STANLEY PARK

Management Plan

Christchurch City Council

August 2013

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Preface

Stanley Park is classified as a Recreation Reserve, subject to Section 17 (1) of the Reserves Act 1977. Therefore, the Park is to be managed:

'*For the purpose of providing areas for the recreation and sporting activities and the physical welfare and enjoyment of the public, and for the protection of the natural environment and beauty of the countryside, with emphasis on the retention of open spaces and on outdoor recreational activities, including recreational tracks in the countryside.*'.

This management plan for Stanley Park is a requirement under the Reserves Act 1977. It establishes a vision and sets the management objectives and policies for the future management of Stanley Park.

This management plan has been developed with the engagement of community and key stakeholders through the process of requesting feedback, followed by a public workshop, to gather information and to reflect the range of values and desires expressed by the community and stakeholders. Public notice of Council's intention to prepare the draft management plan was given in 2008. Submissions on the draft management plan were open from 6 October 2010 to 13 December 2010. A Hearings Panel heard submissions on 1 May 2013, considered the submissions and recommended changes to the draft management plan. The final management plan was officially approved by the Stanley Park Hearings Panel under delegated authority from the Christchurch City Council, on 9 August 2013. Note: The delay in dates between the submission period and the hearing period was due to the Canterbury earthquakes.

APPROVED 9 AUGUST 2013

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1 OVERVIEW

1.1 Introduction

Stanley Park is a large recreation reserve in the heart of Akaroa on Banks Peninsula, and provides the central vegetated backdrop to the town. It is an important and valued public space, providing the rural landscape qualities of the harbour basin in such close proximity to the town centre.

The Park is 6.8 hectares in size and is bound by the waterfront, residential sections and farmland. It has an unusual shape, being composed of two roughly rectangular blocks, which can be described as the 'Upper' and 'Lower' Blocks, that are connected by two narrow corridors. The topography consists of both gentle and steep slopes running up the spur and has been managed by light grazing for many years. It is characteristic of much of Banks Peninsula's pasture land, with a mixture of open grassland and naturally regenerating kānuka forest. It also contains a network of walking tracks, a fire siren and a meteorological station.

The Park and all the land parcels that make up Stanley Park, as of January 2010, are classified as Recreation Reserve – to provide recreation and enjoyment for the public, retention of open space, and to protect the natural environment and beauty of the countryside. The Park is also included in the Akaroa Historic Area, registered under the Historic Places Act 1993.

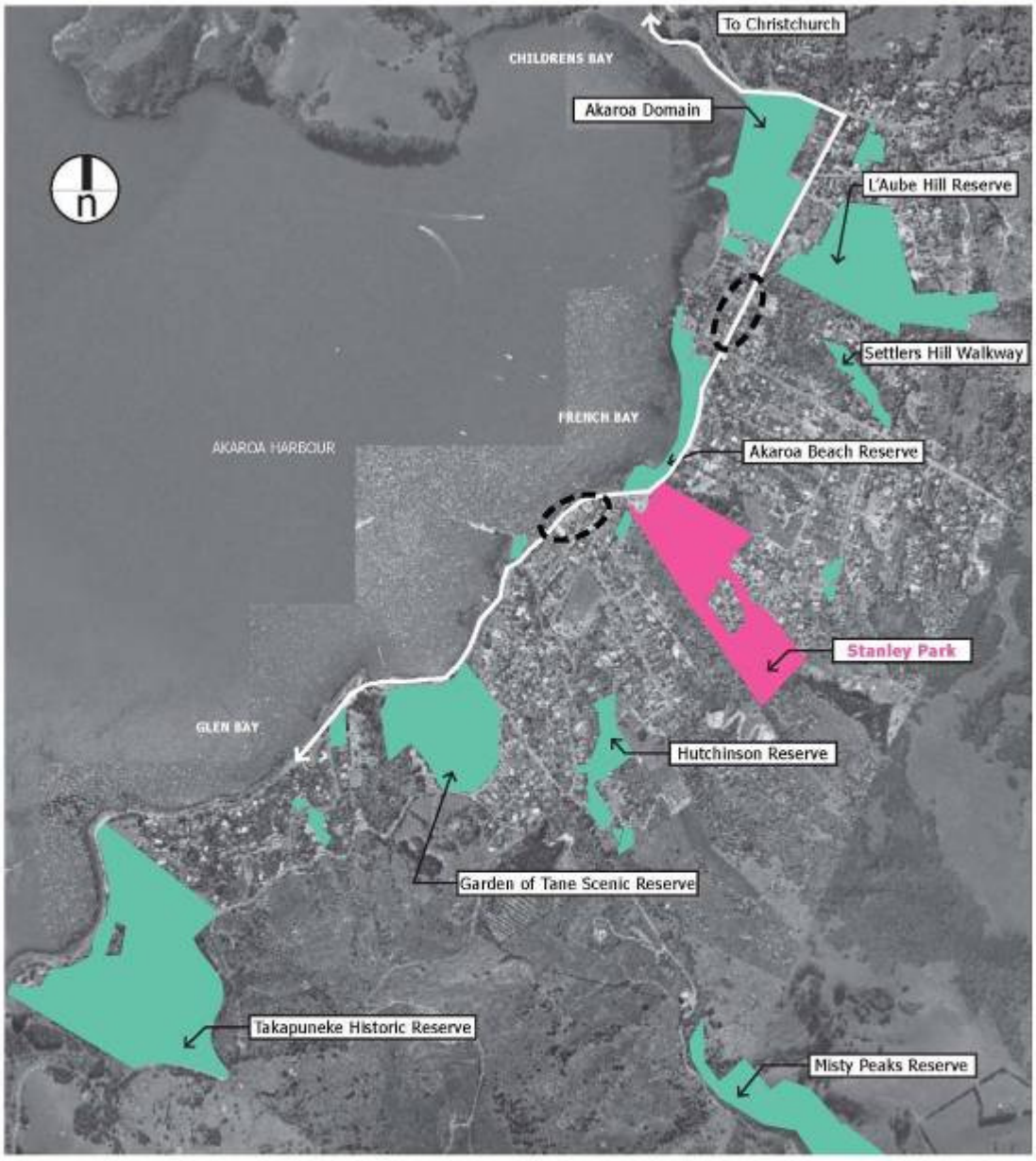
The Park is currently well used by local residents and visitors for recreation, and provides stunning views over the harbour. It is important in providing a walking link to other parts of the town and is also used for jogging, dog exercise and picnicing.

Ōnuku Rūnanga are supportive of a management approach and plan that allows them to maintain their cultural relationships with the land, water, sites, wāhi tapu, indigenous species and other taonga within the Park area, and that promotes indigenous habitat protection and restoration.

This management plan is intended to outline key objectives and policies for the management of Stanley Park and to identify key future development projects. This plan will ensure community members and visitors are able to enjoy the unique characteristics that Stanley Park has to offer, both now and into the future.

1.2 Location and Access

Stanley Park is situated on a prominent central spur in Akaroa that divides the north and south ends of the town. It has an irregular shape and stretches from Beach Road opposite the waterfront to the rural hills above the town. The Park is accessible by walking tracks from Beach Road, Watson Street and Penlington Place, with car parking available on each road. There is walking track access from Selwyn Avenue/Rue Noyer. Stanley Park will also be accessible from Julius Place (road yet to be formed) along the lower north west boundary, adjacent the former Akaroa School site. The location plan overleaf identifies Stanley Park within the wider Akaroa open space network.



Stanley Park | Beach Road | Akaroa
Location Plan

MAY 2010
Location Plan | Not to Scale | Rev A

Map Data from webmap - Christchurch City Council

1.3 Landscape Character

Stanley Park provides a rural and vegetated backdrop to the township of Akaroa. It provides the landscape qualities of the rural hills and creates a physical link between this environment, the waterfront and the township. Stanley Park assists in creating a distinct rural landscape character in Akaroa and helps the town retain its village atmosphere.

Stanley Park has a mix of open space grassland areas that are periodically grazed, along with areas of kānuka forest, and together these create a typical rural Banks Peninsula character for the Park. Additionally, on the majority of its boundaries the Park adjoins land that while zoned residential, is currently both heavily wooded or open pasture, making it appear larger than it is and adding further to the open rural feel of the Park. It has a network of walking tracks throughout, that meander underneath the dense canopy of maturing kānuka forest and then into open grassland areas, that give stunning views over the Akaroa Harbour.

