the Akaroa and

Lyttelton Harbour Crater Rims. Sites within Primary Areas of Interest are of greatest priority for covenants or agreements with landowners or for acquisition, especially if public funding is involved.

Secondary Areas of Interest:

These areas are located in more remote areas where a lower level of public access is anticipated and greater emphasis is placed on maintenance of remote wilderness character and ensuring lower levels of development. Council expenditure on land purchase or covenants or agreements in Secondary Areas of Interest will be a lower priority than for sites within Primary Areas of Interest.

Recreation Routes: These have been divided into primary and secondary routes. Priority is given to promotion, negotiation and formation of primary routes such as the Christchurch Perimeter Recreation Route, Lyttelton Harbour Head to Head Route and lower priority on formation of routes in more isolated places.

IMPLEMENTATION OF ALL CONCEPT PLANS IS CONDITIONAL UPON THE FOLLOWING:

- » All land acquired by the Christchurch City Council is at the discretion of the Council and subject to available funding in the LTP or in accordance with appropriate legislation.
- » Priority for parks, agreements and covenants will be given to land within identified Primary Areas of Interest. See Banks Peninsula, Christchurch, Akaroa and Lyttelton Concept Plans.
- » Land purchased by the Council for parks, recreation routes and riparian areas (outside of District Plan consent requirements) will initially be approached on a "willing

seller - willing buyer" basis. Increased public access in rural areas, such as recreation routes and promotion of unformed legal road use, will be progressed in discussion with affected landowners and other key stakeholders as an initial stage in implementation of plan concepts.

- » Land may be accepted, at the Council's discretion, either as a gift, through land exchange, from reserve development contribution or

esplanade reserve on development, or as environmental compensation for City or District Plan changes or resource consents.

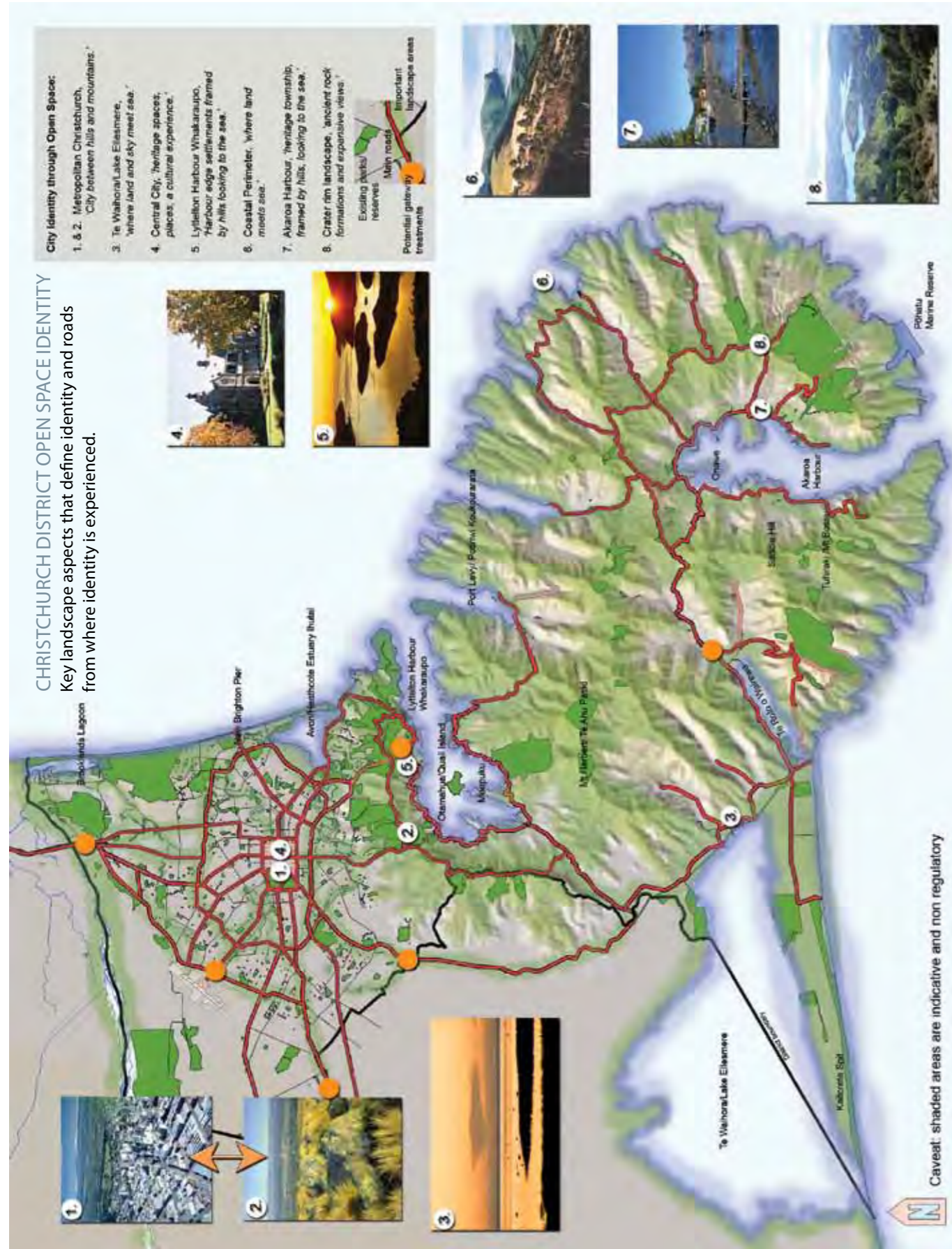
- » The Council will give greater consideration to acquisition of priority sites as a result of partnership initiatives from other agencies, organisations, trusts or individuals, especially within concept plan Areas of Interest.

PHOTO:
SUMMIT ROAD, BANKS PENINSULA.



PHOTO: MISTY PEAKS RESERVE
PERMANENTLY PROTECTS
NEARLY 4KM OF AKAROA SKYLINE
BETWEEN STONY BAY ROAD AND
LIGHTHOUSE ROAD.





Concept Plan 1

CHRISTCHURCH DISTRICT OPEN SPACE IDENTITY

The Christchurch District Open Space Identity Plan illustrates at a broad level the key aspects that contribute to Christchurch District's identity. These include the coastline and seascapes, water-bodies, parks and areas of cultural and national importance to Metropolitan Christchurch and Banks Peninsula. The Open Space Strategy aims to retain and enhance the District's identity through the retention and enhancement of public open space. The following are ways in which this will be achieved:

- » Locate recreation routes to allow views of and experiences of outstanding natural and high quality landscapes.
- » Utilise the transportation network to increase access to and experience District identity attributes (view corridors etc).
- » Locate parks to protect outstanding and high quality landscapes and heritage places such as the Port Hills, Waimakariri River, Te Waihora, Te Roto o Wairewa and the District's coastline.
- » Take advantage of important viewpoints over lakes, mountains, valleys and coastline.

PHOTO: TE WAIHORA WETLANDS AND RAILTRAIL LANDSCAPE.



- » Protect and maintain the landscape quality of iconic Garden City identity features such as Hagley Park / Botanic Gardens, Avon River corridor, Mona Vale, Victoria Square and Travis Wetland.
- » Reinforce and enhance appreciation through information and design of the 1850 Edward Jollie designed heritage street grid and square pattern of the Central City.
- » Enhance and improve the historic identity of the radial and ring road formations of urban Christchurch. Identify planting and gateway treatments which identify and celebrate entry and exit points to the City.
- » Create opportunities for the planting and retention of large trees in urban public spaces and particularly intensification areas.
- » Maintain a high proportion of green spaces and vegetation reflecting seasonal change in urban areas.
- » Strengthen and enhance the District's identity by emphasising the contrast between the urbanised open space character of Christchurch and the rural landscape character of Banks Peninsula.

Concept Plan 2

TE PĀTAKA O RĀKAIHAUTŪ / BANKS PENINSULA AND KAITORETE SPIT PUBLIC OPEN SPACE CONCEPT PLAN

This concept plan provides an overview for public open space provision on Banks Peninsula over the next 30 years and beyond. It aims to provide overall recreation benefit, as well as increasing opportunity for the visitor industry and the economic opportunities presented by opening the Peninsula to further recreation access.

The concept plan shows generalised Primary and Secondary Areas of Interest and the proposed links between them. The areas of interest are based on existing high quality areas of natural landscape, heritage, coastline, biodiversity and important recreation features and opportunities identified in them, e.g. beaches. *These are the generalised areas within which the Council may wish to negotiate covenants or agreements or acquire land, for public open space purposes.*

Priority will be given to sites providing public benefit within the open space Areas of Interest, on or adjoining protected open space networks and adjoining priority roads or links such as State Highway 75. Generally only major walkway links have been indicated on the plan. However, the highest priority is for walkways with the best cost-benefit and those originating from important recreation destinations and transport corridors. These are likely to have the highest use and be more popular for a wider range of users.

It is important to note that Banks Peninsula, because of its predominantly natural character, with pockets of built environment, retains its significance to Ngāi Tahu as a cultural landscape. There are many places of significance from a heritage and contemporary perspective that the Council needs to take into account when planning for public open space access and acquisition.

Mechanisms to achieve public open space

Implementation of the concept will be dependent on LTP budget provision where agreements /covenants or land acquisition requires funding.

The strategy anticipates a range of options to enhance public open space opportunities on Banks Peninsula. These include negotiation of right-of-ways across private land, utilisation of Council unformed legal roads (in consultation with adjoining landowners), covenants, gifts, vesting, environmental compensation through subdivision, land swaps and in some cases land purchase.

Where land purchase is undertaken, it will predominantly be approached on a 'willing seller, willing buyer basis' (see criteria for parks acquisition, Section 7). The concepts proposed on the plan do not exclude or replace commercial, trust or public / private joint initiatives. Where commercial ventures are initiated (such as walkways over private land) the Council should not duplicate these in the same location, but through discussion it may wish to complement initiatives for wider overall public benefit. Priority is also given to linking, extending or improving access in areas where there is an existing concentration of Council land, or areas with legally mandated public access such as Orton Bradley Park and Mt Vernon Park.

In establishing parks and recreation routes, Council will consider the impacts on cultural, heritage, natural values and isolated communities when determining the extent of investment required for upgrading access to such areas.

BANKS PENINSULA ROADS

The roading system has been divided into three tiers based on ease of access, road surface, potential destinations and potential use. Priority for enhancement is on State Highway 75 (the primary recreation road corridor) and secondary recreation road corridors, except where a major recreation / visitor destination exists on another route.

State Highway 75

(Primary recreation road corridor) State Highway 75 carries the highest traffic volumes and provides the most direct route from Christchurch to Akaroa. The potential for this route to do more than allow fast access between the two destinations is largely unrealised. A wide range of scenic and cultural opportunities exist along the route, including: the Railtrail, Little River, elevated viewing points over Te Waihora / Lake Ellesmere and Te Roto o Wairewa / Lake Forsyth, Birdlings Flat, potential for short duration walkways and European and Māori historic sites. Council owns small blocks of land along the route that could be better utilised for viewing points and walkways, or possibly be exchanged for more useful areas of land.

Secondary Recreation Road Corridors

The Port Hills Summit Road from Evans Pass to Gebbies Pass and the Banks Peninsula Summit Road section from Hilltop to the Cabstand above Akaroa are the two outstanding scenic roads in Christchurch District. The Port Hills section is recognised by its own special Act of Parliament. Greater interpretation of this historic route's values is needed. Other routes include the Chorlton road from Little Akaloa to Okains Bay, Kinloch Road to Bossu Road and the route from State Highway 75 via Wainui to the Bossu Road intersection with its view over Akaroa Harbour and Akaroa Heads. Opportunities to complement scenic drives with short duration walkways, better signage / information and facilities

and access to viewing points and historic sites need to be explored if visitor use of Banks Peninsula is to be enhanced.

Remote Experience Roads

These roads offer recreation driving, cycling and scenic experiences (within the context of Christchurch District) in a natural, relatively isolated environment. The majority are gravel surfaced and the route often winding and steep. They provide access to some of the more remote bays, some important reserves and locations with expansive views of the ocean. Better signage / interpretation is desirable to inform visitors of features and access limitations. Some important destinations such as Magnet Bay, Te Kaio / Tumbledown Bay, Te Oka Bay and Hickory Bay probably require better visitor facilities to cater for existing use. Some sections of roads may require passing bays to improve safety, and inducement to reduce vehicle speed. More pull-over sites are needed to allow drivers to stop safely at viewing points.

Note 1: A number of existing formed low use roads are not located on the map. The Council recognises that many of these are used for recreation access to remote destinations. However these routes are regarded as a lower priority compared to the primary routes noted on the concept plan.

Note 2: The plan only shows possible new recreation routes or existing routes that need to be enhanced.

Note 3: Recreation routes shown on the map (that are not on formed roads) are proposed for non-motorised use only.

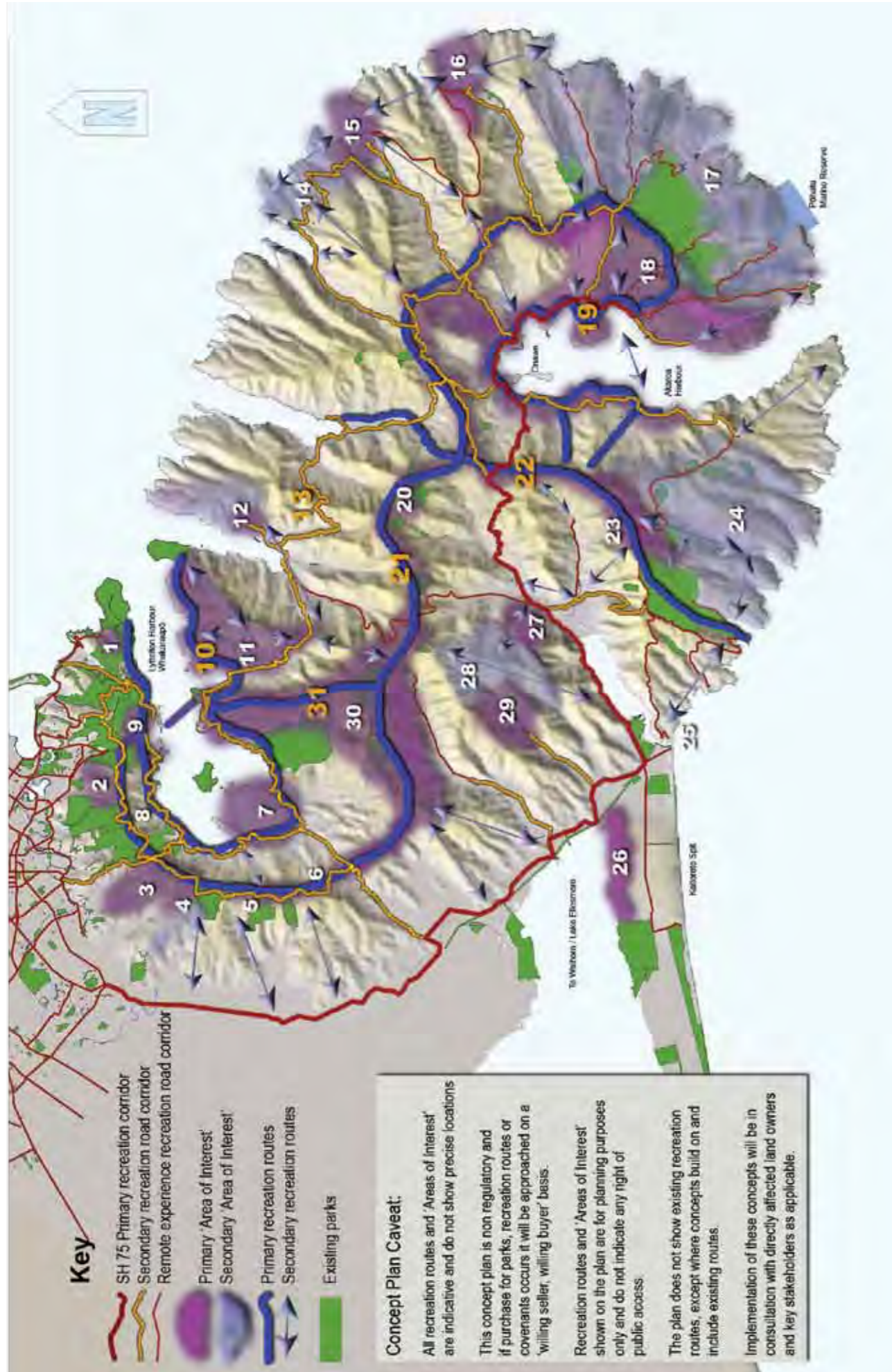
Note 4: Areas of open space interest, walkway lines and links are indicative only and are not precise locations for routes.

PROPOSED PRIORITY RECREATION ROUTE INITIATIVES:

- » **Christchurch to Akaroa Summit Recreation Route.** (See 21 Concept Plan description)
- » **Banks Peninsula Traverse; Southern Bays to Northern Bays.** (See 22 Concept Plan description)
- » **Lyttelton Harbour Head to Head Walkway.** (See 10 Concept Plan description)
- » **Akaroa Harbour Wainui to Akaroa.** (See 19 Concept Plan description)
- » **State Highway 75 Enhancement.** (See Concept Plan Key and comments above)
- » **Summit Road Corridor. Formed road sections from Evans Pass to Akaroa** (see comments above)
- » **Lyttelton Harbour Crater Rim Recreation Route** (See 31 Concept Plan description)



PHOTO: STATE HIGHWAY 75 IS A PRIMARY RECREATION CORRIDOR CONNECTING CHRISTCHURCH TO AKAROA. THE RAILTRAIL AND COUNCIL LAND ALONG THE HIGHWAY OFFER OPPORTUNITIES TO EXPLORE THIS SCENIC LANDSCAPE.



<p>1, 2, 3, 4. The Port Hills- Urban Christchurch Backdrop Area of Interest</p>	<p>Greater protection and public access to the outstanding natural landscape of the Port Hills. This includes the five major properties between Hoon Hay Valley and Godley Head remaining in private ownership (Taylors Mistake Valley (1), Avoca / Horotane Valleys (2), Upper Cashmere Valley (3), and Kennedys Bush and Hoon Hay valleys (4)).</p>
<p>5, 6. South West Port Hills Area of Interest</p>	<p>The majority of this area is situated in Selwyn District within which the City Council manages approximately 325ha of reserve land. Connections are needed between the crater rim and the growing plains townships and the future growth in South West Christchurch. Continuation of the Crater Rim Walkway between Ahuriri Reserve and Gebbies Pass is highly desirable. Enhancement of the heritage Summit Road environment between Gebbies Pass and Evans Pass is also a priority.</p>
<p>7, 8, 9, 11, 30 (coastal part) Lyttelton Harbour / Whakaraupō Basin Areas of Interest</p>	<p>The harbour basin and crater rim of the extinct Lyttelton volcano(es) is an exceptional landscape feature. The two peninsulas (Mansons and Moepuku, (7)) and Ōtamahua / Quail Island are prominent features of the upper harbour and contribute strongly to its visual quality and uniqueness, especially when viewed from the Summit Road and Crater Rim Walkway. The tidal mudflats of the upper harbour are important for biodiversity. Other features that have open space significance include short tussock grasslands and rock outcrops (The Tors) above Cass Bay (8), forest regeneration on the upper true right of the valley above Orton Bradley Park and the slopes from Diamond Harbour up to Mt Herbert (30) and; extensive areas of regenerating bush below the Port Hills crater rim. More connections between the coastal settlements, the upper Port Hills, Kaituna Pass, Mt Bradley and Mt Herbert are desirable. The cliffs and slopes below Mt Evans (11) have important biodiversity values and could provide a connection from the coastline and Ripapa Island area to the Monument. The relatively undeveloped coastal headlands and bays between Purau and Adderley Head are important for scenic, recreation, historic reasons and because they provide a contrast to the more developed land around the harbour. Their long term protection will complement and enhance the harbour entrance.</p>
<p>10. Lyttelton Harbour Head to Head Recreation Route</p>	<p>A proposed Godley Head to Adderley Head walkway will become an important harbour basin recreation feature. This route will be implemented in consultation with landowners and key stakeholders. Involvement of Rāpaki and Koukourārata Rūnanga in this project will be important as the route may pass over Maori reserve and wāhi tapu land.</p>
<p>12. Port Levy (Potiriwi) / Koukourārata Primary and Secondary Area of Interest</p>	<p>Partnership with Koukourārata Runanga and landowners to achieve desirable biodiversity and open space benefits for the community, including links along the coastline and to the ridgeline, are possible in this area, especially around the important bush remnant Kakanui and Kahukunu Creek area (within the Primary Area of Interest). The Secondary area of Interest relates to the more remote coastal area to Baleine Point. Access to this area is managed by the private landowner(s), so Council investment in this area would be subject to consultation with landowner(s), the Rūnanga and other key stakeholders.</p>
<p>13. Port Levy to Pigeon Bay Road</p>	<p>This road is a key link to providing an alternative route from Akaroa to Christchurch, connecting the two Banks Peninsula craters and thereby enhancing use of the Peninsula by tourists and other visitors. The route is steep and narrow in places which presents a safety issue for vehicles and other road users. A review of road construction to make it more accessible/ safer for users is needed. Identification of short duration walkways off this route would enhance the utility of the route for visitors. Consultation and cooperation with adjoining landowners will be needed should any road upgrading or recreation routes be proposed.</p>
<p>14. Little Akaloa, Raupo Bay Chorlton Road to Okains Bay Secondary Area of Interest</p>	<p>This area contains some of the most scenic sections of coastline on Banks Peninsula. Raupo Bay is popular with surfers and has a remote character. Long Lookout Point is an important site for Tangata Whenua. The 2007 Banks Peninsula Landscape Study identified Raupo Bay and Northwest Bay as having particularly high landscape values. The round trip from the Summit Road via Little Akaloa, Chorlton Road and Okains Bay has a number of potential locations of interest to visitors. Provision of short duration walkways from the road to significant natural or historic features, is highly desirable for visitors.</p>
<p>15. Okains Bay Primary Area of Interest</p>	<p>Okains Bay has some of the Peninsula's most popular beaches; providing short duration walkways close to the area is desirable. A possibility exists to connect Okains Bay with Le Bons Bay by a walkway on unformed and/ or formed road. Before this concept can be implemented, it will be necessary to consult with directly-affected landowners and key stakeholders as appropriate.</p>

PHOTO: PORT LEVY (POTIRIWI) /
KOUKOURĀRATA.

