



OTATARA SCENIC RESERVE

Management Plan

2014



RESERVES ACT 1977


Section 41

The Management Plan for Otatara Scenic Reserve was approved by the Invercargill City Council by resolution passed at its meeting held on 19 August 2014. All submissions, objections and suggestions relating to the Management Plan had been disposed of and suggestions allowed.

The Management Plan shall come into operation from 1 September 2014 and shall remain operative for a period of ten years.

Dated at INVERCARGILL this 9th day of September 2014.




.....
Mayor of the City of Invercargill


.....
Chief Executive Officer

MANAGEMENT PLAN

OTATARA SCENIC RESERVE

September 2014 – September 2014

PREFACE

The Otatara Scenic Reserve Management Plan has been prepared in compliance with Section 41 of the Reserves Act 1977.

The purpose of this Management Plan is to provide for and ensure the use, enjoyment, maintenance, protection and preservation as the case may require and, to the extent that the administering body's resources permit, the development of the reserve for the purposes for which it is classified; and shall incorporate and ensure compliance with the principles set out in the appropriate section of the Act.

This plan shall be held under regular review to ensure that it remains relevant to changing circumstances and demands.

R J Pagan
PARKS MANAGER
1 September 2014

CONTENTS

1.0	INTRODUCTION	1
1.1	LOCATION	1
1.2	ACCESS	1
1.3	ADJOINING LAND USE	1
1.4	HISTORY	2
1.5	CLASSIFICATION AND TENURE	3
1.6	AMENITY VALUE	4
1.7	GENERAL RESERVE USE	4
1.8	FLORA	5
1.9	FAUNA	7
1.10	THREATS TO INDIGENOUS VEGETATION	7
1.11	CLIMATE	7
1.12	PRESENT MANAGEMENT	9
2.0	MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES	11
3.0	POLICIES	13
3.1	GENERAL USE	13
3.2	ACCESS INTO AND THROUGH RESERVES	14
3.3	OCCUPATION AGREEMENTS	16
3.4	BOUNDARIES AND FENCES	17
3.5	TREES AND VEGETATION	18
3.6	BUILDINGS AND STRUCTURES	20
3.7	OUTDOOR FURNITURE	21
3.8	EDUCATION	21
3.9	SIGNS	22
3.10	LIGHTING	23
3.11	NETWORK UTILITY INFRASTRUCTURE	24
3.12	DISPOSAL OF RUBBISH	25
3.13	FIRES ON RESERVES	25
3.14	LIQUOR CONSUMPTION AND SALE	26
3.15	PEST PLANTS AND ANIMALS	26
3.16	CAMPING	27
3.17	DOGS ON RESERVES	27
3.18	DOMESTIC ANIMAL CONTROL	30
3.19	HEALTHY AND ACTIVE PARKS	30
3.20	SMOKE FREE PARKS AND RESERVES	31
3.21	ADMINISTRATION	32
3.22	PLAN AMENDMENT AND REVIEW	32
3.23	DEVELOPMENT AND CHANGE	32
3.23.1	<i>Requests for Development on Reserves</i>	32
4.0	FUTURE DEVELOPMENT	37



1.0 INTRODUCTION

Otatara Scenic Reserve is a native forest remnant being a significant reserve for its scenic features. The forest is a mixture of totara and podocarp forest, together with manuka shrub land. Covering just over 40 hectares of land, this reserve is used informally by visitors for walking, picnicking and recreational activities. Its walking tracks are also used as a thoroughfare by nearby residents and school children.

This reserve has been left to self-develop and regenerate over time, with protection alone believed to preserve the reserve. This has worked well with intervention only being required on the north and south boundaries.

Otatara Scenic Reserve is categorised as an Environmental Reserve. Environmental Reserves are areas of land held in Council ownership for the purpose of environmental protection and passive recreation. These reserves are made up of predominantly natural areas and may contain remnants of forest, tussock or grassland, wetlands or sand dunes. They may have special scenic, historic or environmental values that set them apart from other “recreational” type reserves.

This Management Plan is a full review of the Otatara Scenic Reserve Management Plan which was prepared in 2002. While much of the Plan remains the same, parts of it have been updated with current information about the reserve. Management policies in this Plan have been revised to reflect the needs of current and future users and to be consistent with current ‘best practice’ management procedures.

1.1 LOCATION

Otatara Scenic Reserve is located on the western side of Invercargill City in Otatara and immediately adjoins the northern side of Dunns Road.

Land widely surrounding the reserve is semi-rural.

1.2 ACCESS

Otatara Scenic Reserve car parking is located off Dunns Road at the main entry/exit, while pedestrian access is from Dunns Road and Awarua Road.

Future subdivisions to the north-west of the reserve may create potential pedestrian access to the reserve.

1.3 ADJOINING LAND USE

Otatara Scenic Reserve is situated in a predominantly semi-rural area. Vegetation and rural style fencing separates the reserve from adjoining land.

The reserve is bounded by a mixture of activities. Dunns Road bounds the southern side of the reserve. This is an area that is gradually being revegetated. The south-west corner of the reserve is bounded by Otatara School, with the Invercargill Golf Club above the school on the western side of the reserve.

The northern and eastern sides of the reserve are bounded by a variety of residential properties.

1.4 HISTORY

The Otatara Scenic Reserve has been the responsibility of the Invercargill City Council for many years. For some time this reserve was a unique situation, being vested to and managed by the Invercargill City Council while being surrounded by the Southland County Council.

The history of the City's control of this reserve dates back to 1931. At that time, the then Chairman of the Reserves Committee (Councillor Broderick) reported to the Invercargill City Council on the desirability of the City doing something to preserve the bush, which was then an Education Reserve. Apparently the bush was being badly mutilated by all and sundry. Some time afterwards, Council planted a shelter belt and erected a fence along the western side of the bush and there the matter lay for the next few years.

In June 1938, the Commissioner of Crown Lands suggested that control of the bush be vested in the Invercargill City Council and the bush then be closed off for several years to allow for regeneration without interference. It was agreed that the Council would have Ranger's rights because, at that time, the Audit Office would not permit expenditure on a reserve outside of the City's boundary. In August of that year, some Otatara residents petitioned the City requesting that the City acquire some 68 acres for a reserve.

In 1948, the area was gazetted as Scenic Reserve and control was vested in the Invercargill City Council.

In 1963, the Invercargill Golf Club asked about the possibility of purchasing the reserve because it wished to extend the golf course. That same year, following a re-evaluation of similar Scenic Reserves around the country, the classification was changed to that of Recreation Reserve.

The next three decades of management of the reserve were relatively uneventful. Two things were noted during this time. In March 1963, the Department of Lands and Survey offered to clean up the Dunns Road frontage of the reserve, as they believed *"the area could be made extremely attractive if this small amount of expenditure and the labour involved is undertaken to clear up the road frontage"*. This was carried out.

In July 1964, a request was made to Council by the Department of Education for one and a half acres of the reserve to be added to the adjoining school site. Council subsequently agreed to this.

In February 1983, in accordance with a request, access along the side of the reserve beside the school was provided in order to get re-locatable buildings on to the school site, as well as provide vehicle access to the playing fields.

Later that year the Southland County Council made a request for the transfer of control of the reserve to go back to the Southland County Council. Following lengthy consideration, a decision was made on 14 August 1984 and Invercargill City Council resolved to retain control of the Otatara Scenic Reserve. During this time, it became evident that the primary reason for obtaining the land by the Southland County Council was to provide for a new community hall to be built on the reserve. The community hall became a hot topic, provoking debate on the effects on the reserve from the development of the hall.

In 1985, the Invercargill City Council proposed to change classification of the reserve from Recreation Reserve to Scenic Reserve. The following year this change was approved and gazetted by the Commissioner of Crown Lands. Late in 1987, the Invercargill City Council then advertised to classify part of the Otatara Scenic Reserve as Local Purpose Reserve. This would then allow for a community hall to be established on part of the reserve in the south-west corner.

Eleven years later (in February 1998), resource consent was advertised to allow for the construction and use of a proposed community hall. At the same time, the Invercargill City Council advertised to further reclassify part of the Scenic Reserve (250m²) as Local Purpose Reserve. This would allow an additional area for car parking for the community hall. The community hall was officially opened on 18 October 1999.

