

# OPEN SPACES STRATEGY

---

**Final**

**April 2015**







## QUALITY ASSURANCE AND PLAN STATUS

DOCUMENT VERSION AND CONTROL		
DATE	VERSION NUMBER	CHECKED BY
24/05/2013	Version 1 - First Draft Framework for internal workshop	Mark Rykers
04/06/2014	Version 2 – Draft Open Spaces Strategy for Council comment	Mark Rykers
24/09/2015	Version 3 – Final Draft Open Spaces Strategy for public consultation	Mark Rykers
20/01/2015	Version 4 – Final Open Spaces Strategy – for Council adoption	Mark Rykers
OVERALL RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE CO-ORDINATION OF ALL MATTERS IN THIS DOCUMENT		
DATE	NAME	DESIGNATION
2015	Mark Rykers	Asset Manager Open Space & Property
PREPARED BY		
DATE	NAME	DESIGNATION
17/02/2015	Michele Frey	Consultant - Opus International Consultants Ltd
17/02/2015	Mark Rykers	Asset Manager Open Space & Property
COUNCIL ADOPTION		
DATE	RECORD OF DECISION	
25/03/2015	Council approves adoption of the final Selwyn District Council Open Spaces Strategy, subject to any minor amendments	
PUBLIC CONSULTATION		
DATE	FORM OF	
10/10/2014	Six week public consultation process, including consultation with stakeholders	
DOCUMENT UPDATE AND REVIEW		
DATE	RECORD OF	
EXPERIENCE/QUALIFICATIONS OF MAJOR CONTRIBUTORS		
NAME	DESIGNATION	SUMMARY
Michele Frey	Consultant - Opus International Consultants Ltd	Master of Applied Science (Env. Mgmt), AccRecPro NZRA, Certified Environmental Practitioner EIANZ, 10 years experience in the parks and leisure industry
Mark Rykers	Asset Manager Open Space & Property	Dip P & R Management, 30 years experience in parks and community facility management

# CONTENTS

<b>EXECUTIVE SUMMARY</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>KEY THEMES</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>INTRODUCTION</b>	<b>6</b>	7.1 FUNCTION	17
2.1 PURPOSE OF THE OPEN SPACES STRATEGY	6	7.2 EFFICIENCY AND SUSTAINABILITY	19
2.2 GLOSSARY OF TERMS	7	7.3 QUANTITY	20
<b>VISION</b>	<b>8</b>	7.4 QUALITY	22
<b>PRINCIPLES</b>	<b>9</b>	7.5 DISTRIBUTION	23
<b>STRATEGIC FIT</b>	<b>10</b>	7.6 DISTRICT IDENTITY	24
<b>BACKGROUND/ CONTEXT</b>	<b>12</b>	7.7 PRESERVATION	25
6.1.1 WHAT IS OPEN SPACE AND WHY IS IT IMPORTANT?	12	7.8 STEWARDSHIP AND PARTNERSHIPS	26
6.1.2 WHY DEVELOP THIS STRATEGY?	12	<b>ACTION PLANS</b>	<b>27</b>
6.1.3 WHOSE ROLE IS IT TO PROVIDE OPEN SPACE IN THE DISTRICT?	14	<b>MONITORING AND REVIEW</b>	<b>40</b>
6.1.4 HOW MUCH OPEN SPACE DO WE HAVE AND HOW MUCH WILL WE NEED IN THE FUTURE?	14		
6.1.5 WHAT HAS THE COMMUNITY SAID ABOUT OPEN SPACE?	15		





*The purpose of the Open Spaces Strategy is to set the direction for provision of an open space network that will meet the District's needs for the next 30 years.*



# 01

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Open space forms an integral part of the District's aesthetic, social, ecological, cultural and economic life. The purpose of the Open Spaces Strategy is to set the direction for provision of an open space network that will meet the District's needs for the next 30 years.

The Open Spaces Strategy specifically establishes a vision for Selwyn District's open space and where Council wants to be in 2044. The vision is supported by underlying principles. Council views the provision of open space through key themes, with each theme having an associated implementation plan in order to achieve the vision for open spaces into the future.

In developing this Strategy the Council carefully considered unique factors impacting the rate of population growth currently and predicted into the future and how best to achieve the community's needs and aspirations.



# 02

## INTRODUCTION

Many people choose to live in Selwyn District for its unique blend of small distinctive townships, rural outlook and natural wilderness all interwoven by community open space. There are several larger town centres in the District that provide low density 'urban' settings and associated public open spaces.

Together these features play an important role in contributing to the attractiveness of the District with the community open spaces providing for quality living environments; important places to celebrate heritage, culture and natural features, promoting and enhancing tourism opportunities as well as promoting biodiversity. They also provide relief from the intrusion of everyday noise and urban distractions, enabling people to relax and enjoy the natural surroundings. Equally, open spaces provide people with places to gather and enjoy, and participate in physical activity.

The District's current open space resource is being significantly impacted by on-going population growth with Selwyn District being the fastest growing District in New Zealand<sup>1</sup>. This has resulted in increasing pressure on the various providers of open space to meet the District's current and future needs. The development and protection of the District's open space network and improvements to the quality of open space is therefore increasingly important.

While the focus of the Open Spaces Strategy (the Strategy) is primarily about publicly owned land, it recognises that privately owned open space also makes a considerable contribution to the open space network. It is the collective public and private open space that gives the District its identity.

As a precursor to the development of the Strategy, a consultation exercise was undertaken with key stakeholders. The community have told us that:

- they understand that the District is growing rapidly;
- there is a need to plan proactively for open space provision in the future;
- they value the diversity of open space provision in the District;
- they are keen to see the diversity and quality of these open spaces retained and enhanced into the future;
- there is a strong desire to retain the rural identity of the District;
- there is a desire to have open space that is versatile to meet the diverse needs of the community.

### 2.1 PURPOSE OF THE OPEN SPACES STRATEGY

Appropriate acquisition, development and maintenance of open spaces to preserve the District's character and identity are important to residents and visitors. In order to effectively acquire, develop and maintain the District's open spaces in a manner that meets the needs of the community into the future, there is a need for a planned 'whole of network' approach. This planned approach is consistent with Council direction as well as broader direction as prescribed by key documents such as the Greater Christchurch Urban Development Strategy, Spaces and Places Plan for Greater Christchurch, 'Mahaanui'<sup>2</sup> (Iwi Management Plan), the District Development Strategy (Selwyn 2031) and other key planning instruments.

The purpose of the Strategy is therefore to set the direction for provision of an open space network that will meet the District's needs for the next 30 years, taking into consideration existing Council provision and levels of service as well as other providers of open space in the District. It emphasises the role of open space as an integral part of the District's aesthetic, social, ecological, cultural and economic life.

<sup>1</sup> According to the 2013 Census Usually Resident Population Counts produced by Statistics New Zealand on the 15th October 2013.

<sup>2</sup> Taken from Te Tai o Mahaanui, the tide that connects the six marae. From the Waimakariri to the Hakatere, the tide of Mahaanui laps against the whenua embracing the six hapu.

## 2.2 GLOSSARY OF TERMS

**Biodiversity** - the variety of plant and animal life in a particular habitat, a high level of which is usually considered to be important and desirable.

**Kaitiakitanga** - The exercise of guardianship by the tangata whenua of an area in accordance with tikanga Māori in relation to natural and physical resources, including the ethic of stewardship<sup>3</sup>.

**Long Term Plan** - The Selwyn District Council Long Term Plan (LTP) sets out what the Council is planning to do over the next ten years. This includes:

- what the Council is trying to achieve for the District;
- the range of services that we provide;
- the level of performance that residents can expect from us;
- how much we estimate the services will cost;
- how much we estimate ratepayers will need to pay.

**Mana Whenua** – territorial rights, power from the land - power associated with possession and occupation of tribal land<sup>4</sup>.

**Open space** – areas of land or water that the public has a level of free physical or visual access. This includes 'green spaces' such as parks, reserves, transport corridors, urban spaces, streetscapes, greenbelt areas and streams or rivers.

**Principle** - a fundamental truth or proposition that serves as the foundation for a system of belief or behaviour or for a chain of reasoning.

**Sustainable management** – means managing the use, development and protection of natural and physical resources in a way, or at a rate, which enables people and communities to provide for their social, economic and cultural wellbeing and for their health and safety while:

- a) Sustaining the potential of natural and physical resources (excluding minerals) to meet the reasonable foreseeable needs of future generations; and
- b) Safeguarding the life-supporting capacity of air, water, soil and ecosystems, and avoiding, remedying or mitigating any adverse effects of activities on the environment<sup>5</sup>

**Vision** - a mental image of what the future will or could be like.

<sup>3</sup> Source: <http://www.climatechange.govt.nz/glossary.html>

<sup>4</sup> Source: <http://www.maoridictionary.co.nz/word/3452>

<sup>5</sup> Source: <http://www.mfe.govt.nz/rma/about-rma/glossary-rma-terms>



## 03

**VISION**

As a result of preliminary stakeholder consultation the following vision has been identified:

*'A well connected, sustainable network of open spaces across the District that reflect the needs and aspirations of the District's residents & visitors, and protects and enhances the District's biodiversity.'*

This Vision recognises the importance of the open space network for a range of functions both in the urban and rural environments for the District's residents, visitors to the District and biodiversity values.



***'A well connected, sustainable network of open spaces across the District that reflect the needs and aspirations of the District's residents & visitors, and protects and enhances the District's biodiversity.'***





# 04

## PRINCIPLES

Principles are the accepted ideas underpinning this Strategy. The 13 principles are:

1. **Build on what we have and protect specific areas of high value** – emphasise the breadth of unique open spaces available.
2. **Recognise demand drivers and plan for the future** – there is a need to recognise our demand drivers planning effectively for future generations.
3. **Recognise cultural significance** – working with Ngai Tahu values and policies to express kaitiakitanga (guardianship) of open space.
4. **Maintain our District identity** – protect and enhance the rural and village character and the points of difference that make Selwyn a special place in which to live.
5. **Recognise the wider network** – acknowledge that we are one of many providers of open space and need to apply a holistic view.
6. **Create linkages** – open space is important in providing physical linkages for transport routes, to connect activities and develop “green” corridors.
7. **Provide a diversity of spaces** – a range of spaces are needed to cater for a variety of activities, experiences and choices.
8. **Value local themes** – open space provides an avenue to celebrate the unique identity of each of the District’s townships.
9. **Create quality living environments** – open space provision and development follows good urban design standards and is safe to use.
10. **Build community connectivity** – provide spaces for people to meet and share in activities.
11. **Enrich community health and wellbeing** – provide places for people to engage in physical activities and for quiet contemplation.
12. **Practise sustainability** – provide and develop open space based on sound sustainability principles including creation of “hubs” for efficient resource use.
13. **Protect and enhance biodiversity** – open space provides opportunities to protect and enhance the District’s biodiversity, including the restoration of indigenous biodiversity where appropriate.

These principles respond to community and stakeholder desires for an open space network as identified through community consultation.



# 05

## STRATEGIC FIT

Although the Strategy is not a legislative document, it is strongly influenced by national legislation (and subsequently regional and local regulation) particularly through the provisions of the Local Government Act 2002, the Reserves Act 1977, National Water Conservation (Te Waihora/ Lake Ellesmere) Order 1990, and the Resource Management Act 1991.

The Canterbury earthquakes have also resulted in the establishment of a unique situation-specific agency (for a fixed duration) called the Canterbury Earthquake Recovery Authority (CERA) who has the mandate to ensure Greater Christchurch recovers and progresses effectively. CERA's guiding Strategies are; the Recovery Strategy and the Land Use Recovery Plan, 2013. The Recovery Strategy and subsequent Plan applies to greater Christchurch, which under the CER Act means the districts of Christchurch City Council, Selwyn District Council and Waimakariri District Council. Under section 15 of the CER Act, the Recovery Strategy is also a statutory document that will be read together with, and forms part of, certain documents created under other Acts (that apply to any area in greater Christchurch). The Natural Environment Recovery Programme is of particular relevance to the Open Spaces Strategy.

A key function of the Local Government Act 2002 is to meet the current and future needs of communities for good-quality local infrastructure, local public services, and performance of regulatory functions in a way that is most cost-effective for households and businesses. The Act specifically provides for 'libraries, museums, **reserves, recreational facilities**, and other community infrastructure' as core services. These services are required to be '*efficient; effective; and appropriate to present and anticipated future circumstances*'.

