



Parks, open spaces and waterways



The city's gardens and parks are beautiful. Before I came to Christchurch they told me about the Garden City and I really like this aspect of the city; I wouldn't live anywhere else in New Zealand.

In Beijing, where I grew up, most of the parks are beaten earth and you normally have to pay to get into gardens, so the greenery and space of Christchurch is wonderful. They're such restful places, too. If you have a busy life, being able to go to a park or the gardens means you can relax and get rid of the stress. Even if you're having a bad day, having beautiful plants and flowers around will cheer you up and make everything seem OK.

Yvonne Zhang

Engineer
St Albans

Parks, open spaces and waterways



Why does the Council provide parks, open spaces and waterways?

The Council provides parks, open spaces and waterways to meet community and environmental needs. These include access to open space, protection of natural resources and scenic values, contribution to the city's landscape and its Garden City image, management of the land drainage network and providing places for burial and remembrance.

What is the Council doing regarding parks, open spaces and waterways?

Urban Parks

The Council provides and manages 709 parks within the city's urban area. These parks provide areas for recreation and organised sport, garden environments and green corridors, and contribute to the city's natural form, character and amenity values.

Regional Parks

The Council provides and manages 71 regional parks, including those within coastal areas, the Port Hills and the plains. These parks are used for informal recreation, conservation of natural resources and scenic values, and cultural and heritage preservation.

The Botanic Gardens

The Council provides and manages the Christchurch Botanic Gardens (21 hectares in size) so that residents and visitors to Christchurch can enjoy its garden environments and plant collections.

Cemeteries

The Council provides and manages nine operational cemeteries to meet the burial and remembrance needs of the community.

Waterways and Land Drainage

The Council provides and operates the city's stormwater system, manages the waterways into which it discharges, and it protects and enhances the life-supporting capacity of the city's waterways and wetlands.

How does the Council's work contribute towards our Community Outcomes?

	Community outcome	How the Council contributes	How much?
	Safety	By ensuring our Parks, open spaces and waterways are healthy and safe places, and by controlling and minimising flood and fire hazards.	✓✓
	Community	By providing welcoming areas for communities to gather and interact, and by meeting a range of community burial needs.	✓✓
	Environment	By offering opportunities for people to contribute to projects that improve our city's environment.	✓✓✓
	Governance	By involving people in decision-making about Parks, open spaces and waterways.	✓✓
	Prosperity	By contributing to Christchurch's Garden City image and attracting business, skills and tourism.	✓
	Health	By providing areas for people to engage in healthy activities. By managing surface water.	✓✓✓
	Recreation	By offering a range of active and passive recreation and leisure opportunities in Parks, open spaces and waterways.	✓✓✓
	Knowledge	By providing the opportunity to learn through social interaction and recreation.	✓
	City Development	By providing inviting, pleasant and well cared-for environments, and by ensuring the drainage network allows the city to function during rainfall.	✓✓✓



Parks, open spaces and waterways

What does the Council plan to do in the future?

<i>What is Council's objective?</i>	<i>What policies, strategies or drivers support this objective?</i>	<i>What is the Council already doing?</i>	<i>What will we do in years 1 to 3?</i>	<i>What will we do in years 4 to 10?</i>	<i>How will we know if we achieve our objective?</i>
To provide a network of parks, open spaces, waterways and wetlands that meet community and environmental needs.	Policies and Strategies: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recreation and Sports Strategy • Natural Asset Management Strategy • Environmental Policy • Heritage Conservation Policy • Waterways, Wetlands and Drainage Guide • Parks and Waterways Access Policy Drivers: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Garden City image • Environmental conservation • Management and conservation plans • Code of Urban Development • City Plan/Resource Management Act 1991 • Reserves Act 1977 • Burial and Cremation Act 1964 	Providing parks.	Continue at the same level.	Continue at the same level.	The level of parks provided is, at least, maintained.
		Maintaining parks, waterways and wetlands in a clean and tidy condition.	Continue to do the same.	Continue to do the same.	The level of customer satisfaction with appearance of parks, waterways and wetland areas is, at least, maintained.
		Providing a variety of recreation opportunities and facilities in parks.	Continue to do the same.	Continue to do the same.	The level of customer satisfaction with the variety of opportunities is, at least, maintained. The range of recreation facilities is at least maintained.
		Providing the Christchurch Botanic Gardens.	Continue to do the same.	Continue to do the same.	The gardens remain a top attraction for residents and visitors.
		Providing cemeteries which can meet the city's burial needs.	Continue to do the same.	Continue to do the same.	Council cemeteries continue to meet current and future burial demands.
		Providing and maintaining land drainage infrastructure.	Continue to do the same.	Continue to do the same.	Proportion of properties with no nuisance flooding during a normal rain event. Satisfaction with appearance of waterways and wetlands.