In March 1999, approval was given for the construction of a picnic shelter. The shelter was completed in January 2000. The Community Trust of Southland contributed a significant amount towards the cost of the structure. Toilets were constructed in 2004.

The loop track (helped to completion through periodic detention work), started construction in the late 1980s and was completed in the 1990s.

In 2005, a gazette notice was published authorising the exchange of a portion of Otatara Scenic Reserve with a portion of the neighbouring land at 155 Marama Avenue North. The reason was to resolve boundary encroachment issues following historic misinterpretation of the boundary line.

In 2013, part of the Local Purpose Reserve was exchanged with part of the Scenic Reserve so the car park could be extended and a footpath constructed around the outside of the car park.

1.5 CLASSIFICATION AND LAND DESCRIPTION

Reserves are classified under the Reserves Act 1977 according to their dominant characteristics, use and current and future values. Reserves are classified to ensure their control, management, development, use and preservation is for the appropriate purposes.

1.5.1 Classification

Otatara Scenic Reserve is classified as follows:

- Scenic Reserve pursuant to Section 19 of the Reserves Act 1977;
- Local Purpose (Community Buildings) Reserve pursuant to Section 23 of the Reserves Act 1977.

The reserve shall be managed in accordance with the above classifications and no further changes to the reserve status are anticipated.

1.5.2 Area and Land Titles

The total area of Otatara Scenic Reserve is **42.2731** hectares. The land description is as follows:

Certificate of Title: 608879
Legal Description: Lot 3 Deposited Plan 462072
Classification: **Scenic Reserve**
Area: 41.8857ha

Certificate of Title: 617208
Legal Description: Lot 1-2 Deposited Plan 462072
Classification: **Local Purpose (Community Buildings) Reserve**
Area: 0.0364ha

Certificate of Title: SL12A/392
Legal Description: Lot 1 Deposited Plan 14970
Classification: **Local Purpose (Community Buildings) Reserve**
Area: 0.3510ha

1.5.3 Land Occupation

The Otatara Community Hall is leased.

1.6 AMENITY VALUE

Otatara Scenic Reserve is recognised as an area of significant indigenous vegetation in the Otatara community.

Its greatest value lies in its ecological qualities and the conservation of a vegetational type that has become modified elsewhere in the area by subdivision.

With the reserve being in close proximity to the Invercargill City urban environment, it offers the Invercargill community an important recreational and scenic resource.



To local residents, it offers visual freedom from the confines of city living.

1.7 GENERAL RESERVE USE

Otatara Scenic Reserve offers an important recreational resource while management of the reserve still prioritises on retaining its indigenous vegetation.

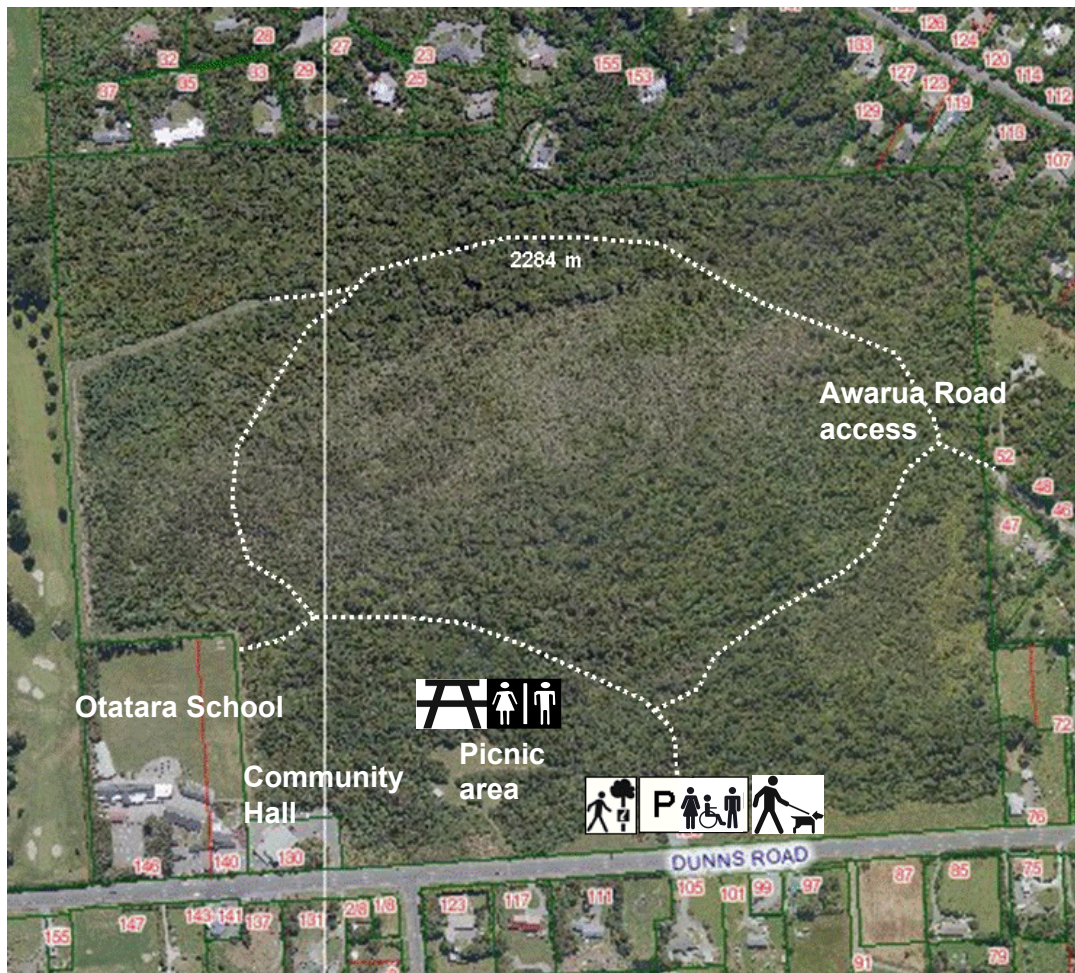
The reserve provides opportunities for outdoor recreation such as walking and running on the formed tracks, taking dogs on a lead, picnicking and recreational activities on the mown picnic area in the south-west part of the reserve.

This picnic area was formerly used as a Guides Southland camp site which has been removed. It is situated off Dunns Road and bookings are now required for use of the area.



The loop walking track winds its way through native bush with links to Otatara School, Otatara Golf Club and Awarua Road. There is a shelter and car park at the Dunns Road entrance, as well as a toilet, rubbish drum and picnic table.

The Otatara Community Hall and parking area is located in the south-west corner of the reserve.



1.8 FLORA

The Otatara Scenic Reserve is the last remaining sizeable and viable area of bush that once clothed the Otatara Peninsula. Although it has been modified

over the years by sawmilling, wood gathering and other activities, sufficient older trees remain to make it a worthwhile example of this vegetation.

Early Otatara was a bush settlement. Totara and matai (both valuable timber trees) dominated the native forest. Local sawmills used tram tracks and bullocks to haul logs from the forest, ferrying them down the estuary to Invercargill as building materials and, later, railway sleepers.

In 1898, before the area became Crown Land, Thos, Amos and Sons managed a sawmill on the present site. These areas have now regenerated into thick manuka stands. Corridors and pockets of mature trees remain with some of the most impressive trees being matai, totara and hinau.

Since 1931, the Invercargill City Council has had a policy of keeping the bush fenced and allowing it to regenerate without disturbance. This early policy was remarkably successful, with the result that this area of bush is now in good condition and is certainly the best remaining example of such bush in Otatara.



Due to various vegetational differences, this bush is distinct from that of Sandy Point Domain, Thomsons Bush and Seaward Bush, and thus forms an important link in the series of native bush areas around Invercargill.

Today's small forest remnants are still valued but for different reasons. Otatara and Sandy Point provide the best remaining example in New Zealand of coastal totara and totara-matai sand dune forest. Otatara is based on an ancient sand dune system, up to 60,000 years old. Bush is mixed podocarp/hardwood, typical of the Oreti flood plain, with totara, white pine, miro, lemonwood, broadleaf and putaputaweta predominating.

Small as they are, the forest remnants continue to support a surprisingly rich wildlife community and give pleasure to local residents and visitors alike.

Classification as a Scenic Reserve has helped to protect this piece of bush for all time and because of its distinct qualities, it could well be argued that it is of national importance. It is also superior to the Otatara South Scenic Reserve (DOC land) that in the past has been erroneously listed as the only apparent example of Southland sand dune forest in public ownership.