16. Le Bons Bay Primary Area of Interest	Le Bons Bay is one of the premier swimming beaches (along with Okains Bay) on Banks Peninsula. Extension of the walkway network in the area is desirable, including formalisation of links to the Summit Road, an increase in short duration loop tracks from the beach area and non motorised recreation links to Okains and Hickory Bays. Implementation of these concepts will be in consultation with directly affected landowners and key stakeholders.
17. 'The Wild Side'- Secondary Area of Interest	This area has a wide range of natural and cultural attributes with three major parks, (Hinewai, Misty Peaks and Ellangowan), a marine reserve, New Zealand's largest mainland white-flipped penguin colony, the commercial Banks Peninsula Track and spectacular sea cliffs and views. Priorities would include extending one or more of the existing parks to the coast and formalising access to Hickory Bay (an important surf beach) from the road end. Protecting biodiversity through cooperative action by agencies and landowners is an important priority for this area.
18. Akaroa backdrop and Harbour Primary Area of Interest	It is desirable that a substantial proportion of Akaroa's rural backdrop is permanently protected by covenant and or public open space and public access protected and provided (see the Akaroa Concept Plan). Protection of important harbour landscapes around the harbour settlements is also desirable, as is better protection of the Takamatua and Duvauchelle water supply catchments. Creating better connections between the higher altitude parks system and Akaroa and the harbour basin and negotiating better access from Onuku to Palm Gully Reserve are also important.
19. Akaroa Harbour Coastal Recreation Route; Akaroa to Wainui	The Akaroa Harbour Basin has potential for a major coastal recreation route(s) either following Council-owned legal road and / or across private land. Some sections are already in place, such as the Robinsons Bay to Duvauchelle section. Priority is on linking settlements, improving access to the coast, improving park facilities, improving parking and safety for cyclists on main routes. Continued maintenance of harbour structures contributes to the use and recreation values of the harbour area. A loop walkway around Takamatua Headland is desirable. Short loops to points of interest such as the first sawmill site in Canterbury at Robinsons Bay are feasible. In the future a water taxi between Wainui and Akaroa may be possible.
20. Summit Road Primary Area of Interest - Waipuna Saddle to Cabstand (Long Bay Road)	This area follows the unformed and formed Summit Road. There are a number of sites along the route where better public access and protection of biodiversity would be useful including the outstanding natural landscape and relic totara forest patches between the Western Valley Road Summit and Waipuna Saddle. Opportunities exist to provide access to and greater protection of other natural features and promontories adjoining the Summit Road corridor. There are currently limited existing lay-bys and viewing points along the Summit Road, and there could be opportunity to combine these with short duration walking tracks. The area's proximity to the formed section of the Summit Road means that any opportunities provided would be well used.
21. Christchurch to Akaroa Summit Recreation Route	The concept links Christchurch to Akaroa via the Summit Road ridgeline. It utilises the existing Port Hills Crater Rim Walkway, the unformed Summit Road from Gebbies Pass to Hilltop and a new section along the crater rim to Long Bay Road and connecting down to Akaroa.
22. Banks Peninsula Traverse; Southern Bays to Northern Bays.	This route potentially connects either Pigeon Bay, Port Levy (Potiriwi) / Koukourārata, or Little Akaloa (or possibly all three) to the Southern Bays (Te Oka Farm). The route would tie together a potential scenic ridge route over Saddle Hill between Bossu Road and Hilltop, parts of the Summit Track between Mt Herbert / Te Ahu Pātiki and Hilltop with side connections to Wainui and Okuti Valley.
23. Saddle Hill - French Peak Crater Rim Ridgeline Primary Area of Interest	This area contains some notable geological and biodiversity features. Saddle Hill, the highest peak (841m) in Akaroa Ecological District, is the key high elevation site in the area with potential to be linked by walkways to Wainui and Okuti Valley, as well as Hilltop and the coast via Te Oka Farm reserve and possibly Peraki Valley. Addition of Devils Gap to Te Oka Farm Reserve would benefit walkers and rock climbers.
24. Southern Bays Secondary Area of Interest	The Southern Bays are notable for their qualities of remoteness and naturalness. A coastal link is a possibility from Te Roto o Wairewa and Birdlings Flat to Peraki Bay with stopovers along the way. Te Kaio / Tumbledown Bay is particularly attractive and suitable for family swimming. It is also an important cultural site for Wairewa Runanga. Enlarging existing conservation areas along Bossu Road with adjoining areas of regeneration by purchase or covenant is important for biodiversity reasons. The Council will negotiate with Southern Bays landowners to promote access options that benefit the public and landowners and do not detrimentally affect biodiversity.

25. Te Roto o Wairewa and Birdlings Flat	The lake is of cultural significance to Wairewa Rūnanga. One hundred and fifty years of catchment and coastal change has led to siltation and the lake becoming eutrophic, resulting in toxic algae blooms in summer. Its rejuvenation will require collaboration and partnership between statutory bodies, the Rūnanga and owners of surrounding land. Birdlings Flat is traditionally known as a place for gem-stone gathering and fishing. It has potential as an entrance point for possible Southern Bays walkways and a link to the Railtrail.
26. Te Waihora / Lake Ellesmere and Kaitorete Spit Primary Area of Interest	One of the highest value biodiversity sites in Christchurch District, culturally important to Taumutu and Wairewa ngā Rūnanga and an important recreation site for hunters and fishers, this area has open space qualities unique to Canterbury. The visual interrelationships between lake, spit and Banks Peninsula are outstanding when viewed from Bossu Road or the Railtrail. Opportunities include providing better protection for the lakeshore, enhancing biodiversity and improving access to appropriate sections of the lake. Council has a role in a joint approach to improving lake management with ECan, DoC, Ngāi Tahu, Waihora Ellesmere Trust (WET), and landowners. The large area of land on Kaitorete Spit owned by DoC, ECan and the City Council offers potential for greater cooperative management for open space values.
27. Little River Water Supply Primary Area of Interest	The water supply catchment above Little River is an important source of water for the Little River settlement. Consultation and negotiation with landowners to enable better protection of the water supply and potential for appropriate recreation access in this area are desirable.
28. High Bare Peak Secondary Area of Interest	The Prices Valley side slopes and valley head, up to and near High Bare Peak, have large areas of regenerating indigenous forest (around 600ha) and open tussock grasslands. This remote area has potential for recreation and biodiversity protection, either by covenant agreements and/ or purchase negotiated on a 'willing seller, willing buyer basis' with landowners. There is potential for a recreation link between State Highway 75 and the summit ridge.
29. Prices Valley Primary Area of Interest	Prices Valley is notable in containing one of Banks Peninsula most intact valley floor old growth podocarp remnants protected by QE II covenant. This area presents one of the best potential opportunities in the District to provide easy public access either by purchase or some other mechanism to a remnant of ancient New Zealand forest on flat terrain. Recreation routes connecting this area to Little River, Mt Herbert / Te Ahu Pātiki and State Highway 75 are desirable.
30. Mt Herbert / Te Ahu Pātiki Primary Area of Interest (Including the Kaituna Pass and Mt Bradley, area to the Western Valley Road)	The highest section of the Peninsula includes Mt Herbert / Te Ahu Pātiki, 919m. It has outstanding natural landscapes and important areas of biodiversity. Existing recreation routes to Kaituna Valley, Orton Bradley Park and the Monument are important and well used. Greater protection of indigenous forest patches in the area is highly desirable, such as a small forest patch on Western Valley Road with the largest remaining stand of adult miro with regeneration on Banks Peninsula.
31. Lyttelton Harbour Crater Rim recreation Route	This route is largely in place and combines parts of the Port Hills Crater Rim Walkway, Summit Road from Gebbies Pass to Mt Herbert and down the Mt Herbert Walkway to Diamond Harbour. Completing the route and promoting it is highly desirable.



Concept Plan 3

CHRISTCHURCH PUBLIC OPEN SPACE CONCEPT PLAN

This concept plan provides an overview of the existing and proposed public open space network for the next 30 years in Metropolitan Christchurch. It shows a variety of possible open space areas that would help to overcome existing barriers to access and support the needs of a growing population. Proposed open space areas include regional-type parks (within primary areas of open space interest), sports parks and neighbourhood parks. Additionally, the Plan shows possible corridors that could enhance amenity and improve connectivity between open space areas and around the City. These corridors include planted corridors, a planted ring route, recreational links, green corridors, waterway links, a Māori footpath, a conceptual rail trail route utilising existing and proposed cycleway routes and the northern and southern motorway designations.

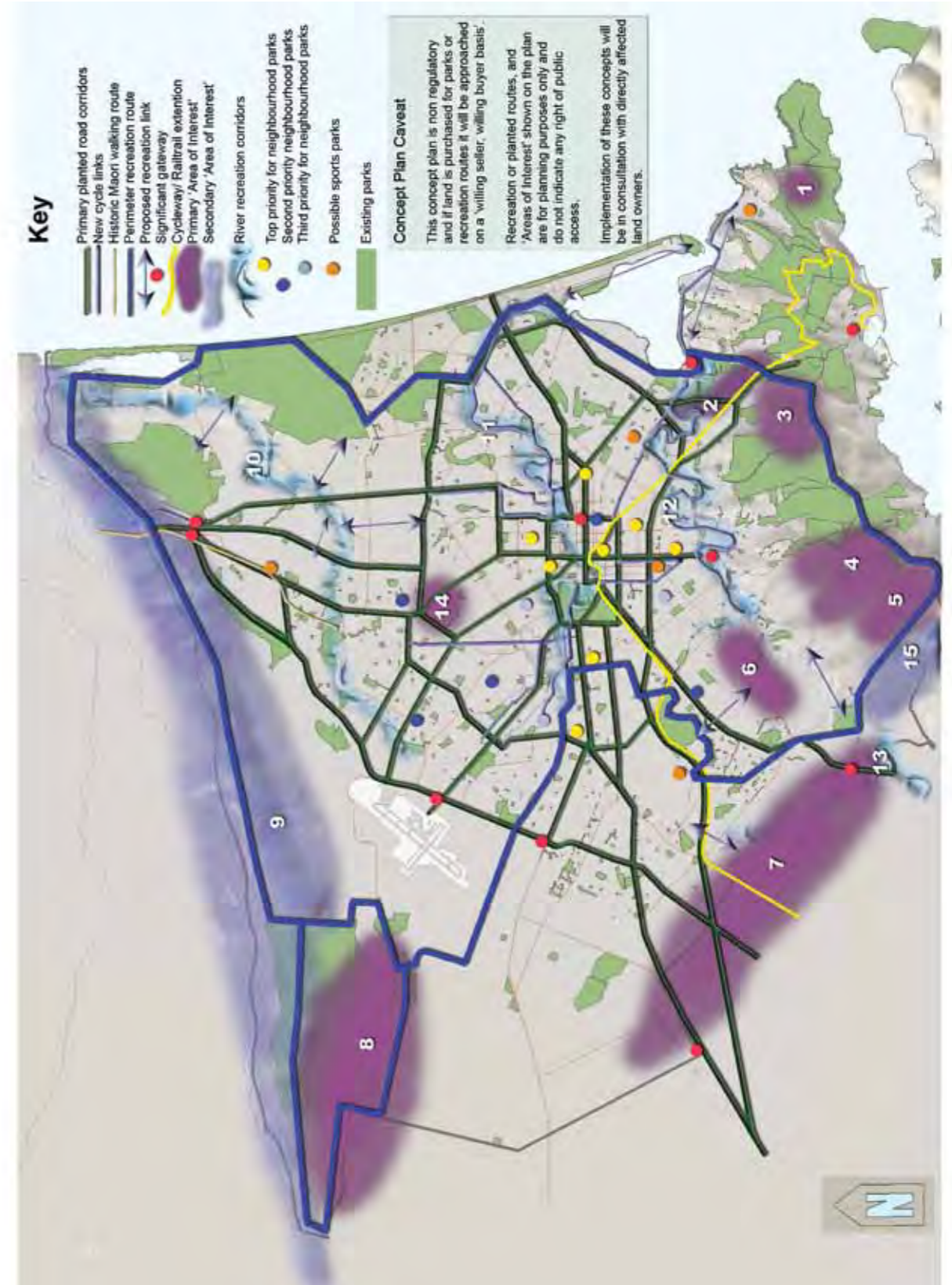
Implementation of this plan will be dependant upon LTP budget provision, partnerships between the Council and other government agencies, iwi and private land owners. Elements of the proposed metropolitan open space framework will be achieved over the next 30 years. Further prioritisation is required, on the basis of the costs of development, community need and identified support from private land owners. In the short term, quick wins may be able to be achieved by enhancing connectivity between key open space areas to overcome known barriers to accessibility. Also, the strategic purchase of a small

number of high-quality open space areas in the vicinity of urban intensification and higher deprivation areas and partnership with other institutions, such as schools, will significantly improve liveability for people in such areas.

The Christchurch Public Open Space Concept Plan presented in this Strategy is the result of the integration of historic and existing Council plans relevant to open space provision, extensive staff feedback and workshops with expert stakeholders. Specifically, main sources of information include the following:

- » Concept plans and strategies prepared as part of landscape, open space, transport, biodiversity and urban growth planning in the past 10 years.
- » Quantitative and qualitative analysis of open space accessibility and urban quality undertaken as part of Open Space Strategy development.
- » Internal consultation workshops with Council staff, including green space and waterways planners, sport and recreation planners, landscape planners, urban designers, transport planners, park rangers and other key staff.
- » External consultation workshops with environmental and recreational experts, disability and cultural advocates, health organisations, farmers, tourism industry representatives and trustees of significant open space areas.

CHRISTCHURCH PUBLIC OPEN SPACE CONCEPT PLAN



<p>1- 8, 14. Primary Areas of Interest</p>	<p>Primary areas of open space interest refer to large reserves on the urban fringes, which would provide a region-wide resource catering for a range of recreational activities while also supporting biodiversity and landscape values. The following locations have been identified as primary areas of open space interest:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1, 3, 4, 5. Port Hills urban backdrop, including low elevation Port Hills recreation routes between residential areas (such as between Kennedys Bush and Westmorland); 2. Heathcote Valley – potential horse grazing and riding areas; 6. Hendersons Basin (refer to South West Area Plan); 7 Urban Boundary South West Christchurch (refer to South West Area Plan); 8 Mcleans Island Dry Grasslands area ; 14. Cranford Basin (a natural ponding basin with potential to become a northern Christchurch 'Travis Wetland', at least in part).
<p>9, 15. Secondary Areas of Interest</p>	<p>The Waimakariri River Regional Park (provided and managed by Environment Canterbury) is being developed along the river margins on Environment Canterbury property. An area (number 15) between Kennedys Bush and the Summit Road adjoining Hoon Hay Valley could provide opportunities for better public recreation routes and enhancement of environmental values.</p>
<p>10, 11, 12, 13 River Recreation Corridors</p>	<p>Christchurch has a number of significant waterways, which provide important ecological, recreational and stormwater management functions for the City. The development of riparian margins could potentially provide enhanced open space access and improve connections between different parts of the city. Significant waterway corridors include the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » The Styx River corridor (including Kaputone stream) (refer to the Styx Vision); » The Avon River corridor (refer to the Avon River Masterplan for the Central City); » The Heathcote River corridor; » Knights Stream / Halswell River (refer to the South West Area Plan).
<p>Possible sports parks</p>	<p>There are a number of areas across Christchurch that do not have enough sports parks or which are identified as having significant future growth and will need more parks. Possible locations for additional sports park provision include the following locations, subject to the Outdoor Sports Land Plan:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Sumner (possible artificial surface development); » Woolston West; » Sydenham; » Wigram (refer to South West Area Plan); » Belfast.
<p>Possible local / neighbourhood parks</p>	<p>There are a number of areas that have been identified as having poor pedestrian accessibility to moderately sized open spaces (see the public open space accessibility and deficiency map). These areas would be ideally suited for the development of local or neighbourhood parks. New parks in existing residential areas have been prioritised on the following basis;</p> <p>Top Priority: Areas with parks deficiency, high social/ economic deprivation and higher density residential development.</p> <p>Second Priority: Areas with parks deficiency and high social/ economic deprivation.</p> <p>Third Priority: Areas with parks deficiency and higher density residential development.</p> <p>Areas of relatively poor open space accessibility include the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Upper Riccarton (top priority location); » Riccarton (top priority location); » Central City North (top priority location); » Central City South (top priority location); » South Edgware (top priority location); » Sydenham / Beckenham (top priority location); » Waltham (top priority location); » Linwood / Phillipstown (top priority location); » Fendalton; » Harewood; » Bryndwr / Aorangi; » Hillmorton; » Redwood South; » Merivale; » Spreydon; » Central City East.

<p>Significant gateways</p>	<p>There are a number of significant entry / exit points on the fringes of metropolitan Christchurch. These gateways could be further developed to strengthen the urban boundary and reinforce the sense of place associated with Christchurch. Significant gateways identified in the metropolitan concept plan include the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Main North Road / Northern Motorway; » Marshlands Road / Northern Motorway; » Memorial Ave and Russley Road intersection; » Yaldhurst Road and Russley Road intersection; » Main South Road, north of Templeton; » Halswell Road / Tai Tapu Road; » Colombo Street and Cashmere / Centaurus Road intersection; » Lyttelton Port; » Ferrymead to Sumner Beach; » Cathedral Square to New Brighton.
<p>Primary Planted Road Corridors</p>	<p>A number of road corridors have been identified for ongoing streetscape enhancement and planting to support the objectives of the Open Space Strategy. These corridors often terminate in the vicinity of significant gateways. Further planting where possible on the ring road is desirable to provide a green corridor around Christchurch and enhance identity and driving experience. This route may incorporate street trees, stands of native or exotic plants and the provision of new open spaces. Pedestrian green ways that facilitate pedestrian movement between open space areas and around the City are also desirable. Key corridors may be located in the vicinity of existing transportation routes. The corridors associated with the Northern and Southern motorway developments provide opportunities to develop walkway and cycleway infrastructure, providing that there is sufficient buffering from traffic.</p>
<p>Proposed Recreation Links</p>	<p>Recreational links refer to pedestrian facilities that link significant open space areas or improve community accessibility to key reserves. Such links will improve connectivity and help to support the development of an open space network. Key recreational links that have been identified in the metropolitan concept include the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Groynes to Harewood link; » Chaneys to Bottle Lake link; » Kaputone link; » Styx River to Queen Elizabeth II Drive link; » Styx River to Bottle Lake link; » Bottle Lake to Travis Wetland link; » Heathcote River to Hendersons Basin link; » Knights Stream to Heathcote River link.
<p>Perimeter Recreation Route</p>	<p>Planning is underway in Council to develop a Christchurch perimeter recreation route for non-motorised recreation use. This route will incorporate existing walks and corridors around the city and provide walking and cycling access to some of the most significant natural areas on the Christchurch plains and the Port Hills.</p>
<p>New cycle routes</p>	<p>There are a number of well-publicised cycle routes throughout Christchurch identified on the metropolitan map. These routes provide a good foundation for the development of a safe and integrated cycleway network, but significant work is required to connect and extend this network to support active transport and recreation (refer to CCC cycle map). The existing rail corridor provides opportunities to further develop walkways and cycle ways throughout Christchurch. The shared walk and cycleway that runs from Mona Vale to Papanui is a good example of how pedestrian facilities could be co-located with the rail corridor. Enhanced provision of walkways and cycle ways that follow the existing rail corridor would facilitate active transport through the creation of safe pedestrian linkages between suburbs and open space areas.</p>
<p>Historic Māori Walking Route</p>	<p>The Māori footpath refers to an historic overland route for Ngāi Tahu travelling between Kaiapoi and Banks Peninsula. This trail no longer exists, but there may be opportunities to re-create sections of the walk in conjunction with open space and street development in the north of Christchurch. There may also be possibilities to increase signage and interpretation to reflect the traditional route and its cultural importance to tangata whenua. The Council will work with Ngāi Tahu to consider this.</p>
<p>Conceptual cycleway/ rail trail</p>	<p>The proposed rail trail route runs from Little River through the centre of Christchurch and over the Port Hills to Lyttelton. The trail incorporates aspects of the existing rail corridor and possible cycleway provision associated with the designated Southern motorway.</p>

Concept Plan 4

CENTRAL CITY OPEN SPACE CONCEPT PLAN

The Central City Concept Plan covers the area inside the Four Avenues of Bealey Avenue, Fitzgerald Avenue, Moorhouse Avenue and Rolleston Avenue. The character and quality of parts of the central city epitomises much of what makes Christchurch an attractive place to live in, visit and work. Currently inner city residents appreciate the proximity to work, places of study, entertainment venues, cultural facilities and the environmental setting provided by parks, the Avon River and abundant large trees. The Central City's highest quality open space areas are concentrated to the west between the Avon River Corridor and Botanic Gardens / Hagley Park. It is therefore not surprising that current residential use of the inner city is largely concentrated in this area. The challenge for the open space network is to provide an attractive day-to-day outdoor living environment for the estimated 25,000 people expected to live within the Four Avenues by 2040 in addition to providing for the amenity and utility of current workers (51,000 people), residents and visitors.

PUBLIC OPEN SPACE OBJECTIVES FOR THE CENTRAL CITY

- » Improve Central City identity, character and environment by extending the existing high quality Garden City landscape of the west into the east, southeast, south and northern parts of the central city including space for nature and large trees.
- » Protection of existing mature trees and green areas.
- » Enhanced walking and cycling opportunities with reduced competition from vehicles, including use of lanes for pedestrians and enhanced streets for all users.
- » Physical and visual linkages between parks and other key open space corridors and heritage places and objects.