The Long Term Plan is Council's method for outlining its activities, community outcomes and long term focus. It outlines among other things its integrated decision making and co-ordination of resources.



Selwyn 2031, the District's Development Strategy also performs an important function in terms of setting direction of the District to 2031. It sets an overarching strategic framework for achieving sustainable growth across the District until 2031, emphasising the importance of a strategic approach to urban growth thus strengthening the District's self-sufficiency and ensuring it continues to be a great place to live, work and play.

The majority of open spaces in the District are managed under the Reserves Act 1977. Reserve Management Plans are required for all parks held under the Reserves Act 1977.

The Resource Management Act 1991 applies to all public open space areas across the Selwyn District. These are managed within the provisions of the Selwyn District Plan. This includes provision for subdivision which often result in the creation of esplanade reserves that contribute to Councils open space network.

Focussed strategies have been developed that aid in implementing the Community Outcomes for the District. At the strategic planning level a number of strategies closely align with the Open Spaces Strategy and have been considered during its development;

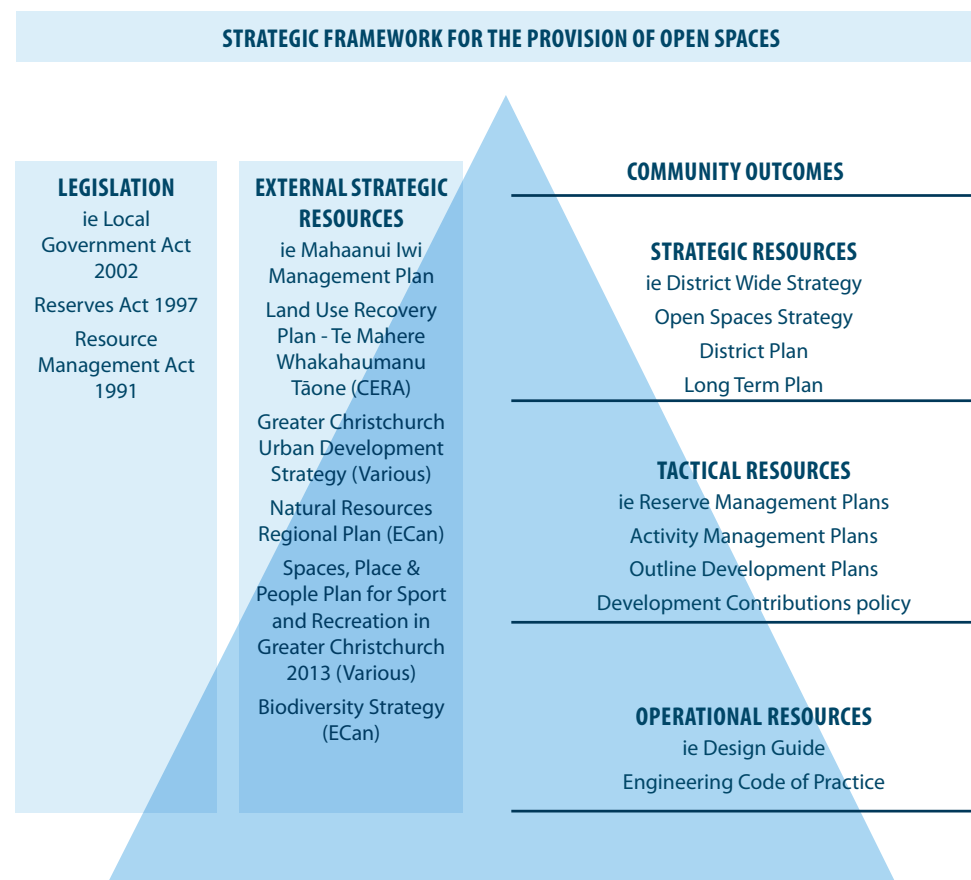
- Physical Activity Strategy (2007)
- Aquatic Facilities Strategy (2009)
- Community Centres & Halls Strategic Plan (2013)
- Walking & Cycling Strategy (2009)

Structure Plans for Rolleston, Lincoln, Darfield (Integration Plan) and Prebbleton have also been prepared.

Closely accompanying the strategic planning documents above are tactical plans such as activity management plans (Community Facilities Activity Management Plan), reserve management plans and outline development plans (which form an appendix to the District Plan). Finally, the Council provides a series of implementation/ operational tools that also aid as 'design guides' in the development of open spaces.

Also considered as part of the formulation of this Strategy are the suite of strategic documents published by other key agencies; Mahaanui Iwi Management Plan, Urban Development Strategy, Spaces, Places and People Plan for Sport and Recreation in Greater Christchurch (2013), Te Waihora Joint Management Plan (2005), A Community Strategy for the Future Management of Lake Ellesmere/Te Waihora and its Tributaries, Canterbury Water Management Strategy, and the Biodiversity Strategy for example.

The implications of the various strategic, tactical and operational documents that connect with the open spaces network is discussed more fully in the Policy and Plan Reference Document that has been developed as part of this Strategy.



NOTE: Where there are strong linkages between the visions, themes, outcomes, goals and actions mentioned above and included in the Policy and Plan Reference Document, these are recognised in the goals and actions section of the Open Spaces Strategy.

## 06

**BACKGROUND/ CONTEXT****6.1.1 WHAT IS OPEN SPACE AND WHY IS IT IMPORTANT?**

Open space means many things to many people and this was evidenced through consultation undertaken in 2013 as a precursor to the development of the Strategy. Open spaces provided in Selwyn District include; sport and active recreation spaces, neighbourhood reserves, public gardens, nature reserves, cultural heritage reserves, outdoor adventure areas, civic space as well as recreation/ ecological linkages and corridors.

Whilst accessible recreation spaces like sports fields and tennis courts are of upmost importance to some, wilderness and rural settings are just as important to others. Equally it is evident that ancestral landscapes require protection and that Tāngata Whenua need to continue to experience living relationships with their whakapapa and traditions within the environment.

Te Rūnanga o Ngai Tahu holds manawhenua and kaitiakitanga over much of the South Island. Locally, Taumutu Rūnanga is acknowledged as tangata whenua through rich cultural connection with the land. There are numerous opportunities as referenced in 'Selwyn 2031' for Rūnanga o Ngai Tahu and Te Taumutu Rūnanga to express kaitiakitanga over the land including restoration, protection and enhancement of natural resources, biodiversity and cultural heritage. Appropriate expression of kaitiakitanga through the District's open space network is a priority for the Council.

The common denominator is that open spaces are essential to the health and wellbeing of the District's environment and its people with most open spaces serving multiple harmonious functions for their communities and the surrounding environment. These functions range from providing settings for recreation and physical activity, amenity and preservation, cultural connections, to providing and being part of views, protecting significant landscapes and sites and providing community focal points for local neighbourhoods.

*The common denominator is that open spaces are essential to the health and wellbeing of the District's environment and its people with most open spaces serving multiple harmonious functions for their communities and the surrounding environment.*

People choose to live in areas such as Selwyn District where they can enjoy a range of amenities and facilities, not just where they can be within easy reach of employment opportunities. The Council aims to create environments where there is a good balance of both economic and the more intangible amenity benefits that people look for when they settle in a community.

With the factors above in mind and taking into account the vision of Selwyn in 2031<sup>6</sup> "To grow and consolidate Selwyn District as one of the most liveable, attractive and prosperous District's in New Zealand for residents, businesses and visitors", there is a need for a strategy in relation to open space, in order to get there.

**6.1.2 WHY DEVELOP THIS STRATEGY?**

The purpose of developing an Open Spaces Strategy is to ensure that the open space network is acquired, developed and maintained in a sustainable manner. Coordination across open space providers is pivotal for ensuring efficient and effective use and development of resources. Provision and use of open space also needs to be compatible with surrounding uses and areas.

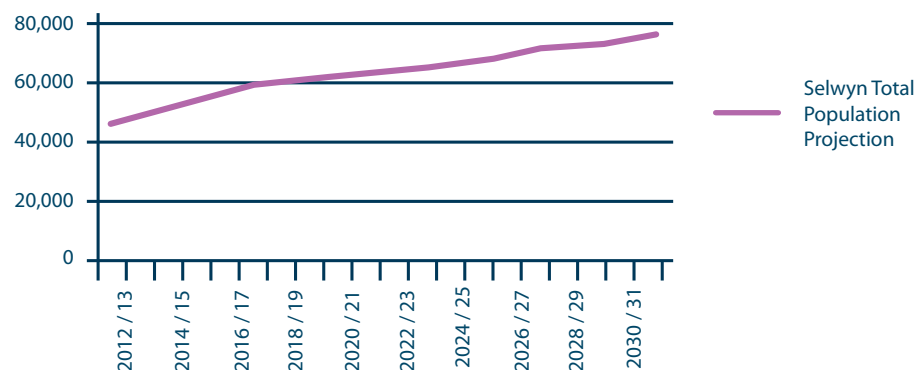
Best practice suggests that clearly defined, linked networks of open space of an open, urban or natural character brings greater value to the network. A network of open space means that it is generally more accessible and provides for a wider range of opportunities than isolated open space areas.

Networks of open space provide important corridors for native flora and fauna. Although there can be challenges associated with creating open space that provides for both ecological benefit and use by people (for passive and active recreation/ experiences), through effective design and management this can be achieved.

<sup>6</sup> Vision taken from the Selwyn 2031 District Development Strategy (2014).



### SELWYN TOTAL POPULATION PROJECTION



The key drivers behind the development of the Open Spaces Strategy (and thus an open space network) are<sup>7</sup>:

- Given the rate at which the population is expanding (increasing by a third - the latest 2013 Census Usually Resident Population Counts issued in October 2013 compared with the previous 2006 census count) and the associated resource demands, there is a need for a planned approach to open spaces acquisition, development and maintenance.
- The District comprises diverse and rapidly changing communities of interest, with changing expectations for levels of service.
  - » One of the key trends is the overall ageing population yet higher numbers of young people located in growth towns. Recreation demand is subsequently changing. There is an increase in demand for organised sports space in the growth towns and a move to more informal activities such as walking district wide. Over time there will be an increasing need to ensure that open space caters for the activities of older age groups in the future (65+ age group).

» Immigration patterns into the District suggest that there is increasing cultural diversity. Open space provision will need to encapsulate the open space demands of the different ethnicities.

» The increasing recognition of special cultural connections to open space, including those of Te Taumutu Runanga and Te Runanga o Ngai Tahu.

» Selwyn District has changed from residents living a predominantly rural lifestyle to residents seeking an increasingly urbanised lifestyle. The shift from rural to urban lifestyle brings with it a different level of service expectation in terms of open space provision.

- Demand from tourism and visitors to the District for facilities that meet their expectations.
- The way in which people are recreating is constantly evolving. Increased pressure on sports fields/ court space generally for example is meaning that the facilities are being used for a longer duration throughout the day and into the evening. Weeknight use of facilities is also becoming increasingly prevalent with intelligent management of facilities required to meet demand.
- The nation's biodiversity is in a fragile state and there is a need to take action to preserve and enhance it.
- The rapid advancement of technology is meaning that in some instances there will be greater intensity of use of open space (artificial surfaces able to cater for year-round activity) and in other cases greater demand for alternative facilities such as indoor sports facilities.
- The value of land in Selwyn District post-earthquake and the constraints of available Council funds means that there is a need to think more strategically/ carefully about allocation of funding for acquisition, development and maintenance of open spaces.

- National trends in recreation (for young persons<sup>8</sup>) suggest that activities undertaken are becoming increasingly diverse with the likes of softball, baseball and korfbal for example, becoming increasingly prevalent in Selwyn District.
- The many benefits of and values associated with open space such as healthy lifestyles, recreation and engagement with nature and amenity.

### 6.1.3 WHOSE ROLE IS IT TO PROVIDE OPEN SPACE IN THE DISTRICT?

The focus of the Open Spaces Strategy is primarily on publicly owned land and particularly Council as provider, however it is recognised that privately owned open space also makes a considerable contribution to the development of an open space network. It is the collective public and private open space that gives the District its identity.