The significant sand dune and sand plain forest remnants of the Otatara-Sandy Point area have been ranked as nationally representative (Bill, 1999) for the following reasons:

- Nationally, sand dune and sand plain ecosystems have been altered by human activities, resulting in the loss of indigenous vegetation cover, especially forest.
- Otatara has the best remaining example of coastal totara and totara-matai sand dune forests in New Zealand.

- This area has the only example of a sequence of totara, totara-matai and mixed podocarp forest remnants on differently aged sand dune and sand plain surfaces in New Zealand.
- Although fragmented, the forest remnants are large enough and connected enough to ensure their future viability/survival.

A detailed inventory of flora can be obtained from the Parks Office.

1.9 FAUNA

This area supports many endemic forest birds (bellbirds, tui, fantails, greywarblers and silvereyes), as well as nationally threatened species (eg fernbird and wood pigeons).

1.10 THREATS TO INDIGENOUS VEGETATION

The introduction of exotic vegetation and animals to New Zealand has meant weeds and animal pests have become numerous and varied within Southland reserves.

Weeds such as gorse and broom are threats to tussock lands and willows, while elder threatens riparian forests.

Animal pests are a problem and have a detrimental effect on the ecology of environmental reserves. They damage native flora and reduce numbers of native wildlife (especially birds) associated with each reserve environment.

Most forest remnants contain possums, rabbits or hares, rats, mice, hedgehogs, stoats, ferrets, magpies and domestic and feral cats.

Animal pest numbers can be controlled and monitored through approved methods to protect the conservation values of the reserves. Ongoing management is necessary to control and reduce numbers of unwanted pest animals from environmental reserves.

Ongoing removal of animal and plant pests and monitoring of regeneration will allow habitats to recover and populations of bird species to grow. This will ensure the sustainability and viability of the reserves is maintained.

1.11 CLIMATE

Being the most southerly part of mainland New Zealand, Southland is cooler than the rest of the country. It has more frosts and substantially less sunshine. Invercargill is located between latitude 46 and 47 degrees, meaning it is in the latitude of prevailing westerlies. The funnelling effect caused by Foveaux Strait also increases the severity of the coastal winds.

The westerly winds normally bring a plentiful supply of moisture so that Invercargill's rainfall is very evenly distributed throughout the year. The

positioning of anticyclones as they pass over New Zealand greatly influences rainfall and its frequency. Anticyclones often have shower cloud around their outer edges and when they pass too far north, Invercargill experiences showers instead of fine weather. These anticyclones are frequently followed by rapidly moving fronts which bring further rain.

Sunshine is another important factor and the amount of sunshine that Invercargill receives is strongly influenced by a coastal cloud belt associated with Foveaux Strait. Invercargill receives 20%-25% less sunshine than centres in the sunnier climes north of latitude 45 degrees and up to 40% less than centres such as Nelson and Blenheim. Cloudy days are frequent and there are long periods when very little sun is recorded.

Lack of sunshine has a very marked influence on plant growth, especially when combined with cool temperatures, strong salt laden winds and frequent showers.

Summary

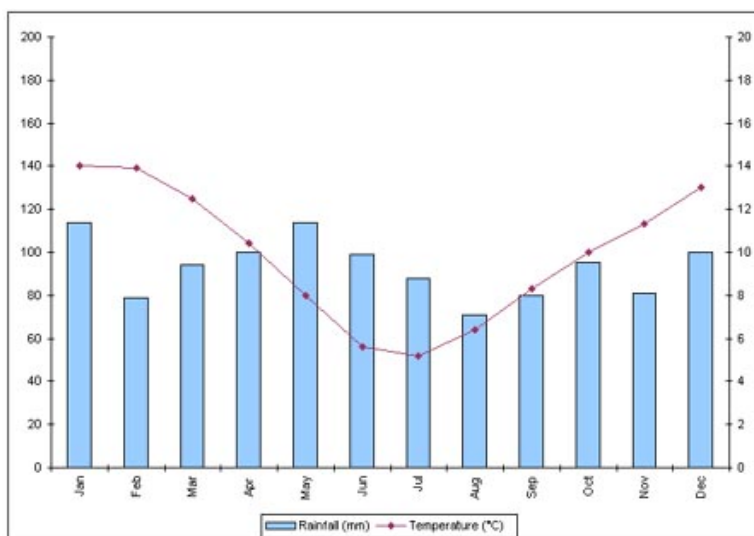
Invercargill has a cool temperate climate with a relatively high rainfall, strong persistent winds which are often strongly salt laden and frequently cloudy skies. The winds reach their greatest intensity during the spring months and to a lesser extent, with the autumn equinox and the summer solstice.

Invercargill experiences an average of about 94 days of ground frost per year.

While the local climate is an inhibiting factor for some plants common in other parts of New Zealand, it also favours a large number of plants from cool temperate regions.

Climate contributes to reserve edge effects which damage any exposed and internal vegetation through changes in external temperature and moisture, depending on the amount of site exposure the reserve has.

Snowstorms occur on an average of three to five days per year, but snow seldom lies on the ground for more than two to three hours. However, the one off snow activity in 1996 and 2010 caused a lot of canopy damage to trees in reserves. Trees collapsed under the heavy weight of the snow which opened up light gaps amongst the vegetation.



Average Rainfall and Temperature - NIWA

Summary of Invercargill's Climate

Mean annual values for period 1971-2000¹

	Invercargill	NZ Average*
Rainfall	1112 mm	1114 mm
Wet days	158 days	115 days
Sunshine hours	1614 hrs	2023 hrs
Mean temperature	9.9 °C	12.74 °C
Very highest temperature	32.2 °C**	
Very lowest temperature	-9.0 °C	
Ground frost	94 days	54 days
Mean wind speed	18 km/hr	14 km/hr
Gale days (over 63km/hr)	18 days	5 days

* Average of 26 New Zealand main centres for period 1971-2000.

** Record high temperature of 34.4 °C on 23 January 2006

1.12 PRESENT MANAGEMENT

Otatara Scenic Reserve is under the control and management of the Invercargill City Council Parks Division. The Parks Division is responsible for the development, maintenance and general management of the reserve.

¹ NIWA - *Taihoru Nukurangi* - www.niwa.cri.nz/edu/resources/climate/summary

2.0 MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES

Management Objectives are the Council goals for the long term management of the reserve identified in this Management Plan.

Policies in this Management Plan provide the direction for managing the reserve now and in the future. They shall be consistent with the statutory requirements relating to the scenic and local purpose classifications most relevant to the reserve under the Reserves Act 1977.

The overall management objectives for Otatara Scenic Reserve are:

- 2.1 Otatara Scenic Reserve is an area of importance and shall be managed in perpetuity for the primary purpose of protecting, preserving and enhancing the intrinsic and conservation values. No further removal of native bush will take place on the reserve (unless there is immediate safety concern) and actions need to be undertaken to minimise any reduction or loss of native bush.
- 2.2 Actions will be undertaken to improve and enhance the scenic qualities, natural beauty and landscape significance of the reserve. This will include weed removal and the planting of appropriate genetic stock, particularly in areas that may be affected by elements such as wind.
- 2.3 The reserve shall be managed to be maintained and enhanced to provide the necessary facilities and amenities compatible with its natural and scenic values that will encourage and facilitate the wise use of the land for a broad range of activities, both passive and active, provided it does not compromise Objectives 2.1 or 2.2.
- 2.3 The reserve is a predominant feature in Otatara and needs to be treated as a resource for the community. This includes community input into the management and maintenance of the area.
- 2.4 Otatara Scenic Reserve has a reputation and is renowned as a significant area of native vegetation. Any activity or proposal for the reserve needs to consider the importance of this reserve.
- 2.5 The reserve should be a safe place for members of the public to use. While it is impossible to avoid all potential risks, it is important the reserve is as safe as possible.
- 2.6 Otatara Scenic Reserve shall be managed in a manner that enhances the educational opportunities for all users and promotes a greater understanding of the natural processes and values found within the reserve.
- 2.7 To use the Invercargill City Council Parks Strategy as a guide to development and maintenance of Otatara Scenic Reserve.

3.0 POLICIES

Note: Where the policies in this Management Plan refer to the term "Council" this means the Parks Manager and/or the Parks Division as the nominated representative of the Invercargill City Council, unless otherwise stated.