- » Space for daily outdoor recreation including informal team sports and exercise courses for future residential populations and Central City workers.
- » Better use of existing parks such as Latimer and Cranmer Squares.
- » Pocket parks as time out spaces for breaks and pauses. Sunny lunchtime places that include amenity and seating areas for Central City workers and visitors.
- » Planted spaces to provide visual relief from and contrast with the built environment.
- » Framing views of and providing attractive settings for heritage places and objects.
- » Provision and enhancement of key viewing corridors of important cultural and natural features.
- » Use of parks and streets for storm water quality improvement and environmental mitigation, e.g. rain gardens.
- » Reflect Ngai Tahu values as part of public open space initiatives in the Central City. The Avon River Master Plan is an example of this.

IMPLEMENTATION TIMEFRAME

The plan will be implemented over the lifespan of the UDS as funding and opportunities permit. Detailed design and implementation plans will be required to implement the initiatives in the following four areas:

AREA A - THE COMMERCIAL CENTRE

This area is generally well supplied with open space in the vicinity of the Avon River, Cathedral and Victoria squares and the City Mall. The main issues in this area relate to poor accessibility for pedestrians and dominance of the zone by motorised vehicles. Better pedestrian accessibility along the Avon River corridor is a priority. Outdoor seating areas and provision of pocket parks is

desirable for inner city workers especially in sunny sheltered locations. Space is needed to allow for the growth of large trees to enhance the area. Enhancement of Cranmer Square for a wider diversity of use is desirable, while protecting its heritage status.

AREA B - CENTRAL CITY NORTH

A local park of around 3000m² or more is proposed in the vicinity of the old Christchurch Woman's Hospital, encompassing some of the site's mature trees. A planted pedestrian / cycle link is proposed between Durham Street and Manchester Streets. A park link is proposed between Ely Street (an area with high density residential development) and Barbadoes Cemetery to improve access to the historic cemetery and more directly to the Avon River.

AREA C – CENTRAL CITY EAST

Local parks are proposed between Latimer Square and Fitzgerald Avenue (see Central City Concept Plan), and linked to the city centre.

Formal partnerships with owners of existing areas with green open space is desirable. Also enhancement of Latimer Square for a wider range of uses whilst protecting its heritage status will be necessary to cater for increased residential numbers by 2040.

AREA D – CENTRAL CITY SOUTH

It is desirable to enhance the southeast entrance to the Central City with a strong visual structure of trees and green space that will enhance it's garden city attributes. A focal point is suggested for the Fitzgerald / Moorhouse Avenue corner complementing the architectural character of prominent existing buildings. A possibility could be a water feature and / or artwork.

It is also important to retain views to the Port Hills from the Central City wherever possible. Better views of iconic buildings such as the Catholic Cathedral are needed. East-west pedestrian / cycle links are provided from the cultural precinct of Catholic Cathedral / CPIT to Colombo Street utilising proposed local parks and enhanced streets. High Street / CPIT / AMI Stadium links are enhanced through provision of parks opposite the Catholic Cathedral and at the Barbadoes / Ferry Road intersection.

This precinct could support a larger neighbourhood park of up to one hectare either west of Colombo Street or nearer CPIT to provide for daily recreation, exercise, amenity and large trees for existing workers, children and potential long term residents as well as space for stormwater mitigation works.

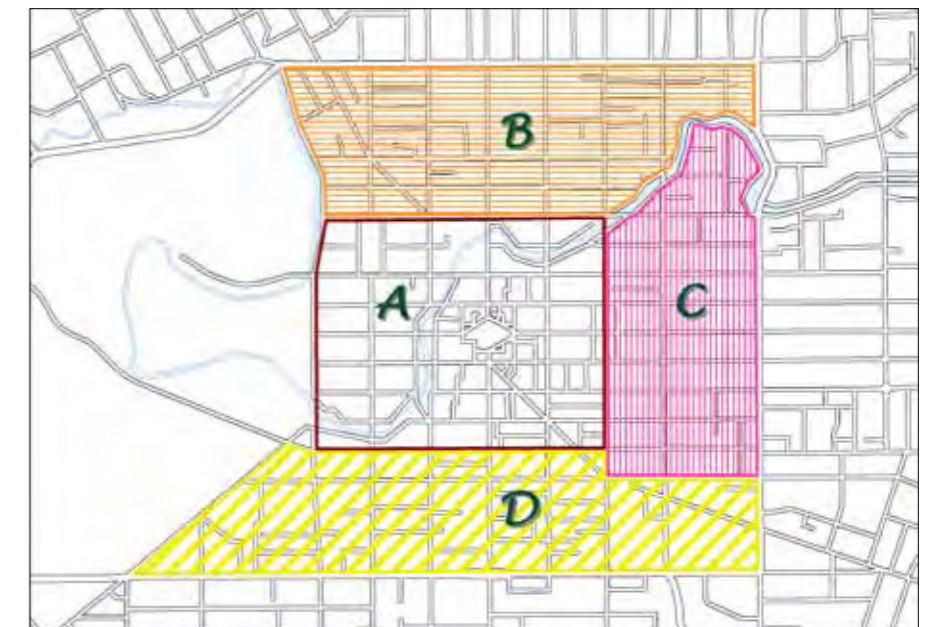
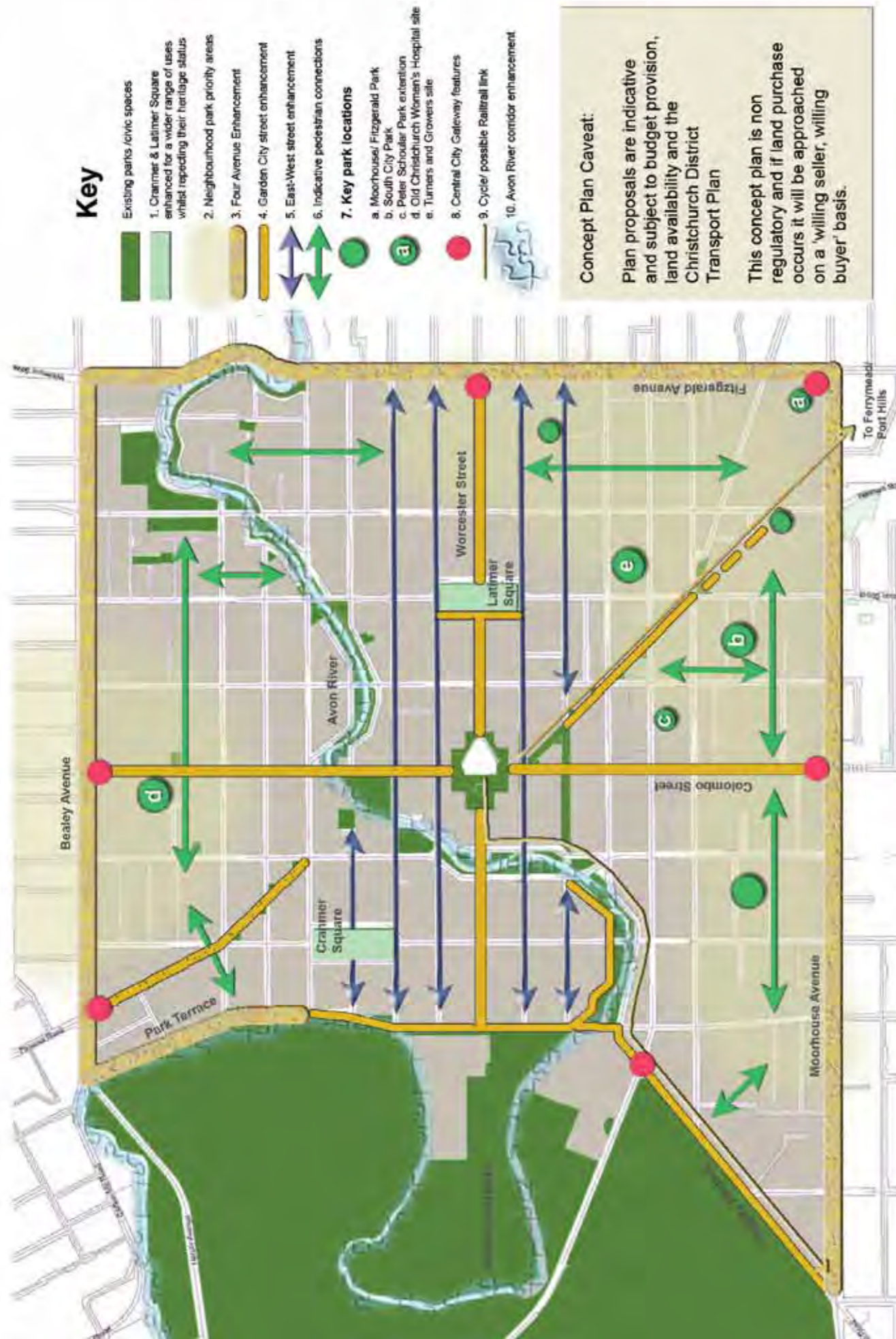


PHOTO: CENTRAL CITY AREAS A-D.



1. Existing park enhancement	A design review is needed for Latimer and Cranmer squares to cater for a wider range and intensity of use as more people live in the Central City through to 2040. Any modification of these squares will need to take account of their heritage status.
2. Neighbourhood park deficiency areas	A city-wide review of parks accessibility has indicated general areas where the Central City will benefit from increased parks space to improve the precinct's attractiveness and day-to-day liveability for future residents.
3. Four Avenues enhancement	The strategy proposes the major greening of the Four Avenues. The environmental and aesthetic quality of the Four Avenues is compromised with Moorhouse Avenue needing the most improvement. Bealey Avenue still retains something of its original tree-lined character (the trees in adjoining properties contribute to this). Fitzgerald Avenue's tree-dominated character has been reduced by the effects of increased traffic flows and creation of turning bays. Rolleston Avenue benefits from the quality provided by Hagley Park, the Botanic Gardens, grass verges, heritage buildings and a few strategically placed mature trees in road medians. It is essential that tree growth needs are taken into consideration as part of inner city traffic management planning.
4. Garden City street enhancement	These streets may be capable of a higher level of pedestrian use and amenity to enhance the Garden City image and improve connectivity within the inner city. The key streets are Worcester Street, Victoria Street, Colombo Street, High Street and possibly Hagley Avenue. The objective is improved walkability within an attractive setting with complementary planting including floral features to provide a higher level of amenity. Better utilisation of the large spaces provided by the intersections between the above roads and east-west and north-south streets is desirable to provide for a wider range of uses. Specific design measures for individual streets will be identified as design work and traffic modelling is undertaken.
5. East - west street enhancement	Lower traffic volumes on a number of east-west orientated streets (in contrast to the more limited number of north-south streets) creates opportunities for street enhancement. Specific design measures for individual streets will be identified as design work and traffic modelling is undertaken.
6. Pedestrian links	The generalised links shown indicate creation of a pedestrian network based on lanes, streets, green links connecting future and existing residential areas to inner city parks, commercial areas and amenity features.
7. Key new neighbourhood park locations	A series of new parks is proposed to cater for daily recreation, exercise, and amenity needs of existing workers, children and potential long term residents. Pocket parks (see Open Space Standards Table) are also proposed for the commercial centre of the city. Pocket park locations will be identified as urban design and development initiatives proceed. Also see the Central City Area descriptions: a. Fitzgerald and Moorhouse Avenue corner. A park at the southeast entrance to the City; b. Central City South park (see the Central City South Master Plan); c. Peter Scouler Park extension to protect existing trees and enhance use; d. Old Christchurch Woman's Hospital site to protect mature trees and provide green space in a deficiency area; e. The Turners and Growers site. Three other neighbourhood parks are proposed, one west of Colombo street and the other roughly between Latimer Square and Fitzgerald Avenue. Another possibility is on the High Street axis opposite the Catholic Cathedral as part of CPIT enhancement.
8. Central City Gateways	Features signalling major entrances to the Central City are proposed for the Four Avenues. Features could include buildings, statues and memorials, water features, tree planting or art works.
9. Cycle / Railtrail link	An objective of the Railtrail project is to link to the Central City, preferably the Square. This is achievable utilising existing cycle links from the southwest into the square. It is suggested that a link from the square to the AMI Stadium area and possibly along the railway line to Ferrymead, the Gondola, Lyttelton and possibly Diamond Harbour via the ferry be created. Another option may be to follow the old tram routes along Ferry Road to the Port Hills.
10. Avon River corridor	Design improvements to streets crossing the Avon River corridor are proposed to improve pedestrian connectivity along the river corridor. This will improve an already outstanding Central City feature.

Concept Plan 5

AKAROA PUBLIC OPEN SPACE CONCEPT PLAN

Akaroa township has an abundance of high-quality open space areas. There are approximately 47 hectares of green open space within the bounds of the township. Many of these reserves are contained within the Akaroa Historic Area. Akaroa residents also have access to the large 487 hectare Misty Peaks and 1200 hectare Hinewai Reserves. A high level of open space provision is required as Akaroa provides a region-wide recreation resource and is a significant tourist destination. Of particular importance for the future is the development of connections between parks within the township and the creation of a network of tracks on the lower hill slopes linking to significant reserve areas, such as Misty Peaks.

There are three major reserves within Akaroa: L'Aube Hill, Stanley Park and the Garden of Tāne. Each has walking tracks. There are also four minor reserves: Jubilee Park, Waeckerle Green, Settlers Hill and Hutchinson reserve. Jubilee Park is a grass area with picnic tables near the main road. Waeckerle Green is a fenced flat field with a stream through it. Settlers Hill is a small bush reserve with a short, well-formed walking track. Hutchinson reserve is a steep slope covered in bush with no tracks and access only from its lower end on Percy Street. On the south side of the built area of the town is the Takapūneke reserve, which is a nationally significant wāhi tapu area.

In addition to the network of parks and reserves, there are two major walking routes from Akaroa to the lower hill slopes behind the settlement. These include the Woodills Stock route leading from the end of Woodills Road up to Long Bay Road, and Purple Peak Stock route leading from Purple Peak Road to the Purple Peak Saddle. These two stock

routes are connected by the Woodills north and south walkways across private property. The Round the Mountain route connects the Woodills Stock route with the Purple Peak Stock route via 2.5km of Long Bay and Brocheres Road along the summit ridge.

Given the abundance of existing open space provision in and near Akaroa, the present concept plan focuses predominantly on enhancing links between existing open space areas, developing new walking routes on the lower hill slopes surrounding the town and retrofitting existing open spaces to increase opportunities for visitors to the township. Achieving the level of open space provision proposed in this concept plan will require collaboration with Hinewai Reserve managers, DoC and private land owners. There are currently a number of walking tracks that cross private rural land at the discretion of the land owner. A key objective of the strategy is to provide the public with a permanent Akaroa town and country walkway system.

Good relationships will need to be maintained and developed with landowners to ensure that current public access is retained and permanent walkway routes can be negotiated in the future. Development and implementation of concepts for Akaroa will be undertaken in consultation with the Historic Places Trust, Runanga, landowners and local interest groups as and when applicable.

It should be noted that the links and tracks described in the Akaroa Open Space Concept Plan section relate only to pedestrian and cycle access, not vehicular access.



PHOTO: AKAROA HARBOUR.



Proposed extended village walks and green links

1. Garden of Tāne to Hutchenson Reserve	The proposed walking route between these two reserves is along quiet residential streets. An issue to be resolved is the creation of a walking track in the small, steep Hutchinson reserve and an access point at the top leading out onto Selwyn Avenue. Consultation with Ngāi Tahu would be appropriate in the concept planning for this route.
2. Garden of Tāne to Akaroa beach	This is a very pleasant road for walking, but would benefit from a footpath along it. Most people walk along the road which is normally very quiet, but during the height of summer, vehicles can be parked along the length of the road, reducing walking access.
3. Hutchenson Reserve to Stanley Park	There is an existing walking route from Hutchenson Reserve, but currently no connection to Selwyn Avenue. Further investigation will be required to explore whether a link can be established between these two reserves.
4. Akaroa beach to Akaroa Recreation Ground	The current route is along the town's main street of Rue Lavaud. Consultation with the Historic Places Trust, Ngā Runanga, Akaroa Civic Trust, landowners and the local interest groups will be needed for any improvements to recreation routes in Akaroa township.
5. Akaroa to Barry's Bay walking route	The access point at Akaroa would be from the Children's Bay boardwalk and then across or around the Takamatua headland. Private land owner support and consultation with Ngāi Tahu would be required for the development of this route.
6. Hutchenson Reserve to Aylmers Valley Esplanade Reserve	There is a possibility to develop a link from Hutchenson Reserve to Aylmers Valley Esplanade Reserve and onwards to Misty Peaks. The proposed route could follow existing natural features present in this area, such as Aylmers Stream. Consultation with Ngāi Tahu would be appropriate in the concept planning for this route
7. Reinstate and improve tracks in L'Aube Hill Reserve	There are a number of tracks within L'Aube Hill Reserve that have been poorly maintained over a number of years, and require significant upgrade and redevelopment.
8. L'Aube Hill	Reinstate or upgrade the L'Aube Hill French Cemetery to Settlers Hill or Rue Balguerie link.
9. Takapūneke Reserve walk	Develop access onto appropriate parts of Takapūneke in consultation Te Rūnanga o Ōnuku and New Zealand Historic Places Trust and in keeping with the conservation and reserve management plans.
10. Aylmers Valley esplanade reserve to Misty Peaks reserve via paper roads	There may be opportunities to develop existing paper roads into walking and mountain biking tracks to provide access from Aylmers Valley Esplanade Reserve to Misty Peaks Reserve.
11. Stanley Park to Misty Peaks Reserve via paper roads	There is an opportunity to create a link from Stanley Park to Misty Peaks Reserve utilising existing paper roads.
12. Possible walking route via private land and paper road	There may be a possibility to create a link from the junction at Purple Peaks Stock Route to Misty Peaks. This link would involve land owner permission and support and the utilisation of part of an existing paper road. Further investigation will be required to determine the feasibility of this route.
13. L'Aube Hill Reserve to Purple Peak Road	The paper road leading from the top of L'Aube Hill Reserve could make another useful link to the Purple Peak stock route junction.

Concept Plan 6

LYTTELTON PUBLIC OPEN SPACE CONCEPT PLAN

Lyttelton township sits on steep slopes facing south to Lyttelton Harbour. It has a population of 3042 (2001 Census of Population and Dwellings, Statistics New Zealand). It is an important gateway for visitors to Christchurch District and wider Canterbury for visitors, especially from merchant and cruise ships. The Lyttelton inner harbour is the landing site for the First Four Ships that brought settlers to Christchurch District in 1850. The small amount of flat land is largely utilised by the Lyttelton Port Company for its operations. There are seven public local parks within the town itself that total just over one hectare. In addition, there are two cemeteries, totalling just over two hectares.

Sports are catered for by the Lyttelton Recreation Ground (2.7 hectare) located in the port area near the marina.

Lyttelton has a significant open space resource, both in and beyond the town boundaries. Most of the open space beyond the town comprises large natural reserves that extend from the mid altitudes above Lyttelton up to the Summit Road, on the crest of the Port Hills (the Crater Rim). The highest points are Mt Cavendish (448 metres) and Tauhinukorokio / Mt Pleasant (499 metres). 104.6 hectares of these reserves are managed by Christchurch City Council and 110 hectares is in DoC administered areas. These are the Council's Whakaraupō and Mt Cavendish Reserves and the DoC Lyttelton, Tauhinukorokio and Buckleys Bay Reserves. These regional parks and scenic reserves provide the public with excellent walking opportunities along tracks running parallel (traversing along the slope contours) to the Summit Road and link with other tracks from the Christchurch side of the Summit.

From the perspective of Lyttelton residents and visitors access to these open spaces from the township is restricted to three tracks. The most well-known of these is the Bridle Path, which crosses over the Port Hills to the Christchurch side, starting a short distance above the road tunnel mouth in Lyttelton. The other two are the tracks starting from road ends at the upper boundary of the town – at the end of Harman Road and Cornwall Road. The other constraint to those who are not energetic and fit walkers is the amount of climbing that needs to be done to get up into these Crater Rim reserves. There are also issues with parking availability, particularly at the ends of Lyttelton roads.

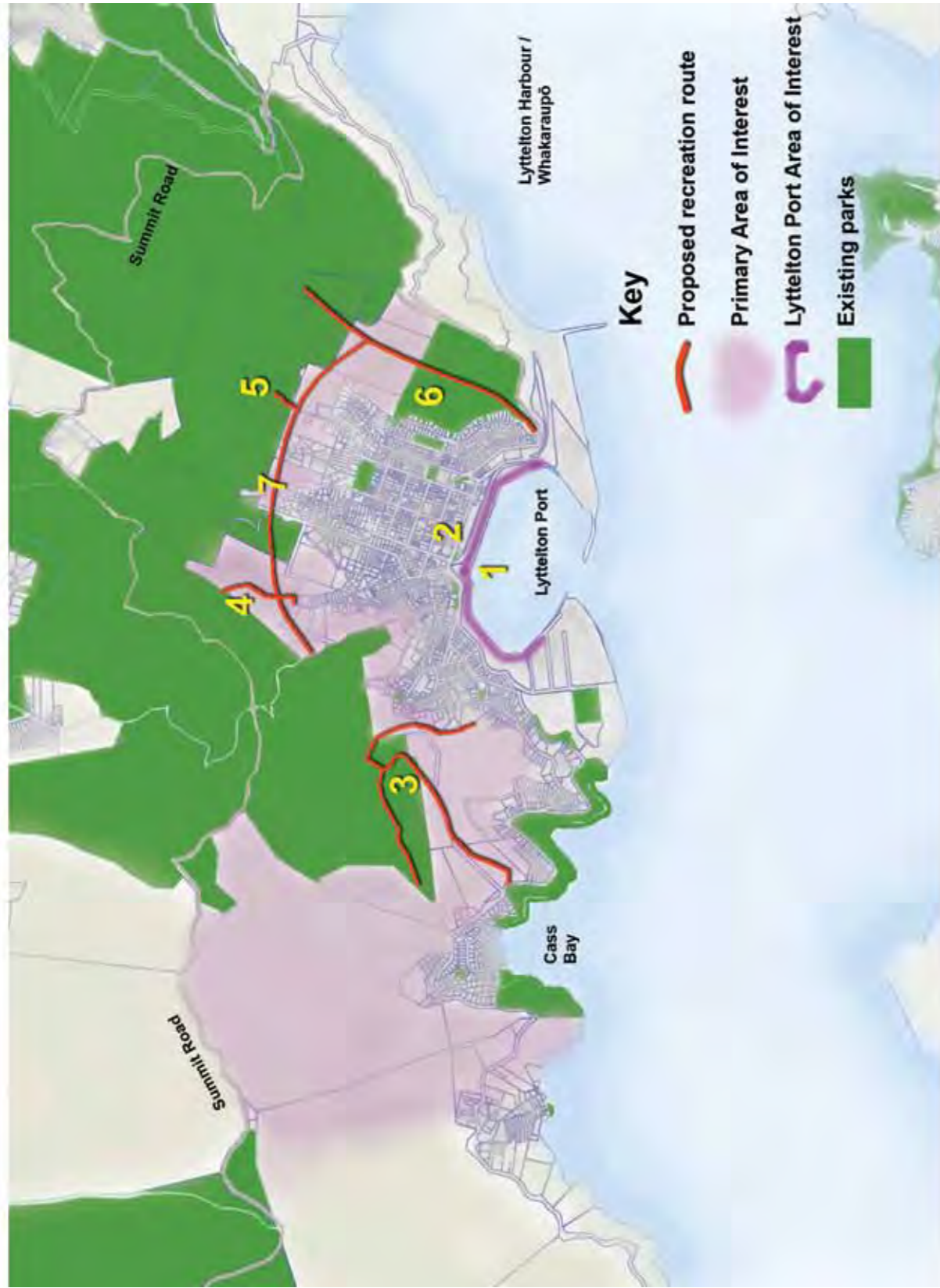
There are two larger reserve areas on the fringe of Lyttelton township, with the second area having good walking track access. The first area is Urumau Reserve (just over 26 hectares in area) on the lower reaches of the ridge running up from the container terminal on the eastern side of the township. There is no formal public walking track in this reserve though.