1.4 Manawhenua

Te Rūnanga o Ōnuku represents the collective interests of Ngāi Tahu whānau and hapū that have ancestral links and interests in the Akaroa harbour basin, including the area of Stanley Park. Ngāi Tahu holds manawhenua (traditional authority) as the tangata whenua (people of the land) for this area.

The Local Government Act 2002 requires Councils to take into account the relationship of Māori and their culture and traditions with their ancestral land, water, wāhi tapu, valued flora and fauna, and other taonga.

In preparation of this management plan the relationship of tangata whenua with the Park has been identified and objectives and policies included that recognise the cultural values associated with the Park and surrounding area. There will be an ongoing relationship between the Council, Stanley Park Reserve Management Committee and Te Rūnanga o Ōnuku in the implementation of this management plan.

A priority for Ōnuku Rūnanga in the management of the Park is the protection and restoration of areas of re-generating indigenous bush and forest to provide habitat for native birds and other species. Ngāi Tahu's history and culture is embedded in the landscape of the Akaroa basin and there may be opportunities to reference this in the development of Stanley Park through the development of entranceways, interpretation, use of artwork and appropriate Māori names. The protection and documentation of

Māori archaeological sites is also important to the Rūnanga, and any discovery during earthworks on the reserve needs to be reported to Ōnuku Rūnanga.

1.5 Stanley Park Reserve Management Committee

The Stanley Park Reserve Management Committee has been integral in the preparation of this management plan. The Management Committee has delegations as outlined in the Christchurch City Council Reserve Management Delegations and has a history as outlined in section 6.4 of this document. It is important to acknowledge the work the Stanley Park Management Committee has done to date and to ensure that the joint management and maintenance between Christchurch City Council and the Reserve Management Committee continues effectively into the future so that residents and visitors to Stanley Park continue to enjoy the recreational opportunities Stanley Park has to offer.

2 VISION

Stanley Park is managed to enhance and maintain its open rural landscape and regenerating indigenous forest character, provide opportunities for recreation, restore and encourage diversity in habitat and wildlife, and recognise its cultural heritage.

3 OBJECTIVES AND POLICIES

3.1 Park Character

Objective 3.1 **To maintain and enhance the regenerating indigenous forest and open rural landscape character of Stanley Park, whilst maintaining selected corridors to ensure views of the Akaroa harbour and township.**

Policies 3.1.1 Maintain the current balance between open grassland, open forest and regenerating native bush in Stanley Park by fencing off two designated areas identified for 'Forest Regeneration' with the remaining being 'Grassland Areas' and 'Open forest Areas' as shown on the Indicative Development Plan.

3.1.2 Maintain woody vegetation so that it does not hinder the views from key lookout points as identified on the Indicative Development Plan.

3.2 Grassland Management

Objective 3.2 **To manage the grassland areas within Stanley Park, to maintain the Park's open rural landscape character while providing a usable and safe environment for Park users.**

Policies 3.2.1 Develop a 'stock grazing and grass mowing regime' for the on-going maintenance of the 'Grassland Areas'. Over the summer period, maintain the '*Lower Grazing Block*' (below Penlington Place) with mowing as needed to maintain the grassland in a rural pasture height and composition, so that the presence of stock is minimised when Park use increases. Ensure

that public access and recreation is not compromised, maintained year round, and that the grass does not become a fire risk

.

3.2.2 Secure a formal 'Grazing Licence' directly between the Council (the Licensor) and a Grazier (the Licensee), following standard Council practices (*Note that no sub licensing can occur on Stanley Park*). Ensure that stock grazing occurs as set out in the above agreed Stanley Park 'stock grazing and grass mowing regime' and the standard Council Grazing Licence terms and conditions.

3.2.3 Install stock proof gates and water troughs so that the upper, middle and lower parts of the Park can be grazed separately and stock access can be achieved from Penlington Place and Watson Street.

3.2.4 Ensure no further encroachment of regenerating native bush kānuka *(Kunzea ericoides)* occurs into the areas designated as 'Grassland Areas'. Remove any plants of kanuka from these designated areas that are less than 50mm in diameter, along with other woody species that establish in the grassland. Larger plants are only to be removed if designated as a pest species or after advice from the Council Arborist and Botanist.

3.2.5 The grassland area immediately surrounding the NIWA weather station is to be maintained indefinitely with the present (2010) exposure conditions for wind and rain, to ensure consistency of weather measurements over time. The area around the weather station should be regarded as an exclusion zone for any vegetation that is considered to potentially compromise weather readings. The exclusion zone should be in accordance with the weather station clearway requirements, being the space above one vertical metre for every four horizontal metres beyond the perimeter fence *(note that in this case "horizontal" refers to the general slope of the land).* Monitor the exclusion zone by taking regular 'photos points' to document the growth of vegetation.

3.2.6 The unformed legal road located in the 'Upper Block' is to be managed as part of the grassland areas of the Park, until such time as it becomes a formed road.

3.2.7 Assess and control the impact of erosion on Stanley Park. Identify areas susceptible to erosion, or at risk of future erosion, and determine control methods in liaison with Council Asset and Network Planning (Greenspace) staff.

3.2.8 No open fires shall be lit anywhere in the area covered by this management plan.

3.3 Forest and Vegetation Management

Objective 3.3 **To manage and enhance the existing vegetation, including regenerating indigenous forest in Stanley Park to enhance the Park's rural landscape character, while providing a usable and safe environment for Park users.**

Policies

3.3.1 Develop a 'Forest Maintenance Programme' for the 'Forested Areas'. Areas in native forest will be designated as 'Regeneration Forest Areas', of which there are two such areas which are fenced, and 'Open Forest Areas' that are not fenced and have unimpeded stock and public access. That programme includes monitoring and identifies any on-going maintenance required.

Note: The two fenced 'Regeneration Forest Areas" are to be allowed to regenerate naturally with supplemented native plantings where considered necessary. The 'Open Forest Areas' (comprising mostly kanuka in the lower block and mixed broadleaf forest in the upper block) are to be maintained for high public usage without fencing. Therefore stock will have access to these areas, and it is expected that stock grazing will limit native vegetation regeneration. They will therefore require monitoring on a five-yearly basis, and if the forest canopy is considered to be compromised, action to exclude stock may be necessary.

3.3.2 Monitor the health and safety of large trees according to the Christchurch City Council Tree Policy (currently being developed and yet to be adopted). Any tree that poses an immediate risk to public safety shall be isolated by an appropriate barrier and warning signs pending removal and replacement of these trees. Tree removal should occur as soon as possible, with consideration to protecting any establishing native understory species.

3.3.3 Where any tree in the area covered by this management plan is identified as a risk to public safety due to the state of that tree, required maintenance work shall be undertaken or the tree removed in order to mitigate this risk. All tree maintenance and pruning is to be in accordance with accepted arboriculture standards, practices and procedures, and approved by the Council Arborist.

3.3.4 Vegetation maintenance is to be undertaken to ensure that walking tracks are unobstructed by vegetation and deadwood and follow Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) principles.

3.3.5 The felling of any tree is to only be undertaken with the approval of the Council Arborist, and in accordance with accepted Council arboricultural practices.

3.3.6 Any exotic or non-local native tree species that self establishes and/or considered a pest/invasive species will have all wildling saplings removed.

3.3.7 Monitor and control re-growth from the existing Blue Gum stumps in the lower Park adjacent to the boundary of the unformed Julius Place legal road. The control method is to be agreed with the Council Arborist.

3.3.8 Monitor and control pest plant species as listed in the Christchurch City Council Operational Pest Plan. Control and manage the native climber Pohuehue (*Muehlenbeckia australis*) wherever this is smothering trees along forest margins. Remove plants that are hazardous to health such as blackberry (*Rubus fruticosus* agg.) and tree nettle (*Urtica ferox*) where these plants are considered to be a problem.

