HAGLEY PARK / BOTANIC GARDENS MASTER PLAN 2007

Projects Affecting Both Hagley Park And The Botanic Gardens

Location/Park	Specifically North Hagley Park and generally all of Hagley Park and the	
Context	Botanic Gardens.	
Description/ Action Required	An enquiry was made by the Art & Industry Biennial Trust in late 2005 about the possibility of placing a permanent sculpture in the area of North Hagley Park near the Park Terrace / Harper Avenue corner of the Park. This location was previously occupied on a temporary basis in 2000 by the Ziggurat stone structure. Temporary installation as part of the International Exhibition centenary celebrations later in 2006 might have been supported, but any permanent installation would be subject to careful consideration and need to comply with all policies, plans and strategies that refer to art works in parks and, in particular, Hagley Park. The 1991 version of the Hagley Park Management Plan had policies referring generally to the erection of structures on the Park, but nothing	
	specific to guide the placement of art works. Subsequently, another site in the Central City was chosen for the above-mentioned art work. Specific policy in the Hagley Park and Botanic Garden management plans is necessary to guide response to similar future requests for placement of art works in the Park or the Gardens. It will identify zones where art works may be placed, subject to clearly stated conditions.	
	This policy shall reflect the Council's Art Works in Public Places – Five Year Plan and policies, adopted in 2004.	
Status	For consideration.	
Timeframe	Any potential policy addressing art work placement in the Park and the Gardens will be addressed during subsequent management plan reviews. A strategy to develop an avenue in the Botanic Gardens as a future art trail is being prepared.	
Park Benefits	Placement of art works in the Park and the Gardens can potentially provide interest to the visitor's experience without impacting on other uses of these areas.	
2006 Public Consultation	51 out of a total of 597 submitters responded on this project. There was a slightly above average submitter response compared to that for the other master plan projects. 50/50 split in support/not support for artworks. Support for art policy in management plans though.	
Project Contact	City Environment Group; Recreation, Sport and Arts Team, RSU Recreation & Sports Unit.	

1 ... Art works in Hagley Park and the Gardens







Location/ Context	The Botanic Gardens and Hagley Park.	
Description/ Action Required	The Botanic Gardens and Hagley Park are major users of resources, such as water. Operations require considerable energy use for vehicles, conservatory heating and so on. In addition, there is significant use of chemicals for weed and pest control, although in recent years this has been reduced, especially the use of more toxic chemicals. Waste is a further area of concern. A best practice audit would include assessment of use of energy, chemicals, water and other operational inputs, along with consideration of horticultural practices and assessment of waste disposal and recycling. The overall aim will be to determine if the present 'environmental footprint' can be reduced within a reasonable economic framework. There would also be an assessment of carbon sequestration. The results of the audit would be implemented over a reasonable time frame, to be determined as part of the audit.	
Status	Not formally initiated, but elements initiated.	
Timeframe	Not indicated.	
Benefits to the Gardens and the Park	The Botanic Gardens, in particular, is well known and used by the public and, as such, is a good place to advocate environmentally responsible practices that can be adopted more widely throughout Christchurch. The Botanic Gardens and Hagley Park can be used to benchmark environmentally sensitive operations. This would include achieving accreditation under industry standards, such as Qualmark, Greenglobe and Natural Step.	
2006 Public Consultation	30 out of a total of 597 submitters responded on this project. There was a slightly below average submitter response compared to the response to the other projects. Nearly all these submitters supported the project.	
Project Contact	City Environment Group.	