The other area comprises three linear harbour edge reserves that link to provide good accessible open space from Lyttelton itself around to Cass Bay to the west. These are Park Terrace, Corsair Bay Reserves and Cass Bay Walkway (the total area is just over 14 hectares).

The ideal is to increase the amount of public green open space within Lyttelton township itself. However the immediate options to do this are limited, barring purchase of lots and development of these into new parks. There are, however, potential avenues to enhance the open space opportunities in the Lyttelton area. These include establishing further track linkages between the township and the existing areas of open space and looking at rural areas that could add to public open space. This could be achieved in a variety of ways, including utilising unformed legal roads and approaching acquisition of land on a "willing buyer – willing seller" basis or through environmental compensation. The Lyttelton Open Space Concept Plan illustrates and describes possible initiatives. Other options will be investigated when more detailed analysis is undertaken of Lyttelton public open space. (See Objective 1.6 priority initiatives)

PHOTO: LYTTELTON TOWNSHIP.





Note: this plan is non regulatory and if land is covenanted or purchased it will be approached on a 'willing seller, willing buyer' basis. Proposed recreation routes are conceptual and subject to further analysis and consultation. The plan does not show existing recreation routes. Recreation routes and 'Areas of Interest' are for planning purposes only and do not indicate any right of public access.

<p>1. Lyttelton Port / Wharves</p>	<p>Investigate opportunities with the Lyttelton Port Company to achieve a publicly accessible waterfront for recreational activities such as boating and fishing as commercial activities are relocated, as long as it is compatible with the security and safety requirements for the port / wharves area. Historically, there was more public access than there is currently. Greater recognition is needed for the Port's historic attributes including the landing point for settlers from the First Four Ships. Overall more public access to the port is highly desirable.</p>
<p>2. Norwich Quay</p>	<p>Investigate with the Port Company, the removal of heavy port traffic from Norwich Quay. This would make pedestrian crossing of Norwich Quay much safer. In addition, an overbridge from Hawkhurst Road, wide enough for cyclists and walkers, could provide access to the bus stop and a new walking / cycle path connecting to the existing walkway at Sutton Quay. This could then be continued westward, through road reserve between Simeon Quay and the railway line, to Park Terrace Reserve and the other harbour edge reserves around to Corsair Bay and Cass Bay. Better use of the existing rail link between Christchurch and Lyttelton for tourists and commuters as an alternative to the current situation of solely road transportation is desirable. This would link with the Diamond Harbour ferry, provide reliable and quick transportation to a number of stops in the city and serve to reduce road traffic through the road tunnel.</p>
<p>3. Proposed walking track links between coastal reserves and the Crater Rim Walkway through Whakaraupo Reserve and Steadfast land.</p>	<p>A network of walking tracks is proposed to link the Cass Bay Walkway, Corsair Bay Reserve and Park Terrace Reserve by the harbour's edge with the Whakaraupo Circuit, a short loop walk from the Crater Rim Walkway and Summit Road, via Whakaraupo Reserve and the Steadfast land. This network would provide the opportunity to complete a longer, round-trip, walking experience, in conjunction with the Bridle Path and associated tracks.</p>
<p>4. Proposed walking track between the Crater Rim Walkway and Hawkhurst Road</p>	<p>Presently, there is no legal access way between Hawkhurst Road, at the top of the network of roads on the spur that runs up from the road and rail tunnel entrances and the Crater Rim Walkway. It is proposed to establish a walking track from this road end up to the Mt Cavendish Bluffs Circuit, a track that connects to the Crater Rim Walkway. This would provide walkers with another route option as part of the Lyttelton Reserve circuit.</p>
<p>5. Formalise walking track link between the Lyttelton Reserve circuit and Brenchley Road</p>	<p>Upgrading and signposting existing tracks would improve links with a substantial part of the Lyttelton residential area and new residential development to the existing Lyttelton Reserve circuit, a track that traverses through Tauhinu-Korokio Reserve. This will provide direct access to the Crater Rim Walkway for those residents, as well as visitors.</p>
<p>6. Proposed walking track between Sumner Road and the Crater Rim Walkway</p>	<p>The prominent spur that runs from the Lyttelton container terminal up to the Summit Road which frames the Lyttelton valley on its eastern side, is mostly in public ownership, although there is a 300 metre (approximate) gap of private rural land. It is proposed to establish a walking track up the spur from Sumner Road to the Crater Rim Walkway, running through Urumau Reserve near the harbour and Buckleys Bay Reserve in the upper reaches.</p>
<p>7. Concept for incorporation of rural areas into public open space, and providing a lower altitude recreation traverse</p>	<p>Rationalisation of Port Hills park boundaries above Lyttelton township to better accommodate topographical features, bush remnants and recreation potential is needed. Currently park boundaries follow property lines that have no relationship to topography or other landscape features. Any land acquisition in this area would be subject to LTP budget provision and would be assessed against other City-wide priorities. Lowering the boundary of existing public parks would also create the opportunity for a new lower level traverse (cross-slope) recreational route. There are some unformed legal roads and formed roads that could provide links in such a route within this area of interest.</p>

Concept Plan 7

CHRISTCHURCH DISTRICT PUBLIC OPEN SPACE LEVEL OF DEVELOPMENT GUIDE

PHOTOS: (LEFT TO RIGHT) INTENSIVELY MANAGED FLORAL DISPLAY. URBAN PARK. STREAM ON BANKS PENINSULA.



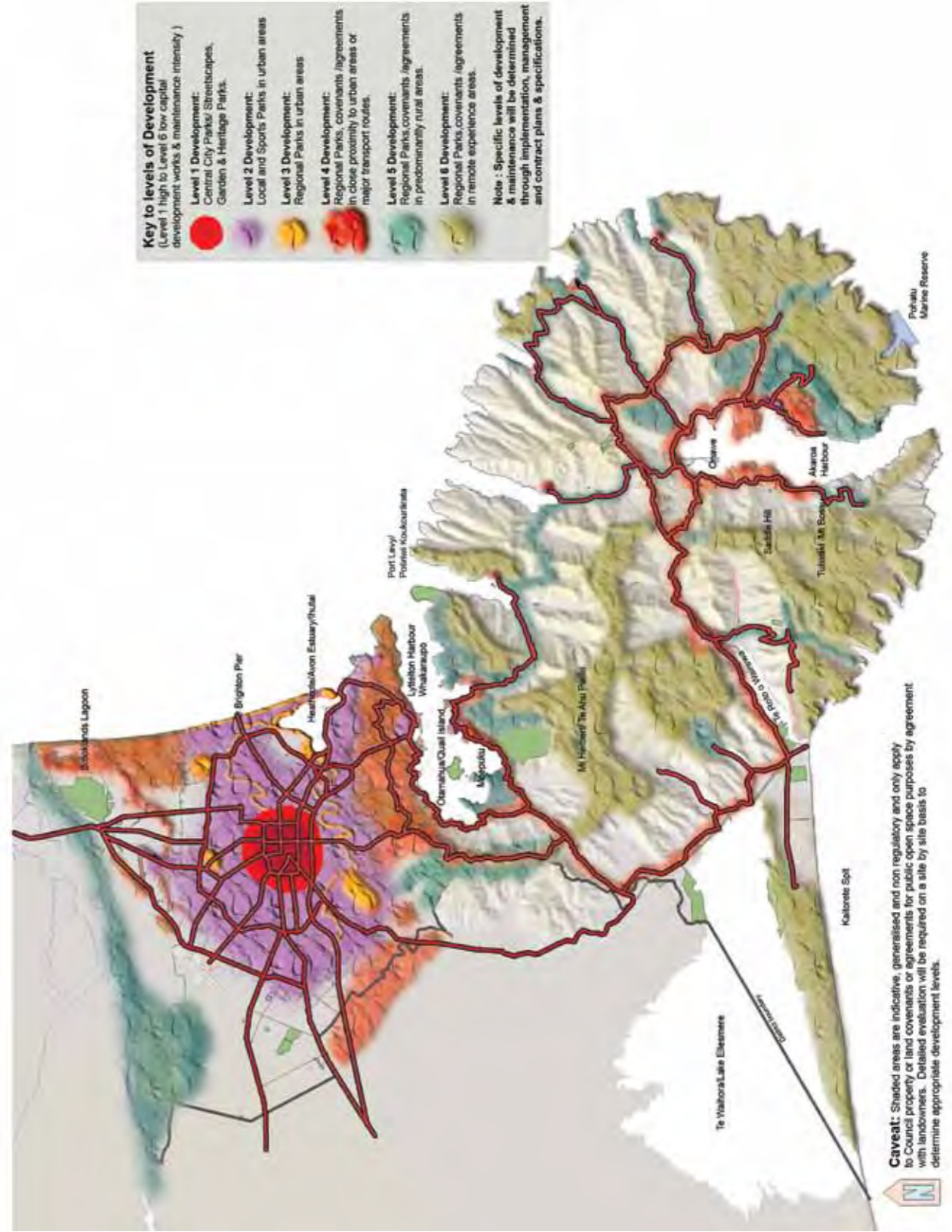
The Development Guide provides a general overview of the level of development and maintenance appropriate for different types and locations of existing and future public open space across the District. The guide reflects the diversity and varied character of District open space illustrated in the Open Space Identity Plan, Christchurch and Banks Peninsula Concept Plans. The aim of the guide is to illustrate that the Council will be applying varying levels of development and maintenance across the District appropriate to the existing character and use of each respective area within which the public open space is situated.

The guide concentrates the highest levels of development and maintenance on Central City public open spaces, such as the Square and Botanic Gardens, and Garden & Heritage Parks (Mona Vale) in comparison to parks in remote areas such as Misty Peaks where the development aim will be to retain the existing remote rural character.

Implementation of Development and Maintenance Levels Criteria

- » The areas on the plan are indicative and non-regulatory. The mapped Development Level areas provide a guide for future detailed analysis and application. Intensity of development will vary within Development Level areas according to need. For example the Port Hills information centre at Victoria Park is developed to a higher level than what is generally appropriate across the rest of the Port Hills.
- » Development and maintenance standards will be determined by separate detailed planning processes and are subject to budgetary provision through the LTP.
- » The guideline applies to all existing and future Council-managed public open space, but in the case of roads is subject to safety and maintenance standards.

CHRISTCHURCH DISTRICT PUBLIC OPEN SPACE LEVEL OF DEVELOPMENT GUIDE



07

Assessment Principles for Provision and Enhancement of Public Open Space

The following sections provide criteria and principles the Christchurch City Council will employ for the provision of further public open space in the Christchurch City Council District. See the goals, objectives, priority initiatives and guidelines in Chapters 5, 6 and 8.

This chapter covers principles for provision for the following public open space values:

- » Natural landscape and coastline;
- » Public access and recreation opportunity;
- » Indigenous biodiversity and ecological sustainability;
- » Water quality;
- » Heritage and cultural values.







Acquisition of land for parks and establishment of covenants and agreements are based on the following criteria:

Acquisition Prerequisites and Mechanisms:

- » All land acquired by the Christchurch City Council is at its discretion and subject to available funding in the LTP, or in accordance with appropriate legislation.
- » Priority for Regional / Conservation parks will be given to land within identified Primary Areas of Interest. See Banks Peninsula, Christchurch, Lyttelton and Akaroa Concept Plans.
- » Land purchased by the Council for parks, recreation routes and riparian areas (outside of District Plan consent requirements) will initially be approached on a “willing seller - willing buyer” basis. Increased public access in rural areas, such as recreation routes and promotion of unformed legal road use will be progressed in discussion with directly affected landowners and other key stakeholders as an initial stage in implementation of plan concepts.

- » At the Council’s discretion land may be accepted as a gift, through land exchange, as a covenant or agreement, from reserve development contribution or esplanade reserve on development, as environmental compensation for City or District Plan changes or resource consents.
- » Council will give greater consideration to acquisition of priority sites as a result of partnership initiatives from other agencies, organisations, trusts or individuals, especially within concept plan Areas of Interest.
- » Council will work with Nga Runanga to identify areas of cultural value and indigenous habitats and species important to Ngai Tahu that could be considered for protection and restoration within the public open space network.

The following general criteria are used to determine, which areas may be prioritised for parks purposes, landscape or waterway protection and access:

<p>Protection of the natural landscape and coastline</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Areas of outstanding natural landscape, prominent ridges or coastal natural character, as defined by the Banks Peninsula District Plan and the Christchurch City Plan will be given priority and / or; » Sites of high quality scenic / visual value. <p>Comment: Banks Peninsula and Christchurch have a number of areas identified as outstanding natural landscape by the Strategy (see the Christchurch District Open Space Identity Concept Plan for general concepts and more specific Areas of Interest on the Banks Peninsula and Christchurch Concept Plans). These areas are predominantly situated along ridgelines, the coast and areas where indigenous vegetation dominates. The whole of the Port Hills backdrop to Christchurch outside the urban area is an outstanding natural landscape. Also many areas currently not recognised in the District Plans also have high landscape and especially visual value that should be taken into account as part of a parks acquisition assessment process. The entire coastline contributes to the character of Christchurch District, as do the crater rims and pattern of coastal headlands and bays of Lyttelton and Akaroa Harbours and the Waimakariri River. These places provide outstanding settings for outdoor nature-based recreation activities. They often include areas with high indigenous biodiversity and tangata whenua values. Provision of reserve or covenant status to a selection of these areas will provide permanent protection for a selection of high quality natural landscapes. See Christchurch District Open Space Identity, Banks Peninsula and Christchurch Concept Plans.</p>
<p>Open space integration and continuity</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Priority will be given to land that links or forms part of a potential link with other areas of public open space (including parks). <p>Comment: Much of the open space framework is isolated and lacks connections with adjoining reserves, parks or publicly accessible private trust land. Many of the Banks Peninsula reserves are physically isolated from each other. Integration of existing reserves improves long-term continuity of landscape character within a catchment and improves recreation access, including walkway and cycling connectivity.</p>
<p>Recreational opportunity and access</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Land that enhances and / or provides access to a range of nature based recreation opportunities, including outstanding natural areas, the coast, wetlands, waterways, indigenous habitats and rural areas in proximity to urban areas, provided that indigenous biodiversity is not detrimentally affected and / or » Sites that are located close to Primary or Secondary Recreation Road Corridors (see Banks Peninsula Concept Plan) or public transport routes; » Other sites and recreation routes that are anticipated on the Strategy Concept Plans and Council planning documents. <p>Comment: Access to the countryside, natural areas and waterways is important to provide relief and contrast with the predominantly built character of urban areas. Easy access to recreation opportunities is important. However, in cases where a remote recreation experience is desired, the ease of access is not as critical. Private interest / Council partnerships may be needed to facilitate access to some locations. Guidelines for provision of urban neighbourhood parks and sports parks are outlined in Chapter 8 and general locations for new local and sports parks shown on the Christchurch and Central City Concept Plans.</p>
<p>Indigenous biodiversity and ecological sustainability</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Priority will be given to sites with significant indigenous biodiversity, including sites fitting national priority criteria, or that contain locally or nationally threatened species, rare habitats or old growth indigenous forest not easily protected by covenant, or sites that provide potential for catchment wide biodiversity enhancement or are of special interest to the public. <p>Comment: Many sites with high biodiversity values can be protected by conservation covenants. However, there are situations where covenants are not the most appropriate option for landowners or the Council. Where it is desirable that large areas or entire properties be devoted to conservation purposes, covenanting may be problematic and land purchase is the only option. It is also important that land surrounding existing public open space which has similar or complementary ecological values is protected. In many cases, parks need to be expanded or linked with nearby reserves or conservation covenanted land to enhance their long term viability. In other situations a biodiversity site may be of sufficient interest to the public to warrant acquisition.</p>
<p>Water quality, catchment protection and riparian character protection</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Priority will be given to sites that protect drinking water supplies, management of surface water, waterway quality and quantity, ecology, and / or mahinga kai values. <p>Comment: Protection and enhancement of waterways will lead to improved water quality and the creation and protection of visual, ecological and recreation links between high elevation areas and the coast. Waterways are the only natural features on the plains that potentially provide connectivity of open space. Waterways are often areas of mahinga kai value.</p>
<p>Heritage and cultural values</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Priority will be given to places of Māori or European heritage or cultural interest. <p>Comment: Sites of special heritage or cultural interest may be suitable for public education and interpretation to enhance recreation experience and visitor appreciation of Christchurch and Banks Peninsula heritage. Sites of particular interest include heritage homesteads and grounds in rural settings, mahinga kai sites or archaeological sites.</p>



08

Public Open Space Guidelines and Levels of Service

Proposed guidelines for the provision and development of open space are not intended as absolute criteria to be met by the Council. Rather, they help to determine areas of open space accessibility, quality and deficiency in different areas of the District to provide rationale for decision-making (see Section 19 for issues applying to each area).

The following guidelines also provide guidance for the Development Contributions Policy.

The overall objective for open space provision across the Christchurch District is based on 2009 public open space levels of service (see Current parks / open space area per 1000 people in the Open Space Guidelines & Levels of Service Table). The decision to maintain and or increase these levels of service into the future is based on the following criteria:

- » The high value that the public places on current public open space provision based on resident surveys, and community demand for new areas;
- » Objectives in Proposed Change 1 to the Regional Policy Statement, Council Strategies and the District Plan;
- » A desire to maintain the Garden City character of urban Christchurch;
- » Environmental need to reduce hard surfaces, grow trees, mitigate pollution, and reduce carbon use;
- » Need to maintain Christchurch as an attractive and desirable place to live in and visit by investing in its green infrastructure;
- » Opportunities for extending public open space benefit;
- » Public access, biodiversity and landscape protection issues and opportunities.

PHOTO: PUBLIC OPEN SPACE FULFILLS A WIDE DIVERSITY OF SOCIAL, CULTURAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL OBJECTIVES.

PHOTO: URBAN 'FLORAL' DISPLAY.



For the purposes of this strategy the District has been divided into the following areas:

1. CENTRAL CITY	The central city of Christchurch refers to the area bounded by the avenues of Bealey Avenue, Fitzgerald Avenue, Moorhouse Avenue and Rolleston Avenue.
2. URBAN INTENSIFICATION AREAS	These refer to the redevelopment of existing neighbourhoods, corridors or commercial areas at higher densities in the Christchurch urban area. The main intensification areas in Christchurch include inner suburban areas and the land immediately surrounding key activity centres, such as Papanui and Shirley.
3. GREENFIELDS	These are areas of undeveloped land on the Christchurch urban periphery that have not been developed beyond agriculture, forestry or rural lifestyle blocks. The main areas that have been identified for possible urban development include southwest Christchurch, Belfast and areas of land in the west of the city near the airport. Currently, these areas are predominantly associated with rural land uses, such as grazing.
4. EXISTING SUBURBS	These are the residential areas that surround the Central City and occupy the lower slopes of the Port Hills. These areas are characterised by low density housing and development interspersed with business, educational and open space areas. They provide living areas for the majority of Christchurch District's population and are the most significant focus of activity for many residents.
5. INDUSTRIAL / BUSINESS AREAS (outside the Central City)	Industrial areas refer to existing sites that accommodate processing, manufacturing, storage, construction, distribution, wholesale trade and utilities. Business areas refer to land that comprises retailing, administration, office space, commerce, research, leisure and entertainment activities. Metropolitan Christchurch is the location for the majority of industrial and business land across the district. There are no large-scale businesses or industrial areas on Banks Peninsula, with the exception of the Lyttelton Port.
6. RURAL AREAS	Rural areas refer to the countryside in Christchurch and on Banks Peninsula and the associated land uses. Christchurch is surrounded to the north, west and south by large tracts of rural land while Banks Peninsula comprises predominantly rural land. In Christchurch and on Banks Peninsula, rural areas are dominated by pastoral activities, lifestyle blocks, horticulture, dairying and forestry.
7. TOWNSHIPS	The larger residential areas on Banks Peninsula, including Akaroa, Lyttelton and Diamond Harbour.
8. SMALL SETTLEMENTS	Small settlements refer to clusters of residential development in rural areas in Christchurch and on Banks Peninsula that do not sit within the general pattern of urban development.