3.3.9 Develop a Tree Planting Programme for selective additional complementary planting of New Zealand indigenous forest species that are

found growing naturally in the Akaroa harbour basin, for under the canopy of existing 'Regeneration Forest Areas B and D' (refer to Indicative Management Plan). This will improve indigenous biodiversity, habitat and tangata whenua values while enhancing the natural succession process of the 'Regeneration Forest Areas'.

3.3.10 New native revegetation plantings are to be made along the Park boundaries as generally shown on the Stanley Park Indicative Development Plan, including the northern Park boundary adjacent the unformed Julius Place road. Native plantings are required to ensure the area is visually attractive, reflects tangata whenua values, provides a feeding resource for native birds, controls invasive plant species and reduces erosion.

3.3.11 All existing mature tree specimens are only to be removed for tree health and/or safety risk reasons. Felling of trees is to be undertaken by Council Arborists and their appointed contactors. Trees should be felled in sections and the limbs lowered to the ground to prevent unnecessary damage to surrounding trees and vegetation.

3.3.12 When significant existing mature exotic specimen trees are removed, they shall be replaced with the same or similar species.

3.3.13 New plantings (native and approved exotics) are to be made in the designated area adjacent to Beach Road and alongside Julius Place, as shown on the Indicative Development Plan, to provide food for native birds, to control invasive exotic plant species and reduce the spread of these species into the Park, and to ensure the area is visually attractive. There is an opportunity to include exotic species in this designated location to provide food sources for native birds in a highly visible site, and to strengthen the historic planting of Red Gums on Beach Road. Discuss this Beach Road planting with the Council's Heritage Planner, Ōnuku Rūnanga, and the Akaroa Design and Appearance Committee to ensure that it is in keeping with the Akaroa Historic Area registration requirements, reflects tangata whenua values and the Akaroa village setting.

Note: Exotic species should not include those that are going to become a problem through self spreading.

3.4 Tangata Whenua

Objective 3.4 **To recognise, protect and restore tangata whenua values in the management of Stanley Park.**

Policies 3.4.1 Consult with Te Rūnanga o Ōnuku about appropriate ways of recognising and providing for tangata whenua values, including protecting and restoring indigenous forest areas, provision for sustainable mahinga kai collection (through appropriate planting) and through the use of interpretation, artwork and appropriate Māori names.

3.5 Habitat and Biodiversity

Objective 3.5 **To enhance and protect a range of habitats within Stanley Park to support indigenous flora and fauna.**

Policies 3.5.1 Encourage planting and maintain native, and where indicated exotic, plant species that provide food (nectar, fruit, and/or seed) and nesting opportunities for native bird species.

3.5.2 Encourage and create habitat diversity within the forested areas by retaining understorey vegetation and selected deadwood from windfall, where appropriate, to provide a range of invertebrate habitat.

3.5.3 Monitor pest animals within the Park, including those listed in the Christchurch City Council Operational Pest Plan. Carry out a programme of control as necessary, as approved by the Council Area Contract Manager and the Stanley Park Reserve Management Committee.

3.6 Walking Tracks

Objective 3.6 **To enhance and maintain the walking track network in Stanley Park, to provide a clear hierarchy of safe and well formed tracks.**

Policies 3.6.1 Upgrade and re-align the existing walking track from the Beach Road Main Entrance to the 'Beach Road Lookout' (above the Akaroa Fire Station).

3.6.2 Identify and develop to form a main walking track from the 'Beach Road Lookout' to the Watson Street entrance.

3.6.3 All walking tracks other than those referred to in Policies 3.6.1 and 3.6.2 are to be developed and maintained as secondary tracks.

Note: Due to the uncertainty of the timing of the neighbouring development adjacent to Julius Place an interim secondary track, clearly signposted , through Regeneration Forest Area B needs to be investigated as it is overgrown and difficult to navigate.

3.6.4 Walking tracks located within the 'Open Grassland Areas' are to be bare-earth/grass tracks unless a different surface is required for safety reasons, with timber markers to indicate track location. Markers should only be used where necessary so as not to detract from the Parks rural landscape character or setting.

3.6.5 Develop new walking tracks from Julius Place and the north eastern end of Beach Road, after the road has been formed.

3.6.6 Structures that facilitate access e.g. bridges and steps are to be repaired and replaced as required. All structures are to be in keeping with the rural landscape character, and be developed so that they require a low level of maintenance.

3.6.7 Keep all walking tracks as natural and low maintenance as possible, by using natural materials that are where possible locally sourced, in a manner in keeping with the Park's rural landscape character.

3.6.8 Where required, establish groundcover planting in areas of bare earth alongside walking tracks to reduce the scouring of rain and surface water erosion and to help collect leaf litter.

3.6.9 Maintain all walking tracks, so that they are usable, safe to walk along and physically unobstructed by vegetation.

3.6.10 Mountain bikes, horses and motorcycles are not allowed on the tracks, or in the Park.

3.7 Entrances and Access

Objective 3.7 **To enhance the entrances to Stanley Park to encourage public awareness of, and access to, the Park.**

Policies 3.7.1 Develop a main pedestrian entrance to the Park from Beach Road, with consideration to the existing setting, including the current stonewall, and noting that it is within the Akaroa Historic Area as registered with the New Zealand Historic Places Trust. Include low planting, a main Park sign.

3.7.2 Design all other secondary pedestrian entrances with a clear, defined and consistent style that reflects the informal rural landscape character of Stanley Park. Entrances are to include a Park name sign, low planting, and a 'kissing gate' to improve access.

3.7.3 New secondary pedestrian entrances from Julius Place and the north eastern end of Beach Road are to be developed, after the road has been formed and the neighbouring subdivision has been completed. These should be in keeping with the other Park entrances and link into the walking track network.

3.7.4 Provide and maintain public access, year round into the open grassland areas by 'kissing gates' and stock proof gates.

3.7.5 Investigate universal access to the flat knoll below Penlington Place, considering 'kissing gate' or similar.

3.7.6 Maintain vehicle access for maintenance and emergency vehicles only from Penlington Place and Watson Street entrances.

3.7.7 Provide two informal car park spaces at the Penlington Place entrance, informally located and not to comprise pedestrian access.

3.7.8 No camping, (meaning to reside in or sleep in a structure, tent, caravan or campervan) shall be allowed within Stanley Park, in accordance with the Parks and Reserves Camping Bylaw 2008.

3.7.9 The dog control classification for Stanley Park, shall be in accordance with the Council's Dog Control Policy 2008, which states that dogs shall be

'Under Effective Control'[1], which means dogs must be under effective control at all times but do not necessarily need to be leashed, within the Park.

3.8 Signage and Interpretation

Objective 3.8 **To develop and install signage and interpretation in Stanley Park to increase public awareness of the Park and surrounding environment.**

Policies 3.8.1 Develop and install new signage that identifies Stanley Park as a public recreation reserve at all Stanley Park entrances. These signs should be easily visible, clear and consistent.

3.8.2 Develop a new sign for the Beach Road main entrance. Include key information, such as a Park map with the entrances, walking times, distances and directions and a clear indication of the Park's scope and recreation opportunities.

3.8.3 Design and install 'directional signage' at significant points and intersections along the walking tracks to assist navigation throughout the Park. These signs should be small scale, but remain clear and consistent.

3.8.4 Investigate, develop and install interpretative panels (or interpretation art /sculpture installations) in Stanley Park, which could provide information about the history of the Park's name, vegetation, surrounding landforms and the weather station, in accordance with the Christchurch City Council Artworks in Public Places Policy and in liaison with Council Heritage Staff, including Akaroa Museum staff.

3.8.5 All signage and interpretation should be designed in a manner that reflects the informal rural landscape character of Stanley Park, in accordance with the Christchurch City Council Signage Policy (currently in development) and after referral to the Akaroa Design and Appearance Advisory Committee for comment.

3.8.6 Liaise with the private property owners, to locate directional signage, from Rue Noyer Entrance. Signs should be accordance with the 'Deed of Licence' terms and conditions.[2]

3.9 Park Furniture and Structures

Objective 3.9 **To provide usable park furniture and structures, to enhance the recreation experience and to facilitate access for Park users.**

Policies 3.9.1 Investigate, design and develop three lookout areas, 'Beach Road Lookout', 'Julius Place Lookout' and 'High View Lookout'. These will have seating to take advantage of the views available, while not

[1] "Under Effective Control" definition as per the Dog Control Policy 2008 (Page 6)_- dogs are able to access these areas, however the dogs must be under continuous and effective control by voice, signal or leash by a person capable of controlling that dog at all times.