3.1 GENERAL USE

Reserves are a major source of open space in the City and are provided for the benefit, enjoyment and use of the public. "Use" policies guide the response of Council to applications to use the reserves. The scope of "uses" that may be proposed is wide and includes: sport, passive recreation, art and cultural events, commercial promotions and festival activities.

Council reserves the right to decline a proposal for use of a reserve, or take action as it sees fit against a user, or stop a use, if the use is likely to cause any adverse effects to the reserve, reserve users or reserve neighbours.

Council occasionally receives applications for the use of reserves for temporary or long-term commercial activities. Commercial activities are an acceptable part of the range of activities within the reserves of the City provided they are servicing users of the park and are consistent with the primary purpose of the reserves as classified under the Reserves Act 1977. The activities should not adversely impact on the reserve, reserve values, reserve users or reserve neighbours.

Long-term non-commercial use of a reserve occurs predominantly through lease arrangements and generally relates to non-commercial activities carried out from sports fields, clubhouses, halls and other indoor facilities and community group buildings. This generally means long-term closure of reserve space for the use by a particular group that then obtains a greater benefit than that received by the general public.

Objective:

- *To allow and encourage public use that is compatible with the purpose of the reserve.*

Policies:

- 3.1.1 The utilisation of the reserve shall be in compliance with its classification as a Scenic and Local Purpose Reserve, and the policies set out in this Management Plan.
- 3.1.2 Access to the reserve will be free of charge to the general public except as provided for in Policy 3.1.4 or where exclusive use has been granted.
- 3.1.3 All events in parks and reserves must be booked in advance with the Parks Division and users must comply with the "Terms and Conditions" for use of the reserve. These terms and conditions are reviewed and updated from time to time.

- 3.1.4 Council may charge a fee for use of the reserve where the user gains a special benefit that is not available to other reserve users, or where there are costs associated with the activity or event. The rate of fee set will be charged:
- (a) To ensure a reserve or part of a reserve has been booked for an event or activity.
 - (b) To provide temporary or long term exclusive use of a reserve or part of a reserve.
 - (c) To cover a booking service and administrative costs.
 - (d) To cover additional costs resulting from the activity or event i.e. staff coverage, opening gates, power, water, rubbish collection etc.
 - (e) Where the activity or event is of a commercial nature.
- 3.1.5 Park and reserve facility fees and charges are adopted by Council annually and are identified in Council's Annual Plan.
- 3.1.6 Where necessary, Council will consider temporary closure of a reserve, or part of a reserve, in conjunction with statutory requirements for the protection and wellbeing of the reserve and for the protection and control of the public using it.
- 3.1.7 Council may grant a permit for commercial activities to temporarily occupy part of the reserve for a period of up to six consecutive days (Section 54(1)(d) and Section 56(1)(b) Reserves Act 1977), if it is necessary to enable the public to obtain the benefit and enjoyment of the reserve or for the convenience of those using the reserve.
- 3.1.8 Council may grant a long-term lease or licence for a recreation or commercial activity to occupy part of the reserve where the activity complies with the Reserves Act 1977.
- 3.1.9 Any user of the reserve shall be responsible for ensuring that any adverse effects on the reserve and reserve values, reserve users or reserve neighbours can be avoided, remedied or mitigated, except as otherwise authorised by Council and includes compliance with Council bylaws.
- 3.1.10 The existing drains on the reserve will be maintained in accordance with requirements under the Land Drainage Act. Extensions to existing drains or new drains are not permitted.
- 3.1.11 The community, including user groups, will be consulted and involved with the management and development of parks and reserves.

3.2 ACCESS INTO AND THROUGH RESERVES

The level and standard of access provided into the reserve needs to be appropriate to the reserve values and the anticipated level of public utilisation of the reserve.

At various times Council may close the reserve or parts of the reserve for issues of safety, maintenance, development and wildlife protection. Some events may also require temporary closure of part of a reserve. Some occupation agreements may allow restricted access by the general public into areas of the reserve by the use of fences and/or forms of barriers.

Motorised and non-motorised vehicles on reserves can be a source of danger to other reserve users and may have the potential to cause damage to reserves. Tracks and footpaths are often integral to the ease of use and enjoyment of a reserve by users, providing recreational opportunities and links between areas.

Council is committed to working towards the removal of barriers to the participation of the elderly or people with limited mobility in leisure and recreational activities on reserves.

Improved access to parks and reserves can increase the use of a reserve by enhancing comfort and convenience for a range of users and provide significant safety benefits.

It will not always be feasible or desirable to make all facilities fully accessible. Different degrees of accessibility will be achievable at different sites. Many existing facilities are not accessible and it may not be practical to modify them. The cost of constructing accessible facilities may be prohibitive and outweigh the usefulness or suitability of such a facility.

Wherever possible, the design or upgrade of a facility shall incorporate features that allow easy access for the elderly or people with limited mobility. For features to be recognised as fully accessible they need to comply with national standards.

Objectives:

- *To ensure the public has freedom of entry, access and use of the reserve subject to any necessary conditions, restrictions, or limitations of use from time to time.*
- *To ensure pedestrian safety by restricting motorised and non-motorised vehicle access on the reserve.*
- *To allow tracks and footpaths over the reserve.*
- *To improve access to the reserve where practical and feasible to ensure everyone is able to enjoy it.*
- *To allow limited motorised vehicle access on designated car parks and roadways.*

Policies:

- 3.2.1 The reserve will be open for public access except where restrictions and limitations are necessary for the reserve's protection and management, exclusive activities or public safety.
- 3.2.2 All motorised vehicles (except emergency and authorised maintenance vehicles) must keep to designated roads and car parks in the reserve.
- 3.2.3 Existing car parking shall be maintained to a level which is compatible with the nature of the reserve in a style that does not detract from its aesthetic qualities or recreational use of the reserve.

- 3.2.4 Vehicle access for special events may be granted for specific purposes and then terminated at the completion of the event.
- 3.2.5 Council shall use the Invercargill City Council Parks Strategy 2013 and current New Zealand Standards as guides to developing and maintaining pathways and tracks on Otatara Scenic Reserve. All walking tracks on the reserve shall be developed and maintained to the 'path' standard where resources permit. Walking tracks are not for the use of cyclists
- 3.2.6 All walking tracks are catered for pedestrians only and other types of vehicles are prohibited.
- 3.2.7 Where car parking areas are provided for clubs and organisations, all costs relating to the formation and maintenance shall be borne by the club or organisation concerned.
- 3.2.8 Reserves, associated facilities and landscaping will be designed or upgraded, where practical and feasible, to meet the current national standard and design criteria for access for people with disabilities.

3.3 OCCUPATION AGREEMENTS

The term "occupation agreement" refers to any lease, license, easement or other agreement granted between Council and a person, organisation or company that is occupying part of a reserve.

Council's power to grant an occupation agreement over reserves varies depending on the status of the reserve concerned and the rights transferred from the Crown.

Objectives:

- *To permit the occupation of the reserve for approved individuals, groups, users or facilities by the granting of occupation agreements.*
- *To balance the retention of open space with appropriate use and occupation of the reserve.*
- *To ensure public accountability of reserve management.*
- *To ensure adequate remedy or mitigation of any adverse effects on reserve values caused by leases, licences, easements or other occupation agreements.*
- *To ensure that all costs associated with the development and implementation of occupation agreements are the responsibility of the applicant.*

Policies:

- 3.3.1 All organisations with buildings or facilities on the reserve shall be required to hold an occupation agreement as provided for by the Reserves Act 1977.
- 3.3.2 Application for any new occupation agreement in the reserve will be in writing providing detailed information about the type of occupation. Applications for

occupation agreements shall meet the Objectives and Policies of Policy 3.23.1 - Requests for Development on Reserves with particular emphasis on Policy 3.23.1.9, which identifies the requirements of any development plan.

- 3.3.3 The approved occupier of any area of the reserve shall not sublet, assign, transfer, mortgage or part with possession of any part of the land or building without the prior written consent of Council.
- 3.3.4 Easements shall be subject to Sections 48 and 48A of the Reserves Act 1977.
- 3.3.5 All costs associated with occupation agreements shall be the responsibility of the applicant.
- 3.3.6 Occupation agreements shall include provision for the removal of facilities or buildings no longer required by an occupier, lessor or owner before the end of any occupation agreement.
- 3.3.7 Council shall draw up leases and licences subject to the provisions contained in the First Schedule and the sections of the Reserves Act 1977 relevant to the reserve classification and purpose of the lease or licence.