Selwyn District Council's role within the open spaces network into the future is as:

- Provider/ Owner/ Manager – the acquisition, development and maintenance of a range of open spaces under the direct jurisdiction of Council.
- Partnerships – support/ participate in a range of partnerships that create access, facilitate purchase of open spaces and provide support for the enhancement of other providers of open spaces where they are of community benefit.
- Protection/ advocacy – advocate for protection of open space that may / may not be owned/ administered by Council where it is in accordance with the direction set by this Strategy.
- Research and Planning – support the future of open space provision through on-going research and planning for public open space.
- Community participation – to engender community and volunteer participation.
- There is a genuine desire to see cross-boundary collaboration/ provision of public open spaces and therefore it is essential that good relationships be developed with nearby Councils – Waimakariri District Council, Ashburton District Council, Christchurch City Council and Environment Canterbury. In addition there are other key providers of open space in the District including the Ministry of Education, Department of Conservation and Ngai Tahu for example who are also potential partners. The desire to work collaboratively toward a common long-term open space outcome has been supported through consultation with each of these agencies.

### 6.1.4 HOW MUCH OPEN SPACE DO WE HAVE AND HOW MUCH WILL WE NEED IN THE FUTURE?

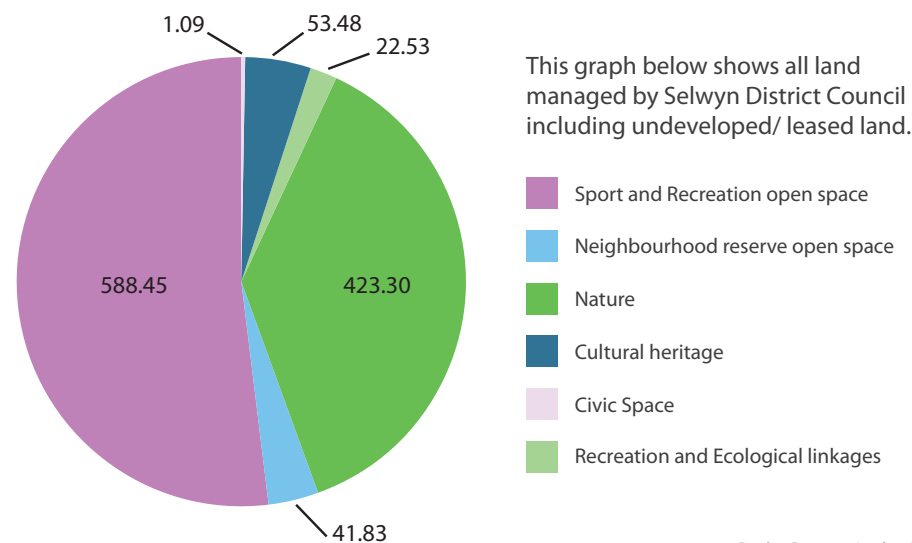
Selwyn District covers 6,381 km<sup>2</sup> and has 1,131 hectares<sup>9</sup> of open space owned and managed by Selwyn District Council. The Open Space varies from 0.4 hectares in size up to over 90 hectares.

This comprises the following publicly accessible open space (with the remainder being undeveloped or leased open space):

- 238 ha of sport and recreation open space
- 42 ha of neighbourhood reserve open space
- 363 ha of nature
- 50 ha of cultural heritage space
- 1 ha of civic space
- 23 ha of recreation and ecological linkages.

This includes some recreation reserves which are autonomously managed with no Council input.

Other sites are mainly esplanade reserves many of which are landlocked and therefore not currently accessible to the public. Most of the esplanade/conservation areas have been transferred to Council ownership as contributions following land development. Further details of all areas are included in the Community Facilities Activity Management Plan.



*Parks Categories by Area (Ha)*

<sup>8</sup> As sourced from Sport NZ Young Persons Survey 2011 <http://www.sportnz.org.nz/en-nz/young-people/SPARC-Young-Peoples-Survey-2011/>

<sup>9</sup> The following information was sourced from an assessment of the open space provision as at 8th May 2014.



The quantity of open space increases even more when land owned by other agencies (public and private) are included. The other providers of open space indicatively have:

- 78.7 ha open space provided by education providers
  - » Ministry of Education – in the form of schools (approximately 74ha)
  - » Lincoln University (approximately 4.7ha)
- 501,308 ha publicly owned and accessible open space provided by Department of Conservation

Publicly owned and accessible land provided by Environment Canterbury was unavailable at the time of production of this Open Spaces Strategy, however comprises of a number of riverbed and river berm areas (not set aside for farm lease of grazing licence) such as Waimakariri River Regional Park, as well as other smaller land parcels. Lakes and Rivers also form an important part of the open space network.

There are 23 conservation areas totalling 242 hectares, with Otahuna Bush comprising 122 hectares (managed as part of the Port Hills Reserves by Christchurch City Council).

For a visual representation of publicly owned land in Selwyn District refer to Environment Canterbury website:  
<http://canterburymaps.govt.nz/Viewer/#webmap=a4a3b8b7028e484aa895284927b083d9>

Council has identified Level of Service targets in relation to the provision of various open space types. These are discussed more fully in Section 7.2.

#### 6.1.5 WHAT HAS THE COMMUNITY SAID ABOUT OPEN SPACE?

Consultation has been pivotal in the development of a number of other strategic Council documents directly related to open space provision including for example, Selwyn 2031, the Walking and Cycling Strategy and the development of reserve management plans around the District. The outcomes of this consultation have been considered within the Policy and Plan Reference Document.

Consultation was also undertaken with key stakeholders in the community as a precursor to the development of this Strategy. Information from this exercise coupled with some earlier work undertaken in 2006 in relation to open spaces planning has provided insight into the key issues and aspirations for the District's residents. A separate Consultation Report was produced detailing the consultation undertaken (available from Council on request). The key points from this consultation are as follows:

- Open space is important to the community in terms of quality living environments.
- The District as a whole has sufficient open space due to the rural, undeveloped nature, however there are some existing deficiencies in terms of developed open space. Residents and stakeholders of areas that are experiencing rapid or increased growth (Rolleston, Lincoln, West Melton and Prebbleton), have indicated that the current provision of available open space, is under pressure due to population increase and rise in competing use (e.g. between sport codes).

NOTE: This finding is consistent with the population growth statistics.

- The Ministry of Education, who provide 74ha of open space in the District will continue to provide open space as part of the expanding education portfolio. The Department of Conservation, Environment Canterbury, Ngai Tahu and Lincoln University are agencies that could also contribute to the provision, enhancement and management of open space.
- Open space within the District needs to reflect the changing and growing needs of the community.
- Linkages and access are important in the District and these should be promoted wherever possible. Greater linkages would lead to better and more efficient use of open space.
- All community groups indicated a desire to retain the rural identity and have space that is versatile and provides for the needs of rural communities.
- Ecological spaces and general enhancement of open space were identified as future opportunities by schools and community groups.









# 07

## KEY THEMES

Based on existing policy and research, and what stakeholders have advised, seven key themes have been developed as the basis of the strategic direction for future provision of open space in the District. These themes include:

### 7.1 FUNCTION

#### THE GOAL: WE PROVIDE A DIVERSITY OF OPEN SPACES AND FACILITIES THAT CATER FOR A WIDE RANGE OF ABILITIES, ACTIVITIES AND EXPERIENCES

- Providing open space areas across the District for a variety of uses and experiences
- Supporting people of all physical abilities to access, use and enjoy open spaces
- Considering the changing demographics in the District and the emerging trends for recreation and leisure activities
- Designing open space in a flexible way to enable multiple usage and change of use over time
- Recognising the contribution of open space to pedestrian and cycling transportation networks
- Using open space to provide for biodiversity
- Recognising that open space can serve multiple functions including utility purposes such as storm water detention, flood protection and investment for example
- Contributing to the District economy by providing destinations for residents and visitors and supporting tourism activities
- Supporting public access to rivers and water bodies where it is safe and practical
- Town focal points for people to meet, with space for special activities such as farmers markets

Council provides a diversity of open space experiences. Open space can be categorised based on character (what the space looks like), purpose (what the space is used for) and level of service (standard of development and maintenance). Categories have been allocated to Council owned spaces. Open spaces typically have multiple uses and values, so categories reflect the primary purpose.

PARKS CATEGORY <sup>10</sup>	PRIMARY PURPOSE
Sport and Recreation	Sport and recreation activity, recreation facilities and buildings, often multiple use
Neighbourhood	Local, informal recreation, play and amenity space
Public Gardens	Horticultural collections for relaxation/contemplation, education and/or amenity
Nature	Experience and/ or protection of the natural environment: native bush, coastal, forestry, farm parks, wetlands and water bodies
Cultural Heritage	Protection of built cultural and historical environment to provide for contemplation, mourning and remembrance
Outdoor Adventure	Recreation activities and built facilities, requiring large scale, non-urban environment
Civic Space	Social and community open space and events
Recreation and Ecological Linkages	Open space, linkages and corridors, water margins

Although the District does not have a policy on accessibility, Christchurch City Council has developed the Parks and Waterways Access Policy<sup>11</sup> that the District uses as guidance through design and decision making about reserve provision and development. The Parks and Waterways Access Policy prepared by Christchurch City Council provides for inclusive use of parks by people with disabilities and also takes into account older people and caregivers with young children.

Community consultation has highlighted the need for diverse open space provision around the District. While some residents have highlighted the need for greater court and field space for their respective sports codes, others have identified the need for increased wilderness experiences. As part of developing key recreation spaces around the District the Council is undertaking needs assessment work to identify specific community requirements for open space. Due to the dynamic and changing nature of recreation users a key factor for consideration within developments is the need for flexibility in design – so that facilities can adapt as communities demands for open space change over time.

Trends/ best practice suggests that 'hubbing' of sports (sports amalgamations and multi-use of facilities) is an increasingly popular approach in terms of recreation provision. With this in mind, larger destination facilities that cater to a wide range of users are becoming more prominent.

The Spaces, Places and People Plan for Sport and Recreation in Greater Christchurch provides an overview of the direction for open space (sports field) in Greater Christchurch in an integrated and coordinated manner with the key priority for development in the District being the Foster Recreation Park in Rolleston which supports the 'hubbing' concept.

The Walking & Cycling Strategy also identified the need for greater walking and cycling connectivity between townships/ centres. Improved and increased walking and cycling facility design, appropriate linkages and consideration of CPTED principles are desired outcomes.

Open space also provides a mechanism for enhancing and protecting the District's biodiversity values. The Council has formally adopted the Biodiversity Strategy for the Canterbury Region<sup>12</sup> with its overall aim to provide guidance and a common ground for biodiversity initiatives (both voluntary and non-voluntary across the region. Through adopting this strategy, Council seeks to raise awareness of biodiversity values, to participate in the wider agency effort through synergies and partnerships, and to support and encourage the efforts of communities and individuals.

Open space has the potential to serve multiple functions. Where possible through the subdivision process, Council will investigate the potential for co-location of storm water management areas alongside open space and water races as features.

In addition, Council seeks, through the subdivision process, to provide riparian margins through obtaining either esplanade reserves or esplanade strips where the water way is of strategic importance.

According to the Selwyn 2031 Strategy and Economic Development Strategy, tourism plays, and will continue to play a significant role in the Selwyn economy. For this reason it is important that the District's open spaces cater to the demands of visitors for recreation/ pleasure.

<sup>10</sup> Parks Categories as defined by NZRA in <http://www.nzrecreation.org.nz/Files/NZRA-Parks-Cat-LoS-low-res-version.pdf>

<sup>11</sup> <http://www.ccc.govt.nz/theCouncil/policiesreportsstrategies/policies/groups/parksreservesamenities/parksandwaterwaysaccesspolicy.aspx>

<sup>12</sup> <http://ecan.govt.nz/publications/Plans/BiodiversityStrategyFinalFeb08.pdf>



## 7.2 EFFICIENCY AND SUSTAINABILITY

### THE GOAL: WE DEVELOP AND MANAGE OUR OPEN SPACES EFFICIENTLY AND IN A MANNER THAT IS SUSTAINABLE

- Understanding and managing the costs associated with providing our open spaces
- Ensuring open spaces are developed and maintained efficiently whilst meeting community aspirations and expectations
- Ensuring open spaces are designed in a way that makes them adaptable to community aspirations and expectations
- Being realistic about provision of open space, with land acquired and rationalised as appropriate to the resident's needs
- Implementing innovation

In order to be able to plan for future development and maintenance of our open spaces it is important that we understand and manage the costs associated with them. Open spaces incur costs in several ways including land purchase, open space development and open space (and associated assets/ facilities) maintenance and renewal. The District has a finite budget to manage its open spaces and therefore funds need to be allocated efficiently and sustainably. In addition, funding for open space comes from several avenues some of which needs to be identified and forecasted well in advance of the time the funds are required.