[2] A Deed of Licence dated, 1 January 2005 is in place on private property for, the purpose to allow the public use of the walkway for recreational purposes for a period of 10 years.

compromising the Park's rural landscape character, significant vegetation and ridgelines.

3.9.2 Install appropriate seating and picnic tables, in key locations to take advantage of the views available and the shade and shelter provided by large specimen trees, without compromising the ridgelines or openness of the Park. Seating locations to be agreed on site with Council staff and the Stanley Park Reserve Management Committee.

3.9.3 Develop the 'Oak Tree Glade' seating/reflection area around the large specimen oak tree (*Quercus* sp). Incorporate seating and low planting that does not impact on the health of the oak tree and surrounding vegetation.

3.9.4 Design all park furniture and structures (including lookout points, picnic tables, seating, signs, 'kissing gates', fences, barriers, steps and marker posts) in a manner that is robust and a simple rural style, appropriate to the Akaroa village setting. Where possible, use natural materials that are locally sourced, and position furniture and structures so that they have minimal visual impact on the Park's rural landscape character.

3.9.5 Establish Stanley Park as a rubbish free park by not providing rubbish bins within the Park. Visitors are expected to take all their rubbish with them.

3.9.6 Where possible all utility services should be placed underground, where they will not restrict or damage the health of existing vegetation. In the case of a request for any above ground utilities, they will be subject to Council approval.

3.10 Boundaries and Fences

Objective 3.10 **To enhance and maintain the Park boundaries to provide a secure and visually attractive, vegetated edge to the Park.**

Policies 3.10.1 Maintain a vegetated perimeter to the Park. Particular regard will be given to sections of the Park boundary where solid boundary fences and built features dominate. Ensure new perimeter vegetation blends into the existing kānuka forest areas, using local native vegetation of a similar colour and structure.

3.10.2 Upgrade and replace the Park boundary fences as necessary, to enable continual stock grazing, following the requirements of the Fencing Act 1978.

Note: that the Fencing Act 1978 requires that neighbouring properties are obliged to contribute equally to the cost of an adequate fence.

3.10.3 Develop possible pedestrian entrances, boundary fences/retaining walls and planting as required along the Julius Place Park boundary once the road has been constructed.

3.10.4 In the north-western corner rationalise the Park boundary to reflect the current land occupation and to maintain public access to Stanley Park, Walnut Stream and the existing Council owned land behind the Gaiety

Hall, in liaison with the private property owner and the Akaroa Fire Station (Fire Service Commission).

3.11 Heritage Values

Objective 3.11 **To acknowledge, protect and enhance the social, botanical and cultural heritage of Stanley Park.**

Policies **3.11.1** The Beach Road main entrance is to be designed in consultation with the Council's Heritage Planner, NZ Historic Places Trust and the Akaroa Design and Appearance Committee to ensure that it is in keeping with the Akaroa Historic Area registration requirements and takes into consideration the Akaroa Streetscape Report. Ōnuku Rūnanga should also be consulted with respect to opportunities to recognise the identity of manawhenua in the design of this entrance.

3.11.2 Retain and protect items and features of historic, social or cultural value where possible *(for example the 1940 centennial celebration installation of red gum trees, low rock wall and inscribed culvert, note this is located on road Reserve land).* This work is to be undertaken using appropriate conservation methods and guided by the ICOMOS NZ Charter.

3.11.3 Where items and features of historic, social or cultural value are required to be removed as they are beyond repair (for example red gums reach senescence), where possible their replacements should be of a type and design that ensures heritage values are maintained to the fullest extent possible.

3.11.4 Liaise with the New Zealand Historic Places Trust, Akaroa Civic Trust, Ōnuku Rūnanga, and Council's Heritage Planner regarding any proposed heritage interpretation signage.

3.11.5 Wherever unearthing of materials is likely to occur, liaise with the New Zealand Historic Places Trust before commencing any earthworks. Such earthworks shall include fencing, landscaping, road or walkway formation and liaison is to determine whether or not an archaeological authority is required under the Historic Places Act 1993.[3]

3.11.6 If anything of an archaeological nature (for example shells, building foundations, accumulations of glass, bottles, metal or china, charcoal-stained soil, fire-cracked stones, artefacts or kōiwi/human remains) is encountered during any programmes of work such as excavations, fencing or track formation, immediately cease work and then contact the New Zealand Historic Places Trust and Ōnuku Rūnanga.

3.12 Wider Connections

Objective 3.12 **To maintain and improve current and future walkway connections from Stanley Park to other parks and reserves within Akaroa.**

Policies **3.12.1** Continue to renew the Deed of Licence for the public walkway, located on private land from Rue Noyer to Stanley Park. Maintain and develop the

[3] An archaeological authority is a legal requirement under the Historic Places Act 1993. See link to NZHPT website for more information http://www.historic.org.nz/ProtectingOurHeritage/Archaeology/LegalAuthorities.aspx

public walkway as determined in the terms and conditions of the Licence agreement.

Note: The current Deed of Licence, is due to expire on 1 Jan 2015.

3.12.2 Continue discussions with adjacent private land owners to encourage future connections from Stanley Park to other parks and open spaces within the Akaroa township. In particular access to Misty Peaks Reserve and Selwyn Avenue to the nearby Hutchinson Reserve.

3.13 Stanley Park Reserve Management Committee and Ongoing Management

Objective 3.13 **To continue the joint management and maintenance of Stanley Park, so it will continue to be a well maintained and usable public space for residents and visitors to Akaroa.**

Policies 3.13.1 Continue the management arrangement between the Council and the Stanley Park Reserve Management Committee, where by the Committee has delegations to:

1. *Administer and manage the Park.*
2. *Provide open space facilities for the community to use.*
3. *Ensure the Park is safe for all users.*
4. *Work in accordance with Reserves Act 1977, this management plan, and the powers delegated to the Reserve Committee by the Council. Refer to Section 6.4 Reserve Management, for a summary of Reserve Management Committee delegations.*

3.13.2 The Stanley Park Reserve Management Committee will work in conjunction with Council staff for the ongoing management of the Park.

3.13.3 Encourage the voluntary assistance of individuals and community groups that aligns with maintenance and planting programmes for the Park. Any voluntary work is to be undertaken in coordination with the Stanley Park Reserve Management Committee and the Council.

3.14 Park Name

Objective 3.14 **To formally name the whole area covered by this management plan as Stanley Park.**

Policies 3.14.1 Follow the process contained in the Council's 'Naming of Reserves and Facilities Policy' to formalise the name of all the land that is referred to as Stanley Park as covered by this management plan as 'Stanley Park'.

3.15 By-Laws

Objective 3.15 **To regulate use of the Park through the Council's by-laws.**

Policies 3.15.1 Regulate and manage the Park in accordance with relevant statutory and legal requirements, Christchurch City Council by-laws and policy. Relevant by-laws include the:

- Christchurch City Parks and Reserves Bylaw 2008

- Christchurch City Traffic and Parking Bylaw 2008
- Christchurch City Public Places Bylaw 2008

3.16 Management Plan Review

Objective 3.16 **To ensure that the management plan remains a valuable guiding document for Stanley Park Reserve Management Committee, the public and Council.**

Policies 3.16.1 Keep this management plan under continuous review in accordance with Section 41(4) of the Reserves Act 1977.

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4 ISSUES

4.1 Introduction

The following issues were identified through consultation feedback from the community, public submissions, a public meeting, and during site visits by Council staff. On-going issues were also raised and discussed with the Stanley Park Reserve Management Committee. Many of the objectives and policies have been written to deal specifically with the identified issues, while others are simple tools to guide good management of the Park. This section discusses the main issues that the management plan resolves.

4.2 Park Character

Throughout the consultation process a strong desire was expressed to maintain the current character and open rural nature of Stanley Park. Regenerating native kānuka *(Kunzea ericoides)* has been self seeding into the open grassed areas, reducing the area of open grassland. These grassed areas are a defining characteristic of the Park and create the rural landscape character that is highly valued by the community, hence it is not desirable to lose or change the current balance between the forested and open grass areas.