3.4 BOUNDARIES AND FENCES

Council reserves adjoin a variety of land uses in settings from urban to rural with a range of fencing styles. While Council will meet its Fencing Act 1978 obligations, it is important that ratepayers are not burdened with paying for boundary fencing that exceeds the standard of fence beyond that which is considered a minimum requirement.

Council sets a maximum contribution towards half the materials based on a cost per lineal metre for an appropriate standard fence style which is reviewed annually. If a boundary fence is considered necessary, a contribution from Council may be made subject to an application being received in writing. Once it is determined that a new fence is required or the current fence should be replaced, the applicant is advised.

All applications for a fence will be assessed on its design in terms of visual permeability and its contribution to the attractiveness of the reserve.

Fences and barriers may be required within reserves to prevent vehicular access to the grounds and, where it is desirable, to enclose service areas or the premises of exclusive sporting users.

Objectives:

- *To meet boundary/fencing obligations under the Fencing Act 1978 where required.*
- *To limit the number of fences or barriers on reserves to those which will protect reserve values, reduce the adverse effects on reserve neighbours, or which ensure the reserve can be used safely.*
- *To protect reserve values and encourage freedom of public movement into and through reserves.*

- *To stop encroachments on reserve land.*

Policies:

- 3.4.1 Council will assess requests for contribution towards construction of reserve boundary fences only when it is deemed necessary and where it is to be established on the correct legal boundary.
- 3.4.2 Council will meet its boundary fencing obligations under the Fencing Act 1978 where there is a justifiable need. Council shall contribute on a per metre basis up to a maximum amount based on the current rate at the time of application as approved by Council resolution annually. Council shall in each case assess the type of fence appropriate to the character, use and environs of the reserve.
- 3.4.3 Where a reserve occupier requests the enclosure of its facilities, the cost of erecting and maintaining appropriate fences to the satisfaction of Council shall be borne by the reserve occupier and requires written approval from the Parks Manager for colour and design prior to construction.
- 3.4.4 Enclosure of an activity or feature within the reserve with a fence or barrier will only be permitted if there is a justifiable need, e.g. protecting other reserve users from the effects of the activity and protecting reserve values.
- 3.4.5 Stock proof boundary fences shall be kept to a high standard so that farm stock cannot gain access to the reserve.
- 3.4.6 Boundary fences shall be kept clear of any invasive weeds.
- 3.4.7 Where appropriate, suitable fences along boundaries shall be maintained. Should future development necessitate, fences will be upgraded according to the requirements of the area. Existing and future fences and barriers will be maintained according to Council policy.
- 3.4.8 Where encroachments onto reserve land have been identified, these need to be addressed through formal agreements or stopped immediately.

3.5 TREES AND VEGETATION

Trees and vegetation contribute to the amenity, historical, environmental, cultural and landscape values of a reserve.

It is important to actively manage and maintain vegetation on reserves where possible. However, from time to time vegetation can become a nuisance or danger to reserve users and reserve neighbours and can affect the use or enjoyment of the reserve or adjoining properties. Council will consider remedial action where appropriate to resolve these problems.

Objectives:

- *To protect and restore the native forest remnant within the reserve.*
- *To display a variety of trees and shrubs in the reserve.*

- *To develop and maintain the vegetation on the reserve as a significant function contributing to the reserve's attractiveness and popularity.*
- *To maximise the benefits of vegetation on reserves while avoiding, minimising or mitigating the adverse effects on reserve neighbours.*
- *To control the unauthorised removal of vegetation from reserves.*
- *To ensure the integrity of shelter is maintained into the future.*

Policies:

- 3.5.1 Planting and maintenance of vegetation in reserves shall be planned strategically and designed to enhance and protect the reserve's scenic and horticultural qualities and natural character.
- 3.5.2 Planting and management of vegetation in reserves will take into account:
- (a) Management objectives and policies for the reserve.
 - (b) Any landscape plans for the reserve
 - (c) The effect the vegetation will have on adjacent properties at the time of planting and in the future.
 - (d) The effect the vegetation will have on underground and network utility infrastructure.
 - (e) Horticultural, landscape and ecological considerations.
- 3.5.3 Planting for re-vegetation is to be locally sourced so it is in keeping with the natural and surrounding vegetation most appropriate to the reserve's vegetation zone and character of the area.
- 3.5.4 Maintenance or removal of vegetation will only be undertaken by Council, or Council approved contractors. It may also be necessary to discuss further any concerns the affected person/group may have.
- 3.5.5 Before making any decision on complaints about trees on reserves, Council will:
- (a) Visit and discuss the issues with the affected parties.
 - (b) Assess the effect of the alleged nuisance.
 - (c) Consider the purpose and classification of the reserve.
 - (d) Determine the actual or potential danger to people's life or health or the complainant's property.
 - (e) Consider any undue interference with the reasonable enjoyment of the complainant's land.
 - (f) Consider the interests of the public.
- 3.5.6 Exotic grass growth will be controlled and only allowed to grow in appropriate areas. All other exotic grass will be sprayed or removed to allow more appropriate plantings to develop over time.
- 3.5.7 Native vegetation will not be cut or removed unless it is causing some form of hazard or danger and only then it will be under Parks supervision.
- 3.5.8 The size of the reserve is to be maintained and no further development is to occur where any native vegetation is to be removed unless the development will further enhance the reserve and the native vegetation or public safety is at risk.

- 3.5.9 Areas will be identified and monitored to detect changes in the native bush.

3.6 BUILDINGS AND STRUCTURES

Reserves are created principally for the provision of open space and natural areas. Some buildings and structures such as changing rooms, toilets and clubrooms are considered necessary for the enjoyment and full utilisation of the reserves and are allowed for in the Reserves Act 1977.

Objectives:

- *To provide, maintain and preserve well designed and appropriately located buildings and structures on the reserve to improve utilisation, preserve historical features and add to the enjoyment of the reserve by its users.*
- *To ensure that all reserve facilities are maintained to an appropriate standard that enhances amenity values of the reserve.*

Policies:

- 3.6.1 The number of buildings and structures on reserves will be limited to a level which facilitates the safe and appropriate use of the reserve.
- 3.6.2 The open space and natural amenity values of the reserve will be protected and managed by only allowing those buildings and structures which complement the reserve.
- 3.6.3 Applications for new buildings or changes to existing buildings on the reserve require Council approval and shall meet the Objectives and Policies of 3.23.1 - Requests for Development on Reserves with particular emphasis on Policy 3.23.1.9, which identifies the requirements of any development plan.
- 3.6.4 Buildings and structures on the reserve shall be designed to a high standard and where practical, be designed to limit the opportunity for vandalism.
- 3.6.5 Buildings and structures on the reserve will be designed or upgraded, where practical and feasible, to meet the current national standard and design criteria for access for people with limited mobility.
- 3.6.6 Applications for extensions to existing buildings shall only be granted where the extension is seen as enhancing the enjoyment and full utilisation of the reserve.
- 3.6.7 The design of any building or structure on the reserve shall be subject to Council approval and shall be in keeping with the surroundings to enhance and complement the landscape.
- 3.6.8 Exterior colour schemes of buildings and structures on the reserve shall be approved by Council. The painting and creation of murals (not advertising) on buildings and structures may be considered on submission of a copy of the design and proposed colour scheme to Council.
- 3.6.9 Where appropriate, buildings on the reserve shall be shared with other recreation users of the reserve and when not required for events or gatherings, made

available for other non commercial community use. Preference will be given to activities of a recreation nature.

- 3.6.10 When required, the establishment, design and maintenance of public toilets in the reserve shall take into account current New Zealand Standards.
- 3.6.11 The number and location of public toilets on the reserve shall be kept under constant review.
- 3.6.12 Any tenanted buildings are to be maintained to a presentable standard of high quality for visitors to see.
- 3.6.13 No application for extensions will be granted to those buildings on the reserve that are classified as non-conforming buildings.
- 3.6.14 Clubs and associations shall be responsible for maintenance of their buildings and facilities on the reserve to an appropriate standard as determined by Council.
- 3.6.15 Clubs and associations shall be responsible for the full cost of removal of any building and associated facilities when no longer required.
- 3.6.16 The hall and associated exterior facilities will be maintained to an appropriate standard. No exterior expansions to the hall will be permitted.