There may be occasions where land is surplus to requirements (gravel reserves and other similar holdings that have no further community, public or Council purpose) and may be sold in order to fund the acquisition of another open space elsewhere, or fund reserve developments more suitable for the needs of the District. This process is subject to thorough consideration and in some cases requires approval by the minister of conservation.

Sometimes the use of open space needs to adapt as community profiles change. For example, people in an area may get older, meaning that an area once catering to large numbers of young children, may in time cater to large numbers of older adults. Where a sportsfield was once required, its use may revert to a passive open space should needs of the community change for example. It is important for this reason that open spaces are developed in a cost effective, adaptable manner that is sustainable for the long term.

In order to continue to improve on existing performance, Council needs to consider efficiencies/ smarter ways of doing things on an ongoing basis. This may include innovative revenue generation to fund enhanced open space provision and adjusting maintenance programmes for example. It is also important to ensure land acquired for open space is developed as it is needed so that maintenance costs are not incurred earlier than necessary.

This requires efficient allocation of space and careful programming of use and activities to achieve optimum levels of usage. Other measures to be followed in the provision of open space in an efficient and sustainable manner include:

- Vetting of plans for reserves and open space areas at the design stage to ensure maintenance efficiencies are identified;
- Making decisions on development of open space areas and provision of assets in consideration of full lifecycle costs;
- "Land banking" sites to meet future open space requirements prior to land zone changes to reduce purchase costs;
- Ensuring reserves acquired via land subdivision processes is suitable for the intended purpose and does not exceed adopted provision levels (leading to unnecessary on-going maintenance requirements);
- Carefully scrutinising assets proposed for vesting from subdivision at the planning stage to ensure nothing is accepted that will generate unreasonable on-going maintenance costs;
- Continuing to support community input to reserve and open space areas where practical and to encourage community investment;
- Considering innovative ways to generate alternative funding and revenue sources for development projects and to offset expenditure;
- Continual evaluation of land holdings to make sure these are the right mix and in the right places to meet District needs and implement rationalisation processes (exchange, disposal) to address over supply or unbalanced distribution;
- Co-locating activities and facilities to "hub" parks to reduce duplication and obtain "economies of scale" benefit.

### RESERVES ACT 1977

Where the land is crown derived, an administering body of the land (Council) can initiate the process to dispose of a reserve (revocation process) subject to meeting a series of requirements as outlined in the Reserves Act 1977. Refer to [www.doc.govt.nz/about-doc/role/legislation/guides-and-bylaws/a-guide-for-reserve-administering-bodies](http://www.doc.govt.nz/about-doc/role/legislation/guides-and-bylaws/a-guide-for-reserve-administering-bodies) for further information about the reserve revocation process.

### LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2002 AMENDMENT ACT 2014

As part of the Government's programme for building a more productive, competitive economy and better public services a number of reforms have been made with the changes to the Local Government Act 2002 being particularly applicable to Council's provision of open spaces. The amended Act reinforces the need to provide open spaces in an efficient and cost effective manner increasing the emphasis on appropriate asset management.

### 7.3 QUANTITY

#### THE GOAL: WE HAVE ENOUGH SPACE TO MEET GROWTH AS IT OCCURS AND PROVIDE FOR THE FUTURE

- Keeping up with rapid District growth
- Future proofing provision
- Increase intensification of use without degrading the experience or environment
- Creating hubs for recreation
- Working with neighbours/partners to achieve provision levels
- Reducing existing deficiencies in provision

The following table provides an overview of the Parks Categories adopted by Council, respective level of service targets for provision, for each category and Councils progress towards achieving these targets.

PARKS CATEGORY <sup>13</sup>	INDUSTRY STANDARD <sup>14</sup>	COUNCIL LEVEL OF SERVICE	CURRENT DISTRICT PROVISION (HA/1000)
Sport and Recreation	The common benchmark result from Yardstick for Sports and Recreation Parks provision is a range from 1.5 – 3.0 hectares per 1,000 residents.	Minimum 3 ha per 1000 population	4.9ha/1000 (238 total)
Neighbourhood/ Civic Space/ Recreation Ecological Linkages	The common benchmark result from Yardstick for provision of Neighbourhood Parks is a range from 1.0 – 1.75 hectares per 1,000 residents. No benchmark is available for Civic or Recreation and Ecological Linkages provision.	Minimum 1.2 ha per 1000 population	1.35ha/1000 (66ha total)
Public Gardens	Generally only a small number (if any) of Public Gardens will be provided with a common Yardstick benchmark result range of 0.1 – 0.2 hectares per 1,000 residents.	No Level of Service target specified	0
Nature	The common benchmark result for overall provision of Natural Heritage Parks is very wide, ranging from 5.0 – 15.0 hectares per 1,000 residents.	No Level of Service target specified	7.4ha/1000 (363ha total)

<sup>13</sup> Parks Categories as defined by NZRA in <http://www.nzrecreation.org.nz/Files/NZRA-Parks-Cat-LoS-low-res-version.pdf>

<sup>14</sup> Information sourced from NZ Recreation Association, Parks Categories and Levels of Service Guideline, June 2011

Cultural Heritage	No specified Industry Standard.	No Level of Service target specified	1.0ha/1000 (50ha total)
Outdoor Adventure	No specified Industry Standard.	No Level of Service target specified	0

#### OTHER PROVIDERS OF OPEN SPACE PLAY A KEY ROLE IN ADDRESSING NON-PROVISION BY COUNCIL:

Examples of Outdoor Adventure, Cultural Heritage & Nature provision by other providers:

- Arthur's Pass National Park (Department of Conservation)
- Waimakariri River Regional Park (Environment Canterbury)
- Port Hills Reserves (Christchurch City Council)
- Te Waihora

Examples of Public Gardens provision by other providers:

- Christchurch Botanical Gardens (Christchurch City Council)

Council has levels of service targets as identified in the Community Facilities Activity Management Plan (2011). More specifically, 1.2 hectares per 1000 people has been identified as the minimum standard for the provision of neighbourhood and passive reserves in the District, and 3 hectares per 1000 people has been identified as the minimum standard for the provision of sports parks, both of which are consistent with industry standards<sup>15</sup>. This measure provides Council with an indication of the extent to which there is sufficient provision of Council open space and also how much additional open space may be required as a result of the growth in an area.

Although this measurement provides a useful indicator, it is highly dependent on the respective quality of open space provision. For example, large tracts of bare land may be significantly less desirable than a smaller space that is highly attractive with numerous amenities. There may also be some variance, taking into account other factors such as limited land availability and land value variance for example. Other factors also require consideration alongside the levels of service identified above such as the level of population growth, changing trends and usage of the open space network.

On occasion, other areas of open space are acquired in response to opportunities as they arise. Examples may include the acquisition of land containing special/ unique features to the District. Council staff consider proposals favourably where they are in accordance with strategic objectives, relevant plans or the identified need. Recommendations to Council are made accordingly.

<sup>15</sup> Industry standards refer to those reported in the 'New Zealand Parks Categories and Levels of Service', developed in consultation with the NZ parks sector, commissioned by NZ Recreation Association in 2011



The Development Contributions Policy plays an important role in the provision of open space in the District, particularly as the District is developed and population increases at a rapid rate. The Policy recognises that open space contributes to community well-being however development inevitably brings with it buildings and hard surfacing and thus erosion of open space benefits previously available to residents and visitors. Development contributions provide a direct mechanism to enable Council to counter-balance the adverse effects of development in the District. Development contributions create an opportunity to acquire land and also obtain cash to develop reserves to an appropriate operational standard. Development contributions are taken from those who initiate the need for increased reserve requirements such as a land developer at subdivision stage for example. Understanding the current and future open space provision requirements through this Strategy will ensure a strategic, cost-effective and efficient approach to allocating development contributions.

Consideration may also be given to other mechanisms for public access to open space where this would assist in achieving the objectives of Council – covenants, other negotiated agreements, easements, esplanade strips and lease arrangements for private open space for example.

#### OVERALL OPEN SPACE DEFICIT FOR 2013/14

COMMUNITY	SPORTS PARKS DEFICIT (HA)	NEIGHBOURHOOD DEFICIT (HA)	TOTAL DEFICIT (HA)
Darfield			0.0
Doyleston		-0.4	-0.4
Dunsandel		-0.5	-0.5
Hororata		-0.3	-0.3
Coalgate/Glentunnel/ Whitecliffs		-1.1	-1.1
Kirwee		-0.5	-0.5
Leeston	-0.4	-0.3	-0.7
Lincoln	-3.7		-3.7
Prebbleton			0.0
Rolleston		-2.8	-2.8

Sheffield/Waddington/ Springfield		0.0
Southbridge	-0.7	-0.7
Springston	-0.3	-0.3
Tai Tapu	-0.6	-0.6
West Melton		0.0

#### Other Providers of Open Space

Land in Maori ownership contributes to the open space network through a number of means: undeveloped land, conservation land (Te Waihora), waahi tapu sites, marae and urupa sites. It is recognised that as much as possible, Tangata Whenua endeavour to provide for their people areas such as reserves, conservation zones and greenbelt areas which can add amenity, recreational and ecological values to the open space network.

Education providers in the District (including Lincoln University) provide a significant contribution to the open space network through the provision of open playing fields and amenity areas.

There are also some other large land holdings such as Landcorp Farms for example, that provide access to recreational activity areas and lakes also contributing to open space and amenity provision.

The Department of Conservation administer a significant amount of land that contributes to the open space network. There are opportunities for Council to work with the Department of Conservation to enhance access to these areas and to add value to the District's open space network.

From consultation it is evident that there are cross boundary and cross agency synergies in the provision of open space with significant potential for greater efficiencies/ opportunities for the residents and its visitors.



## 7.4 QUALITY

### THE GOAL: WE DESIGN AND DEVELOP OPEN SPACE TO CREATE QUALITY LIVING ENVIRONMENTS

- Meeting increasing service expectations as the District becomes more urbanised in a way that is affordable to the District
- Creating quality living environments for residents by applying best practice urban design principles to open space design
- Creating safe and attractive open space environments
- Using open space as a mechanism for enhancing and protecting the District's biodiversity

The Community Facilities Activity Management Plan, 2011 specifies the types of facilities that various open spaces require in order to meet the desired level of service targets. Recreation reserves require facilities such as appropriate access and parking, seating, rubbish receptacles, open grass areas, public toilets, playgrounds and internal fences for example. Variances in levels of service are acknowledged between the various reserve categories. Sports fields require appropriate sports surfaces for example, while town squares require a hard paved area and neighbourhood reserves require play equipment.

There are a number of other documents that affect how Council provides for, and manages its reserves, and thus contribute to the quality of these spaces. The key reference documents are:

#### *Reserve Management Plans*

The development of reserve management plans for a large majority of the District's open spaces has seen the creation of a unique vision for each respective reserve, as noted in the Policy and Plan Reference Document. Each vision is unique to the site, and is accompanied by a series of objectives and supporting policies. The objectives and policies tailored to each reserve encourage the retention and improvement of quality of the respective open space.

#### *Subdivision Design Guide*

Council recognises the importance of adhering to the Subdivision Design Guide, Engineering Code of Practice and various NZ Standards (playgrounds and signage for example) in order to achieve quality open spaces in the District. In addition, a number of Structure Plans have been developed which outline success factors for their respective areas including the application of best practice urban design principles as well as the location and development of safe and attractive open space environments.



When considering the layout of a subdivision, the Subdivision Design Guide specifies that the type, location and size of open spaces needs to be considered and where within a subdivision the open spaces should be in order to benefit a number of users. It also provides for casual surveillance goes on to suggest that open spaces should form part of a greater network and provide for a variety of use and function.

### *Urban Design Protocol*

Of note, the Council is also a signatory of the Urban Design Protocol<sup>16</sup> meaning that the Council has made a commitment to create quality urban design through their own actions.

### *CPTED*

Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design is a key approach in terms of crime prevention and assisting in creating safer places. Key design principles for consideration within all open space environments include:

- Passive surveillance to overlook public places – ensuring open spaces are overlooked by adjacent properties
- Ensuring plenty of activity means that there is continual passive surveillance and reduced likelihood of crime
- Community ownership of open spaces encourages people to take care of the space and feel associated with it
- Ensuring that there are clear sightlines along routes and encouraging pedestrians where it is safe/ discouraging pedestrians where it is not safe.
- Providing appropriate lighting standards – lighting needs to be considered carefully as it can be appropriate in some situations however counterproductive in others where there might be low foot traffic, creating a false sense of security for example
- Avoiding potential entrapment situations
- Maintaining a good appearance – ensuring spaces are well designed and well maintained.