OPEN SPACE GUIDELINES & LEVELS OF SERVICE TABLE

Open Space types and minimum areas	Civic Spaces (small sized public spaces of varying size, generally less than 1000m ²)	Local Parks and Garden and Heritage Parks (3000m ² or more in size)	Sports parks: large multi use parks able to accommodate outdoor sports if required (4.5 hectares or larger in size if required for outdoor sports use)	Regional Parks and covenants or agreements over land with public open space values, involving public access	Linear open space: Riverbank Parks waterways, Esplanade Strips, living streets, green links, greenbelts	Cemeteries
Proposed parks / open space area per 1000 people by 2040 (Note targets are long term and the actual city wide amount of public open space per 1000 people will vary from year to year and depend on population growth).	As required	1 ha per 1000 people for Local Parks across the entire district. 0.4 ha / 1000 people for Central City Local Parks for daily use. (note: the total area of local parks will be increased over the next 30 years, however the area per 1000 people will decrease due to increased density of population. The standard includes new local parks plus existing small local parks and Cranmer and Latimer Squares. It does not include the Avon Riverbanks, Hagley / Botanic Gardens, Barbadoes Street Cemetery, City Mall or Cathedral and Victoria Squares).	3.5 ha per 1000 people of public open space (outdoor sports field provision and distribution is subject to further analysis through the Outdoor Sports Land Plan).	2.5 ha per 1000 people of City Council managed land and / or land covenanted for public open space purposes involving public access.	As required. See Public Open Space Concept Plans, Area plans & Transportation Strategy	As required (see Cemeteries Master Plan)
Current parks / open space area per 1000 people (based on 2009 figures)	N/A	1 ha per 1000 people for Local Parks across the entire district. 0.7 ha per 1000 people Central City Local Parks (note: standard includes small local parks and Cranmer and Latimer Squares. It does not include the Avon Riverbanks, Hagley / Botanic Gardens, Barbadoes Street Cemetery, City Mall or Cathedral and Victoria Squares).	3.5 ha per 1000 people across the entire district	18 ha per 1000 people across the entire district of City Council managed land (excluding any covenanted land)	N/A	N/A

Open Space types and minimum areas	Civic Spaces (small sized public spaces of varying size, generally less than 1000m ²)	Local Parks and Garden and Heritage Parks (3000m ² or more in size)	Sports parks: large multi use parks able to accommodate outdoor sports if required (4.5 hectares or larger in size if required for outdoor sports use)	Regional Parks and covenants or agreements over land with public open space values, involving public access	Linear open space: Riverbank Parks waterways, Esplanade Strips, living streets, green links, greenbelts	Cemeteries
1. CENTRAL CITY; 2. URBAN INTENSIFICATION AREAS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Parks sited for maximum visibility along key daily movement corridors and lanes to provide urban greening, relief / contrast to the built environment, summer shade / winter sun, visual continuity of green space, colour and sheltered seating areas for visitors and inner city workers. See Central City concept plan descriptions. » Parks to have not less than 25% of their perimeter as street frontage, publicly accessible surface waterway and or public access lanes. » Parks sited along pedestrian links in urban intensification activity centre areas. » All Parks shall conform to Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design principles (CPTED). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » An option of a Central City Local Park of about one hectare in size to cater for daily active recreation pursuits (including informal sport), play equipment, amenity, large trees, biodiversity, environmental and stormwater mitigation. See Central city concept plan zone D for location options. » Local parks of about 3000m² or more in high density residential areas linked to an enhanced street network and other parks. See Central city concept plan zone B, C, D for general locations in the Central City. » Parks to have not less than 30% of their perimeter as street frontage, publicly accessible surface waterway and or publicly accessible lanes. See Central city concept plan zone B, C, D for general locations in the Central City. » All parks shall conform to CPTED principles. 	N/A	N/A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Central City and Intensification area streets greened (tree planting etc) and enhanced for pedestrian use to improve the amenity of the Central City and substitute for lack of private open space wherever possible. See Central City Street Tree Master Plan, Gehl Study and Central City Open Space Concept Plan. » Waterway setbacks in accordance with District Plan requirements, Infrastructure Design Standard (IDS) and Waterways and Wetlands design Guide (WWDG) See Avon River Master Plan. » New street tree planting in accordance with the Infrastructure Design Standard (IDS). » Off road recreation routes recommended to be a minimum of 8m wide. Widths should normally be wider to accommodate growth of large trees and to avoid root and branch encroachment on adjoining properties. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Barbadoes cemetery better integrated into open space system with street, Avon River Corridor and park links. See Central City Open Space Concept Plan.

Areas	Civic Spaces (small sized public spaces of varying size, generally less than 1000m ²)	Local Parks and Garden and Heritage Parks (3000m ² or more in size)	Sports parks: large multi use parks able to accommodate outdoor sports if required (4.5 hectares or larger in size if required for outdoor sports use)	Regional Parks and covenants or agreements over land with public open space values, involving public access	Linear open space: Riverbank Parks Waterways, Esplanade Strips, living streets, green links, greenbelts	Cemeteries
3. GREENFIELDS	Not applicable	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All residents should have access to Local Parks sited within approximately 400m. Local or Garden and Heritage Parks sited adjoining Urban Malls and in activity centres. New parks to have not less than 50% of their perimeter as street frontage and or publicly accessible surface waterway. All parks shall conform to CPTED principles. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sited according to the Outdoor Sports Land Plan and area development plans. Parks to have not less than 50% of their perimeter as street frontage. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sites with identified natural values (see Chapter 7 Assessment principles and Banks Peninsula and Christchurch concept plans and area plans). Areas for wetland bird biodiversity purposes need to be approximately 14 ha in size to accommodate a 3 ha lake and provide appropriate surrounding habitat / buffer. Core patches of indigenous forest planting for biodiversity purposes recommended to be a minimum of 5 ha in area and located at approximately 5 km intervals. Local indigenous forest habitat planting for biodiversity purposes recommended to be a minimum of 1 ha and located at approximately 1 km intervals. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Waterway setbacks for riparian protection and recreation access recommended to be at least 20m in width inclusive of pathway development. Also see Waterways and Wetlands Design Guide. New street tree planting in accordance with the IDS. Recreation routes through new residential areas recommended to be a minimum of 8m wide. Widths should normally be wider to accommodate growth of large trees and to avoid root and branch encroachment on adjoining properties 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> New Cemetery sites identified in the Cemetery Plan
4. EXISTING SUBURBS	N/A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> New neighbourhood Local or Garden and Heritage Parks sited in high priority parks deficiency areas. See Christchurch Open Space Concept Plan. It is desirable that new parks have not less than 30% street frontage and or publicly accessible surface waterway. All parks shall conform to CPTED principles. Local or Garden and Heritage Parks sited adjoining Urban Malls and in activity centres. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Parks sports use to be maximised through use of artificial surfaces in existing parks, as applicable. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sites with identified natural values (see Chapter 7 Assessment principles for Provision and Enhancement of Public open space' and Concept plans). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Waterway setbacks in accordance with District Plan requirements, IDS and WWDG. New street tree planting in accordance with the IDS. See Christchurch Concept Plan for planted corridor primary locations. Green links in accordance with area development plans and CPTED principles. Recreation routes through residential areas recommended to be a minimum of 8m wide. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Existing and historic cemeteries integrated into open space system with enhanced street, waterway and park links.

Area	Civic Spaces (small sized public spaces of varying size, generally less than 1000m ²)	Local Parks and Garden and Heritage Parks (3000m ² or more in size)	Sports parks: large multi use parks able to accommodate outdoor sports if required (4.5 hectares or larger in size if required for outdoor sports use)	Regional Parks and covenants or agreements over land with public open space values, involving public access	Linear open space: Riverbank Parks Waterways, Esplanade Strips, living streets, green links, greenbelts	Cemeteries
5. INDUSTRIAL / BUSINESS AREAS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Small parks sited within industrial and business areas to provide urban greening, amenity, relief, contrast to the built environment, summer shade / winter sun and sheltered seating areas for industrial / business workers. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Parks (0.3-1 ha) located in industrial/ business areas for amenity and daily active recreation/ sports. 	N/A	N/A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Waterway setbacks in accordance with District Plan requirements, IDS and WWDG. Street tree planting in accordance with the IDS. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Existing and heritage cemeteries integrated into open space system with road, waterway and park links.
6. RURAL AREAS (mostly Banks Peninsula, but also around the Christchurch urban margins)	N/A	N/A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sports Parks generally sited adjacent to towns and small settlements to service surrounding rural community. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sites with identified natural values (see Chapter 7 Assessment principles for Provision and Enhancement of Public open space' and Christchurch and Banks Peninsula concept plans and plans such as the Akaroa Harbour Basin Settlements Study). Regional Parks are distributed geographically to represent a variety of natural environments and landscapes. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Waterway setbacks for riparian protection and recreation access recommended to be at least 20 metres in width. Recreation routes established on road verges and or unformed legal roads to link parks / recreation destinations in general accordance with the Christchurch and Banks Peninsula Concept Plan routes. Recreation routes negotiated with landowners to link parks / recreation destinations in general accordance with the Christchurch and Banks Peninsula Concept Plans 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Existing and heritage cemeteries integrated into open space system with road, waterway and park links. New cemeteries including for eco burials be established on the periphery of the urban area or rural areas. See Cemeteries Plan.

Area	Civic Spaces (small sized public spaces of varying size, generally less than 1000m ²)	Local Parks and Garden and Heritage Parks (3000m ² or more in size)	Sports parks: large to multi use parks able to accommodate outdoor sports if required (4.5 hectares or larger in size if required for outdoor sports use)	Regional Parks and covenants or agreements over land with public open space values, involving public access	Linear open space: Riverbank Parks Strips, living streets, green links, greenbelts	Cemeteries
7. TOWNSHIPS	N/A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All residents should have access to Local or Garden and Heritage Parks sited within approximately 400m. All parks shall conform to CPTED. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sited according to the Outdoor Sports Land Plan and area development plans. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sites with identified natural values (see Chapter 7 'Assessment Principles for Provision and Enhancement of Public open space' and Concept Plans). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Waterway setbacks in accordance with District Plan requirements, Infrastructure Design Standard (IDS) and Waterways and Wetlands design Guide (WWDG). Walkways and cycle routes developed according to area concept plans. Recreation routes through new residential areas recommended to be a minimum of 8m wide. Widths should normally be wider to accommodate growth of large trees and to avoid root and branch encroachment on adjoining properties. New street tree planting in accordance with the IDS. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Existing and heritage cemeteries integrated into open space system with enhanced street, waterway and park links.
8. SMALL SETTLEMENTS	N/A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All residents should have access to a public open space sited within approximately 400m of residences. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sited according to the Outdoor Sports Land Plan and area development plans. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Links provided to Regional Parks, the coast, viewpoints and areas of outstanding natural landscape, scenic areas, cultural landscapes of importance to Ngāi Tahu and heritage features and places. See Banks Peninsula and Christchurch Public Open Space Concept Plans. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Walkways and cycle routes developed, including along unformed legal roads, and waterways linked to interesting destinations, coast and parks. Beach access provided. See Banks Peninsula and Christchurch Concept Plans. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Existing and heritage cemeteries integrated into open space system with road, waterway and park links.



PHOTO: AVON RIVER INDIGENOUS SEDGES / AUTUMN LEAVES.

09

Resources
and
capability

Achieving the strategy vision will take a concerted and coordinated effort. Establishment of a comprehensive open space network will work only if a wide range of organisations and individuals are involved and working together, as resources and volunteers are always limited. Building effective partnerships between Ngāi Tahu, landowners, local communities, voluntary organisations and local and central government will be essential. Fortunately, there are willing and able organisations and interested groups, businesses and individuals who have a stake in the provision of open space.

The Christchurch City Council manages an extensive network of parks, streets, roads, pedestrian malls, squares and waterways. Open space provision objectives are an important part of the Council's parks operational and capital programmes.

Environment Canterbury has a range of statutory planning responsibilities and is active in stream care programmes, water quality monitoring and pest management. Environment Canterbury has landowner responsibility for 26,000 hectares of land and is committed to an active environmental programme within all its lands. Environment Canterbury has initiated a regional parks system of some 4000 ha on Council lands along the Waimakariri River. Their property on Kaitōrete Spit is used for recreational hunting and fishing access to Te Waihora / Lake Ellesmere.

The Department of Conservation manages a widely distributed network of reserves and crown land across Banks Peninsula, the Port Hills and along the coast. Aside from their overall responsibility for indigenous biodiversity conservation under a range of statutory mechanisms, such as the Conservation Act 1987, Reserves Act 1977 and Wildlife Act 1953, the department is actively

involved in provision of open space for recreation.

Fish and Game New Zealand is an angler and game bird hunter organisation which has a statutory mandate to manage New Zealand's fresh water sports fish fisheries and game bird hunting.

Ngāi Tahu, through the six local rūnanga - Te Ngāi Tūāhuriri Rūnanga, Te Hapū o Ngāti Wheke (Rāpaki), Te Rūnanga o Koukourārata, Onuku Rūnanga, Wairewa Rūnanga, Te Taumutu Rūnanga, and supported by Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu, provide resource management skills and individually have mātauranga and kaitiakitanga over land, water and biodiversity areas. These have stakeholder interests in the public recreation areas such as Wairewa / Lake Forsyth and Te Waihora / Lake Ellesmere, Te Riu o Te Aika Kawa / Brooklands Lagoon, Akaroa and Whakaraupo / Lyttelton Harbours and the outer bays of Banks Peninsula.

Ngāi Tahu also owns significant areas of land in Akaroa, Port Levy (Potiriwi) / Koukourārata, Wairewa, and Rāpaki, Brooklands as well as the bed of Te Waihora / Lake Ellesmere.

The relevance and importance of this to the open space strategy is that the Council has to recognise and provide for the Ngāi Tahu relationship with their ancestral landscapes, culture and traditions. It is significant that many of the areas identified in this strategy are still used for cultural traditions and practices and they occur in less developed areas of the District that retain more of their natural and cultural heritage (and as such are important cultural landscapes). The impact of the implementation of this strategy on these areas of importance should be taken into account by Council in its decisions. In addition the rights of the owners of

Māori land must be recognised and considered by Council in planning for open space provision and use.

The other aspect that is significant for Ngāi Tahu and Council is the extent to which provision of public open space can allow Ngāi Tahu to fulfil its aspirations in relation to habitat and mahinga kai restoration and enhancement, which supports Ngāi Tahu identity, culture and wellbeing

The Banks Peninsula Conservation Trust is primarily involved in promoting conservation and sustainable land management on private land through legal covenants, education and advocacy. The trust has powers under the Reserves Act 1977 to place covenants on indigenous biodiversity, landscapes and sites of cultural heritage. The trust has a good reputation with landowners and provides a valuable linkage between landowners and government agencies.

The Queen Elizabeth II Trust was established "to encourage and promote the provision, protection and enhancement of open space for the benefit and enjoyment of the people of New Zealand". Their Banks Peninsula covenants contain some very important biodiversity remnants. QE II covenants can be set up to provide for public access as well as conservation purposes.

Private Trusts, Societies and Private Owners

Private trusts, societies and private owners manage large areas of land on Banks Peninsula and Christchurch. These include:

- » **Maurice White Native Forest Trust (Hinewai)** - approximately 1278 hectares.
- » **Orton Bradley Park Board** - 655 hectares.
- » **Port Hills Trust Board**, Mt Vernon Park - 235 hectares.
- » **The Summit Road Authority** - is responsible for the administration of the Summit Road (Canterbury) Protection Act 2001. The Port Hills Summit Road protected area lies between the Summit of the Port Hills and 30m below the road between Evans Pass and Gebbies Pass. It is notable for its scenic qualities which are recognised by a specific Act of Parliament.
- » **The Summit Road Society**, Port Hills - 148 hectares plus **Gama Foundation** land including Ōmahu Bush and the area around Gibraltar Rock, a combination of regenerating bush, tussock grassland and a volcanic outcrop, with a QEII National Trust covenant.
- » **Issac Conservation Park**.

Other key groups and organisations include:

- » Akaroa Civic Trust;
- » Akaroa Heritage Park Trust (manage a park beside Long Bay Road);
- » Avon Heathcote Estuary Ihutai Trust;
- » Banks Peninsula Reserves Committees;
- » Cass Bay Reserves Committee;
- » Christchurch Civic Trust;
- » Christchurch Estuary Association;
- » Friends of Banks Peninsula;
- » Friends of Linwood Cemetery;
- » Governors Bay Landcare Group;
- » Lyttelton and Akaroa Harbour issues working parties;
- » Ngā Papatipu Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu;
- » North Canterbury Federated Farmers;
- » North Canterbury Fish and Game;
- » Ōtamahua / Quail Island Ecological Restoration Trust;
- » Riccarton Bush / Pūtarangamotu Trust;
- » Rod Donald Banks Peninsula Trust;
- » Royal Forest & Bird Protection Society;
- » Styx Living Laboratory Trust;
- » Travis Wetland Trust;
- » Waihora Ellesmere Trust.

PHOTO: HINEWAI, PRIVATE CONSERVATION PARK, BANKS PENINSULA



10

Implementation risks

The main risks to delivering strategy outcomes are:

- » Reduction in emphasis on the continual maintenance and enhancement of the District's green infrastructure and Christchurch Garden City character due to changes of corporate emphasis, loss of key staff and institutional knowledge and consequent impact on capital and operational works priorities. Priorities are currently determined on a three year basis as part of the Council's LTP budget rounds.
- » Lack of financial resources to maintain and improve parks and waterway quantity, quality, diversity and accessibility standards.
- » Limited provision of resources to enhance the street network for environmental and greater non motorised use.
- » Failure to implement a publicly accessible open space network as a key element of Urban Development Strategy implementation.
- » Council fails to appropriately support community and or individual open space initiatives.
- » Failure of Council to work cooperatively with other organisations, Rūnanga, community groups, business and individuals involved in open space provision initiatives.
- » Lack of accurate information on parks priorities, issues and solutions.
- » Lack of prioritisation leading to land acquisition in inappropriate places, thus preventing acquisitions where most needed.
- » Spreading resources across too many initiatives and thus failing to achieve any objective adequately.
- » Poor or inadequate monitoring.
- » Open space needs from increased growth are insufficiently funded from Development Contributions.

PHOTO: GOOD MANAGEMENT OF TE ROTO O WAIREWA / LAKE FORSYTH CATCHMENT REQUIRES PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN PUBLIC AGENCIES, THE RUNANGA AND LANDOWNERS.



11

Monitoring evaluation and review

Accurate monitoring of open space requirements and trends is essential to ensure that the city's open space network is kept relevant and useful. Major issues that need to be monitored include:

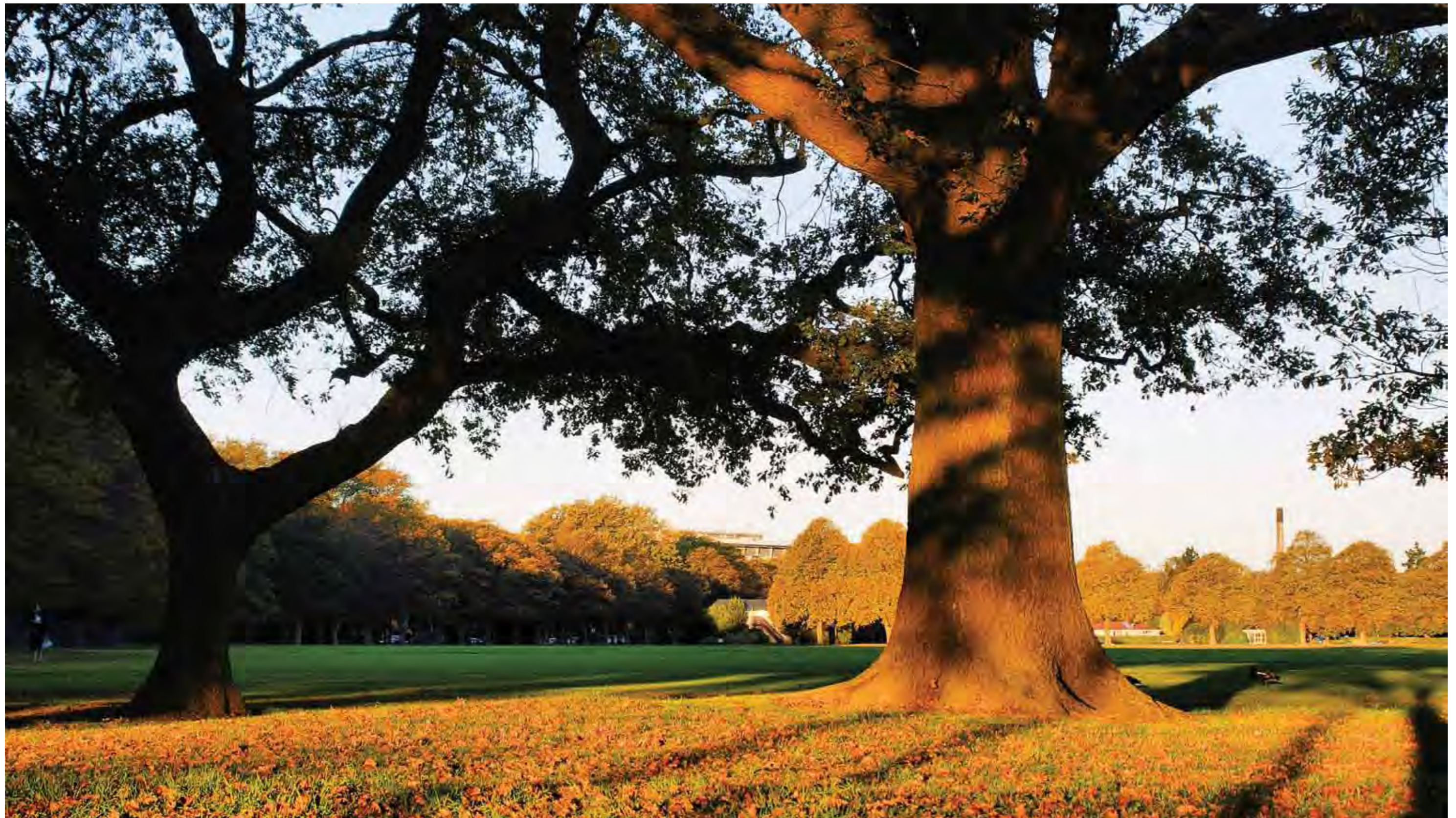
- » Numbers, demand and preferences for users of parks and sporting facilities.
- » Review of social and environmental impacts on outdoor recreation destinations, routes and their users.
- » Review of cultural impacts on open space areas and their use.
- » Continual review of open space provision, maintenance standards and their application across the city.
- » Resident satisfaction levels with park quantity and quality.
- » Progress implementing strategy objectives, policies and targets.