3.7 OUTDOOR FURNITURE

Providing outdoor furniture on reserves that are appropriately designed and blend in with the surrounding landscape can add to the user's enjoyment of a reserve. Outdoor furniture such as picnic tables and rubbish bins need to be maintained so that they remain an attractive asset to the reserve and do not become a safety hazard.

Objective:

- *To provide outdoor furniture which enhances the experience of the reserve user.*

Policies:

- 3.7.1 Outdoor furniture on parks and reserves shall be designed to a high standard.
- 3.7.2 Outdoor furniture shall be provided in the reserve where an identified need has been established and where resources permit. The number, design and placement of outdoor furniture shall be in keeping with the purpose and levels of use of the reserve and appropriate to the setting.

3.8 EDUCATION

The reserve has considerable potential as an educational resource for the general public, special interest groups and schools.

"Self educational" facilities including: plant labelling, brochures, signage and interpretation material at specialised feature gardens and historically/culturally significant sites all offer opportunities as educational resources. Other opportunities include guided tours and demonstrations.

Objective:

- *To enhance the educational opportunities on the reserve.*

Policies:

- 3.8.1 Council will continue to distribute and update relevant material to a wide range of users.
- 3.8.2 Council will continue to keep material relevant when providing educational value to reserve users.
- 3.8.3 Council will explore different means of telling the "stories" using proven methods as well as the use of new technology available.

3.9 SIGNS

Signs inform the public of their responsibilities as users of the reserve and advise users of the management and maintenance responsibilities of the reserve and its facilities.

Signs are also used as a way of educating and informing the public on features of the reserve and should make it easier for reserve users to find their way around the reserve and locate areas of interest.

The implementation of the policies on signs on reserves is subject to the appropriate provisions of Council Bylaws, District Plan rules and the requirements of the Reserves Act 1977.

Objectives:

- *To provide signs that assist in user orientation and reserve legibility.*
- *To use signs as a way to enhance educational opportunities in the reserve.*
- *To minimise the adverse visual effects of signs while maximising useful information to reserve users.*
- *To ensure consistent sign information, styles and types on the reserve.*

Policies:

- 3.9.1 Council shall use current New Zealand Standards as a guide when providing and maintaining signs on parks and reserves.
- 3.9.2 Signs on the reserve shall be for the purpose of proper management, administration and control of the reserve. Education and interpretation facilities shall be provided in key areas of the reserve.

- 3.9.3 Permanent advertising signs are not permitted on the reserve. Permanent signs for trade advertising may be permitted with the approval of Council only when the sign is to be located within an enclosed sports area and only where the sign will not be visible from outside the sports area.
- 3.9.4 Temporary advertising intended to alert or inform the public about a forthcoming event or attractions on the reserve may be permitted at the discretion of Council. The position of all temporary advertising shall be approved by Council, all costs shall be the responsibility of the applicant and temporary signs shall remain in place for a maximum of 14 days.
- 3.9.5 Reserve occupiers must apply to Council to place signage on their buildings. The size, style and scale of signage will be taken into consideration and in particular, the effect or visual impact the sign will have on reserve users and the reserve neighbours. All signs on the buildings shall be limited to the name of the club or organisation and shall be within the dimensions of 3m long by 1.2m deep and to a maximum area of 1.5m². Any requests for signage outside these dimensions must be approved by way of Council resolution.
- 3.9.6 Reserve occupiers will be responsible for meeting the costs of producing, erecting, maintaining, removing and replacing signs relating to their activity to be located on or adjacent to their buildings.
- 3.9.7 The number of signs shall be kept to the minimum number required to meet the needs of users.
- 3.9.8 Council will provide standard identification signage at the entrance to each activity.

3.10 LIGHTING

Council recognises that some reserve user groups wish to operate at night. Sufficient lighting in high use areas is important so that people can see and be seen.

While lighting can be considered an essential component of night use in a reserve area, it is appropriate that the cost should fall to those who attract users of the facility at night. It is also important that the effects of lighting on reserve neighbours are taken into consideration.

Objectives:

- *To allow sports field, car park and access way lighting where appropriate.*
- *To enhance the real and perceived safety of the reserve through the provision of lighting along key pedestrian paths.*

Policies:

- 3.10.1 Council will only consider the provision of lighting on the reserve where there is a clear public benefit or for amenity, security and safety reasons.

- 3.10.2 Council shall consider current best practise and lighting engineering standards, energy efficiency and appropriate design for the location when establishing new lighting fixtures on the reserve.
- 3.10.3 The light spill generated from any activity on the reserve shall not exceed 5 lux at any residential boundary between the hours of sunset and sunrise.
- 3.10.4 Where an identifiable beneficiary from Council's lighting of car parks and access ways exists, the full operation, maintenance and replacement costs will be passed onto this beneficiary.
- 3.10.5 The reserve occupier is responsible for the provision and maintenance of lighting associated with their activity, with the approval of Council.

3.11 NETWORK UTILITY INFRASTRUCTURE

Utility infrastructure can impact on reserve values, neighbours and users by restricting the current use of a reserve and the potential development of the reserve for future enjoyment.

It is not desirable to have network utility infrastructure on reserves and reserves should not be regarded as infrastructure corridors.

Overhead services detract from the appearance of any reserve and generally place limitations on the placement of trees, overall landscaping and the development of the area.

Objectives:

- *To allow network utility operators conditional access to the reserve for the purpose of inspection, maintenance, ongoing operation and upgrading of existing utility infrastructure.*
- *To ensure adverse effects of network utility infrastructure on the reserve values, users and neighbours are able to be avoided, remedied, compensated or mitigated.*
- *To permit network utility infrastructure only where it is deemed essential for the reserve.*

Policies:

- 3.11.1 No new network utility infrastructure will be permitted on the reserve unless a definite benefit to the reserve can be established. Any new network utility infrastructure deemed essential for a reserve shall be laid underground.
- 3.11.2 Council will permit network utility operators conditional access to reserve land to inspect, maintain, operate or upgrade existing works, subject to the provisions of the relevant empowering Acts, the Reserves Act 1977 and conditions of Council.
- 3.11.3 The utility provider is responsible for all costs associated with temporary closures of the reserve and the costs of reinstatement in the event of damage to the reserve from the network utility infrastructure.

- 3.11.4 Network utility operators must supply a useable and up-to-date "as built" infrastructure plan in a form and detail agreed with Council officers, including information regarding their location on the reserve as a condition of any occupation agreement.

3.12 DISPOSAL OF RUBBISH

Council is committed to eliminating the amount of rubbish that is deposited on Council land. The dumping of rubbish on reserves or the inappropriate use of existing rubbish disposal facilities can detract from the reserve values and the proper functioning of reserves.

Council's general policy is not to provide rubbish bins on public reserves except in high use/high profile areas.

Council is also concerned about the impact garden escapees can have on areas of environmental importance. Garden escapees, or weeds, often come from garden waste being dumped onto neighbouring reserve land. While this reserve is not an environmental reserve, there is still a cost in cleaning up and removing dumped garden waste.

Objectives:

- *To preserve reserve values through appropriate disposal and collection of rubbish and garden waste.*
- *To encourage reserve users to act responsibly by requiring them to take home their rubbish.*

Policies:

- 3.12.1 No person shall deposit any domestic refuse, trade waste, garden refuse, rubble or other debris on the reserve.
- 3.12.2 Reserve user groups are responsible for ensuring the area of their responsibility is kept clear of rubbish.
- 3.12.3 Event organisers are responsible for collection and disposal of rubbish when the reserve is booked for events.

3.13 FIRES ON RESERVES

Fires on reserves have the potential to cause significant damage to habitat, buildings and structures on reserves and to adjacent property.

Objective:

- *To protect natural habitat, buildings and structures on the reserve from damage and destruction of uncontrolled fires.*

Policy:

- 3.13.1 The lighting of fires on the reserve outside of a contained gas barbeque is not permitted without the prior written authorisation from Council.

3.14 LIQUOR CONSUMPTION AND SALE

The sale of liquor is seen as one means of reserve occupiers providing a social service for their members. Reserve users can also request consent for special or one off events where liquor is sold or supplied incidental to the principal purpose of the occasion or event being held.