Council also undertakes a vetting exercise of the design of open spaces as they pass through the subdivision process. This exercise is undertaken by qualified in house landscape architects. When the design is prepared in-house, this work is also undertaken by these professionals.

## 7.5 DISTRIBUTION

**THE GOAL: WE PROVIDE A NETWORK OF OPEN SPACE THAT IS EASILY ACCESSIBLE BY DISTRICT RESIDENTS AND VISITORS AND IS WELL USED BY THEM. THE OPEN SPACE NETWORK IS ALSO WELL CONNECTED IN TERMS OF GREEN CORRIDORS.**

- Providing open space within easy walking distance for residents within townships
- Providing open space that is well connected with safe transport routes for walking and cycling
- Considering proximity of open space location to population centres and other demand factors
- Providing an open spaces network of connected green corridors
- Ensuring people are aware of open space areas and know how to get to them
- Planning for an efficient and effective open space network through continually reviewing provision and considering rationalisation or redistribution as community populations change
- Considering provision and location of public open space by other providers and neighbouring territorial authorities

The Community Facilities Activity Management Plan 2011 has identified the need for a reserve within easy walking distance for township residents (the actual distance is currently being reviewed and is likely to be 500m). As discussed previously, the quality of each of the open spaces is equally important.

People in the District have indicated a desire to live within close proximity of open spaces so that they can safely bike or walk there. The latest demographic data suggests that the population is expanding at a significant rate and subsequently the demand for open space and associated facilities is also increasing. It remains important that open spaces are developed in a coordinated manner to ensure they are well connected and effective to meet the demands of the community.

<sup>16</sup> <http://www.mfe.govt.nz/issues/urban/design-protocol/>

In suggesting this however, the option of rationalisation or redistribution of open space should not be discounted as populations shift/ change. These planning/ rationalisation/ redistribution processes need to be undertaken in close partnership with other providers of open space and neighbouring authorities.

Compact urban form is a priority for Council as identified through Selwyn 2031 (80% of the District's population will reside in the urban environment by 2031). There is a challenge to ensure that 'rural outlooks' and a sense of open space are retained whilst expanding and intensifying townships.

### Accessibility

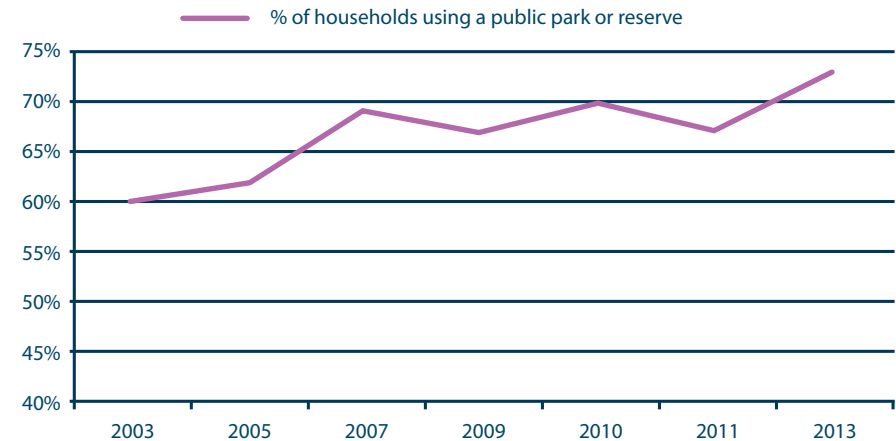
A key factor associated with distribution is accessibility. Accessibility is about ensuring that people can walk to an area of open space from their home. Council is applying approximately a 500 metre catchment to determine where open space needs to be provided to ensure appropriate accessibility to open space. Accessibility is also about ensuring good visual access to the open space network and good connections that encourage walking and or cycling as well as accessibility by car. As mentioned previously the District has (informally) adopted the Christchurch City Council Parks and Waterways Access Policy as guidance through design and decision making about reserve provision and development. The Policy provides for inclusive use of parks by people with disabilities and also takes into account older people and caregivers with young children.

Accessibility is also about community awareness of open space networks. Council currently promotes open spaces and specific park projects through a variety of methods; pamphlets and brochures, signage and Selwyn District Council's website. Increasing community awareness of open space occurs through care groups and the Township and Reserve Committees as well as charitable trusts/organisations. These groups play a valuable role in the establishment and ongoing maintenance of the open space network.

In addition, the various technologies emerging in the parks industry provide future opportunities for Council to increase awareness of open spaces in the District (for example the My Parx 'app'<sup>17</sup> provides park visitors with the free access to quality information on parks, from local municipal parks through to state and national parks).

<sup>17</sup> <http://myparx.com/go/app/>

### PUBLIC RESERVE USAGE TREND<sup>18</sup>



## 7.6 DISTRICT IDENTITY

### WE PROVIDE AND DEVELOP OPEN SPACE TO STRENGTHEN THE DISTRICT IDENTITY AND THE LOCAL CHARACTER OF TOWNSHIPS

- Providing types of open space that help to maintain the unique character and identity of townships
- Working with local communities to identify and maintain the unique character and identity of townships
- Ensuring open space contributes to preserving and enhancing the rural character of the District
- Reinforcing the District's sense of place through open space provision

<sup>18</sup> Source: SDC Resident Survey 2013



The District's residents are immensely proud of the character and identity of their District, and in particular the rural outlook and local character of their townships. Open spaces play a key role in celebrating this identity. Selwyn 2031 identifies (as a policy) the need to 'strive to maintain the character of each township by reinforcing and enhancing key attributes and features, safeguarding cultural and historic values, rural outlooks, access to the great outdoors and other community aspirations'. It is important that the actions set by this Strategy (strategic level) and subsequent Reserve Management Plans and Structure Plans (tactical level) accurately reflect this policy.

The open spaces and features contained within the spaces reflect the identity of the township or locality. The Township and Reserve committees have, and continue to have an active role in ensuring effective management of these open spaces. This role of the community has resulted in a greater sense of ownership of the open spaces.

In some parts of the District significant cultural and heritage sites have been identified. Careful consideration of, and care for sites identified through the Mahaanui -Iwi Management Plan and other site specific plans such as the Rakaia Huts Conservation Management Plan (2009) is required and acknowledged as part of this Strategy.

Consultation as part of the development of this Strategy reinforced the need to ensure avenues for retaining and enhancing the District's identity are promoted.

## 7.7 PRESERVATION

### THE GOAL: WE LOOK AFTER AND PROTECT OPEN SPACE AREAS AND THEIR SPECIAL VALUES

- Protecting the District's open spaces through designating sites and ensuring compliance with appropriate bylaws and policies
- Providing opportunities for preservation of natural landscapes, indigenous ecological systems (macro-scale) and cultural and heritage features
- Using a variety of mechanisms to protect special values for open space, such as Historic Places Trust, Covenants and Classifications for example
- Encouraging Tangata whenua to express kaitiakitanga, by effectively and proactively applying Ngai Tahu values and policies to open space provision and management

There are a number of mechanisms available to protect the open space network. Currently the primary methods include bylaws and policies, vesting and classifying reserves under the Reserves Act 1977 (with most reserves also subject to a reserve management plan) or the Local Government Act 2002<sup>19</sup> and designating reserves through the District Plan/ Resource Management Act 1991.

Where land falls under the definition of park in the Local Government Act 2002, a local authority is required to consult on any proposal to sell or otherwise dispose of the park. The Reserves Act process also requires full consultation process and Ministerial approval.

There is a need to adopt a consistent approach to the protection of open space. To date the District has taken the approach of designating each of its open spaces with associated reserve management plans developed. The purpose and intended use of public land included (or intended to be included) in the open space network is then consistently applied across the District.

Covenants are another form of land protection and these have been commonly applied to encourage protection of private land for open space values or heritage and landscape protection.

Tangata Whenua have indicated that it is important to identify sites for protection and to consider areas (i.e. multiple open spaces), not just specific sites (in order to create more significant open space networks).

Tangata Whenua have also indicated that they must be able to continue to undertake customary and traditional practices on particular open space areas.

<sup>19</sup> Generally open space is vested and classified as reserve under the Reserves Act 1977, however it is recognised that in some circumstances it may be more appropriate to apply the Local Government Act 2002 provisions.

## 7.8 STEWARDSHIP AND PARTNERSHIPS

### THE GOAL: WE ENCOURAGE THE COMMUNITY TO BE INVOLVED IN CARING FOR OPEN SPACE

- Supporting volunteer programmes to utilise and enhance open spaces where they are feasible and support community outcomes
- Enabling local communities to contribute to their local open spaces
- Encouraging partnerships with other agencies in terms of open space provision and function
- Fostering partnerships with tangata whenua in looking after open space

Township and Reserve Committees play a valuable role in supporting the open space network in Selwyn District. There are other numerous volunteer programmes in place supported by Council. Priority will be given to those projects contributing the most to this Strategy and the District's Community Outcomes.

There are numerous agencies co-located in the District and there is a real opportunity to forge even stronger relationships with these organisations in order to improve the provision of the open space network for the District.

The Council supports and encourages partnerships between Tangata Whenua in order to provide for their cultural wellbeing which in turn adds value in terms of cultural, amenity, recreational and ecological values to the open space network.





# 08

## ACTION PLANS

Each 'theme' has its own Action Plan as shown below. Actions are fed into the Long Term Planning process.

### AGENCIES:

ADC = Ashburton District Council  
 SDC = Selwyn District Council  
 CCC = Christchurch City Council  
 DoC = Department of Conservation  
 ECan = Environment Canterbury  
 NT = Ngai Tahu  
 WET = Waihora Ellesmere Trust  
 WDC = Waimakariri District Council

### COST RANGE:

\$ = Below \$50,000  
 \$\$ = \$50,000 - \$200,000  
 \$\$\$ = \$200,000 - \$1m  
 \$\$\$\$ = \$1m - \$5m  
 \$\$\$\$\$ = above \$5m

### FUNDING SOURCES:

GF = General Funds  
 DC = Development Contributions  
 ER = External Revenue  
 EG = External Grants  
 LN = Loan  
 LS = Land Sales

WHY WE WILL DO IT	WHAT WE WILL DO	LEAD AGENCY	COUNCIL ROLE	COST RANGE	FUNDING SOURCE	WHEN WILL IT HAPPEN	SPECIFIC LINKAGES TO OTHER STRATEGIES
<p>Selwyn District is changing; significant population growth both in rural and urban centres is meaning that demand for open space is growing. People coming to the District have increasingly diverse needs and these need to be catered for through the open space provision.</p> <p>The population demographic is likely to change in the future in terms of age and ethnicity. We need to plan for people and activities that are yet to arrive in the District. The District needs to cater for these changes through flexible and thoughtful design of open space.</p>	Design and provide for open space that is flexible, enabling multiple usage and change of use over time. In order to achieve this, principles ensuring flexibility and change in use over time should be reflected in designs	SDC	Planning	\$\$\$	DC, EG, ER, GF	Ongoing	<p>Subdivision Design Guide (2009)</p> <p>Urban Design Action Plan (2009)</p> <p>Community Facilities Activity Management Plan</p> <p>Greater Christchurch Urban Development Strategy (UDS) (2007) with subsequent updates</p>
	Provision of toilets at key recreation areas where there is high public use	SDC/DoC/ECan	Advocacy/Partner/Deliver Works	\$\$	GF, DC, ER		A Community Strategy for the Future Management of Lake Ellesmere/Te Waihora and its Tributaries (2004)
	<p>Specific projects include:</p> <p><b>SPORT AND RECREATION</b></p> <p>Contribute to Sport Leadership Group on sports and recreation recovery for Greater Christchurch</p> <p>Provision of artificial surfaces for year-round sports use</p> <p>Provision of lighting for night time sports codes use</p> <p>Provision of 'sports hubs' in the District:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rolleston, Foster Recreation Park – giving effect to Foster Recreation Master Plan</li> <li>• Prebbleton Reserve Recreation 'Hub'</li> <li>• Lincoln 'Hub' (including Lincoln High School)</li> <li>• West Melton Sport and Leisure Facility development proposal</li> <li>• Consideration of Weedons as the 'home for cricket' in the District, incorporating multi-functional use of the pavilion</li> <li>• Darfield Domain – continue to enhance Darfield Domain as a sports hub in the Malvern District</li> <li>• Consider other sports hub areas in the District</li> </ul> <p>Provision and development of a second sporting park in Rolleston</p>	<p>Sport Canterbury</p> <p>SDC/partner</p> <p>SDC</p>	<p>Advocacy</p> <p>Deliver works</p> <p>Deliver works</p>	<p>\$</p> <p>\$\$\$\$</p> <p>\$\$\$</p>	<p>GF</p> <p>DC, EG, LN</p> <p>DC, EG, EC</p>	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>2024</p> <p>2015-24</p>	<p>Community Facilities Activity Management Plan</p> <p>Reserve Management Plans for local reserves (Dates various)</p> <p>Foster Recreation Master Plan (2014)</p>
		SDC	Deliver works	\$\$\$\$\$	DC, EG, LN	2015-31	Rolleston Town Centre Master Plan (2014)
		SDC	Deliver works	\$\$\$\$	DC, EG, LN	2016-23	Prebbleton Structure Plan (2010)
		SDC	Deliver works	\$\$\$\$	DC, EG, LN	2017-20	Lincoln Township Structure Plan (2008)
		SDC	Deliver works	\$\$\$\$	DC, EG, LN	2015-17	Spaces, Place and People Plan for Sport and Recreation in Greater Christchurch (2013)
		SDC/ Club	Deliver Works	\$\$\$	DC, EG, LN	2015-18	
		SDC	Deliver Works	\$\$\$	DC, EG, LN	2017-24	
		SDC	Planning	\$	GF	Ongoing	
		SDC	Planning/ Deliver Works	\$\$\$\$	DC, EG, ER, LN, LS	By 2031	