STRATEGY REVIEW

The strategy will be reviewed at six-year intervals to coincide with every second LTP round.

PHOTO: HARPER AVENUE. CHERRIES ARE AN ICONIC FEATURE OF CHRISTCHURCH.





Part Two: Strategy Background

12

History of Christchurch District open space provision

The site on which Metropolitan Christchurch is located is flat, exposed and without any major natural features that define or enclose different areas. The only prominent natural features are the Port Hills and the distant mountains that frame the wide expanse of the Canterbury Plains. Critical to making the site habitable for early European settlers were the extensive drainage of surface water and the planting of trees, creating a sense of enclosure and protection from wind and weather.

In contrast, the Banks Peninsula landscape which consists of a rocky coastline, hills, peaks, valleys and forests has a climate which differs markedly from that of urban Christchurch.

The public open spaces that we currently enjoy have resulted from a combination of deliberate planning, legal requirements, historic uses, landscape development and settlement patterns, mitigation of environmental problems and inspired opportunism.

MĀORI SETTLEMENT

Māori settlement of the Christchurch District occurred approximately 700 years ago. Rākaihautū (Uruao canoe) is credited with the discovery and first settlement of the district. Tuhiraki / Mt Bossu in the Akaroa area is a current reminder of Rākaihautū's influence. In classical times, Banks Peninsula had one of the largest concentrations of Māori in the South Island while the surrounding Otautahi / Christchurch was extensively used for food gathering. Māori modified the landscape of the Christchurch District over a long period prior to the arrival of Europeans and developed rich cultural associations with places and resources, including creation of settlements, transport routes, gardens, urupā (burial grounds) and places of importance for mahinga kai.

EARLY EUROPEAN SETTLEMENT

The first whalers and sealers, the French at Akaroa and early settler families had a direct and indirect influence on the existing and future shape and form of open space provision in the district. For example, the Deans family, one of the first settlers, protected Riccarton Bush and may have influenced the setting aside of Hagley Park. Their role in the development of the District is well known. However site-based information on the history of Banks Peninsula's shore based whaling industry has yet to be made easily accessible to the public. The Bridle Path originated from the need for settlers to move from Lyttelton to Christchurch. Parks such as Mt Cavendish and Orton Bradley were gifted to the nation by early settler families.

TRADITION OF PUBLIC OPEN SPACE PROVISION

Provision of recreation and visitor opportunities within the District have been regarded as important in civic planning and by the public since early European settlement. By the mid-19th century, Akaroa was regarded as the visitor destination of choice for Canterbury and Otago working-class families. Public and private open space was enhanced to encourage these early visitors.

GARDEN HERITAGE

The landscape identity and character of early Christchurch and Banks Peninsula was strongly influenced by the horticultural endeavours of early settlers. Importation of trees, seeds and other plants led to widespread planting of exotic plants in Akaroa, Christchurch, Lyttelton and rural areas. The widespread planting of macrocarpa, pines, willows and bluegums occurred early in the District's history. Roses were introduced very early in European settlement history. For example, at least two rose varieties were brought to Akaroa on the Comte de Paris in 1840.

EUROPEAN SETTLEMENT OF CHRISTCHURCH (THE GARDEN CITY)

Christchurch was planned according to the garden city movement. Land was designated for the churches and squares, which included Cathedral Square, Cranmer Square, Latimer Square, a market place (Victoria Square), civic buildings and cemetery reserves. Provision was made for a major public open spaces; Hagley Park and Botanic Gardens. Further open space was provided for by wide town belts of trees and lawns, and the Avon River with its central city river banks was similarly modified. By the end of the 19th century, the Garden City concept had emerged.

PORT HILLS AND BANKS PENINSULA SCENIC AND RECREATION RESERVES: 1900s TO THE PRESENT

A string of small scenic reserves, mostly on the higher points of the Port Hills and the Peninsula was set aside relatively early, around 1919. These included the Port Hills Summit Road (begun in 1908), Victoria Park, 1897 and, much more recently, Mount Vernon Park (provided by the Christchurch Civic Trust in 1984). Approximately 22 percent of the Port Hills is now accessible for public use.

PHOTO: TRAVIS WETLAND PROTECTS BIODIVERSITY, RECREATION AND NATURAL LANDSCAPE IN URBAN CHRISTCHURCH.

CEMETERIES

Many parts of the Peninsula and Christchurch have ancient burial grounds (urupā). Although the majority of these are situated on private land, some important burial areas are located on public land. The public cemeteries of Christchurch and those of several churches, St Paul's in Papanui, St James in Harewood, St Luke's and St Michael's in the inner city and St Peter's in Upper Riccarton are now valued open space. The most notable cemeteries on the Peninsula are sited in Akaroa (reserved by 1856) and Lyttelton. Many of the Banks Peninsula bays have cemeteries dating from early European settlement.



SPORTS GROUNDS AND PLAYGROUNDS: 1920s & 1930s

Christchurch's park network was substantially added to, particularly for sport and the provision of children's playgrounds. The city's suburban park system expanded steadily as the city grew. These suburban parks generally combine the provision of playing fields with plantings of exotic trees and gardens.

SPORTS PARKS: 1940s & 1950s

World War II and concern about the moral and physical welfare of youth provided incentives to improve people's fitness and participation in physical activity. The focus of open space provision shifted from predominantly passive recreation activities to active sports and physical training. Fendalton Park dates prior to 1944. Burnside Park began life as a country reserve in 1955.

NATURAL AND CULTURAL SPACE: 1970s

The wider public became more aware and concerned that landscapes were rapidly changing and that their diversity had in recent decades been seriously diminished. These concerns subsequently become part of conservation thought and were incorporated into current issues, objectives and policies for public open space. The focus was initially on ways of thinking about urban landscapes as expressions of natural and cultural processes. This has led to planning for holistic protection of ecosystems and better integration of human and natural systems in urban landscapes.

NATURAL AND CULTURAL SPACE: LATE 1980s TO PRESENT

One important aspect of recent trends in the acquisition and management of parks and reserves in the city has been an effort to restore significant areas to their original state, through regeneration of surviving pockets of vegetation and replanting of locally sourced species, such as at Travis Wetland and the Charlesworth Street salt marshes.

MULTIFUNCTIONAL OPEN SPACE AND NETWORKS AND SUSTAINABILITY

In recent years, public open space has had to fulfil an increasingly wide range of objectives. Low impact urban design needs, more diverse recreation needs, stormwater mitigation, biodiversity protection, new technologies, carbon sequestration and other factors are placing considerable pressure on provision, design and use of parks, waterways and other public open spaces.

MAHINGA KAI CULTURAL PARKS

A way of looking at land use, which has recreation and open space implications, is the Mahinga Kai Cultural Park concept. This concept was first proposed by Ngāi Tahu in their 2025 vision statement. A Mahinga Kai Cultural Park is fundamentally an area of land and / or water managed for the primary, although not exclusive, purpose of rehabilitating the environment, traditional food gathering and innovative economic initiatives that involve the use indigenous plants.

It has an important historical context. In 1868, Ngāi Tahu was awarded what are known as the Fenton Reserves by Judge Fenton, Chief Judge of the Maori Land Court. These reserves were meant to provide access for Ngāi Tahu to important waterways so that iwi could continue to exercise the traditions of mahinga kai. The original reserves have since been severely degraded due to drainage, pollution and natural watercourse changes, thus reducing their value as mahinga kai / food gathering areas (Te Whakatau Kaupapa, 1990).

Recent initiatives by the Wairewa Runanga have used this concept to investigate the possibility of a community-driven project that would encourage cooperative land management for the Te Roto o Wairewa / Lake Forsyth catchment. It could encompass environmental, cultural and economic initiatives. Open space provision and walkways for the Wairewa catchment could be developed as part of the concept.

Ngāi Tahu continues to be proactive in local, regional and national planning, advocating for the provision of appropriate waterway management approaches and provisions to support healthy water, sufficient habitat and accessible places for the continuation of their cultural mahinga kai practices.

PHOTO: PARKS CONTRIBUTE POSITIVELY TO PROTECTION AND ENHANCEMENT OF HERITAGE PLACES. CURATORS HOUSE, BOTANIC GARDENS.



13

Existing public open space

Christchurch District has a variety of open space areas that includes neighbourhood and community parks, garden and heritage parks, sports parks, regional parks, cemeteries, footpaths and roads, waterways and their margins. The provision of open space follows a general spatial hierarchy as described below.

Specialised areas, such as cemeteries, waterways and riverbank parks, are scattered throughout the District and are linked by the transportation infrastructure and complemented by private open space. Each of the different types of open space has unique values and provides varying social, cultural, environmental and economic outcomes that contribute to the overall interest and diversity of open space in the city.

TYPES OF OPEN SPACE

Local Neighbourhood parks

Across Christchurch and Banks Peninsula, the Council provides 579 neighbourhood parks. These are generally small (less than two hectares) and provide places for reflection, relaxation, informal recreation, small scale community events and facilities. They contribute to the community's natural character and amenity and form part of a network of open space that includes walkways and cycleways.

PHOTO: TEDDY BEARS PICNIC.



Garden and heritage parks

There are 47 garden and heritage parks across Christchurch and Banks Peninsula. These parks vary in size and have a significant place in our natural and cultural heritage. Garden and heritage parks also play a significant role in supporting the Garden City image of Christchurch as well as promoting local biodiversity.

Sports parks

There are approximately 118 sports parks across Christchurch and Banks Peninsula. The Council provides these parks which are generally large (over two hectares), as green areas that enable people to participate in organised sport and other forms of active and passive recreation. They provide opportunities for large social gatherings, significant amenity areas and help to protect exotic and native biodiversity.

Regional parks

The Council manages 82 regional parks across Christchurch and on Banks Peninsula. Regional parks are large open spaces on the urban fringe that protect and enhance scenic, cultural and environmental values and enable residents and visitors to learn about and experience a range of natural landscapes.

Riverbank and conservation areas

The Council maintains 101 riverbank and conservation areas in Christchurch and on Banks Peninsula. These protect and enhance the waterway environment, provide key walking and cycling linkages between open space areas and the road network and help to protect surrounding residential areas from flooding. They are significant destinations for recreational activities, such as boating, fishing and wildlife viewing.

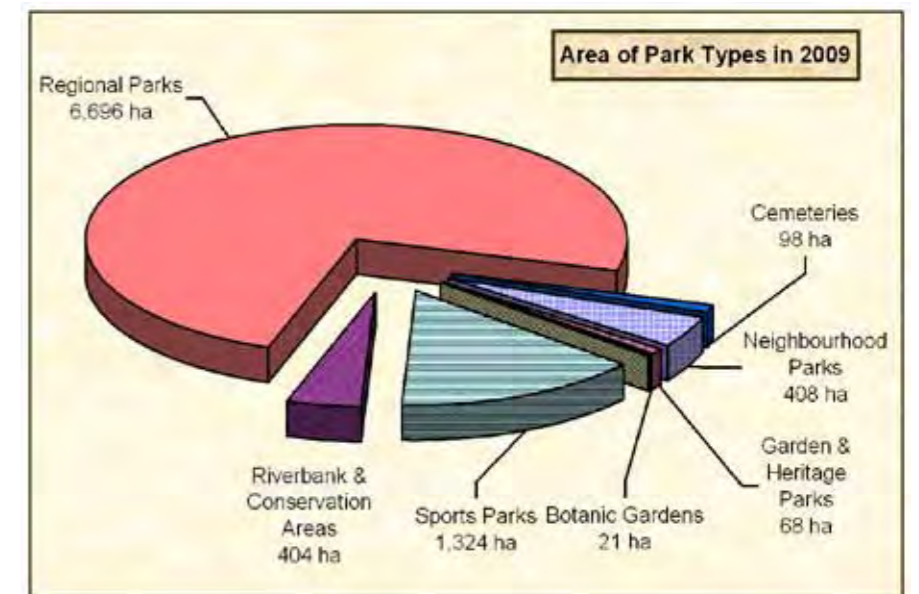
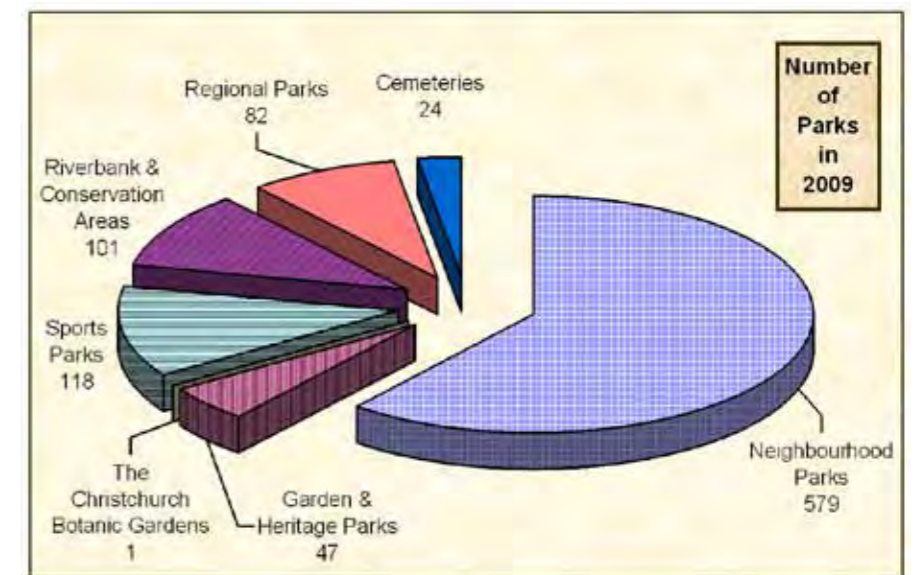
Cemeteries

The Council provides and manages 24 cemeteries to meet the burial, remembrance and heritage needs of the community across Christchurch and Banks Peninsula. Cemeteries also support the Garden City image of Christchurch.

Road network

The Council provides and manages over 2314 kilometres of footpaths, 73 kilometres of off-street cycleways, 58 kilometres of on-street cycleways,

57,000 square metres of amenity areas and outdoor pedestrian malls. The road network is provided mostly to facilitate safe, easy and comfortable access to homes, shops, businesses and recreation areas. As well as providing a transportation function, the road network provides visual amenity and opportunities for participation in active and passive recreation activities.



14

Benefits of open space

A range of diverse open spaces is required to meet the needs and preferences of Christchurch District residents now and in the future.

Open space provides tremendous:

- » Health;
- » Environmental;
- » Social;
- » Cultural;
- » Economic;

benefits for Christchurch District residents. The local provision of open spaces also generates hundreds of millions, perhaps billions, of dollars worth of cost savings and profits for local residents and the Council.

HEALTH BENEFITS

Open space provision has a significant positive impact on the prevalence and severity of a variety of diseases, including:

- » Diabetes;
- » heart disease;
- » stroke;
- » certain cancers;
- » obesity;
- » depression.

The health benefits of open space provision are associated with:

- » outdoor physical activity and sports participation;
- » active transportation (particularly walking and cycling);
- » the restorative and stress-relieving effects of exposure to natural environments;
- » increased opportunities for planned and spontaneous social interaction;
- » decreases in the heat island effect;
- » other negative environmental effects of urban centres and;
- » the promotion of faster recovery from illness or injury.

SOCIAL AND CULTURAL BENEFITS

The provision of high-quality open space also helps to meet the social and cultural needs of diverse communities. Open space assists in preserving cultural heritage sites; provides a location for mahinga kai (traditional resource gathering), provides spaces for social interaction and community events; enhances community identity engenders a sense of place; assists in the reduction of crime, and facilitates pedestrian and cycle movement through urban areas.

ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS

Open space provides significant environmental benefits, including:

- » improving local biodiversity through the provision of habitat areas;
- » the preservation of natural landscapes;
- » enhancing visual amenity;
- » generating community appreciation of, and affinity for, nature;
- » enhancing air and water quality;
- » providing noise attenuation;
- » helping to control erosion;
- » moderating temperature in urban areas, controlling stormwater runoff and providing flood mitigation.

Open space provision creates a more liveable environment and enhances quality of life for residents while supporting biodiversity and allowing natural systems to coexist with the built environment.

ECONOMIC BENEFITS

The provision of open space also provides direct economic benefits for Christchurch District. High-quality open space areas attract tourists and contribute to the Garden City image to;

- » attract businesses and new residents;
- » increase the number of people visiting retail areas;
- » increase the value of adjacent properties and increase the associated rates yield;
- » support sustainable development and urban regeneration;
- » provide employment opportunities associated with parks and recreation management;
- » provide income through the leasing of land for production or grazing and provide a community based resource for a range of activities such as:
 - » sport;
 - » skateboarding;
 - » walking;
 - » picnicking;
 - » children's play, and
 - » nature viewing.

Provision of these opportunities by the Council reduces individual costs of partaking in a wide range of activities that might otherwise prove prohibitive.



PHOTO: PUNTING ON THE AVON RIVER ENHANCES THE CHARACTER OF THE CENTRAL CITY.

15

Open space as a network

An open space network refers to a web of predominantly green spaces flowing from the centre of the city to the suburbs connected by greenways, riparian corridors or pedestrian infrastructure.

CURRENT / FUTURE CHRISTCHURCH DISTRICT OPEN SPACE COMPARISON

The current pattern of open space provision across Christchurch and Banks Peninsula is not designed as a network. While Christchurch District has a multitude of varied open spaces, there is little connectivity between areas. Parks and civic spaces are currently provided as discrete units in response to levels of service that emphasise proximity and accessibility, but not connectivity. Improving connections between open space areas may help

to mitigate demands for a greater quantity of provision associated with urban development by increasing the accessibility of existing green, blue and grey spaces. Waterways, road and rail corridors provide a starting point for the development of open space linkages.

Under the current open space hierarchy, parks and reserves arguably grow in size and decrease in number with increasing distance from the City centre towards the urban fringe (also effective open space linkages are minimal or non-existent).

A more desirable future open space concept for the City would be characterised by an enhanced and diversified network of parks, streets, greenways and riparian corridors.

PEDESTRIAN-FRIENDLY STREETS

The city's streets form part of the wider open space network and provide for the movement of pedestrians and cyclists and other non-automated transport modes. For most of its history, Christchurch's road network has been designed for the fast and efficient movement of motorised vehicles. In recent times, streets have become increasingly viewed as a shared space rather than the exclusive domain of the automobile, hence steps have been taken to improve the experience of other road users. A variety of concepts have been used to describe streets that are more pedestrian-orientated, including 'shared streets', 'living streets', 'complete streets' and 'smart streets'. All of these street types aim to prioritise the needs of pedestrians and encourage social interaction. They also include a range of traffic-calming measures such as the use of speed restrictions and humps, reallocation of road space, expansion of pedestrian facilities, improved crossing points, safe routes to school, improved lighting and streetscape enhancements. Such measures improve the utility of streets for a wider range of users. A majority of city streets have the potential to become 'living' or 'complete streets' (with the exception of motorways or expressways). Increased and sustained funding is required to ensure conversion and development of more pedestrian-friendly streets across the City.

CURRENT PROVISION

In recent years, the Council has pursued a street enhancement programme, with the aim of enhancing the amenity aspects of suburban streets and improving their utility for a wider range of users. Prior to and during this programme, a number of pedestrian-oriented streets have been developed around the City. Good examples of 'living streets' include Chevron Place (Ilam), Bickerton Street (Wainoni), New Regent Street (Central City), Worcester Boulevard

(Central City), Lavendula Crescent (Burnside) and Peveral Street (Riccarton).

In addition, Greenfield developments are incorporating walking and cycle-friendly infrastructure, and the retrofitting of existing streets into more pedestrian-friendly areas is also proceeding in line with other street renewals such as naturalisation of utility drains and waterways.

A recent review of heritage areas in the Living 2 and 3 Zone areas has provided an indication of the amenity aspects of current urban street quality. However, to date, very few streets in Christchurch City have been designed in accordance with a 'complete street' philosophy.

PHOTO: CASHEL / HIGH STREET MALL.

PHOTO: WATERWAYS PROVIDE AND CONNECT OPEN SPACE IN URBAN CHRISTCHURCH, WAIMAIRI STREAM.



16

Accessibility and equity of provision of open space

Accessibility refers to the rights of people to access or use open space areas.

Equity refers to the fair distribution of open spaces across the city, with the aim of providing access to residents regardless of their locality or life circumstances.

EXISTING PROVISION

The current levels of service regarding open space provision have resulted in the delivery of many well-dispersed and accessible open space areas across Christchurch and Banks Peninsula. Christchurch has a well-deserved reputation as a 'Garden City' and has a number of key parks and reserves, such as the Botanic Gardens, Hagley Park, and the Port Hills. The Banks Peninsula also has a variety of reserves of high environmental and cultural value. These are important destinations for tourists and residents. While a high proportion of metropolitan Christchurch has good access to parks and reserves, there are also areas that have relatively poor open space access. A recent open space accessibility and deficiency analysis identified the following areas of metropolitan Christchurch as being more than 8.5 minutes walking distance from open spaces of 2500m² or larger. The 8.5 minute walking time is based on the time it would take for an elderly person or child to walk 400m. Minimum areas of 2500m² to 3000m² are needed to accommodate a playground, trees and some open unplanted space.

Areas identified as open space deficient (see map page 97 and Christchurch Concept Plan page 51)

- » Avonhead;
- » Fendalton;
- » Merivale;
- » Eastern Bryndwr;
- » Southern St Albans;
- » Dallington;
- » Linwood;
- » Phillipstown;
- » Waltham;
- » Central City.

These will require additional open space provision or enhancements to the pedestrian infrastructure to ensure that local residents are able to access parks and reserves in their area.