There is general support for native regeneration to be restricted to the areas defined by the current tree line, and for native forest plantings not to encroach any further into the open grassland areas. In order to ease the management of both the forest and grassland areas, it is suggested that the most densely forested areas are designated and fenced to protect the vegetation from grazing stock and enable future regeneration. This will also limit the expansion of forest into the open grassland areas and assist in protecting the spectacular views available from within the Park.

Generally, there is strong support for retaining the native vegetation with a small number of exotic trees, and for planting to encourage native birds. Currently the Park has only a limited number of exotic trees, including a mature oak, copper beech, and a few silver birches. There is also red gum trees located on the legal road reserve land (along Beach Road), which is outside the Park's legal boundary. Hence the plan aims to retain the current mix of predominant vegetation, being the native kānuka forest, balanced with areas of open grasslands and the small number of exotic specimen trees. The plan identifies that the when exotic specimen trees are removed, due to health and/or safety reasons, they will be replaced with the same or similar species, and that the native forest areas are to be maintained, and enhanced with selective new native planting. There was also the desire to retain the Park as an area for recreation, such as walking, dog exercising and picnicking.

4.3 Park and Vegetation Management

In general, a higher standard of overall maintenance is desired for Stanley Park. Due to its fairly informal management in the past, at times the grassland areas of the Park become rank and there can be a build-up of fallen branches and brush, all of which create a potential fire hazard. The dense vegetation also makes it more difficult to find your way around the Park, highlighting the need for appropriate signage.

On the lower block below Penlington Place there was strong support to see the kanuka forest area, indicated as 'Open Forest Area A' on the indicative development plan, to remain unfenced and to allow light grazing to continue through this area. Additionally there was strong support to see the fenced forested area indicated as 'Regeneration Forest Area B' on the indicative development plan to remain fenced and to plant selected native species that are found naturally growing in the Akaroa Harbour Basin area. There was also strong support for native and exotic species to be planted along the perimeter of the Park adjacent to Julius Place to stabilise the bank, reduce erosion and weed invasion, and to provide food for native birds. There was also concern in this area that pathways are overgrown and that they are not easily navigated. There is concern that there needs to be an interim measure to upgrade one secondary track through this area that is clearly signposted until such times as this area is developed following the proposed neighbouring property development.

The upper block is generally steep and also covered with over-mature kanuka forest. Again there is support to fence off a small area in the top section of the Park as indicated as 'Regeneration Forest Area D' on the indicative management plan, while leaving 'Open Forest Area C' unfenced to allow light grazing in this area.

General feedback was that the community did not want to see all the forested areas fenced as this would compromise the recreational aspects of the park, in particular the open rural characteristic and feel of the park along with having a negative effect on the views from the park.

While there is strong support for the 'Open Forested Areas' to remain unfenced and allow light grazing, these areas will need to be regularly assessed to determine their future structure and composition. If outcomes are unfavourable, vegetation management changes may need to be undertaken.

The above vegetation management highlights the requirement for a formalised grazing regime to keep the grass length under control, along with secure fencing to enable the separation of the upper and lower Park blocks for stock grazing. Additionally, the relatively flat area near below Penlington Place area should be mowed over the higher use, summer period to enhance its use as a picnic area and ensure that visitor use is not comprised or limited by stock grazing.

The spread of juvenile kānuka will need to be monitored on an ongoing basis, and spreading plants, saplings, self seeding woody specimens will need to be removed from the open grassland areas to maintain the current balance between grassland and forest. However, larger trees around the fence edges will be left to provide shade for Park users and to soften the transition between the two distinct vegetation types. While the regenerating native bush will largely look after itself, a planting programme should be developed to assist the succession of the kānuka forest and to help increase the biodiversity of the 'Regeneration Forest Areas'.

In the areas not designated for forest regeneration, fallen branches and brush will need to be periodically removed to minimise the fire risk and keep the walking tracks clear. The Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) assessment recommended

opening up areas of vegetation to extend sightlines and eliminate entrapment spots, especially adjacent to the walkways, wherever possible. Ongoing control of pest plants will be required, while an erosion control programme should also be developed for the stabilisation of susceptible areas, particularly along the earth bank above the Fire Station.

4.4 Walking Tracks

There was strong community support for upgrading the walking track network and a desire to keep the tracks low maintenance and as natural as possible so there would be minimal impact on the Park's rural landscape character.

Currently, the tracks are essentially unformed, tending to be either bare earth or a worn grass track through long grass, and having very steep grades in places. They are also very narrow in other places. Dense vegetation and grass tend to grow over the tracks at times, making it hard to navigate if unfamiliar with the Park and creating potential entrapment spots. The main walking track from the Beach Road entrance is generally indistinguishable from the secondary track network and a hierarchy should be established between the tracks. There are wooden steps that are in need of replacement near the main Beach Road entrance, and redundant concrete steps that need to be removed or considered in any entrance design should it be identified they are of historical significance. In the upper Park earth steps have been cut, but not retained with any reinforcement.

The *Akaroa Walking Routes* report noted the need to update the walking tracks in Stanley Park. The report recommended creating a pedestrian access track from the town centre to Penlington Place and Watson Street by replacing the current track with a gentler gradient, along with improving the other tracks. This was mirrored by the CPTED assessment of Stanley Park, which recommended enhancing the walking track network, including some widening and regrading, and providing a clear hierarchy of tracks.

This management plan proposes that the current walking track network be upgraded, creating a clear hierarchy of tracks (refer to the Department of Conservation Track Categories[4]) with appropriate finishes and treatments in keeping with the rural setting. It is noted that some realignment is required to maximise the opportunities for views over the harbour and to provide more suitable gradients. On-going and regular walking track maintenance will be required.

There have been some mixed views regarding the provision of tracks for mountain biking, although it seems that the area is too small to warrant any significant mountain bike tracks. As a result this plan proposes that mountain biking, along with horse riding and motorcycling is not allowed in Stanley Park.

[4] Refer to: http://www.doc.govt.nz/parks-and-recreation/plan-and-prepare/safety/recreation-facilities-and-services/track-categories/

4.5 Entrances and Access

Stanley Park has a number of entrances, but the majority are unclear, poorly landscaped and have little useful signage. While these are known to the local community, they are not very apparent to visitors. The main entrance from Beach Road gives no indication of the scope of the Park or the walkway links and recreation opportunities the Park provides. The CPTED assessment also notes poorly defined entrances and exits to the Park that are not always visible, and recommends enhancing all the entrances.

As a result, all the entrances into Stanley Park are to be upgraded, and there is strong community support for this. The entrances need to be more visible, and designed to reflect the informal rural landscape character of the Park. The existing stiles currently limit access into the park and will be replaced with 'kissing gates' to improve access. At the Penlington Place entrance, there is a need to investigate universal access and dedicated car parking, as neither of these are currently provided. The main entrance at Beach Road needs particular consideration, to create an entrance statement for both the local community and visitors. It should also acknowledge that Stanley Park is within the Akaroa Historic Area and be designed to reflect this historic character.

4.6 Signage and Interpretation

There is strong community support for upgrading the signage throughout Stanley Park. The current signage is very basic, giving little indication the area is a Park, and there is no indication of the recreational opportunities the Park contains or of the walking tracks and distances. The *Akaroa Walking Routes* report states that new signage is required for Stanley Park, including 'trail head' signage at the entrance, and suggests directional signage. The CPTED assessment notes the poor signage throughout Stanley Park and recommends new signage throughout that is clear and consistent and provides key information, including a map showing the main entrances and walking times/distances.

There is also no signage within the Park informing visitors of its history or site features. There is the opportunity for the discreet inclusion of interpretation at key locations within the Park to enhance the recreational and educational experience of visitors to the Park. Interpretation could include the history and naming of the Park, vegetation, surrounding landforms and the weather station.

4.7 Park Furniture

There are currently no formal seating or lookout points in Stanley Park, but the consultation identified strong community support for some park furniture. In particular, there was a desire for seating to take advantage of the views, and for picnic tables. Stanley Park could be greatly enhanced with the provision of some park furniture, giving opportunities to sit, rest, and to enjoy the views and bird song.