Objective:

- *To allow the consumption and sale of liquor on the reserve where the effects on the reserve, reserve values, reserve users and reserve neighbours can be avoided, remedied or mitigated and the relevant statutory and Bylaw requirements are met.*

Policy:

- 3.14.1 Council will not oppose the granting of liquor licences for premises located on parks and reserves or special licenses in defined areas for one off types of events where:
- (a) The granting of permission is consistent with the purpose of the reserve.
 - (b) The effects on the reserve, reserve values, reserve users and reserve neighbours can be avoided, remedied or mitigated.
 - (c) Applicants can provide evidence they have met the requirements of relevant legislation, regulations, codes and permits.

3.15 PEST PLANTS AND ANIMALS

Pest plants and animals are a threat to the health of the environment. Some pest species contribute significant detrimental effects on native plants, animals and ecological processes, or impose an adverse visual impact on the landscape.

Effective control of weeds and animals is undertaken to comply with the Regional Pest Management Strategy for Southland.

Objective:

- *To minimise the impact of pest plants and animals on reserve values, reserve users and reserve neighbours.*

Policies:

- 3.15.1 Pest plants and animals on parks and reserves shall be controlled in accordance with the "Regional Pest Management Strategy - May 2013" or any subsequent reviews of this Strategy.

- 3.15.2 Council will endeavour to remove invasive weed and pest animal species from the reserve by approved control methods.
- 3.15.3 Animals and birds deliberately abandoned in the reserve may be considered a pest and destroyed.
- 3.15.4 Council will liaise, support, assist and cooperate with Regional Council and other interest groups (community, neighbours) to provide for the detection and control of pest plants and animals in parks and reserves.

3.16 CAMPING

Camping is only permitted on reserves administered under the Reserves Act 1977 in the Invercargill District in camping grounds specific to that purpose. Potential problems resulting from campers on reserves include toilet waste disposal, rubbish and damage to reserves.

There are registered camping grounds on reserves in Bluff and at Sandy Point, as well as other private facilities, that provide adequate camping grounds for visitors to the City.

Objectives:

- *To conserve the public health, well being and safety of the public while on the reserve.*
- *To ensure the public have equity of use over reserves under the Council's control.*
- *To prohibit camping in the reserve.*

Policies:

- 3.16.1 Camping is not permitted on the reserve.
- 3.16.2 In special circumstances, camping on the reserve for one off events may be approved by Council resolution.

3.17 DOGS ON RESERVES

Council adopted the Dog Control Policy for Parks and Reserves in May 2005. This policy refers only to dogs on the parks, reserves and open spaces managed and controlled by the Parks Division.

The control of dogs on the reserve has been an issue from time to time and while there is signage and controls placed on the reserve, it is difficult to enforce these rules but better education of dog owners has helped.

Dog faeces can carry disease which can affect humans and other dogs. When a dog fouls in public, the person controlling the dog is responsible for the immediate removal of the faeces.

Objectives:

- *To provide environments within the city's parks and reserves where dogs and people can happily co-exist.*
- *To allow dogs and their owners reasonable access to the city's parks and reserves, at the same time protecting the safety and comfort for all users.*
- *To make available areas of open space in the city's parks and reserves, which provide reasonable exercise and recreational opportunities for dogs and their owners.*
- *To minimise danger and/or nuisance caused by dogs to the public or to wildlife and natural habitats on the city's parks and reserves.*
- *To provide appropriate signage and public notification to dog owners (or those people exercising their dogs) informing them of their responsibilities while using the city's parks and reserves.*

Policies:

- 3.17.1 Access
Appropriate levels of access to parks and reserves for dogs and their owners shall be made available.
- 3.17.2 Safety and Conflict
Dog access to parks and reserves shall be restricted or, in some cases, prohibited where the likelihood of conflict exists between dogs, the public or the environment.
- 3.17.3 Exercise Areas
Dog exercise areas shall be made available to provide sufficient opportunities for the needs of dogs in the city's parks and reserves.
- 3.17.4 Signage and Education
A review of the dog control signage on parks and reserves in the city shall be carried out with a goal of standardising and simplifying this. Opportunities for informing the public on dog control policies on parks and reserves, such as newsletters, media releases and advertising shall also be considered. Appropriate signage will be erected at various locations to assist dog owners in complying with this policy.
- 3.17.5 Dog Fouling
Every person, whose dog defecates on any city park or reserve, is required to remove the deposited faeces from the reserve area immediately or dispose of the material in a suitable receptacle.
- 3.17.6 Responsibilities
It is the responsibility of the person exercising the dog on the city's parks and reserves to ensure the dog is fully registered and that it complies with any other Council dog control bylaw.

3.17.7 Enforcement

Parks Division officers shall convey the agreed policies to dog owners when observing any offence. Enforcement will be via Council's dog control officers and, if necessary, by provision of the Reserves Act 1977, parks rangers and the introduction of bylaws.

Definitions

Dogs-on-a-Leash Areas

Areas where dogs are required to be leashed at all times are:

- All parks and reserves in the Invercargill City Council area, with the exception of areas classified as -
 - Dog-prohibited areas.
 - Designated dog-exercise areas.

Dogs-on-a-leash areas include all walking tracks on parks "short walks" and all cemeteries and crematoria areas. A list of walking tracks is located in the Parks office.

Dog-Prohibited Areas

Areas where dogs are prohibited are:

- Anywhere within ten metres of any children's play equipment, including skateboard ramps and paddling pools.
- The designated playing areas of all marked sports fields.
- The areas around the Sandy Point ponds and lagoons specifically designated as wildlife habitats [*refer to Sandy Point Management Plan*].
- The area around and in the Donovan Park pond where there is risk of disturbing wildlife [*refer to Donovan Park Management Plan*].
- Areas that from time to time the Council will notify by way of signage and advertising that there is a temporary dog prohibition in place because of wildlife, stock or other issue.

Designated Dog-Exercise Areas

These are areas designated for dog exercise where dogs are permitted to be at large while under continuous surveillance and effective control. Maps showing these areas are located in the Parks office.

- Sandy Point Domain, excluding playgrounds, marked sports fields and the ponds and lagoons designated as wildlife habitats. Dogs must be on a lead while on all formed walking tracks.
- Donovan Park, excluding marked sports fields and the Donovan Park pond where there is a risk of disturbing wildlife.
- Elizabeth Park, excluding playgrounds. Dogs must be on a lead while on all formed walking tracks.

- Turnbull Thomson Park, excluding playgrounds and marked sports fields. Dogs must be on a lead while on all formed walking tracks.
- Elles Road Dog Park, within the fenced area.

Notes

- *The person exercising the dog must be able to control it as if it was on a leash. If the person exercising the dog cannot stop or retrieve the dog immediately with a whistle or call, then the person cannot exercise their dog with its leash off.*
- *The person exercising the dog must carry a leash at all times.*
- *The person exercising the dog must be capable of restraining the dog.*
- *The person exercising the dog is responsible for removing any deposited faeces from the dog exercising area.*

3.18 DOMESTIC ANIMAL CONTROL

Uncontrolled domestic animals can cause damage to plants and soil structure of reserves and may endanger other reserve users.

Objective:

- *To protect the vegetation and soil structure of the reserve and to provide a safe and attractive reserve for all users.*

Policy:

- 3.18.1 Uncontrolled animals are not permitted on parks and reserve unless otherwise provided for with an appropriate lease or licence under Section 73 of the Reserves Act 1977 or with written permission from Council.

3.19 HEALTHY AND ACTIVE PARKS

Council has a role to play in providing public spaces that offer healthy and active opportunities for the public.

One of the key outcomes of the "Our Way Invercargill"² strategy plan is "Health and Wellbeing - We are healthy people". This aligns with the Ministry of Health's approach to improving nutrition, increasing physical activity and achieving healthy weight for all New Zealanders.

Some of the ways Council can contribute to the "Health and Wellbeing" outcome is through providing opportunities in our parks which include:

- Encouraging Healthy Lifestyles:
 - promoting a 'smoke free' environment.
 - promoting healthy eating.

² 'Our Way Invercargill' Long Tern Council Community Plan (LTCCP) 2006 – 2016, Invercargill City Council

- Encouraging Active Lifestyles:
 - providing activity friendly environments.
 - promoting active use of the Park.
 - providing equity of provision in terms of culture and ability.