2... Environmental 'best practice' audit/implementation



3 ... Events and exhibitions strategy

Location/	Hagley Park and the Botanic Gardens.	
Context	Tragicy Tark and the Dotanic Gardens.	
Description/ Action Required	Hagley Park and the Botanic Gardens have important value for events. These can range from small events, such as weddings, to major public events, such as outdoor concerts drawing in many tens of thousands of people. They include one-off and regular events, some of which are linked to city wide festivals. They also include exhibitions of artwork, and live theatre and performance. Although there is some dedication of particular areas to events and exhibitions (for example, the North Hagley Park Entertainment Zone), and there are some systems and policies in place (such as in the Hagley Park Management Plan), there is a need for an overall review of current practice and adoption of a more coherent and consistent approach to events and strategies. Particular attention is required regarding what is appropriate for the Gardens and different parts of the Park. Policy and consequent practice needs to take account of present and future planning, including how it fits within the Council's overall priorities and programmes, parking and entry needs, public safety issues, sustainability of	
	turf and other soft landscape requirements, and in meeting the needs of all users of the Park and Gardens.	
Status	Initiated.	
Timeframe	Not indicated.	
Benefits to the Park and the Gardens	Coherent, comprehensive and transparent management of events and exhibitions in Hagley Park and the Botanic Gardens. This will ensure appropriate use and availability of the area in whole and in part, within reasonable levels of sustainability and operational limits.	
2006 Public Consultation	15 out of a total of 597 submitters responded on this project. A below average submitter response compared to that for the other projects. All, though, supported the development of the strategy.	
	15 submitters also referred specifically to the holding of events in the Park. Most of these made comments on, or indicated requirements for, events.	
Project Contact	City Environment Group, Strategic Support Unit, Marketing Unit, Transport and Greenspace Unit.	



Location/ Context	The Botanic Gardens and Hagley Park.	
Description/ Action Required	Primary funding of Hagley Park and the Botanic Gardens is through annual allocations by the Christchurch City Council, which also plans and forecasts expenditure for the longer term. Some additional funding for non-core capital items and specific operational items comes from groups, such as the Friends of the Christchurch Botanic Gardens. Although many of the facilities for the Botanic Gardens, including all the	
	public conservatories and collections, such as heritage roses, have been provided by the public (through bequests, gifts and grants) there is no specific policy for encouraging and facilitating gifts and donations.	
	There are no trusts or other mechanisms to protect and enhance monetary gifts, nor policy to set the level of management control of these or to determine naming rights for large, and in particular corporate, donors. There is an inconsistency in the licenses and leases granted for commercial use of facilities and space, and sometimes a lack of transparency in what may be considered appropriate commercial uses.	
	It is usual for botanic gardens of the size and activity of Christchurch to have such policies and mechanisms, along with active pursuit and management of gifts and donations from the public and corporate sector.	
	There to be a consistent and transparent allocation of, and conditions for, licenses and leases in the Park and the Gardens, especially those for commercial use. It is also desirable to ensure the Park and the Gardens are appropriately funded and resourced in the future.	
	Managers of the Park and Gardens need to review and regard visitor spend as a source of revenue generation. Forms of revenue gathering, including event charges, garden shop and donation boxes, should all be reviewed. Their futures strategically need to be accounted for within the relevant plans to ensure all funding avenues are effectively utilised.	
Status	Not initiated.	
Timeframe	Not indicated.	
Benefits to the Gardens and the Park	Would result in a consistent, comprehensive and transparent set of guidelines that cover commercial activity in Hagley Park, along with encouragement for public and corporate gifting for specific projects and capital items. The strategy would also protect and enhance all funding, including adding value to and enhancing City Council core funding.	
2006 Public Consultation	31 out of a total of 597 submitters responded on this project. Slightly below average submitter response compared to that for the other projects. A little more than half of these simply commented on the project and the rest expressed support. No opposition was indicated.	
Project Contact	City Environment Group, Corporate Support Unit.	