All furniture (for example gates, seats, steps, fences and rails) and structures should be designed with a simple rural style, appropriate to the Akaroa Village setting. Items should be low in maintenance requirements and positioned in such a way to have a minimal intrusion on the open rural landscape character of the Park.

It is proposed to develop the area behind the existing timber fence above the Fire Station as 'Beach Road Lookout'. Here there is the opportunity to view the harbour and Glen Bay, and to provide seating. Other possibilities include the development of a lookout area on the ridge above Julius Place, and a lookout area at the very top of the Park. The development of a seating/reflection area around the large specimen oak tree located by the Julius Place boundary is also suggested.

Rubbish bins were also suggested, particularly if a picnic area was established. However Council preference is for rubbish free parks, so rubbish bins will not be provided. The possibility of a toilet was also raised, although ultimately deemed unnecessary for Stanley Park, due to the Park's proximity to the town centre.

4.8 Park Boundaries

Stanley Park provides a sense of isolation and separation from the surrounding township, which is maintained largely by its vegetated perimeter. However, a number of boundary treatments could be improved to protect this valued aspect of the Park's character, although care should be taken not to block the views from neighbouring properties. It should be noted that some of the large trees that are aligned with the upper boundary are not within the Park's boundary. All boundary fences need to be safe and secure to enable stock grazing, and that the cost of boundary fencing is shared 50/50 with neighbouring property owners under the Fencing Act 1978.

A subdivision is planned immediately adjacent to the lower north eastern boundary on the old Akaroa Junior School site. The development includes the formation of the unformed legal road (Julius Place) between the Park and the subdivision site. This land has appeared to be part of the Park and contributed significantly to its appearance and perceived size, however it is legal road designated for the purposes and construction of the future road.

Although this development has yet to proceed, it has necessitated the removal of a number of very large mature blue gums from the Park that were deemed unsafe and near the end of their expected life span. This has left an area along the north eastern boundary in need of some revegetation planting. Consideration needs to be taken when identifying the areas for revegetation along this boundary, as significant sized retaining walls and boundary treatments will be required along Julius Place. Therefore, it is recommended that no significant planting or development occurs along this boundary until Julius Place is formed and the boundary treatments are discussed further with the developer.

There is concern from residents however that as the Regeneration Forest Area B is not being developed until after the road is formed that the tracks have become overgrown with weeds, are difficult to navigate and are dangerous to walk through. It is important as an immediate measure to provide clear signage that this area is not suitable for walking, and investigate an interim measure to identify one pathway through this area with clear directional signage and upgraded to secondary track standard, particularly as there are now more visitors to the area with the increase in cruise ship visitors.

This boundary between the subdivision, Julius Place and the Park will need careful treatment to ensure that it is in keeping with the Park's rural landscape character. New vegetation will need to be established amongst the existing kānuka forest, and local materials used for any retaining walls and other structures, while any safety concerns regarding the retaining walls and access will need to be considered as part of the detailed design.

At the north western Park boundary the neighbouring private property currently occupies an area of Stanley Park. The Park boundary at this location extends out to Beach Road in a narrow strip. This land is also adjacent Council owned property behind the Gaiety Hall and Walnut Stream, which is piped under Beach Road. It is important to retain Council and public access to Stanley Park, Beach Road, the Fire station site, the existing Council land and access to Walnut Stream. It is recommended that discussions are held between the private property owner to rationalise boundary alignment.

4.9 Tangata whenua

To date Ngāi Tahu have had little involvement in the management of the Park. This management plan identifies Te Rūnanga o Ōnuku as representing the tangata whenua and kaitiaki, and has objectives and policies that seek to recognise and provide for tangata whenua cultural values. It is envisaged that as the Rūnanga increase their capacity over time, they may want more involvement in the management and use of the Park than is contemplated here. This possibility for increased involvement should be considered when the management plan is reviewed.

4.10 Heritage Values

Stanley Park is part of the Akaroa Historic Area, as registered with the New Zealand Historic Places Trust (NZHPT) under the Historic Places Act 1993, Register Number 7443. These registrations are an identification and recognition tool, to inform the public about New Zealand's heritage places and assist in the protection of these, although do not create any specific protection or legal obligations. The Akaroa Historic Area encapsulates the character and form of Akaroa and is identified as an area with significant historic character worthy of protection.

Additionally, given the early settlement of Akaroa, it is possible that there may be archaeological material present in the Park, in which case the archaeological provisions of the Historic Places Act will apply. As a result, if any earthworks are to be undertaken in the Park, they may be subject to a consent process under the Historic Places Act. In the planning stage for any such works listed in this management plan, the NZHPT should be contacted to determine whether or not consent is required.

4.11 Wider Connections

There is the potential to develop links from Stanley Park to other neighbouring open space areas in Akaroa. This is consistent with the Christchurch City Council Draft Public Open Space Strategy 2010-2040, which identifies the importance of future connections between open spaces and parks in the township, and the creation of a track network to link these areas. As identified in this draft strategy, there is the potential to create a link from Stanley Park to Misty Peaks Reserve using the existing unformed legal roads that lead from Stanley Park (across privately owned farmland). However, there needs to be discussion and consultation with the private land owners first to investigate the possibility of securing this access for the future.

There is a current Deed of Licence for the walkway from Stanley Park to Rue Noyer. This should be maintained and the Deed renewed when the existing licence expires in January 2015. Public access to Selwyn Avenue is not currently secured, and should be investigated further, as there is the potential to create a link from Selwyn Avenue to the nearby Hutchinson Reserve, as identified in the Draft Public Open Space Strategy.

Although these above potential wider connections and negotiations fall outside of the scope of this management plan, it is worth identifying their potential for future use and their incorporation on the Stanley Park signage map.

4.12 Park Name

There has been some confusion as to the extent and naming of Stanley Park. This relates particularly to the corridor between Penlington Place and Watson Street, which has been known locally as both Bercusson Reserve and/or Watson Reserve. During the consultation phase there was strong support to name the entire area (as identified within this management plan) as Stanley Park. As of January 2010, this land has now been formally classified as Recreation Reserve and it is proposed, as part of this management plan process, that the correct naming of Stanley Park is formalised.

4.13 Stopping of the Legal Road

There is an unformed legal road, known as Rue Chabonniere that passes through the upper north-east corner of Stanley Park and links to unformed legal roads above the existing Park boundary. Some members of the public have requested that the road be stopped and incorporated into the Park, while others would like the road to remain. There has been considerable discussion around this, and due to the requirement for emergency access (particularly for fire appliances) to the land above and the potential for future links to the other unformed legal roads, it is proposed that this section of legal road remains. It is proposed to be managed as part of the Park, until such time it is required as a formed road.

5 INDICATIVE DEVELOPMENT PLAN

LONG TERM PLAN DISCLAIMER
No project recommended on the Indicative Development Plan will be implemented unless the expenditure is provided for in a future Council Long Term Plans, or sourced externally.

The management plan sets out objectives and policies for on-going management of Stanley Park. The Indicative Development Plan and the Project Indicative Costings Table below should be read together, as they identify possible projects to achieve these objectives and policies. They will also be used to identify significant expenditure items that Council may consider providing for in a future Long Term Council Plans.

It is important to understand that approval by the Council of this management plan as the operative plan does not constitute a commitment by the Council to implement any of these projects, but that each proposed project will be considered and prioritised alongside other possible Council projects. The priorities column provides an indication of the relative priority of each project. Indicative costs represent a rough order of costs only and include concept and detailed design fees.