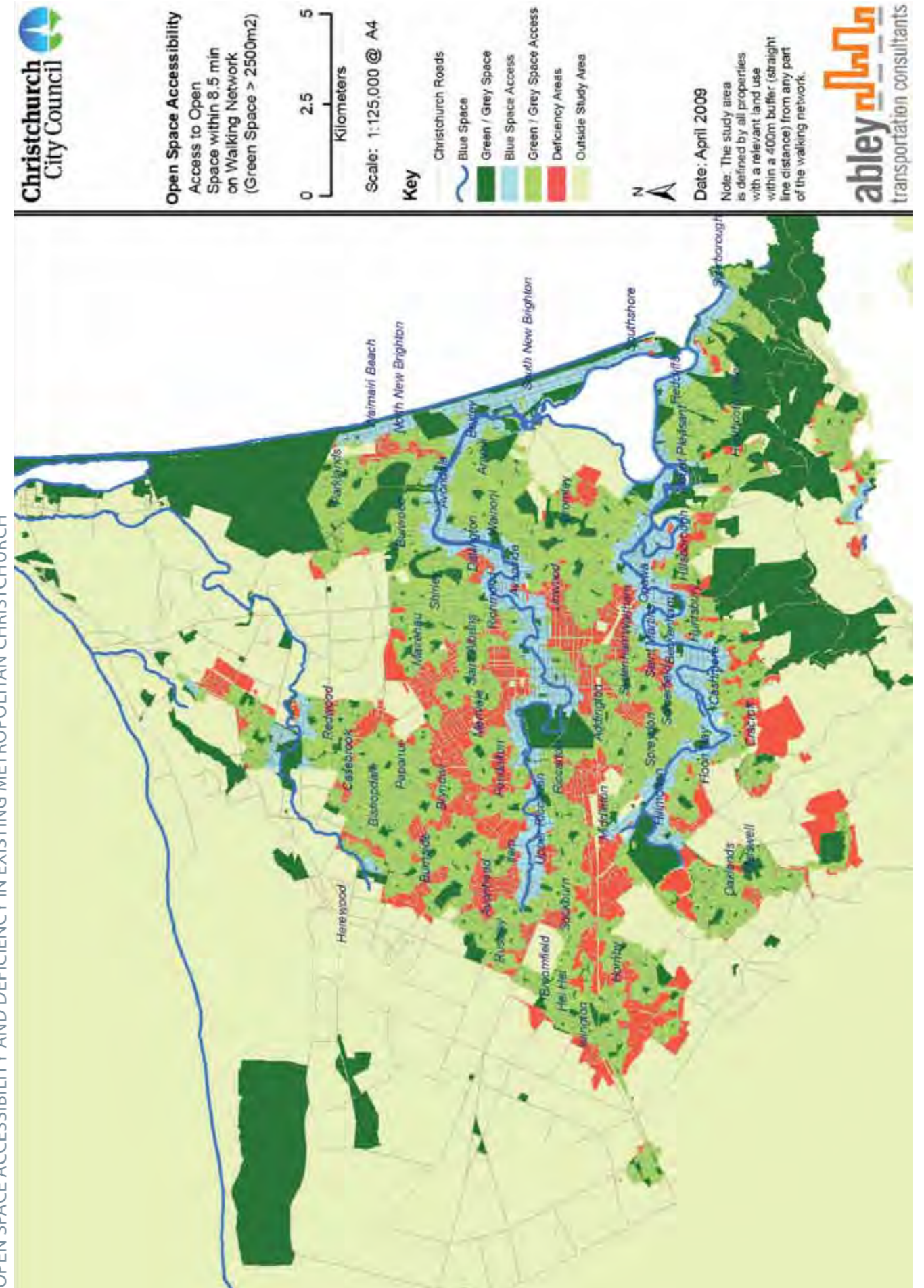
In the same analysis, a number of key corridors were identified as lacking open space provision. These corridors include Papanui Road between Bealey Avenue and Blighs Road, and Blenheim Road.

Improving accessibility and equity in relation to open space provision can be achieved in one of three ways:

1. increasing the provision of new open space areas;
2. enhancing the linkages and connections between existing open spaces;
3. improving public transportation services to open spaces.

More work will need to be undertaken on Banks Peninsula to determine the existing pattern of accessibility.

OPEN SPACE ACCESSIBILITY AND DEFICIENCY IN EXISTING METROPOLITAN CHRISTCHURCH



17

Open space quality

The quality of open space provision has a significant influence on community use of such spaces. Quality refers to the features and characteristics of open space that bear on its ability to meet community needs. Quality relates to such elements as safety and landscape design.



EXISTING PROVISION

The Council measures its performance with regard to open space provision through the following methods: residential surveys, key performance indicators and levels of service. The quality of open space areas in Christchurch is variable. While there is relatively good access to open space in many parts of the city, there are also significant different parts of Christchurch. In particular, low socio-economic areas tend to be associated with a lower quality of provision, which is often characterised by poor landscaping, utilitarian design, visible damage to plantings and park structures, and the presence of graffiti.

An important open space issue relates to the appropriate level of development and subsequent maintenance required for parks and planted areas. For example, the design and maintenance standard expected in the Botanic Gardens may not be appropriate in rural situations. If the same standard is applied, then overall costs of maintenance increase markedly.

An overview is required to provide better prioritisation of parks development across Christchurch and Banks Peninsula. Quality objectives can be applied in a variety of ways for different locations, for example a high level of development appropriate in the inner city may not be appropriate in a greenfield location, or the standard for road access to a park on Banks Peninsula may be different to that needed in urban Christchurch.

PHOTO: THE DAFFODIL DISPLAY IS A SPRING FEATURE OF CHRISTCHURCH.

PHOTO: HISTORIC FEATURES IN PARKS PROVIDE IMPORTANT LINKS TO PREVIOUS LANDSCAPE STYLES.



18

Diversity of open space provision

OPEN SPACE DIVERSITY

Across Christchurch District a wide range of open space areas are provided. Diversity refers to the variety of open space areas that are provided within the city. In the context of open space planning, diversity generally relates to size and function. Open spaces throughout the City range in size from less than 100m² to over 100ha and follow a general spatial hierarchy whereby smaller parks are located near the city centre and larger, regional and sports parks are located on the urban fringe. In terms of function, open spaces provide for active and passive recreation including:

- » organised sports;
- » wildlife and nature viewing;
- » children's play;
- » visual amenity and aesthetics;
- » landscape protection;
- » tangata whenua culturally important site and cultural landscape protection;
- » mahinga kai opportunity;
- » community events;
- » linkages and access ways;
- » environmental conservation;
- » heritage protection;
- » botanical collections;
- » interpretation;
- » education and research;
- » tourism;
- » burial grounds;
- » transportation;
- » drainage and stormwater management.

With such a wide variety of sizes and functions, open space provides resources for many communities and groups in Christchurch.

EXISTING PROVISION

There is a greater diversity of open space provision in Christchurch than on Banks Peninsula, which is due to the large population that lives in the Christchurch metropolitan area and differences in patterns of land use and topography. While the general level of open space diversity is high in areas with large populations, a lack of accessibility in some areas and poor connectivity limit the extent to which this diversity promotes community use of open space areas. Due to the historic patterns of settlement and ongoing urbanisation of Christchurch, there are now significant constraints to the creation of large, multifunctional open spaces within the Christchurch metropolitan area, particularly near urban centres. Creative approaches to open space provision, such as increasing the level of connectivity and utilising urban design and landscaping, will be required to ensure that provision remains diverse, and the open space continues to be well used as Christchurch develops.

PHOTOS: (TOP TO BOTTOM)
HIGH ALTITUDE WALKWAY,
BANKS PENINSULA.
COASTAL CAMPGROUND,
OKAINS BAY.
CIVIC SPACE AND LANDMARK
TREE, NEW BRIGHTON.



19

Open space trends and issues

Key trends and issues relating to societal and environmental change that need to be considered in the provision of open space for Christchurch and Banks Peninsula include:

SOCIAL TRENDS AND ISSUES

Christchurch District population growth

The projected population within the Christchurch City Council District is expected to grow to 453,000 by 2041, an increase of approximately 84,000 from 2009.

Increasing urbanisation

The Greater Christchurch Urban Development Strategy focuses on 'intensifying' development within the existing urban boundary and reducing 'greenfield' urban development. Public open space provision and quality will become increasingly important as the average amount of private open space decreases.

Ageing population

Christchurch District's population is ageing. By 2016, people aged 65 and over are expected to outnumber children below the age of 14. Recreation patterns change as people get older. For example, participation in sport decreases and participation in walking increases. Open space provision will need to meet these changing needs.

Incidence of 'lifestyle' diseases

'Lifestyle' diseases, such as Type II diabetes, heart disease and obesity, continue to be an issue. Providing space for, and encouraging physical activity and healthy lifestyles will become increasingly important. Open space can provide both psychological / physiological health benefits to individuals of all ages.

Social inequality

The accessibility and quality of open space differs for socio-economic

groups. In general the higher the socio-economic group, the more ability they have to access parks in a wider range of locations. Open space needs to be targeted to residents who are more disadvantaged, so as to ensure that they have equal access to public open space.

Need to work together

Many trends in society work against social integration and cooperative ventures. Partnerships with Ngāi Tahu, the DoC, ECan, trusts, landowners and commercial ventures are needed to enhance public open space. The City is too large and complex for a single party to make a major difference alone.

Changing recreation preferences

Since trends in recreation are constantly evolving, public open space planning must be flexible to changing demands. More recent activities, such as jet skiing, parapenting and mountain biking, have emerged as popular sports, and the design and amount of public open space areas has needed to change to accommodate them. Open space will also have to continue to grow to provide for popular activities such as walking and jogging. These activities are consistently at the top of recreation activity preferences and growing in popularity.

Increased risk awareness

Increasing concern about safety and fear of litigation is a trend reflected in increasing regulation, for example, the New Zealand Playground Standards. Open space must provide a balance between safety, adventure and challenge.

ENVIRONMENTAL RISKS AND ISSUES

Biodiversity Loss

Christchurch District's remaining biodiversity is under threat from pests, pollution and to a lesser degree habitat loss. Regional / Conservation Park creation is a key mechanism for protecting and enhancing biodiversity.

Weed and pest control

Weed and pest control is an expensive and ongoing issue in public open space areas. The cost and practicality of weed and pest control should be factored into open space planning.

Need for space for stormwater

Developing new stormwater infrastructure and improving existing infrastructure requires space. There are inherent conflicts between some

recreation activities, some tree planting and use of the same areas for stormwater infrastructure. Parks and street planning should be integrated with stormwater infrastructure planning.

Pervious surfaces

There is a loss of pervious surfaces through housing infill in established urban areas and greenfield development. In planning for open space provision, there is the opportunity to identify options to maximise pervious surfaces in such areas.

Housing density

There is conflict between increasing housing density and the importance of private open space. In planning for open space provision, there is the opportunity to assess options for open space provision as housing density increases.

PHOTO: URBAN BIODIVERSITY, PARADISE DUCKS, HAGLEY PARK.

Climate change

Sea level variation, changes in temperature and extreme weather events have an impact on public open space and its use. Sea level rise needs to be taken into account in the provision and management of coastal open spaces. Sufficient greenspace is needed to mitigate localised heat island effects, provide shade in the City and sufficient area for flood plains. Identification of open space eligible for carbon credits could be assessed, including a cost / benefit analysis of Council involvement in carbon sequestration.



ECONOMIC TRENDS AND ISSUES

Rising land prices

In general, it is becoming more expensive to acquire and develop open space. Either budgets need to accommodate this increase and / or different ways of providing open space need to be pursued.

Reduced reserve development contribution levies

The Council's current Development Contributions Policy has reduced the amount of contributions for reserves. Either the Development Contributions Policy is increased and / or different ways of providing open space are pursued.

Peak Oil

General increases in the price of oil and energy intensive products and services could increase the cost of maintaining open space. This would result in land-use and travel behaviour patterns changing. There may need to be a reduction in energy-intensive maintenance if fuel costs keep increasing and alternative technologies are not available. Travel distances may need to be considered in planning the location of public open space.

Increasing visitor numbers

Visitor numbers are increasing and will continue to impact on open spaces, particularly in 'hotspots' such as Akaroa and the Christchurch Botanic Gardens. Ensure visitors are surveyed and findings included in the planning of open space provision and maintenance.

Meeting visitor expectations

Visitors come expecting 'clean, green, 100% Pure' New Zealand and 'The Garden City' Christchurch. Open space is central to attracting visitors to Christchurch District.

Attracting businesses to Christchurch District

Open space will become increasingly important in attracting workers and businesses to Christchurch and Banks Peninsula. Open space and the 'lifestyle' of Christchurch District can attract key workers and businesses.

OTHER ISSUES FOR EXISTING OPEN SPACE

Park over-use / under-use

There is over-use of some parks and under-use of others, therefore certain uses could be allocated to particular categories of park.

Conflict of use

In popular open space areas there may be conflict of use for different recreational purposes, for example walking, cycling and horse riding.

Use of vehicles to get to open space

The increasing reliance of City residents on the motor vehicle to access open space areas results in traffic and parking problems.

Diversity of park use

There is the risk of trying to make each park be all things to all people. It may be better to specialise, instead of generalise, the use of some parks and park types.

PHOTO: WASHINGTON PARK SKATEBOARD COMPLEX.



Exclusive use

The 'locking away' of parts of parks for essentially exclusive use by sporting clubs with the grant of leases and licences. This may be an appropriate use in parts of certain parks, but parks must be administered to ensure there are no impacts on the rights of the public to freely access public open space areas.

Protection of landscape values

It is important to maintain the traditional landscape character of the District's parks and waterways and enhance the natural heritage aspects of these spaces, while providing opportunities for their use for public recreation.

Impact of tree ageing on parks

Although primarily to be dealt with as an asset management issue, the ageing of trees on parks potentially has a significant future impact (through loss of tree cover and / or change in species type) on the landscape character and thereby quality of these open space areas.

SPECIFIC OPEN SPACE ISSUES / OPPORTUNITIES FOR BANKS PENINSULA

Protection of core biodiversity sites

At least ten to 15 major sites on Banks Peninsula are of very high biodiversity value. Most of these areas also have high landscape, watershed protection and potential recreation values. Nationally important sites are clustered around Kaitorete Spit and Lake Ellesmere / Te Waihora. Other clusters occur in the Southern Bays area, around Mt Herbert and behind Akaroa. These are the places where strategic purchases will have the highest long-term biodiversity benefit.

Creation of effective networks / recreation corridors and core public open space areas

Currently the majority of Banks Peninsula's rural parks are relatively small and isolated from each other.

Development of networks of reserves, recreation corridors and joining land areas with similar land management requirements will significantly improve recreation and biodiversity objectives. The concept of 'Hinewai' type parks strategically sited on a diverse range of high quality landscape, coastline and / or biodiversity locations across Banks Peninsula would provide considerable ecological, landscape protection and recreation benefit. A major opportunity that could be taken advantage of relatively easily is enhancement and recognition of recreation, historical and cultural destinations along State Highway 75 and the Christchurch Little River Railtrail. The Christchurch City Council already holds some strategic land parcels along this route.

Provision and management of beach access

A number of high quality bays and beaches on Banks Peninsula have no legally-formed access. Some existing beaches may need better public infrastructure, such as toilets, access information, signs and associated picnic areas and walkways. Addition of short-duration walkways and local history

PHOTO: LARGE TREES ARE AN IMPORTANT FEATURE OF THE CENTRAL CITY.

information would enhance the visitor recreation experience. A priority needs to be put on ensuring that the most important coastal areas are available for public use.

Protection and enhancement of the existing open space 'matrix'

Nationally and regionally important biodiversity sites in public ownership will be reduced in value if adjoining private land is not managed in a biodiversity-friendly manner. Environmentally sustainable management of Banks Peninsula parks is only possible with the active support of the community. Cooperative management with immediate neighbours and on a district-wide basis is essential. Overall a variety of measures and ownership is needed to provide maximum resilience against the normal occurrence of economic and undesirable ecosystem change. The Council has the technical capacity to provide some support for community-driven open space initiatives. In addition, the economic wellbeing of the community is critical to successful biodiversity and recreation initiatives and enhancement.



Enhancement of open space infrastructure and management

On the Port Hills and the wider Banks Peninsula, small sized reserves do not necessarily equal lower costs. Management of larger areas, with defensible boundaries, is often more cost-effective per unit of area. An important biological need is to provide resilience in the face of threats from pest and weed invasion. Review of the purpose and potential carrying capacity of the road network (formed and unformed) is an essential component of enhancing Banks Peninsula's open space potential.

Development of rural open space

Privately owned rural open space is under pressure from development. In planning for open space provision there is the opportunity to address how to reduce the negative impacts on public open space from land use change in rural areas.

AREA-BASED OPEN SPACE ISSUES

See Section 8 for proposed open space standards applicable to each area.

Inner city

- » Current open space provision is insufficient to meet the needs of the current and future residents;
- » There are areas of deficiency in the south and north of the Central City;
- » There is a lack of indigenous birds and vegetation in the Central City and a general lack of flora and fauna;
- » Lack of high quality linkages between open space areas;
- » There is potential to redevelop vacant or underused areas into vibrant public open spaces;
- » The 'Garden City' image needs to be enhanced through improved planting, landscaping practices and the creation of a cohesive network of green space;

- » Limited use of streetscape to improve aesthetics, environmental mitigation and liveability of future residential developments;
- » Distance of future residential intensification from existing high quality inner city open space;
- » Open space infrastructure is currently falling behind development for both business and residential areas.

Urban intensification areas

- » A lack of existing open spaces to meet the needs of an increasing population;
- » High land costs, which may constrain the development of open space areas;
- » Competition for land for development, stormwater retention and treatment, and open space provision;
- » The relatively high population associated with intensification areas is likely to lead to increased demands for open space and is unlikely to accept the same standards of provision that is provided in areas of lower density;
- » Lack of green links between areas of open space;
- » Revitalising or rationalising underutilised parks;
- » The roading network, including arterials, collectors and other linkages, are key aspects of the open space network and make up a large proportion of the land area in intensification areas.

Greenfields

- » Population growth in areas of land that have previously been undeveloped may pose a threat to natural values in such areas;
- » Open space provision in greenfield developments should support multiple values, including biodiversity, stormwater

- management, recreation, visual amenity and heritage;
- » Greenfield areas should enhance and link to the surrounding green network, rather than internalising open space opportunities within new developments;
- » Loss of existing activities, such as animal grazing, which may reflect historic land uses and add to the character of the area;
- » The relationship between open spaces and the motorway network.

Existing suburbs

- » There is a lack of open space provision in many existing suburbs;
- » There is a lack of connectivity between open space areas in existing suburbs;
- » Revitalising and rationalising underutilised parks.

South-west urban boundary

- » There needs to be support for the green belt from Selwyn District Council.
- » The proposed green belt should connect to the green and blue network where appropriate.

Industrial and business areas

- » Possible contamination and degradation of open space areas as a result of adjacent industrial activities, particularly around waterways and their margins;
- » Lack of provision of small open spaces for workers;
- » There is a lack of biodiversity and water-sensitive stormwater management in these areas, which could be addressed through increased provision of open space;
- » Lack of visual amenity;
- » Lack of healthful recreational opportunities for workers.

Rural areas

- » Many people living in rural areas are likely to have access to significant areas of private open space, but there can be a lack of provision relating to sports grounds and spaces for community events;
- » Perceptions of significant publicly accessible open space in rural areas may result in less than adequate provision;
- » Lack of connectivity between open space areas;
- » Lack of access to areas of outstanding natural landscape, the coast and waterways.

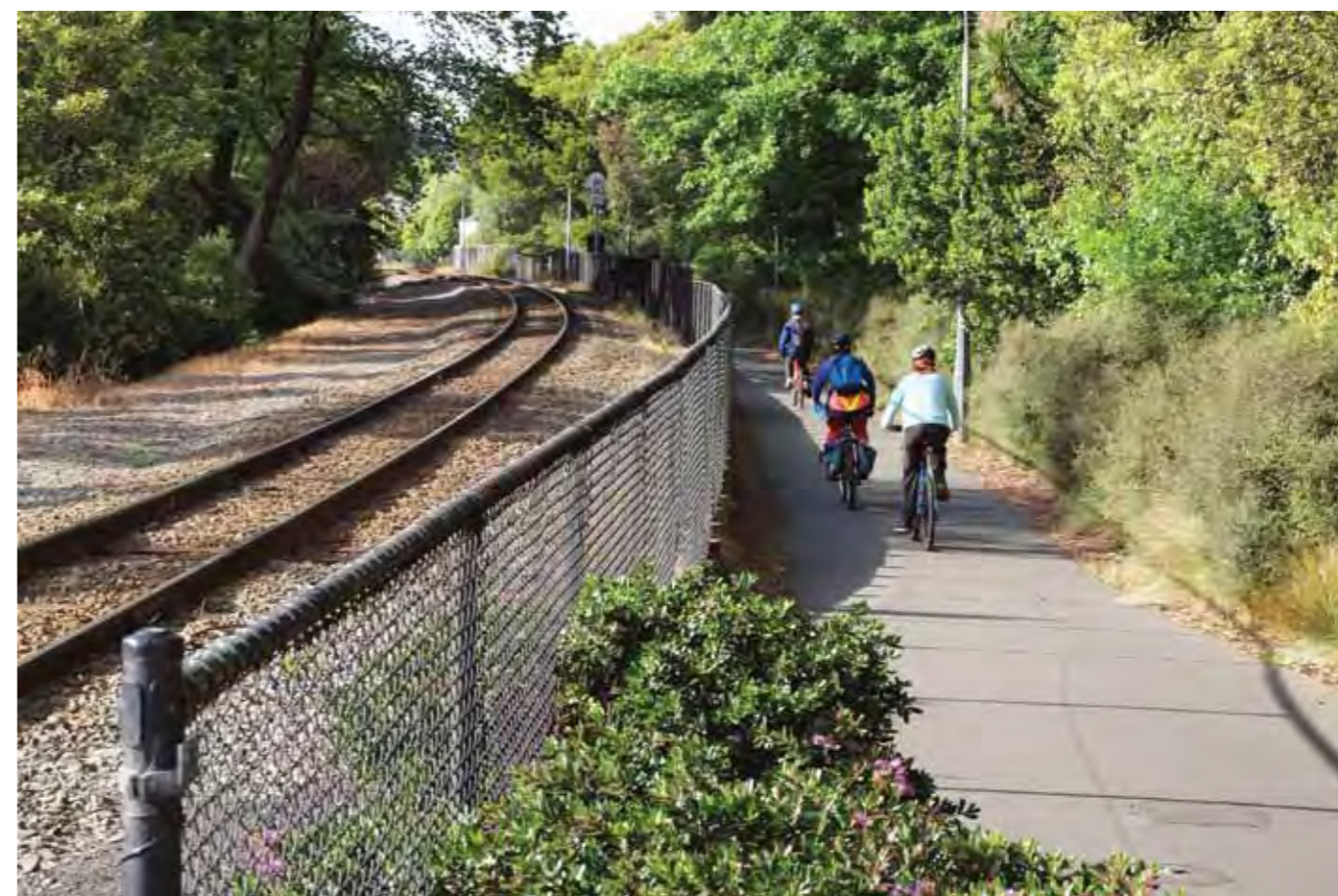
Townships on Banks Peninsula

- » As a result of long-established residential development in these areas, there is usually a lack of land available for the provision of open space in townships;
- » The hilly topography in these areas makes the provision of certain types of open space, such as sports parks, traditional play areas and youth recreation areas difficult;
- » Revitalising or rationalising underutilised parks.