4 ... Finance and income strategy



5 ... Heritage conservation plan

Location/	Hagley Park and the Botanic Gardens.	
Context		
Description/ Action Required	Hagley Park and the Botanic Gardens have a rich historical heritage and cultural significance, generally, for the descendants of both the early European settlers and Ngai Tahu Maori. Although a number of historic events are associated with the site, few are formally recognised and interpreted. The heritage value of elements of design for the Park and the Gardens have not been formally recognised. Some trees have heritage recognition, but the issue arises if trees planted prior to 1900 should be recognized under the Historic Places Act 1993. To cover these and other issues, and provide adequate 'on ground' recognition of heritage values, there is need for professional preparation of a comprehensive heritage conservation plan. Such a plan will address heritage values for individual assets and, for major heritage assets, will specify codes and practices that are essential for their management. There is value in preparing heritage conservation plans through a	
	professional and consultative process in order to highlight specific heritage values in the Park and the Gardens and to identify widely agreed measures to conserve these values that are also compatible with the statutory purposes, and approved uses, of these two areas.	
Status	Not initiated.	
Timeframe	By 2010.	
Benefits to the Park and the Gardens	A conservation plan will ensure that Hagley Park and Botanic Garden activities, and development of new facilities, will not compromise the heritage values of these places. It will also ensure appropriate recognition is given to heritage values and foster a greater user appreciation of these values.	
2006 Public Consultation	23 out of a total of 597 submitters responded on this project. Below average submitter response on this project when compared to that for the other projects, but all expressed support.	
	There was a strong submitters response (81 submitters, double the average for all the master plan projects) on the subject of heritage and plantings, with strong polarised views expressed on the value of native versus exotic plantings on the Park's and the Botanic Gardens' natural and heritage landscapes.	
Project Contact	City Environment Group; Policy and Planning Team, Strategic Support Unit.	
Further Information	See Information on Conservation Plans (Page 154).	





6 Landscape and circulation	6.	Landscape	and c	irculation
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Location/	The whole of the Botanic Gardens and Hagley Park.	
Context	The whole of the Dotanie Ourdens and Flagley Family	
Description/ Action Required	surrounding building-dominated areas. Spatial analysis has been done for the Botanic Gardens and needs to be done for Hagley Park.	
	There is considerable debate about the appropriate landscape character of both Hagley Park and the Botanic Gardens. Understanding, and agreeing upon, a preferred landscape character for each area (and for sub-areas) is a key issue, as what is accepted will influence not only the overall appearance of the Park and Gardens, but also the precise nature of future plantings.	
	There is a relatively poor pathway circulation in parts of the Botanic Gardens. Both the Botanic Gardens and Hagley Park have walking desire lines that do not always accord with path systems. In some places there is conflict of use - for example, between vehicle and foot traffic.	
	The existing major pedestrian routes in the Botanic Gardens will be retained. No new major pedestrian routes will be developed, other than necessary changes to circulation and landscaping associated with the development of new or redeveloped visitor/information and operational facilities in the Botanic Gardens, new bridges across the Avon River and development of approved new collections in the Botanic Gardens.	
	Investigation of the prospect of two new bridges across the Avon River is supported:	
	• A combined pedestrian and vehicle access bridge across the Avon River directly to the site of the proposed Botanic Gardens comprising visitor/information centre and operational facilities, locate at the existing works and nursery site in the Botanic Gardens.	
	• A new pedestrian bridge across the Avon River from the Daffodil Woodland area in North Hagley Park to a point between the Archery Lawn and the Armstrong Lawn in the Botanic Gardens.	
	Some of the paths, and the overall layout and circulation pattern, of the Park may have heritage value. This will need to be investigated early in the process for consideration of any proposed changes in Park landscape and circulation. A conservation plan would determine this.	
Status	Initiated.	
Timeframe	2007/08 (for analysis), ongoing (for implementation).	
Benefits	Analysis, followed by agreement on the future landscape character for the Park and the Gardens, will result in a much more coherent development of landscape values, specific area usage, planting design and cultural/heritage recognition. Not only will this result in more harmonious, meaningful and deliberate development of Park and Gardens areas, but it will also help to avoid wasted effort from the inappropriate planting of areas.	