5.1 Project Indicative Costings Table (July 2013) for the Indicative Development Plan

Project	*Description*	*Indicative Cost*	*Indicative Priority*
FENCING			
Forest Area Fencing	Upper block - Fence off Area D designated for forest regeneration and protection from stock grazing.	$5,800	First 2014-2016
Boundary Fencing	Upgrade/replace Park boundaries (as necessary) to enable secure stock grazing.	$15,420 (cost shared 50/50 by Council and neighbouring landowners)	First 2014-2016

Project	*Description*	*Indicative Cost*	*Indicative Priority*
REVEGETATION /NEW PLANTING			
Specimen Tree and 'Forest Areas' Maintenance	Develop the Forest Maintenance Programme, monitoring the health and safety of trees and identifying on-going maintenance (includes the management of blue gum stump re-growth).	Trees that pose a risk to health and safety will be removed and replaced. All other tree works will occur when budgets are made available.	First 2014-2016
Beach Road Planting	Plant vegetation at the Beach Road entrance to control invasive plant species and visually enhance the area and heritage plantings.	$15,000	First 2014-2016
Corridor/Boundary Planting	Plant native vegetation along the Park boundaries, as shown on the Indicative Development Plan and between Penlington Place and Watson Street. (Areas to be fenced and protected from stock).	$15,000	Second
Fire Station Bank	Plant native vegetation to stabilise the earth bank above the Fire Station.	$4,000	Second
Julius Place	Plant native and exotic vegetation to complement the existing kānuka forest, and provide food for native birds along the Julius Place boundary.	$7,500 Extent of works subject to formation of the new road and neighbouring subdivision.	First – subject to formation of new road and neighbouring subdivision.
Selective planting in 'Forest Regeneration Areas' 'B' and 'D'	Plant complementary indigenous native species within the designated and fenced forest areas. This includes developing a Tree Planting Programme.	$35,000	Third

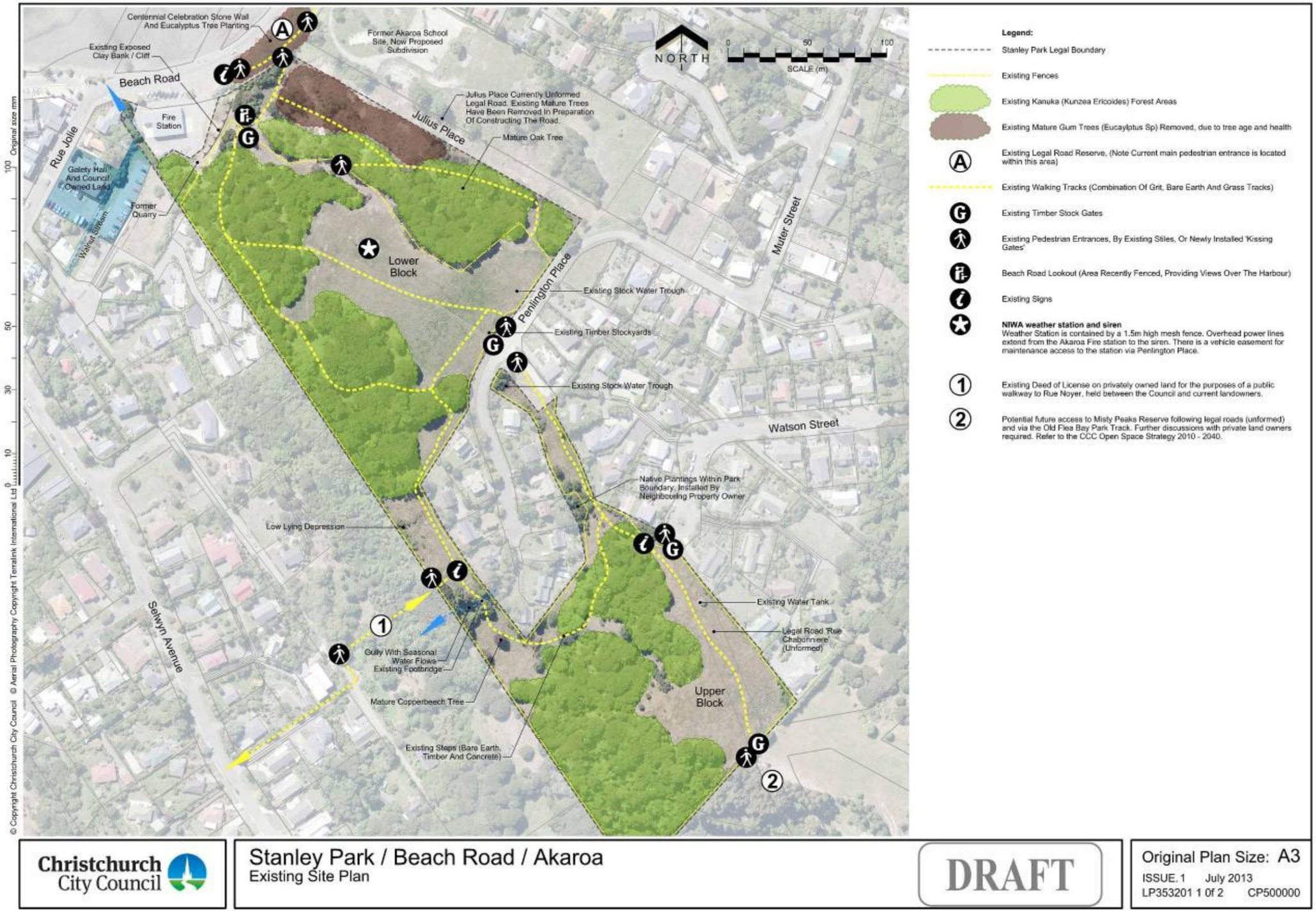
Project	*Description*	*Indicative Cost*	*Indicative Priority*
ENTRANCES			
Beach Road Feature (Main) Entrance and Beach Road frontage enhancement	Design and develop the Beach Road entrance as the main pedestrian entrance to Stanley Park. Include new plantings, new steps to a landing/ information point, stone wall and retaining structures as needed. Enhance frontage and track from left hand side entrance of Beach Road.	$175,000	First 2014-2016
Penlington Place Entrances (*North and South*)	Enhance pedestrian entrances, with low groundcover planting, remove existing stiles and replace with 'kissing' gates to match existing.	$20,000	Second
Watson Street Entrance	Develop the Watson Street entrance, with a 'kissing' gate, remove the existing stile and relocate the associated fencing as required.	$20,000	First 2014-2016
Selwyn Avenue/Rue Noyer	Enhance entrance, remove the existing stile and replace with a 'kissing' gate to match existing, upgrade steps as necessary.	$5,000	First 2014-2016
Julius Place	Develop new entrances to Stanley Park from Julius Place.	$40,000	Third (subject to formation of the new road and neighbouring subdivision)

Project	*Description*	*Indicative Cost*	*Indicative Priority*
WALKING TRACKS			
Beach Road Lookout Track	Upgrade the walking track from Beach Road to the 'Beach Road Lookout'. Allow for track realignment and regrading to improve access and grades	$40,000	First 2014-2016
Main Walking Track	Upgrade necessary sections of the main walking track from the 'Beach Road Lookout' to the Watson Street entrance.	$35,000	Second
Secondary Walking Tracks	Investigate interim secondary walking track through Regeneration Forest Area B	$5,000	First 2014-2016
	Develop all remaining tracks as secondary walking tracks.	$25,000	Second
	Julius Place: Develop new walking tracks from Julius Place to link with the existing walking track network.	$12,000	Third (subject to formation of the new road and neighbouring subdivision).
LOOKOUT AREAS			
'Beach Road Lookout'	Enhance the 'Beach Road Lookout' area above the Fire Station (behind the existing fence), incorporate seating.	$10,000	First 2014-2016
'Julius Place Lookout'	Investigate and develop 'Julius Place Lookout' on the ridge located above Julius Place.	$20,000	Third
'High View Lookout'	Develop 'High View Lookout' with seating, a low stone wall (possible interpretation at this location).	$40,000	Third

Project	*Description*	*Indicative Cost*	*Indicative Priority*
SIGNAGE/INTERPRETATION			
Beach Road Main Park Sign	Provide one main information sign at the Beach Road entrance, including a map, walking track times/distances.	$25,000	First 2014-2016
Entrance Signage	Design and install new Park Name signage that is clear and consistent, at all other Park entrances	$25,000	Second
Directional Signage	Design and install directional signage at significant points/intersections in the Park.	$7,000	Second
Interpretation	Investigate methods for interpretation and information (including artworks/sculpture) regarding the naming, vegetation, landform and weather station. Design and locate appropriate interpretation at selected viewing points in the Park.	$20,000	Third
PARK FURNITURE			
Seating and Tables	Install one picnic table near Penlington Place and new seating at appropriate sites.	$15,000	Second
Oak Tree 'Glade'	Develop the area around the large oak tree, with seating and planting to create a shady seating/ reflection area.	$10,000	Third
Stock Grazing Structures	Install gates and water trough so that the upper and lower blocks of the Park can be grazed separately. (water trough costs subject to location of water source)	$15,000 (allowance for 1 trough and 2 stock proof gates)	First 2014-2016