Small settlements

- » Small settlements may have a lack of open space provision as a result of the small scale of these areas and their relative isolation;
- » There is likely to be a lack of connectivity and walking tracks between open space areas and wider networks of parks and reserves;
- » Those who live in small settlements may not own a large amount of land and are likely to be surrounded by large tracts of private property. Perceptions of significant publicly accessible open space in such areas may result in less than adequate provision;
- » Open space has traditionally provided access to foreshore and other areas in small settlements.

PHOTO: MULTI-USE OF THE RAIL CORRIDOR HAS ALLOWED FOR OFF-STREET CYCLING.



ACTIVITY ISSUES FOR OPEN SPACE

Traditional recreation activities, such as team sports (for example cricket, football, rugby and netball), walking and cycling are being increasingly challenged by non-traditional activities for their place in open space. As a city and district, Christchurch has an active and changing demographic that brings new ideas and changing needs to open space providers. These demands ensure that when new space comes into public ownership there is a variety of activities for such areas. It is the balance of providing for traditional activities (which are popular) and offering suitable space for new activities that need exposure and a location in order to establish and grow. It is this variety that offers people the chance to take new opportunities and attract a wider audience to recreate in the outdoors.

Youth recreation

Demands space be provided that has the opportunity for escapism, negates boredom, offers health benefits and does not exclude youth from both local and district open spaces. Open space near amenity facilities like malls, shops and other youth focussed activities will be more attractive to youth.

Motorised recreation

Increasing pressure is being placed on motorised activities as the city grows. Previously, motorised activities have been placed in areas away from built-up areas. As the city grows, this becomes increasingly difficult due to noise. New opportunities for motorised recreation have been growing as technology that was previously unaffordable becomes outdated and cheaper. This has made motor sport accessible to a variety of people. This, coupled with the development of new and micro technologies (e.g. motorised remote-control vehicles), has increased the number of users in this group.

In planning for open space provision there is the opportunity to:

- » Consider how motorised recreation can be suitably provided for through provision of land and the City Plan as the District grows;
- » Work with motor sport enthusiasts to mitigate adverse effects from the sport and on local residents;
- » Promote planning with other agencies that may be better suited to provide opportunities for this genre, such as Environment Canterbury.

Camp grounds

Have been a popular attraction throughout the recent history of Christchurch District and New Zealand. For many it is an affordable opportunity to enjoy family holidays and socialise in the outdoors. Having quality, affordable and accessible camp grounds will benefit the Region by supporting an increase in backpacker and outdoor-based tourists to Christchurch District. Coastal areas have been identified by the Department of Conservation as an asset that needs to be increased for public recreation. They suggest that local authorities have a role to play in this provision.

Coastal camp grounds have proven to be popular during the months of December, January and February.

In planning for open space provision there is the opportunity to:

- » Ensure opportunities for coastal camp grounds are built into future open space provision;
- » Encourage other landowners to get involved in camp ground provision, where appropriate.

Jetties and associated structures

Jetties and other structures that have a relationship with water have been identified as important to people's recreation choices. Such structures are utilised for fishing, viewing activities, boat launching and swimming. In Banks

Peninsula these structures are more commonplace and associated with water-based recreation. In the City the New Brighton Pier, Avon and Heathcote Rivers have jetties and other structures in place that allow people access to waterways and the sea. Legislation around what can and cannot be achieved in regards to building or placing structures on or next to water bodies makes it difficult to increase provision for jetties and associated structures.

Water-based recreation

Has the potential to become more popular with the inclusion of Banks Peninsula and developments to the north of the city. As small settlements develop in Banks Peninsula, more emphasis will be placed on the use of water bodies for recreation. Holiday homes and lifestyle changes may add to the increase of water for recreation. A flat, still water body for competitive rowing is currently missing from Christchurch's portfolio of recreational open spaces. While there are ecological or cultural areas, there is yet to be a suitable natural water body that can play host to recreational demands that are currently in place. Groups have been suggesting the creation of an engineered facility to cater for this need.

There are nationally significant species within the marine environment of Christchurch and Banks Peninsula. Currently DoC has one Marine Reserve at Flea Bay, which is home to a variety of marine species. With the inclusion of protective fishing practices to reduce fatalities of the Hector's Dolphin, this adds to the open space value of the marine environment. Indeed successful businesses allow people to experience the marine ecosystem, such as Hector's Dolphin Encounters. This adds to the image of a clean green New Zealand.

Dog parks

Dog walking and exercise has become increasingly popular as people look to specialised areas for their dogs to play. With the exclusion of dogs by way of bylaws from certain areas and certain places, the establishment of specific places for dogs to run off lead are highly attractive to dog owners. The social interaction for pets and their owners with other dogs and owners has benefits in regards to community spirit and role modelling for dog obedience.

- » Work with Animal Control Officers to establish a network of dog exercise areas throughout Christchurch;
- » Ensure provision for future dog exercise areas in the open space network for Christchurch District.

Horse riding areas

Horse riding is a popular pursuit in Christchurch District with a number of park areas set aside for this purpose, such as Duncan Park. Horse use areas and grazing land can also contribute to the landscape character of the District including places such as Heathcote Valley.

- » Review opportunities for horse riding on public land in Christchurch District;
- » Examine the need and potential for provision of horse trails in Metropolitan Christchurch and Banks Peninsula that would extend existing opportunities.

Community Gardens

There is a trend toward provision of community gardens in public spaces, which is likely to increase with urban intensification and there being less private open space. However, placement of community gardens on reserves is problematic, for legal reasons, if users desire exclusive use of public land for garden areas and need to fence them off to protect them. Other public spaces such as unused road reserves may be more appropriate.

PHOTOS: (FROM TOP) THE PORT HILLS, SUMMIT ROAD. WHARVES AND JETTIES INCREASE RECREATION OPPORTUNITY.



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Legal and statutory context for open space

The provision of open space for the Christchurch / Banks Peninsula area has been, and is, established in a number of contexts:

PARKS AND RESERVES LEGAL CONTEXT

The majority of the land parcels underlying parks in the Christchurch metropolitan area administered by the Christchurch City Council are held by the Council in fee simple title – that is, the Council holds the title for, and therefore owns the land, on behalf of the City's ratepayers. The majority of the Council's parks are managed under the Reserves Act 1977. Reserves Management Plans are required for all parks held under the Reserves Act 1977. A number are also held pursuant to the Local Government Act 2002.

Other areas of publicly-accessible open space in the Christchurch metropolitan area and on Banks Peninsula are held by other agencies, such as the Department of Conservation, or by private trusts (for example, Orton Bradley Park), or are covenants on private land.

The Resource Management Act 2001 applies to all public open space areas across the current Christchurch and Banks Peninsula District. These are managed, as laid down in the provisions of the Christchurch City Plan, (with respect to the former Christchurch District) and the Proposed Banks Peninsula District Plan, (with respect to the Banks Peninsula area). In the case of the Christchurch City Plan, this categorises the management of land into zones according to inherent values and determined land use. For parks and open space in the former Christchurch District area several zones apply with the main ones being, but not confined to, Open Space 1 (neighbourhood recreation and open space), Open Space 2 (district recreation and open space), Conservation 1 (natural, ecological

and scenic), Conservation 1A (coastal margins) and Conservation 2 (Historic and Garden City parks).

In the case of the Proposed Banks Peninsula District Plan, there are two main zones that apply to areas of public open space. Reserves Zone, which covers a large proportion of the reserve land, includes a variety of different reserves. These range from beach and esplanade reserves, playing fields and other sports grounds and facilities to areas for passive recreation. Secondly, reserves that contain significant ecosystems and habitats are included in the Conservation Reserves Zone. This zone covers reserve land administered by the Christchurch City Council or the Department of Conservation. The reserve 'Onawe', owned by Ngāi Tahu, is the only land included in this zone that is not owned publicly. Some of the conservation reserves, as shown on the District Plan maps, extend into the coastal waters surrounding the former Banks Peninsula District. However, the provisions of the Plan only apply to the landward portion of these areas.

PLANNING CONTEXT Greater Christchurch Urban Development Strategy 2007

The Greater Christchurch Urban Development Strategy (UDS) is the growth management plan for greater Christchurch to 2041. The UDS aims to highlight and direct urban growth and identify issues that should be taken into account in areas where the population is expected to increase.

The Open Space Strategy reflects the objectives stated in the UDS and sets the framework to address open space needs in the Greater Christchurch context.

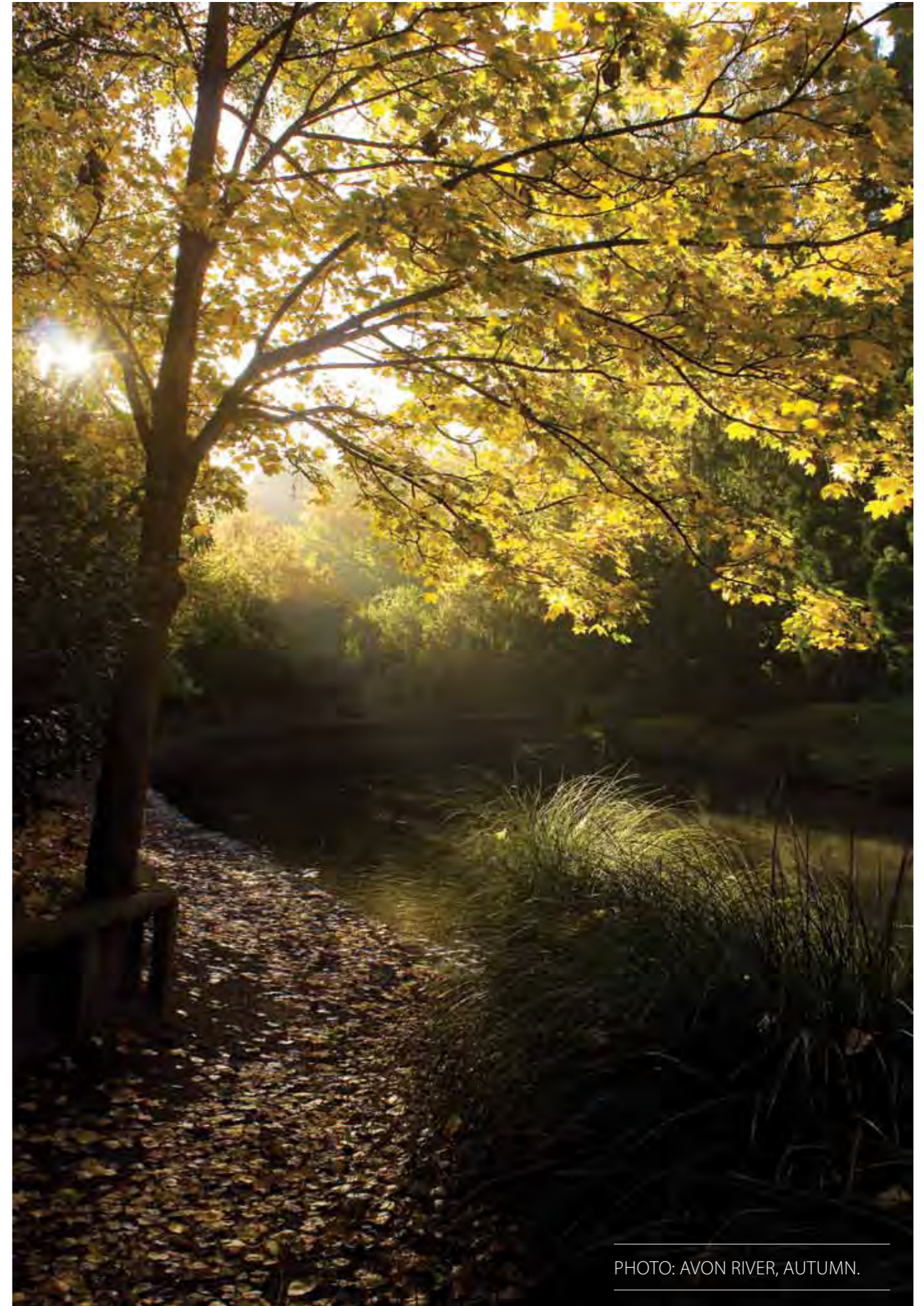


PHOTO: AVON RIVER, AUTUMN.

The population of Greater Christchurch, encompassing the coastal fringe between the Ashley River in the north and Lake Ellesmere in the south, is expected to increase by 32% between 2001 and 2041, from 379,070 to 500,000. This is likely to increase demand for local and regional open space.

Public submissions received on the planning for the Greater Christchurch area show a very strong desire to retain quality of life, including through provision of parks, continuance of the 'Garden City' character and trees, and maintenance of an overall environmental quality. Preference for concentration of urban development within Christchurch City, and in larger towns in the surrounding districts, was perceived as a mechanism by which environmental quality could be maintained in the rural areas. However, provision of environmental quality in areas of urban consolidation may prove problematic. Lower levels of private open space are unlikely to be compensated for by provision of public open space, as there is currently no funding mechanism to provide for the setting aside of extra land beyond those in the development contribution levies. Space for planting of trees and retention of green areas is likely to be difficult.

Submission comments on open space needs were generally about requests for better quality parks and recreation spaces. Other comments referred to the need to protect the rural vistas and to maintain a greenbelt on the periphery of Christchurch and surrounding towns. Many submitters linked these needs to their sense of community identity and pride.

One of the locations that has been identified in the UDS as a key growth area is the central city. As the residential population of the central city increases, existing open space areas will need to

be enhanced and new parks and squares retrofitted to cater for increasing levels of demand. The UDS supports the aims of the Central City Revitalisation Strategy and also describes the growth-related issues and key approaches associated with the provision of parks and squares. Examples include:

- » Design and provide appropriate open space in intensification areas;
- » Provide a wide range of types of open space;
- » Design open space to reflect the heritage and cultural history of the area and create a sense of place and identity.

Development Contributions Policy

The receipt of development contributions is the way the Christchurch City Council is able to fund reserves, network infrastructure (such as water supply and surface water management) and community infrastructures (such as leisure facilities) needed as a result of development. Contributions are levied on people developing land or buildings that increase demand on reserves and / or infrastructure. The development contributions are used to fund additional reserves and / or infrastructure needed when a new development is undertaken. The contribution may be in money or land. Development contribution funds can only be used for land purchase or capital works, not for maintenance.

The Council's present power to require development contributions comes from the Local Government Act 2002 (LGA 2002).

The Council's introduction of development contributions is in response to the steady growth of Christchurch, which is projected at approximately 33,600 household units over the next 30 years. With growth will come an increased demand for reserves, network infrastructure and

community infrastructure.

In addition to development contributions, the Council recovers some costs from developers by imposing financial contributions under the Resource Management Act for car parking, esplanade reserve provision and the conservation of heritage assets.

Christchurch parks have traditionally been based on providing reserves both in a neighbourhood context and a wider metropolitan context. Under the current levies for development contribution, the ability for Council to provide parks and recreation routes is likely to be significantly reduced, depending on location, compared with open space levels currently enjoyed by the Christchurch population overall.

The high level of provision that people have experienced in the past will be relatively unattainable through this new approach and will mean the negative impacts that infill has may not be mitigated through public land provision. People in new developments and subdivisions will be expected to live in medium and high density housing and travel to open space. This action may have impacts on car park provision at many local parks and sport parks throughout Christchurch.

Over the next 30 years, methods of funding parks and green corridors for future communities will need to be explored with land developers and open space partners in order for open space standards to be maintained across the City.

Long Term Plan

The preparation of a Long Term Plan (LTP) is a statutory responsibility of all local authorities under the Local Government Act 2002. The LTP is developed in consultation with the community and provides an overview

of all current and proposed council activities and expenditure. The LTP provides information on current levels of service associated with existing open spaces, outlines the Council's plans for the future provision and maintenance of these and provides performance criteria for measuring Council achievements.

Christchurch City Plan

The Christchurch City Plan gives effect to the Resource Management Act (1991) at the local level. The main purpose of the plan is to ensure the sustainable management of Christchurch's natural and physical resources in the preparation and administration of plans. Additionally, the City Plan stipulates that the Council should promote amenity values, heritage values and the quality of the environment. As part of its mandate, the City Plan sets broad objectives for the provision of open spaces across the city, including parks. Representative objectives include:

- » Objective 14.1a: Open spaces and recreational facilities that are equitably distributed and conveniently located throughout the City;
- » Objective 14.1b: Diversity in the type and size of open spaces and recreational facilities to meet local, district, regional and nationwide needs;
- » Objective 14.3: Open spaces and recreational facilities that are designed to be sympathetic to the scale and character of the surrounding environment and to the particular characteristics of the area itself.

The City Plan also sets out a programme of monitoring for open spaces and defines the methods through which objectives relating to the provision of parks and open space can be implemented.

Local Parks Acquisition Policy 1996

The Local Parks Acquisition Policy provides guidelines for the purchase and design of parks across Christchurch, and identifies general areas of open space deficiency. The policy is based upon an ethos of equitable access and emphasises the need for parks to be within walking distance from every home.

Policy guidelines that relate to the provision of parks include the following:

- » Local parks should be within walking distance of the areas they serve
- » Local parks should have safe pedestrian access to and from the area they serve
- » Local parks should incorporate significant and existing trees and planting, and
- » Local parks should have generous street frontages to ensure good views into and out of the park.

Parks and Waterways Access Policy 2002

This provides for the inclusive use of parks by people with disabilities and also takes into account older people and caregivers with young children. The policy also sets forth an auditing process for parks and provides information to the public about accessible facilities. The policy provides a range of specific design guidelines to ensure that the creation of new parks and the retrofitting of older ones is in accordance with national standard access criteria. The policy has specifications relating to such park features as:

- » Pedestrian or shared use paths and tracks
- » Entrances, and
- » Picnic areas and seating.

Central City Revitalisation Strategy - Stage 2 (2006)

This policy guides the revitalisation of the area within the four main avenues of Christchurch by prioritising a set of objectives and actions, introducing performance targets, directing capital works projects and informing residents about the planned direction and management of the Central City. As part of a broad programme of revitalisation, the Christchurch City Council's key priorities include increasing the population of workers and residents, enhancing vital public spaces and redeveloping under-utilised sites. This policy provides the main impetus for development of a Parks and Squares Masterplan, since there are a number of specific objectives within the Central City Revitalisation Plan applicable to the planning and provision of parks and squares including:

- » To foster a place of culture, recreation, social interaction and learning;
- » To cultivate a distinct identity that is unique to our environment and culture, placing particular emphasis on the retention of the heritage of our Central City;
- » To develop and plan a safe and attractive urban environment that is expressed through high quality design and amenity.

The policy also sets out specific actions for achieving the above objectives. Actions that relate to improving the public realm (including parks and squares) are as follows:

- » Enhancing existing open spaces;
- » Coordinating the design of street furniture within the central city;
- » Installing new public artworks in the central city;
- » Promoting crime prevention through better urban design.



PHOTO: MOST BANKS PENINSULA BAYS HAVE AN ADJOINING UNFORMED LEGAL ROAD ALONG THE SHORELINE.

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COMMUNITY CONTRIBUTION

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Summit Road Protection Authority
Christchurch Estuary Association
Awa-Iti Reserve Management Committee
Orton Bradley Park
Roimata Community
Westminster Sport
Ngāi Tahu property Ltd
Akaroa Civic Trust
Living Streets Canterbury
Transition Harbour Project
Lyttelton Environment Group
Peninsula Tramping Club
Diamond Harbour Community Association
Heathcote Valley Community Association
Banks Peninsula Conservation Trust
Lyttelton Reserves Committee
Avon Heathcote Estuary Ihutai Trust
Riccarton / Wigram Community Board
Cashmere Residents Association
Aranui Community Trust
Christchurch Football Club
Hagley / Ferrymead Community Board
Friends of Banks Peninsula
Styx Living Laboratory Trust
Christchurch Biodiversity Partnership / Urban Landscapes Group
Sustainable Otautahi Christchurch
Spokes Canterbury
Cass Bay Reserves Committee
Central Riccarton Residents Association
Phoenix Friendship Group
Beckenham Neighbourhood Association
Lyttelton Harbour Issues group
Akaroa / Wairewa Community Board
Lyttelton / Mt Herbert Community Board
Englefield Residents Association
Department of Conservation
Lyttelton Harbour Landscape Protection Association
The Tourism & Leisure Group Ltd
Maurice White Native Forest Trust
Burwood / Pegasus Community Board
Wainui Residents Association
Northlands Neighbourhood Group
Canterbury Australian Football League
Banks Peninsula A & P Association
Fendalton / Waimairi Community Board
Summit Road Society

Golf Links Residents Association Inc.
Muscular Dystrophy Association Canterbury
Uniquely Purau Inc.
The Cathedral Grammar School
Preservation Properties Ltd
Redcliffs Residents Association
Halswell Residents Association
NZ Horse Recreation
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Environment Canterbury
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Cass Bay Residents Association
Belfast Park & Tyrone Estates Ltd
Friends of Linwood Cemetery

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