Parks, open spaces and waterways



Measuring our achievements

Measures and Targets	Current performance	06/07	07/08	08/09	09/10	10/11	11/12	12/13	13/14	14/15	15/16
Area of urban park per 1,000 population (ha = hectares).	4.7 ha (total 1,616 ha)	4.7 ha (total 1,623 ha)	4.7 ha (total 1,631 ha)	4.7 ha (total 1,638 ha)	4.7 ha per 1,000 population (total 1,685 ha).						
% of urban residences within 400 metres of a park.	90%	90%	90%	90%	90%						
Area of regional park per 1,000 population.	13 ha (total 4,460 ha)	13.1 ha (total 4,460 ha)	13.2 ha (total 4,620 ha)	13.4 ha (total 4,700 ha)	14 ha per 1,000 population (total 5,020 ha).						
Customer Satisfaction with appearance of parks and with range of recreation opportunities available in parks.	91% 85%	>90% 85%	>90% 85%	>90% 85%	>90% 85%						
Provision of Recreation Facilities: Playgrounds per 1,000 children,	>4	>4	>4	>4	5 playgrounds per 1,000 children.						
Youth facilities per 1,000 youth,	>1	>1	>1	>1	>1 youth recreation facility per 1,000 youth.						
Playing fields per 1,000 sports participants.	14 winter 7 summer	14 winter 7 summer	14 winter 7 summer	14 winter 7 summer	15 winter fields per 1,000 sports participants, 8 summer fields per 1,000 sports participants.						
Number of people visiting the Botanic Gardens per year (m = million).	1.2 m	1.2 m	1.2 m	1.2 m	1.2 m						
Capacity of Council cemeteries.	13,500 full plots (20+year capacity). 3,500 ash plots (20+ year capacity).	14,000 full plots (20+year capacity). 3,500 ash plots (20+ year capacity).	13,500 full plots (20+year capacity). 3,500 ash plots (20+ year capacity).	16,000 full plots (25+year capacity). 3,400 ash plots (20+ year capacity).	15,900 full plots (20+year capacity). 2,500 ash plots (20+ year capacity).						
% of non-flooding properties.	99%	99%	99%	99%	99%						
Residents' satisfaction with the appearance of waterways and wetlands.	73%	75%	75%	75%	75%						



Parks, open spaces and waterways

What negative effects or risks can occur in relation to our Parks, open spaces and waterways?

<i>Negative effects</i>	<i>Mitigation options</i>
Trees damage paving, disturb underground and overhead services, and block drains. They may shade neighbouring properties.	Root cutting, tree pruning, tree removal, appropriate tree location and species selection. Remove leaf litter from drainage grates.
Vandalism and graffiti to park assets.	Fix vandalism damage, remove graffiti, and work to prevent these activities.
Anti-social behaviour in parks.	Meet appropriate safety guidelines and carry out audits. Provide lighting and appropriate surveillance.
Noise disturbance to neighbours.	Comply with City Plan boundary set-back requirements for structures or facilities.
Contamination of soil or water from use of agrichemicals.	Limit the use of agrichemicals where possible and/or substitute with organic or mechanical measures. Ensure agrichemicals are applied in accordance with product requirements and to industry standards.
Fire hazard to adjoining properties.	Use land management practices that reduce fire hazard, seasonal fire controls, and ready response available for rural fires.
Contaminants from many sources travel in the stormwater system.	Monitor and investigate stormwater quality and sources of contaminants.
Maintaining and altering streams and rivers banks can affect habitats.	Review grass cutting on river banks. Use stream restoration projects to provide some additional habitat.

Parks, open spaces and waterways



The Council's key assets relating to Parks, open spaces and waterways

Parks (including the Botanic Gardens) 781, land area 6,097 ha	Stormwater pipes 729 km
Paths and walkways/tracks 391 km	Stormwater pumping stations 32
Park specimen trees 48,213	Rivers 124 km
Planted areas (shrubs and tree groups) 138 ha	Wetlands approximately 1,000 ha
Park furniture 6,132 items	Drains and tributaries 290 km
Play and sport facilities 407	Cemeteries nine operational (74 ha)

Maintaining our assets

The cost of maintaining the city's parks, open spaces and waterways is expected to keep increasing over the next 10 to 15 years. More assets will be required to meet the city's growth, and to respond to local needs. The current assets will need to be renewed when they reach the end of their functional lives.

Maintenance on parks and open space assets is primarily carried out by a service provider under a long-term contract. Some asset areas have shorter term maintenance contracts.

Maintenance on the utility and natural waterways is carried out under a number of specialist contracts of medium duration. The cost of maintaining waterways will increase as additional assets are acquired and as a result of external factors such as fuel and dumping costs.

Assets such as playgrounds, structures and car parks are renewed based on their condition and service utility. Renewal projects are usually competitively tendered. Asset renewal may also result in improvements, for example where natural stream values are restored as part of a drain renewal.