2006 Public Consultation	127 out of a total of 597 submitters responded on this project. This is one of the projects that received a submitter response that exceeded the average submission response (of 41) for all master plan projects by a factor of one or more times. The majority of these submitters did not support any significant change to the circulation in Hagley Park or the Botanic Gardens, especially that promoted in the three concepts for landscape and layout of the Botanic Gardens in the draft master plan and Draft Christchurch Botanic Gardens Management Plan 2006. With respect to landscaping, layout and circulation associated with new/improved plant collections and with the proposed development/re-development of the visitor and operational facilities in the Botanic Gardens, the majority of the submitters supported Concept 1 (proposed development of the afore-mentioned facilities at the existing works and nursery site in the Botanic Gardens).
	Although not identified as a separate project in the draft master plan, but included in the three layout and circulation concept options promoted in the draft master plan in 2006, 30 submitters (which was slightly below the average submitter response for all the master plan projects) made direst reference to the inclusion in these concept options of one or more new pedestrian/vehicle bridges across the Avon River between Hagley Park and the Botanic Gardens. The majority were in support of one or two new bridges. There was also submitter response on other related topics, which included comments and suggestions on accessibility (5 submitters) and pathways (17
Project Contact	submitters). City Environment Group; Capital Programme Investigations; Strategic Support Unit.
Links	For detail on landscape and circulation for both the Park and the Gardens, refer to the respective management plans for each.



7 ... Marketing strategy

Location/	The Botanic Gardens and Hagley Park.	
Context		
Description/ Action Required	The Park and Gardens should include strategic marketing within future planning and/or working practice. It should include the following points:	
	• The core business elements for the Park and Gardens will recognize the Park's and Gardens standing as a top City centre attraction, a centre for botanical and horticultural excellence and a major green recreational space for city users.	
	• The four key users groups of the Park and Gardens are visitors to Christchurch, botanical groups, local residents and connected or partner organisations.	
	• Put in place monitoring systems and processes to benchmark and record the satisfaction levels of users and follow up issues and enquiries.	
	• Enhance the visitor experience and actively seeking excellence	
	• Determine if the Park and the Gardens are to be places for everyone or if the focus should be on key attractions. Ensure these are places of excellence.	
	• Ensure adherence to the agreed marketing plan.	
	• Respond to suggestions for changes and new attractions from the community and interest groups.	
Status	Initiated, in terms of market surveys and Botanic Gardens branding.	
Timeframe	By 2011.	
Benefits to the Gardens and the Park	There is a greater profile and appropriate use of the Botanic Gardens and Hagley Park, ensuring users have a consistently high level of satisfaction and that there are positive responses to the needs and aspirations of the community.	
	In the short term (over the next three years from 2007), the focus should be on basic infrastructure, such as signage and information to ensure there is effective communication. Once a marketing plan and brand are in place, benefits will include:	
	• Effective use of the marketing budget.	
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1	• Clean guidelines on suitability and fit of future projects.	
	Clean guidelines on suitability and fit of future projects.Identification of goals and suitable partners.	
2006 Public Consultation	Identification of goals and suitable partners.Reflection of the Christchurch City Council's key value/customer	

Location/	The Beterie Cardens and Heeley Dark	
	The Botanic Gardens and Hagley Park.	
Context Description/ Action Required	Several surveys of public use and satisfaction have been carried out in the Botanic Gardens during the last two decades. The only fully detailed and seasonal survey was commissioned in 2004. It included quarterly surveys of visitor numbers at four entry points to the Gardens, discussions with a number of focus groups and interviews with approximately 2,600 visitors. This information has been supplemented by public submissions on the future direction and use of Hagley Park and the Botanic Gardens received late in 2004 and from public submissions made late in 2006 on the draft master and draft management plans for Hagley Park and the Botanic Gardens. In addition, there has been informal feedback through the Botanic Gardens Information Centre, as well as a broad indication of level of use of the Botanic Gardens through annual resident surveys. Botanical	
	Services Operations Team staff regularly meet with the Friends of the Christchurch Botanic Gardens to receive their comment.There is, however, little ongoing regular assessment of the Botanic Gardens and Hagley Park from outside the Council. It is highly desirable, and would be beneficial for efficient operations, to develop mechanisms	
	for interaction with the public and user groups, especially through key stakeholders such as the Friends of the Christchurch Botanic Gardens, principal users, neighbours and resident and sector representatives.	
Status	Not initiated.	
Timeframe	Would be ongoing.	
Benefits to the Gardens and the Park	Would result in greater transparency and improved response to public and user group needs and aspirations. Also, would be meeting, in an enhanced way, the requirements of the Local Government Act 2002.	
2006 Public Consultation	18 out of a total of 597 submitters responded on this project. Below average submitter response to this project compared to that for other projects. Nearly all supported.	
Project Contact	City Environment Group.	