Objective:

- *To encourage healthy and active lifestyles for Invercargill residents through use of the park.*

Policies:

- 3.19.1 Groups booking events in the reserve will be encouraged to provide healthy food alternatives at their event.
- 3.19.2 Council will consider the cultural needs and physical abilities of potential users when designing environments in the reserve to ensure the reserve is welcoming and functional for all.

3.20 SMOKE FREE PARKS AND RESERVES

Objectives:

- *To encourage healthy and active lifestyles for Invercargill residents through use of parks and reserves as Smoke Free areas.*
- *That this be promoted in all Invercargill City Council Parks and in particular, within 20 meters of play equipment; entrances to the Queens Park Aviary and Queens Park Animal Reserve; and all marked sports fields.*
- *That the public be encouraged through signage and publicity to maintain a clean, healthy environment in these areas.*
- *That this become a policy in each of the Reserve Management Plans upon their drafting or review.*

Policies:

- 3.20.1 By designating and promoting all Invercargill City Council owned children's playgrounds, the Queens Park Aviary, Queens Park Animal Reserve, and areas designated as sports fields as Smoke free areas.
- 3.20.2 That this be promoted in all Council Parks and in particular within 20 meters of play equipment, entrances to the Queens Park Aviary and Queens Park Animal Reserve, and allocated sports fields.
- 3.20.3 That the public be encouraged through signage and publicity to maintain a clean, healthy environment in these areas.
- 3.20.4 That this become a policy in each of the Reserve Management Plans upon their drafting or review.

- 3.20.5 Groups booking events on Invercargill City Council Reserves will be encouraged to actively promote their event as Smoke Free.

3.21 ADMINISTRATION

The reserve is vested in Council for Local Purpose and Scenic Reserve Purposes.

Objective:

- *To comply with the Reserves Act 1977 requirements for administration and management.*

Policy:

- 3.21.1 The Invercargill City Council, through the Parks Manager, shall carry out the day to day administration and management of the reserve, using Parks Division Assets and Operations Unit staff and contractors.

3.22 PLAN AMENDMENT AND REVIEW

The Reserves Act 1977 sets out clear requirements for the preparation, amendment and review of Reserve Management Plans.

Objective:

- *To ensure this Management Plan is kept under review to reflect the needs of current and future users through consultation with the community and user groups and to be consistent with current best practice management procedure.*

Policies:

- 3.22.1 Any change or amendment, not involving a comprehensive review of the reserve's Management Plan, shall be made by adopting the procedures specified in Section 41(9) of the Reserves Act 1977.
- 3.22.2 The reserve's Management Plan shall be kept under continuous review as laid down in Section 41(4) of the Reserves Act 1977 and shall be operative from the date of signing for a period of ten years, at which time it will be completely reviewed.

3.23 DEVELOPMENT AND CHANGE

3.23.1 Requests for Development on Reserves

Reserves are created principally for the provision and preservation of open space and natural areas. Some buildings and structures such as changing rooms, toilets, clubrooms, car parks and fences are considered necessary for the enjoyment and full utilisation of reserves and are allowed for in the Reserves Act 1977.

The landscape character of a reserve contributes to and enhances the City's environment and impacts on reserve users, reserve neighbours and people passing by. While certain activities and buildings are permitted on reserves it is important to ensure that the effects of any structure or use does not impact negatively on reserve values, reserve users and reserve neighbours.

When considering an application to develop or change part of a reserve, Council will take into account the existing character of the reserve, including:

- The existing and potential use of the reserve.
- The natural and built environment.
- The surrounding landscape and the use of neighbouring land.
- The purpose and classification of the reserve under the Reserves Act 1977 and the management objectives stated in the current Reserve Management Plan.

Objectives:

- *To protect and enhance the open space, landscape and historical values of the reserve while providing adequate facilities for recreation and play.*
- *To ensure that development is appropriate to the reserve and that new developments complement and enhance the existing character of the reserve.*
- *To provide and maintain well designed and appropriately located buildings and structures in the reserve to improve utilisation and add to the enjoyment of the reserve by its users.*
- *To ensure that all reserve facilities are provided and maintained to an appropriate standard that meets public health and safety requirements and contributes to the attractiveness of the reserve.*
- *To ensure the costs associated with any development by/for a specific user group are met by that group.*

Policies:

- 3.23.1.1 The number of buildings and structures on the reserve will be limited to a level which facilitates the safe and appropriate use, protects the open space and natural amenity values, while being compatible with the purpose and classification of the reserve.
- 3.23.1.2 Public safety, public benefit and the character of the environment should be taken into account when planning the development of buildings, structures and associated landscaping.
- 3.23.1.3 The construction of any new buildings or extensions to existing buildings is not permitted unless anticipated in the current Management Plan and may be subject to a review or amendment to the Management Plan.

- 3.23.1.4 The design of the proposal shall be subject to Council approval and shall be in keeping with and complement the surroundings. Buildings and structures shall be placed with regard to reserve values, views and proximity to access points.
- 3.23.1.5 Exterior colour schemes of buildings and structures shall be approved by Council. The painting and creation of murals (not advertising) on buildings and structures may be considered on submission of a copy of the design and proposed colour scheme to Council.
- 3.23.1.6 The development shall be designed in a way that limits the opportunity for vandalism.
- 3.23.1.7 The development will be designed, where practical and feasible, to meet the current national standard and design criteria for access for people with disabilities.
- 3.23.1.8 The lease or licence to occupy agreement will define the obligations of the building owners on reserve land when the building is no longer required or the club has disbanded. These include removal or disposal of the building and facilities, or on-selling of the building to an approved recreational activity. Any outcome of this will be to the approval of Council.
- 3.23.1.9 Development plans are required for all development proposals for structures, facilities or buildings on the reserve (including alterations and extensions to existing buildings) and will include an assessment of effects. In particular the proposal should address how adverse effects on the values of the reserve will be avoided, remedied or mitigated. The development plan shall include:
- (a) The location and design of proposed buildings, structures and landscaping including any car parking, lighting, fences and signage and the extent of the area required.
 - (b) Details of the size, scale, visual impact and relationship of the proposal to the surroundings.
 - (c) Any new building requirements as part of the development, or the changed use of existing buildings. Indicate any alterations required for existing buildings.
 - (d) Details of any known or potential liabilities associated with any existing building or structure being added to or modified.
 - (e) Any likely effects (adverse or otherwise) of the proposal on the landscape, environment and reserve users or reserve neighbours including visibility into and through the reserve and public safety.
 - (f) Details of any change or removal of any existing trees or vegetation.
 - (g) Details of any drainage and earthworks required and disruption to drainage patterns. Full restoration of disturbed landform during construction and landscaping and compliance with relevant legislation is the responsibility of the applicant.
 - (h) Details of any change or disruption to network utility infrastructure and details of infrastructure required as part of the development.
 - (i) Details of any specific landscaping requirements - species, screening or shelter.
 - (j) Consideration of existing users (both formal and informal) and the impact of this proposal on them. Any issues of public access, thoroughfare and egress on reserves and into any buildings and the loss of any open space including during construction phase.
 - (k) Details of any discussions with existing user groups.

- (l) Anticipated user numbers and the times of use.
- (m) Details of anticipated life of the structure and future maintenance requirements.
- (n) Details as to who will be responsible for all future maintenance and insurance for the buildings and structures. Acknowledgement of the club or group's responsibility if or when the building is no longer required or if the club disbands.
- (o) Details of the anticipated completion date and any plans to stage the development.
- (p) Any other matters arising as determined by Council.

4.0 FUTURE DEVELOPMENT

A Reserve Management Plan is developed to reflect current reserve use and reserve values. A Management Plan should also highlight anticipated future development or change to the reserve and the likely impact a development will have on reserve users, reserve values and reserve neighbours. Any development not anticipated in, or meeting the policies of the current Reserve Management Plan, will require an amendment to the Management Plan.

Any future development at the reserve shall only be to the extent which is in accordance with the overall management objectives and policies and subject to meeting the requirements defined in Policy 3.23.1 - Requests for Development on Reserves.

Before any development is implemented, it must be established that there is a need for such development and that what is proposed will be of benefit to the reserve and to those using it.

4.1 Picnic Area Development

Further plantings are to be carried out to enhance the area which will then be promoted to increase utilisation of this space.

4.2 Walking Track Development

Walking Tracks may be developed if there is a demonstrated need for improved access and linkage through the reserve.