<b>NATURE &amp; OUTDOOR ADVENTURE</b>  Providing increased adventure recreation/ informal recreation opportunities including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continuation of Cemetery Pit redevelopment</li> <li>• Investigate Reid's Pit off road cycling proposal</li> <li>• Develop a Master Plan for a nature/ outdoor adventure destination at McHugh's Plantation and undertake development</li> <li>• Consider the potential for developing a nature conservation space at Yarr's Lagoon</li> <li>• Continue to investigate the development of off road cycling areas and recreational cycling routes</li> <li>• Investigate and identify an alternative space for equestrian activities in the District – undertake scoping study</li> <li>• Investigate the potential use of the 'Holmes Block' (480 ha) for recreation activities</li> <li>• Investigate partnership opportunities with Environment Canterbury for the provision of wilderness settings and recreational opportunities in the Waimakariri Reserve/Waimakariri River Regional Park including provision of facilities for horse riding. Careful consideration of any reverse sensitivity issues such as implications of riding trails within close proximity of the West Melton Rifle Range, motorcyclist areas and other recreational users in the area, will need to be factored into the development</li> </ul>	SDC	Deliver works	\$\$\$	GF, ER, EG	2015-24	Community Facilities Activity Management Plan Selwyn District Gravel Pit Restoration Strategy (2012) Waimakariri Reserve Management Plans (Environment Canterbury)  Spaces, Place and People Plan for Sport and Recreation in Greater Christchurch (2013) Rolleston Structure Plan (2009), A Community Strategy for the Future Management of Lake Ellesmere/Te Waihora and its Tributaries (2004), SDC Walking and Cycling Strategy (2009)
	SDC	Planning/ Deliver Works	\$\$\$	DC, ER	2015-18	
	SDC	Planning/ Deliver Works	\$\$\$	DC, EG, ER	2015-31	
	SDC/DoC	Planning/ Deliver Works	\$\$	GF,ER, EG	2015	
	SDC	Planning	\$\$	GF	Ongoing	
	SDC	Planning	\$	GF	2016	
	SDC	Planning	\$	GF	2016	
	SDC	Advocacy/Partner	\$\$	GF	2015 onwards	
	SDC/DoC	Advocacy/Partner/ Deliver Works	\$	ER, EG	2015 onwards	
	SDC/DoC/ WET	Advocacy/Partner	\$	EG, ER, GF		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provision of restricted off-road vehicle access that enables the protection of ecologically sensitive areas</li> </ul>	SDC/DoC	Advocacy/Partner/ Deliver Works	\$	ER, EG	2015 onwards	A Community Strategy for the Future Management of Lake Ellesmere/Te Waihora and its Tributaries (2004)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improved access to Te Waihora / Lake Ellesmere (and tributaries) for water based activities such as fishing, boating, kayaking, rowing, wind surfing and kite boarding</li> </ul>	SDC/DoC/ WET	Advocacy/Partner	\$	EG, ER, GF		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Development of a Large Scale Park that encapsulates a range of community functions including land intensive recreation activities (equestrian and mountain biking for example), sustainability initiatives, and provision for a cemetery for example               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» Further investigate the Large Scale Park Concept with the site identified in the Rolleston Structure Plan</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	SDC	Planning, Deliver works	\$\$\$\$	DC, EG, ER, LN, LS	2016-17	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continue to work with CCC on planning and management of the Port Hills Reserve Network</li> </ul>	SDC/CCC	Partner, Advocacy	\$	GF	Ongoing	

	<b>CULTURAL HERITAGE, NEIGHBOURHOOD, PUBLIC GARDENS, CIVIC SPACE &amp; RECREATION/ ECOLOGICAL LINKAGES</b>  There is an identified lack of civic/ public formal spaces in urban town centres <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Pursue open space priorities within Rolleston Town Centre Master Plan including development of formal public spaces</li> <li>Develop public open space adjacent to the Lincoln Library</li> <li>Investigate the provision of formal space in Prebbleton – Meadow Mushrooms Site as per Prebbleton Structure Plan Map (February 2010)</li> </ul> Continue to acquire land via the subdivision reserves contribution process that create a diversity of open spaces	SDC SDC SDC SDC	Planning, Deliver works Deliver works Planning/ Deliver works Planning	\$\$\$\$ \$\$  \$	DC, LN GF, DC GF, DC GF	2019-24 2015 2015-16 Ongoing	Community Facilities Activity Management Plan Reserve Management Plans for local reserves (Dates various) Rolleston Town Centre Master Plan (2014) Lincoln Township Structure Plan (2008) Prebbleton Structure Plan (2010) Reserve Development Contributions Policy
	Investigate future sites for dog parks particularly in growth towns e.g. Rolleston	SDC	Planning/Advocacy	\$\$	GF, DC	2016-19	
Council has traditionally used forestry as a land management practice for land of marginal use for other purposes. The recent loss of forestry (through large scale weather events) has signalled the need to review this approach.	<b>FORESTRY</b>  Review current forestry holdings and recommend future practices for managing these	SDC	Deliver works	\$	GF, ER	2015-16	Community Facilities Activity Management Plan
Open space makes an important contribution to pedestrian and cycling transportation networks.	<b>ACCESS</b>  Infrastructure associated with the activities of walking/ cycling will be integrated into future open space planning: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identify and secure (via the Outline Development Plan process) key walking and cycling routes within new subdivisions – residential/ commercial/ industrial areas</li> <li>Continue to support Rail Trail Trust and Rail Trail linkages</li> <li>Securing land to create continuous linkages between developments</li> </ul>	SDC	Deliver works	\$\$\$	GF, ER, EG	Ongoing	Community Facilities Activity Management Plan Reserve Management Plans for local reserves (Dates various) Walking and Cycling Strategy (2009)
Open space needs to be available to people of all physical abilities to access, use and enjoy.	Ensuring ongoing access to open space by people of all abilities	SDC	Planning	\$	GF, EG	On going	CCC Parks and Waterways Access Policy (2002)
	Formally adopt an Access Policy (based on the Christchurch City Council Access Policy example) and use as a key tool for design of walkways and cycleways	SDC	Planning/ Design	\$	GF	Ongoing	CCC Parks and Waterways Access Policy (2002)
Rivers and water bodies provide an alternative experience for the District's visitors and residents. Access where it is safe and practical to do so is therefore a priority for Council.	Council will acquire via subdivision processes riparian margins, esplanade strips and reserves along waterways (that are identified as a priority). Refer to Policy B.1.2.5 & Part E Appendix 17 of the District Plan for a list of water bodies Council has determined require acquisition for esplanade/ reserves purposes. Development for public access to be carried out where required	SDC	Planning / Deliver works	\$\$	DC,GF,EG	Ongoing	Selwyn District Plan
	Develop and install signage at key recreational access points. Signage should include both functional information and site interpretation	SDC	Planning	\$	GF, ER, EG	Ongoing	SDC Reserves Signage Strategy (draft)



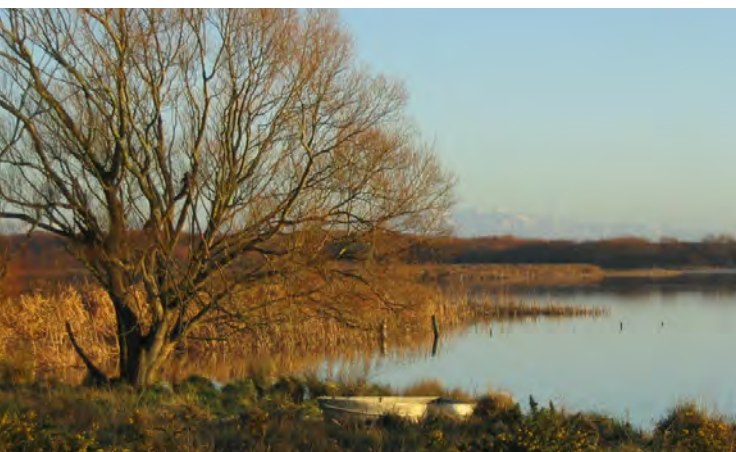




WHY WE WILL DO IT	WHAT WE WILL DO	LEAD AGENCY	COUNCIL ROLE	COST RANGE	FUNDING SOURCE	WHEN WILL IT HAPPEN	SPECIFIC LINKAGES TO OTHER STRATEGIES
In order to be able to plan for future development and maintenance of our open spaces it is important that we understand and manage the costs associated with them.	Maintain and develop an Activity Management Plan with associated up to date asset valuations, lifecycle assessments, demand/capacity assessments and level of service reviews	SDC	Planning	\$	GF	3 yearly cycle	Community Facilities Activity Management Plan
	Bench mark maintenance costs to ascertain value for money and where costs for provision of open space are not reflective of community value/ benefit, appropriate steps are taken to ensure efficiencies are made	SDC	Planning	\$	GF	As required	Yardstick - Park Check Report
	Early identification and acquisition of land required to meet open space demand	SDC	Planning	\$	GF	On-going	
	Plan delivery of open space areas and facilities to match demand and to avoid unnecessary costs being incurred	SDC	Planning	\$	GF	On-going	
	Implement processes to review subdivision plans to ensure areas of land accepted as reserve contribution do not exceed adopted levels of provision	SDC	Planning	\$	GF	On-going	
	Develop clear guidelines in the Engineering Code of Practice on assets acceptable for vesting by Council	SDC	Planning	\$	GF	2015	Selwyn District Council Engineering Code of Practice
Open space needs to be developed in an adaptable and sustainable manner for the long term.	Support the concept of recreation hubs where larger facilities are created that cater to multiple users (enhanced, more efficient resource use)	SDC	Planning/Deliver Works	Up to \$\$\$\$\$	GF, DC	2015-31	Foster Recreation Master Plan (2014)
	When developing open space, consider the ability of the open space to change in use over time as demand changes	SDC	Planning	\$	GF	On-going	Prebbleton Structure Plan (2010) Lincoln Township Structure Plan (2008) Spaces, Place and People Plan for Sport and Recreation in Greater Christchurch (2013)
In order to continue to improve on existing performance, Council needs to consider efficiencies/ smarter ways of doing things on an ongoing basis.	Ensure designs for open space factor in efficient, cost-effective solutions (i.e. appropriate species selection, appropriate maintenance programme is expected over time)	SDC	Planning	\$	GF	On-going	Subdivision Design Guide (2009) Engineering Code of Practice
	Consider other avenues for generating funding for open space beyond ratepayer funds. For example, 'pay for play' sports concept	SDC	Planning	\$	GF	On-going	
	Ensure that open space is managed to the appropriate level of service with any variances picked up at an early stage (As part of contract management processes)	SDC	Deliver Services	\$\$\$\$	GF	On-going	
	Continue processes to dispose of surplus reserve land (especially gravel reserves) that have no future purpose for Council	SDC/DoC	Planning	\$\$	GF	2015-20	
	Funds from sales of Crown derived gravel reserves are limited by DoC policy meaning that funds are required to be reinvested in appropriate Council resources. This may include opportunities for protection of open space through acquisition of significant landscapes and ecological areas for protection	SDC/DoC	Planning	\$	LS	On-going	