8 ... Monitoring and feedback on public use and satisfaction



Location	Throughout Hagley Park and the Botanic Gardens.	
Park/Garden Context	Trees along corridors on the perimeter of, and running through, the Park, and woodlots within the Park; throughout the Gardens.	
Description/ Action Required	The review of the Hagley Park Management Plan identified the majority of the Hagley Park trees were aged between 90 and 120 years old, with many suffering from the effects of disease, wind damage and sustained drought. It was noted then that, although there had been a large number of sapling trees planted since 1985, there was still an absence of intermediate aged trees to replace the aged and diseased trees. Urgent action to remedy this situation was recommended. Specifically, a survey was recommended, to be followed by the preparation of a Tree Replacement Programme. These recommendations have not been fully implemented. Some work has been done on surveying and there is a regular annual budget for tree maintenance for the Park and the Botanic Gardens. The trees are older (now between 100 to 140 years old) and over the next five to 20 years the Park perimeter trees will need to be subject to sustainable and healthy tree management, along with the Botanic Gardens trees. This will be achieved with the development of a Sustainable and Healthy Tree Plan specifically for Hagley Park and the Botanic Gardens, which will advise on annual costs and rates of tree replacement and the species to be used. This plan will ensure the maintenance of sustainable and healthy trees for up to twenty years for Hagley Park and the Botanic Gardens, linking with city- wide tree policies and tree renewal programmes that are underway or being developed. There are approximately 5,000 trees in the Park with 3,000 of these being	
	mature specimens. For the Botanic Gardens, it is estimated there is a total of 1,500 trees.	
Status	Not being implemented or planned for to the required level at present. Significant budget allocation has been made in the 2006/16 Long Term Council Community Plan for city-wide tree replacement (see details below).	
Timeframe	Requirements to be identified through the Sustainable and Healthy Tree Plan. Implementation proposed to commence by 2008/09.	
Park Benefits	Achieving a long term sustainable and healthy tree population for Hagley Park and the Botanic Gardens.	
2006 Public Consultation	70 out of a total of 597 submitters responded on this project. A submitter response to this project that is over one and a half times the average for the projects. The majority of these commented on the issue of tree replacement and about a third supported a programme of tree replacement.	
Project Contact	City Environment Group.	
Other Information	The 2006/16 Long-Term Council Community Plan identifies as a Major Capital Project the aim to replace 1% of the city's trees that are old and need replacing, with funding of \$11.4 million provided over the next 10 years.	

9 ... Sustainable and Healthy Tree Plan

10 Water	conservation
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Location/	The Botanic Gardens, and Hagley Park in part.
Context	
Description/ Action Required	Water availability and wise use (conservation) is a constant theme across most botanic gardens, especially in Australia and New Zealand. Canterbury has a highly seasonal climate and is prone to droughts, mostly in summer. Although it has been generally assumed, in the past, that water is an unlimited resource, increasingly it is being realized that there are limitations in Canterbury. This should require the adoption of water conservation measures in the Botanic Gardens, both in terms of community responsibility and to provide an example to others. Most Australian botanic gardens have water conservation practices in operation. They provide powerful messages to the community at large. There is little justification for the Botanic Gardens and Hagley Park to be exempt from watering restrictions, except in special circumstances such as sports field maintenance. Manual watering and hose shifting is a significant use of staff time and there are often inefficiencies in daytime watering during hot times of the year.
	In addition to water reticulation and automation, horticultural practice needs to expand the use of existing techniques, such as mulching and drip feed of water. The Council also needs to undertake trials of new techniques for water saving, such as the use of new combinations of grasses for lawns. There needs to be an emphasis on drought tolerant plantings.
Status	Initiated.
Timeframe	Ongoing, but needs further targets.
Benefits to the Gardens and the wider community	Greater efficiency in water use and giving the right message to the community about water use.
2006 Public Consultation	33 out of a total of 597 submitters responded on this project. Slightly below the average submitter response to that for the other master plan projects. Nearly all these supported the project.
Project Contact	City Environment Group