Typical renewal/replacement periods (approximate) for key assets include:

- Play equipment - every 20-25 years
- Paths (surfaces) - every 20 years
- Park trees - every 100 years
- Shrub beds - every 10-15 years
- Seating - every 35 years
- Timber-lined drains - every 40 years
- Stormwater pipes - every 100 years



Parks, open spaces and waterways

Changes planned for assets

<i>Driver</i>	<i>What will be done?</i>	<i>Year 1 cost (\$ 000)</i>	<i>Year 2 cost (\$ 000)</i>	<i>Year 3 cost (\$ 000)</i>	<i>Years 4 to 10 cost (\$ 000)</i>
Renewals and replacements	Assets are maintained in accordance with the parks, open spaces and waterways asset management plan, including stormwater management systems, tree replacement, playgrounds, park structures, car - parks and bridges.	8,229	12,612	12,964	74,423
Increased levels of service	Service improvements are planned in the areas of foreshore development, riverbank works, cemeteries and re-vegetation projects.	650	659	671	6,289
Increased demand	Assets will be added in accordance with the parks, open spaces and waterways asset management plan including fencing, lighting, walkways, paths, landscaping, a new facility in the Botanic Gardens and major strategic land purchases for stormwater management and the purchase and development of new reserves associated with growth.	15,616	21,928	20,252	102,373

Parks, open spaces and waterways



Parks, open spaces and waterways

Cost of Proposed Services

	CCC 2006/07 \$000's	BPDC 2006/07 \$000's	Total Plan 2006/07 \$000's	Plan 2007/08 \$000's	Plan 2008/09 \$000's	Forecast 2009/10 \$000's	Forecast 2010/11 \$000's	Forecast 2011/12 \$000's	Forecast 2012/13 \$000's	Forecast 2013/14 \$000's	Forecast 2014/15 \$000's	Forecast 2015/16 \$000's
Activity Operational Cost -												
Cemeteries	1,285	61	1,346	1,385	1,418	1,445	1,469	1,505	1,540	1,569	1,598	1,599
Regional Parks	6,181	590	6,771	6,975	7,106	7,401	7,501	7,674	7,836	7,979	8,107	8,025
The Botanic Gardens	4,848	-	4,848	4,752	4,979	5,051	5,616	5,746	5,867	5,968	6,063	6,061
Urban Parks	16,064	811	16,875	17,587	18,214	18,710	19,218	19,717	20,175	20,526	20,910	20,264
Waterways and Land Drainage	11,771	378	12,149	12,722	13,324	13,645	14,244	14,601	14,918	15,216	15,456	15,654
Total Expenditure	40,149	1,840	41,989	43,421	45,041	46,252	48,048	49,243	50,336	51,258	52,134	51,603
Activity Operational Revenue -												
Cemeteries	710	18	728	752	774	796	816	835	853	870	885	899
Regional Parks	538	70	608	627	646	664	681	697	712	725	737	750
The Botanic Gardens	164	-	164	169	174	179	184	188	192	196	199	202
Urban Parks	493	203	696	718	740	760	779	798	815	830	844	858
Waterways and Land Drainage	38	20	58	60	62	63	65	67	68	69	70	72
Capital Revenues	6,239	519	6,758	7,333	7,923	8,521	9,129	9,900	10,223	10,535	10,829	11,129
Total Operational Revenue	8,182	830	9,012	9,659	10,319	10,983	11,654	12,485	12,863	13,225	13,564	13,910
Fees and charges	8,167	830	8,997	9,644	10,303	10,967	11,637	12,468	12,846	13,207	13,546	13,892
Grants and subsidies	15	-	15	15	16	16	17	17	17	18	18	18
Total Operational Revenue (by source)	8,182	830	9,012	9,659	10,319	10,983	11,654	12,485	12,863	13,225	13,564	13,910
Net Operational Cost	31,967	1,010	32,977	33,762	34,722	35,269	36,394	36,758	37,473	38,033	38,570	37,693
Vested Assets	9,461	-	9,461	6,066	6,979	8,654	10,405	10,565	13,086	13,399	13,709	14,026
Net Cost of Services	22,506	1,010	23,516	27,696	27,743	26,615	25,989	26,193	24,387	24,634	24,861	23,667
Capital Expenditure												
Renewals and Replacements	7,530	699	8,229	12,612	12,964	9,188	9,738	10,371	10,654	11,061	11,558	11,853
Improved Service Levels	650	-	650	659	671	744	847	899	921	941	959	978
Increased Demand	15,616	-	15,616	21,928	20,252	21,608	16,784	11,942	12,542	12,781	13,216	13,500
Total Capital Expenditure	23,796	699	24,495	35,199	33,887	31,540	27,369	23,212	24,117	24,783	25,733	26,331

Rationale for activity funding (see also the Revenue and Financing Policy, page 258)

User charges for certain services, such as cemeteries and ground hire, are collected at levels considered reasonable by the Council. In many areas, such as providing access to open spaces, charging is not feasible. The level of revenue sought from these activities by the Council for the 10 years covered by the LTCCP is illustrated above. The balance of the net operating cost is funded by General rates, as the whole community benefits from these activities. Development contributions are applied towards appropriate capital expenditure. The balance is funded corporately in accordance with the Revenue and Financing Policy. Refer to page 259 for a summary of the corporate funding approach for capital expenditure.