WHY WE WILL DO IT	WHAT WE WILL DO	LEAD AGENCY	COUNCIL ROLE	COST RANGE (\$)	FUNDING SOURCE	WHEN WILL IT HAPPEN	SPECIFIC LINKAGES TO OTHER STRATEGIES
Selwyn District is expanding rapidly and so too is the demand for public open spaces. Council needs to ensure a proactive approach to open space provision. In growth towns there is a need to ensure subdivision development is sufficient to maintain the identified standard for neighbourhood reserves.	Ensure appropriate planning of subdivisions through Outline Development Plan process and the subdivision application process	SDC	Planning	\$	GF	Ongoing	District Plan
	Assess applications received through the subdivision process to ensure that they provide open space that meets the target Levels of Service provision and keeps up with projected population growth	SDC	Planning	\$	GF	Ongoing	District Plan Community Facilities Activity Management Plan) Development Contributions Policy
	Land bank sufficient additional open space for sports needs to meet demand as population grows. Specific projects include:						
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Explore options and acquire land in Rolleston to meet needs once the Foster Recreation Park ('hub park') space is exhausted</li> </ul>	SDC	Planning / Acquisition	\$\$\$\$\$	DC, LN, LS, ER	2016-17	Foster Recreation Park Master Plan
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Pursue potential land purchase in Lincoln – 6 ha site (connection with Lincoln High School and Lincoln Domain)</li> </ul>	SDC	Planning / Acquisition	\$\$\$\$	DC, LN	2015-16	Lincoln Township Structure Plan (2008) Community Facilities Activity Management Plan – section 7.3
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Pursue potential open space purchase in Prebbleton (10 – 12 ha)</li> </ul>	SDC	Planning / Acquisition	\$\$\$\$	DC, LN	2015-16	Prebbleton Structure Plan (2010)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>If there is sufficient demand at Springston Reserve to warrant additional sports field space the option to extend the grounds in adjacent Pony Club grounds could be explored. The option would need to be explored in partnership with the Springston Pony Club and would be subject to relocation of the pony club site through acquisition of alternative land</li> </ul>	SDC	Planning	\$	GF	2017	Springston Reserve Management Plan (Draft)
	Investigate potential sites for future acquisition/ development in; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 – 2 ha in West Melton (acquisition)</li> <li>6 ha in Kirwee (develop)</li> <li>Pursue acquisition of open space adjacent to the Southbridge Park (possible relocation of tennis from their existing site to the Southbridge Park) and possible expansion of sportsfields</li> <li>Consider the acquisition of open space adjacent to Leeston Park (1 ha)</li> <li>Develop additional land already held by Council such as the Darfield Domain</li> <li>Develop the recently acquired open space adjacent to the Broadfield Reserve (2.7 ha)</li> </ul>	SDC SDC SDC  SDC SDC SDC	Planning/ Acquisition Planning/Deliver works Planning Acquisition  Planning/Acquisition Deliver works Deliver works	\$\$\$ \$\$ \$\$\$  \$\$\$	DC, LN DC, LN DC, LN  DC DC DC	2016-17 2020-22 2016-18  2015 2017-24 2024 +	Community Facilities Activity Management Plan – section 7.3.3 Reserve Management Plans for local reserves (Dates various)

	Rectify existing open space deficiencies that have been identified by requiring acquisition or exchanges of land. Specific examples include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» Leeston (complete Pound Reserve exchange process)</li> <li>» Southbridge (complete Cross Gate exchange)</li> <li>» Dunsandel (consider transforming former hall site into a passive reserve for township)</li> <li>» Kirwee (consider acquisition via subdivision of additional open space in residential centre, also within close proximity to the Kirwee School)</li> </ul>	SDC	Planning	\$	GF	2015-20	
	Where there is an identified sports field deficiency (through the process of forecasting open space requirements), consideration and priority for acquisition needs to be given through subdivision developments	SDC	Planning	\$	GF	2015-20	Community Facilities Activity Management Plan – section 7.3.3
	Investigate partnership opportunities with Christchurch City Council for the acquisition of open space on the Port Hills where it is located in the Selwyn District (connections with the Regional Parks Network)	SDC	Planning/ Advocacy	\$\$	Partnership	2015-24	Port Hills Reserve Management Plans
There are a number of open space providers beyond Selwyn District. Greater benefit could be obtained in terms of open space provision if agencies work collaboratively to achieve mutual benefits.	Build on existing partnerships with adjacent Councils and the Department of Conservation. Investigate opportunities for open space partnerships: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Recognise the priorities identified in the Spaces, Place and People Plan for Greater Christchurch to ensure that open space and assets are not unnecessarily duplicated</li> <li>• Work collaboratively with neighbouring local authorities - explore partnership opportunities where facilities are located within close proximity to boundaries</li> </ul>	SDC	Partnership development/ Planning	\$\$\$	GF	Ongoing	Greater Christchurch Urban Development Strategy (UDS) (2007 with subsequent updates) Spaces, Place and People Plan for Sport and Recreation in Greater Christchurch ( updated February 2013)
	Work with the Ministry of Education on shared access/ provision of recreation space and facilities when planning new schools. E.g. Rolleston High School	SDC/ MoE	Partnership development/ Planning	\$\$\$	LN, GF	Ongoing	
	Proactive support for ongoing work of the Waihora Ellesmere Trust	SDC/ WET	Advocacy/Partner	\$	GF		A Community Strategy for the Future Management of Lake Ellesmere/Te Waihora and its Tributaries (2004)





WHY WE WILL DO IT	WHAT WE WILL DO	LEAD AGENCY	COUNCIL ROLE	COST RANGE(\$)	FUNDING SOURCE	WHEN WILL IT HAPPEN	SPECIFIC LINKAGES TO OTHER STRATEGIES
There is a need to meet increasing service expectations as the District becomes more urbanised in a way that is affordable to the District. Ensure robust processes are implemented to ensure landscape development proposals submitted to Council are of appropriate quality.	Review the landscape section in the Council engineering Code of Practice to ensure it reflects appropriate levels of service and development. This is particularly important in terms of creating more clearly defined standards from which to assess relative achievement of service levels	SDC	Planning	\$	GF	2015	Council Engineering Code of Practice Community Facilities Activity Management Plan
	Ensure the subdivision design process clearly stipulates the accepted levels of service/ standards and does not accept features and elements that are excessive or lead to ongoing maintenance costs. Equally, ensuring features of a poor standard will not be accepted	SDC	Planning	\$	GF	Ongoing	Subdivision Design Guide (2009) Urban Design Action Plan (2009)
	Undertake a safety audit of subdivision plans to ensure a safe environment as parks are developed	SDC	Planning	\$	GF	Ongoing	
	Investigate the use of standardised elements (seating type, lighting fixtures) to create consistency of quality and to retain/enhance character of townships	SDC	Planning	\$		Ongoing	Subdivision Design Guide (2009) Urban Design Action Plan (2009)
	Completion of Council's Reserve Signage Policy and implementation	SDC	Planning	\$	GF	2015 onwards	
	Parks and open spaces designed by professional landscape architects	SDC	Planning	\$	GF	Ongoing	Subdivision Design Guide (2009) Urban Design Action Plan (2009)
	Carry out periodic levels of service reviews to; test their adequacy and; determine whether community needs are being met as part of the Activity Management Planning process	SDC	Planning	\$	GF	Ongoing	Community Facilities Activity Management Plan Reserve Management Plans for local reserves (Dates various)
	Carry out agreed objectives related to improvement of open space identified in Reserve Management Plans via Annual Plan and Long Term Plan process	SDC	Planning	\$\$	DC,GF	Ongoing	Reserve Management Plans for local reserves (Dates various)
The quality of provision needs to meet the service expectations of communities.	In consultation with communities, delivery of annual programmes to renew/ upgrade open space areas	SDC	Deliver works	\$\$\$	DC,GF	Ongoing	Community Facilities Activity Management Plan
In order for visitors and residents to use open spaces comfortably, they need to be safe and easily accessible.	Proactively implement the principles of Crime Prevention through Environmental Design as adopted by Council	SDC	Planning	\$	GF	Ongoing	Subdivision Design Guide (2009) Urban Design Action Plan (2009)  Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design Guidelines (CPTED) (2005)
	Parks are promoted as places that are "Smokefree"	SDC	Advocacy	\$	GF, EG	Ongoing	Smokefree Public Outdoors Area Policy (2011)
Biodiversity loss across Canterbury has been identified as a critical issue. Open space provides a mechanism for enhancing and protecting the District's biodiversity	Investigate opportunities to improve the biodiversity values of Councils existing open space. Consider:						
	• Review of the Trees and Vegetation Policy in Selwyn District – Management Policy Manual (2010) to ensure it supports the use of appropriate native plants	SDC	Planning	\$	GF	2015-16	Trees and Vegetation in Selwyn District – Management Policy Manual (2010)
	• Proactive support for ongoing work of Te Ara Kakariri (Greenways Canterbury) Trust <sup>20</sup>	SDC	Planning/ Advocacy	\$\$	GF, EG	Ongoing	
	• Supporting various indigenous re-vegetation initiatives and groups promoting such activities	SDC	Planning/ Advocacy	\$\$	GF, EG	Ongoing	Canterbury Biodiversity Strategy (2008)
	• The re-vegetation of former gravel pits (gravel pits are prevalent in Selwyn District) where this is feasible to do so	SDC	Planning/ Deliver works	\$\$\$	GF, EG, ER	Ongoing	Gravel Pit Restoration Strategy (2012)

<sup>20</sup> <http://www.kakariki.org.nz/>

WHY WE WILL DO IT	WHAT WE WILL DO	LEAD AGENCY	COUNCIL ROLE	COST RANGE(\$)	FUNDING SOURCE	WHEN WILL IT HAPPEN	SPECIFIC LINKAGES TO OTHER STRATEGIES
The District's visitors and residents need to be able to use a network of open space that is easily accessible and well connected.	Consideration will be given to the rationalisation of open spaces in townships where there is unsuitable provision. Where there is an unequal distribution, appropriate provision could be achieved via reserve exchange processes	SDC	Planning	\$	GF	2015-19	Community Facilities Activity Management Plan
	As part of addressing identified open space deficiencies Council will carefully consider the distribution criteria (open space within 500m of residents or easy walking distance for example)	SDC	Planning	\$	GF	Ongoing	
	Where deficiencies are identified, ensure that Council locates any acquisitions/ new reserves to address distribution or accessibility issue	SDC	Planning/ Acquisition	\$\$\$	DC, LN	Ongoing	
Open space needs to be well connected with safe transport routes for walking and cycling.	Consider the provision of greenways/ walkways that run from Foster Recreation Park (along the back of houses) and ensure that they are developed with appropriate services and safety considerations in mind (consideration of appropriate lighting and vegetation for example)	SDC	Planning/ Delivery of works	\$\$	GF, DC	2019-23	Foster Recreation Master Plan (2014) Walking and Cycling Strategy (2009)
	Continue to implement priorities of the Walking and Cycling Strategy where funded by Council	SDC	Planning/ Delivery of works	\$\$\$	GF, ER, EG	Ongoing	Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design Guidelines (CPTED) (2005)
	Ensure appropriate connections are formed between/ within subdivisions linking open spaces, during the subdivision process (at Outline Development Plan time)	SDC	Planning	\$	GF	Ongoing	Subdivision Design Guide (2009) Urban Design Action Plan (2009)
There is a need to ensure that open space is conveniently located for use by residents (and visitors) in the District. For this reason it is important to understand distances that people will travel to open spaces and cater to these distances accordingly.	Review and set the current open space distribution criteria. This includes consideration of the current 400m distribution for neighbourhood reserves currently in place. For example, a comfortable walking distance has been recently re-defined by Massey University's Centre for Social and Health Outcomes Research and Evaluation as 800 metres to community facilities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Council will continue to provide opportunities for residents in townships to undertake general organised sports activities within or near their township however Council also recognises that people will travel for some unique types of organised sports depending on their personal preference.</li> </ul>	SDC	Planning	\$	GF	2015	Community Facilities Activity Management Plan
Open space needs to be provided across the District in a variety of forms in order to cater for both visitors and resident's needs.	Council will continue to investigate acquisition of additional open space that may provide for activities that are not well catered for elsewhere within the open space framework	SDC	Planning/ Acquisition	\$\$\$	DC, LN	Ongoing	
In order for people to be able to use open spaces they need to know where they are and in some instances how they can be most effectively accessed/ used.	Consider various mediums for communicating the District's open spaces such as the 'My Parx App'	SDC	Planning	\$	GF	2016	
	Ensure a close working relationship with the Council Communications Team to ensure effective levels of open space promotion is taking place	SDC	Planning	\$	GF	Ongoing	
	Develop promotional/ marketing strategy for open space to tie closely into Council's website	SDC	Planning	\$	GF	2016	
Other providers of open space in the District have open spaces and associated facilities that complement Councils provision. Through regular communication and strong relationships, there are significantly greater opportunities to provide a connected network of open space.	Retain relationships between key agencies such as Ashburton District Council, Waimakariri District Council, Environment Canterbury, Te Runanga o Ngai Tahu, Department of Conservation, Christchurch City Council, Lincoln University and Ministry of Education	SDC, ECan, WDC, DOC, ADC, CCC, MoE	Planning	\$	GF	Ongoing	Partner Council Open Space Strategies (and related documents)
	Continue to build on the relationship between Council and the Little River Rail Trail Trust	SDC	Planning / Support	\$	GF	Ongoing	