Location/ Context	The Botanic Gardens and Hagley Park.
Description/ Action Required	The Botanic Gardens, and to a lesser extent Hagley Park, have recognized habitat values. Surveys show visitors to the Gardens leave with an enhanced view of wildlife values, especially of birds. Several native New Zealand species have increased markedly in numbers over the last decade. There is, for instance, a very healthy population of New Zealand Scaup breeding within the Botanic Gardens. Paradise Shelduck have started breeding again and there have been recent records of Long-tailed Cuckoo and Crested Grebe from Hagley Park. A BioBlitz ⁸ in April 2005 indicated a considerable richness of plant, animal and fungal species. The biological and ecological value of this large green space area is growing in appreciation. Nevertheless, there is no overall plan to guide development and management (including possible retirement of key areas) for wildlife habitat purposes.
Status	Initiated as preliminary discussions and concepts.
Timeframe	Not indicated.
Benefits to the Gardens and the Park	A series of policies and management regimes generated by such a plan will play a major role, for the Central City area, in delivering on biodiversity (as promoted in the Biodiversity Strategy). It will also be a positive response to calls for greater biodiversity in urban settlements and enhance the visitor experience to Hagley Park and the Botanic Gardens.
2006 Public Consultation	35 out of a total of 597 submitters responded on this project. Slightly below the average submitter response to the master plan projects. Nearly all supported the project.
Project Contact	City Environment Group.

11 ... Wildlife and habitat conservation plan



Photo: K. McMillan

⁸ An event where Council staff, scientists, students and the public gathered in the Park and the Gardens to count as many species as possible in a twenty four hour survey.





12 ... Building removal

Location/Park Context	Various locations in Hagley Park (and the Botanic Gardens).
Description/ Action Required	To implement the existing Hagley Park Management Plan objective for buildings on the Park "To keep to a minimum the number of new buildings and structures on Hagley Park and to coordinate and integrate, the existing Park buildings and structures. To protect historic buildings and structures within the Park" (Objective 17, Buildings and Structures Section, draft Hagley Park Management Plan 2007), there is a need to consider the merits or otherwise of removing the following three buildings and any others in Hagley Park and the Botanic Gardens that may be deemed obsolete and no longer required (see Plan 12 below for locations):
	1. Women's Hockey Club Rooms
	This building, which is located in South Hagley Park between Hospital Corner and the Hagley Oval, is no longer used because women's hockey has combined with men's hockey and is now not played in Hagley Park.
	2. <u>Storage building by Hagley Oval</u>
	This building is virtually wrapped around a tree by the section of the boundary of the Hagley Oval that lies between the Christ's College Groundsman's residence and the Canterbury Horticultural Society building. It is unused and could be removed. There has been interest by Council staff in the use of this building for storage, including for Botanic Gardens operational purposes.
	3. <u>Canterbury Rugby Football Union changing shed building on the</u> perimeter of the Concert Triangle area
	This building has been vacated by the Canterbury Rugby Football Union, because the Union no longer uses the Concert Triangle area as a rugby training ground. The building is used occasionally when events are held in the Entertainment Zone (Concert Triangle and Special Events Area), however it is doubtful that the infrequent use justifies the continued existence of the building on the site. It is important to determine, via the proposed conservation plan, the historical status of this building.
Status	For consideration.
Timeframe	None set.
Park Benefits	Serves to maintain an open space environment in the Park (and in the Botanic Gardens), which is not cluttered with unnecessary and/or ugly buildings.

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2006 Public Consultation	19 out of a total of 597 submitters responded on this project. Below average submitter response to this project (compared to that for the other master plan projects). Most of these, though, supported removal of buildings in the Park.
	More submitters (37 submitters, near the average number of submitters that responded to the master plan projects) responded generally on buildings in Hagley Park and the Botanic Gardens. Nearly all responses were in support of no more buildings, having the number of buildings kept to a minimum and removal of buildings no longer required.
Project Contact	City Environment Group.
Plan 12: Park buil	dings proposed to be considered for removal
 Women's Hockey O Rooms Hagley O storage building Ex-Cante Rugby Fo Union changing 	Club oval erbury botball 2 1