WHY WE WILL DO IT	WHAT WE WILL DO	LEAD AGENCY	COUNCILS ROLE	COST RANGE(\$)	FUNDING SOURCE	WHEN WILL IT HAPPEN	SPECIFIC LINKAGES TO OTHER STRATEGIES
The residents of the District are very proud of their District. To that end there is a need to ensure the character and identity of open space areas, particularly the rural outlook and local character, are preserved.	Support initiatives that positively promote the identity of the District and townships <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Connect with township committees to ensure that local aspirations for open space development are reflected</li> </ul>	SDC	Support	\$	GF	Ongoing	Reserve Management Plans for local reserves (Dates various)
	Implement a consistent signage approach across the District based on the Selwyn District Reserves Signage Strategy	SDC	Planning/ Design	\$	GF	Ongoing	Selwyn District Reserves Signage Strategy
	Work in partnership with Ngai Tahu and involve local Rūnanga in initiatives particularly associated with waterways and Te Waihora	SDC	Support	\$	GF	Ongoing	Mahaanui Iwi Management Plan (2013)
	Consider the surrounding environment and existing character of townships and landscapes in design and implementation of open space development projects	SDC	Planning/ Design	\$	GF	Ongoing	Selwyn 2031 (2014) Subdivision Design Guide (2009) Urban Design Action Plan (2009)





WHY WE WILL DO IT	WHAT WE WILL DO	LEAD AGENCY	COUNCILS ROLE	COST RANGE(\$)	FUNDING SOURCE	WHEN WILL IT HAPPEN	SPECIFIC LINKAGES TO OTHER STRATEGIES
Open spaces in the District are currently protected via a range of mechanisms; depending on the function they provide to the District. It remains important that open spaces are protected appropriately in order to provide for future generations.	Undertake a review of the Designation process with a view to creating a more effective planning tool for the management and protection of open spaces	SDC	Planning	\$\$	GF	2015-17	Selwyn District Plan
There are a number of opportunities to preserve natural landscapes, indigenous ecological systems and cultural and heritage features and these should be pursued where they are in keeping with the direction of the District.	Recognising the requirements of the "Te Waihora Cultural Landscape/Values Management Area – Lake Area" for Te Waihora/Lake Ellesmere	SDC	Planning	\$	GF	Ongoing	Selwyn District Plan Mahaanui Iwi Mgmt Plan (2013)
	Support indigenous vegetation at Timbaryard Point (Lakeside Domain) around the lake margins and progressively redevelop the reserve with indigenous plants	SDC	Planning/ Deliver works	\$\$	EG, GF	2015	
	Ensure the appropriate protocols as identified through the District Plan, as well as in Conservation Plans (Rakaia Huts for example) are observed and adhered to at sites of significance to Maori	SDC	Planning	\$		Ongoing	Mahaanui Iwi Mgmt Plan (2013) Selwyn District Plan
	Preservation of natural landscapes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The enhancement and preservation of Yarr's Lagoon as a biodiversity and wilderness setting <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» Establishment of a working party to oversee restoration of the site</li> <li>» Ensure a robust process for the future management of this site</li> <li>» Ensure appropriate protection of the site through the District Plan</li> </ul> </li> <li>Support the ongoing work of Council's Biodiversity Co-ordinator role particularly where activities occur on areas of public open space</li> </ul>	SDC	Planning/ Design	\$\$	GF, ER, EG	2015-24	Natural Resources Regional Plan (ECan) Biodiversity Strategy (ECan)
		SDC	Advocacy/ Planning	\$\$	GF	Ongoing	
	Promote the acquisition of esplanade strips/ reserves in order to secure access to the District's waterways	SDC	Planning	\$\$\$	DC, GF	Ongoing	Selwyn District Plan
	Investigate opportunities to support covenants where these may be beneficial to the District	SDC	Support	\$	GF	Ongoing	
	Support other agencies in the preservation and enhancement work they are doing in the District, i.e. Port Hills ecological restoration work by Christchurch City Council	CCC	Support	\$	GF	Ongoing	
	Contribute to delivery of the NERP at sites located in the Selwyn district	ECan	Planning/ Deliver works	\$	GF	Ongoing	Natural Environment Recovery Programme for Greater Christchurch

WHY WE WILL DO IT	WHAT WE WILL DO	LEAD AGENCY	COUNCILS ROLE	COST RANGE(\$)	FUNDING SOURCE	WHEN WILL IT HAPPEN	SPECIFIC LINKAGES TO OTHER STRATEGIES
Council encourages the residents of the District to be involved in their open spaces. To this end Council will endeavour to support various volunteer initiatives and partnerships that encourage this approach.	Continue to develop and implement reserve management plans for reserves around the District with input from the local communities	SDC	Support	\$	GF, DC, EG	Ongoing	Reserve Management Plans for local reserves (Dates various)
	Provide technical and funding support to groups/ organisations where groups/ organisations are contributing positively to the preservation and enhancement of open space in the District. E.g. Kua o Whiti Kerara/ Timbryard Point Restoration Project with Ngai Tahu, Te Waihora Management Board, and the Waihora Ellesmere Trust	SDC	Support	\$	GF, EG, ER	Ongoing	
	Local Committees: • Review existing committee structures to ensure the most effective management model is in place for the future	SDC	Planning	\$	GF	2015-16	
	• Develop guidelines that assist with decision making in relation to open space provision and management	SDC	Planning	\$	GF	2016	
	Contribute to master planning exercise for reserves located on the Port Hills initiated by Christchurch City Council	CCC	Planning	\$	GF	2015-16	
	Ensure regular and proactive support for the Spaces, Place and People Plan for Greater Christchurch - project team	SDC	Support	\$	GF	Ongoing	
	Contribute to Sports Leadership Group – Greater Christchurch with a focus on earthquake recovery	SDC	Support	\$	GF	Ongoing	
	Foster community input to assist with open space management and development, and support groups once established. E.g. McHughes Forest Park – Friends of the Forest and Waihora Ellesmere Trust	SDC	Support	\$	GF	Ongoing	
	Build and maintain relationships with research providers such as Lincoln University to encourage research into the provision and use of open space. This also extends to work undertaken by such organisations as the Ornithological Society of New Zealand through their bird watching, bird photography, ecological surveys for determining bird populations and ecological changes for example	SDC	Planning	\$	GF	Ongoing	

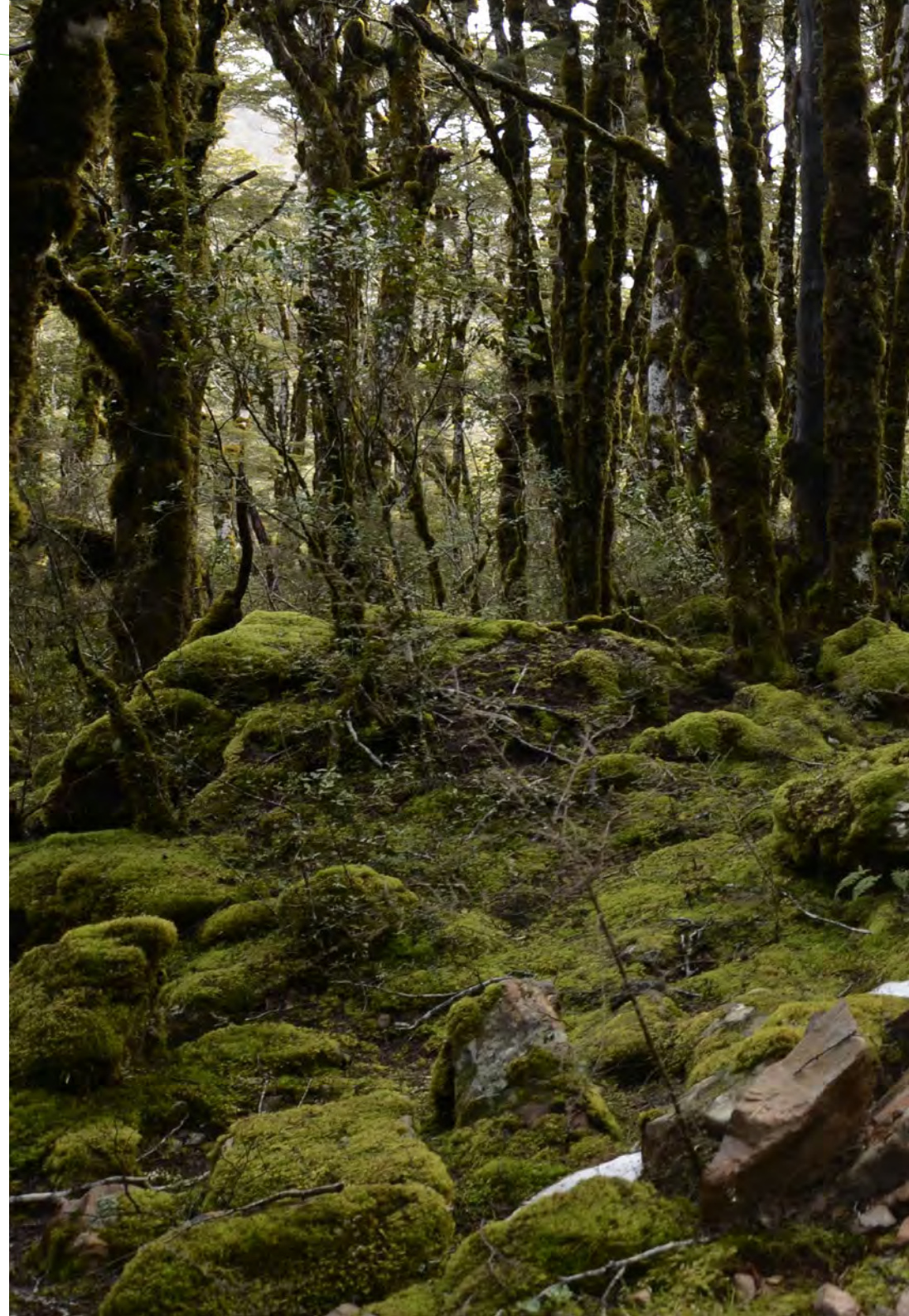
# 09

## MONITORING AND REVIEW


We will measure the implementation of the Open Strategy through the following processes:

- Community feedback through the Annual Plan and Long Term Plan (LTP) processes.
- Through the State of the Environment Report. This Report assesses how well Council are meeting its objectives in terms of resource management and how Council is fulfilling its obligations under section 35 of the Resource Management Act 1991. The State of the Environment Report also provides valuable information for a wide range of organisations, schools, residents and ratepayers.

The Open Spaces Strategy will be reviewed within 10 years of being adopted by Council. The ongoing implementation will be programmed in the 2014 LTP.





A photograph of a forest path covered in gravel, winding through a dense forest. The trees are covered in moss, and the ground is also covered in moss and rocks. A small plant with long, thin leaves is visible on the left side of the path. The path leads into the distance, disappearing into the trees.

***'Having places to recreate, escape from the built environment and enjoy the wonder of nature is essential for our health and wellbeing.'***





**OPUS INTERNATIONAL CONSULTANTS LTD**

Opus House, 6 Ossian Street  
Private Bag 6019, Hawkes Bay Mail Centre,  
Napier 4142  
New Zealand

t. +64 6 833 5100  
f. +64 6 835 0881  
w. [www.opus.co.nz](http://www.opus.co.nz)