5.2 Stanley Park Existing Site Plan, July 2013

5.3 Stanley Park Indicative Development Plan, July 2013


Centennial Celebration Stone Wall And Eucalyptus Tree Planting
Existing Exposed Clay Bank / Cliff
Beach Road
Fire Station
Rue Jolie
Galety Hall And Council Owned Land
Walnut Stream
Former Quarry
Former Akaroa School Site, Now Proposed Subdivision
Julius Place Currently Unformed Legal Road. Existing Mature Trees Have Been Removed In Preparation Of Constructing The Road.
Julius Place
Mature Oak Tree
Lower Block
Penlington Place
Existing Stock Water Trough
Existing Timber Stockyards
Existing Stock Water Trough
Muter Street
Watson Street
Native Plantings Within Park Boundary, Installed By Neighbouring Property Owner
Low Lying Depression
Selwyn Avenue
Gully With Seasonal Water Flows
Existing Footbridge
Mature Copperbeech Tree
Existing Steps (Bare Earth, Timber And Concrete)
Existing Water Tank
Legal Road 'Rue Chabonnere' (Unformed)
Upper Block
NORTH
0 50 100
SCALE (m)
Original size mm
100 50 30 10 0
© Copyright Christchurch City Council © Aerial Photography Copyright Terralink International Ltd
Legend:
Stanley Park Legal Boundary
Existing Fences
Existing Kanuka (Kunzea Ericoides) Forest Areas
Existing Mature Gum Trees (Eucaylptus Sp) Removed, due to tree age and health
Existing Legal Road Reserve, (Note Current main pedestrian entrance is located within this area)
Existing Walking Tracks (Combination Of Grit, Bare Earth And Grass Tracks)
Existing Timber Stock Gates
Existing Pedestrian Entrances, By Existing Stiles, Or Newly Installed 'Kissing Gates'
Beach Road Lookout (Area Recently Fenced, Providing Views Over The Harbour)
Existing Signs
NIWA weather station and siren
Weather Station is contained by a 1.5m high mesh fence. Overhead power lines extend from the Akaroa Fire station to the siren. There is a vehicle easement for maintenance access to the station via Penlington Place.
Existing Deed of License on privately owned land for the purposes of a public walkway to Rue Noyer, held between the Council and current landowners.
Potential future access to Misty Peaks Reserve following legal roads (unformed) and via the Old Flea Bay Park Track. Further discussions with private land owners required. Refer to the CCC Open Space Strategy 2010 - 2040.
Christchurch City Council
Stanley Park / Beach Road / Akaroa
Existing Site Plan
DRAFT
Original Plan Size: A3
ISSUE. 1 July 2013
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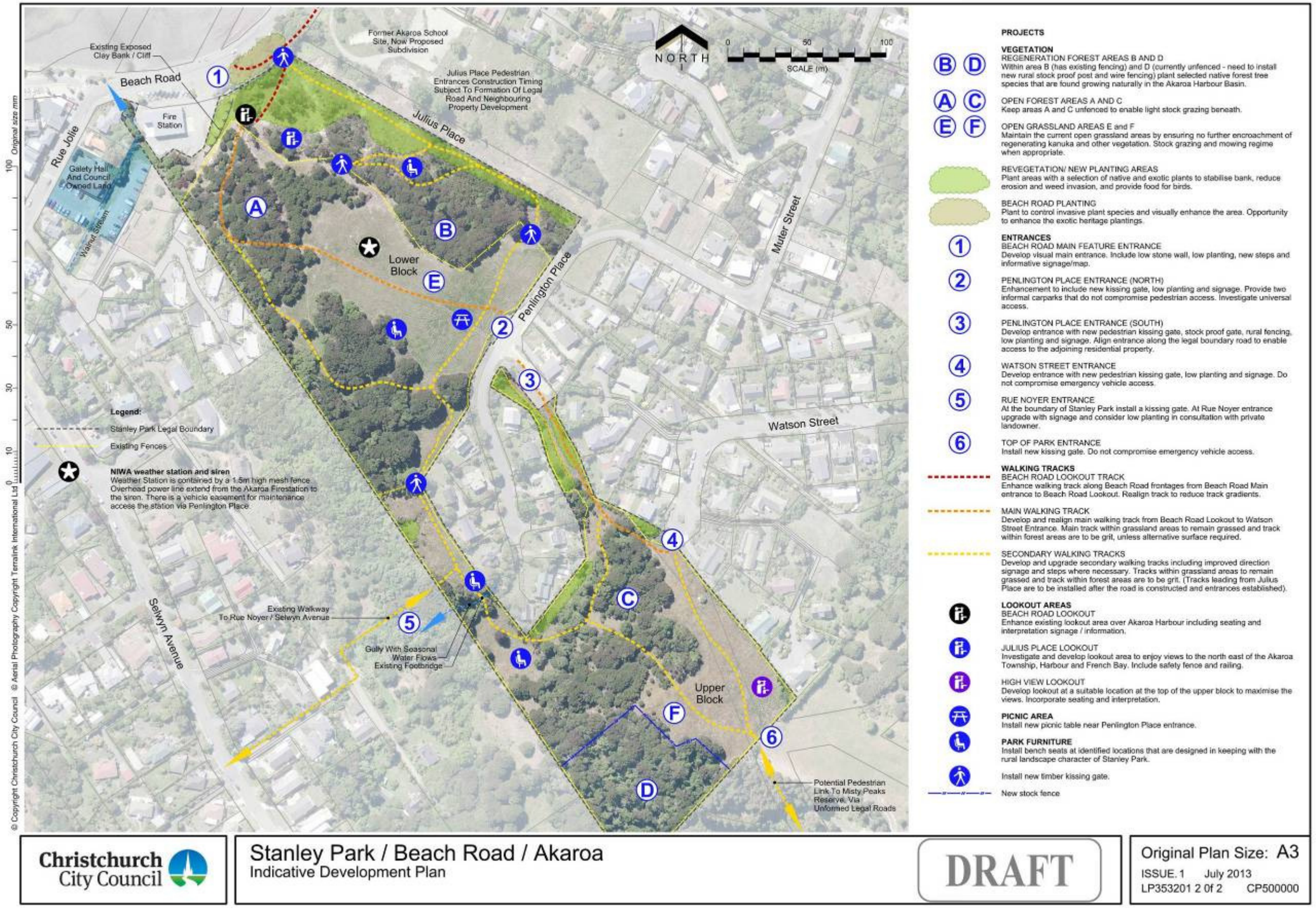
Existing Exposed Clay Bank / Cliff
Beach Road
Fire Station
Rue Jolie
Galety Hall And Council Owned Land
Walnut Stream
Former Akaroa School Site, Now Proposed Subdivision
Julius Place Pedestrian Entrances Construction Timing Subject To Formation Of Legal Road And Neighbouring Property Development
Julius Place
NORTH
0 50 100
SCALE (m)
Lower Block
Penlington Place
Muter Street
Watson Street
Legend:
Stanley Park Legal Boundary
Existing Fences
NIWA weather station and siren
Weather Station is contained by a 1.5m high mesh fence. Overhead power line extend from the Akaroa Firestation to the siren. There is a vehicle easement for maintenance access the station via Penlington Place.
Selwyn Avenue
Existing Walkway To Rue Noyer / Selwyn Avenue
Gully With Seasonal Water Flows Existing Footbridge
Upper Block
Potential Pedestrian Link To Misty Peaks Reserve, Via Unformed Legal Roads
Original size mm
100 50 30 10 0
© Copyright Christchurch City Council © Aerial Photography Copyright Terralink International Ltd
PROJECTS
VEGETATION
B D REGENERATION FOREST AREAS B AND D
Within area B (has existing fencing) and D (currently unfenced - need to install new rural stock proof post and wire fencing) plant selected native forest tree species that are found growing naturally in the Akaroa Harbour Basin.
A C OPEN FOREST AREAS A AND C
Keep areas A and C unfenced to enable light stock grazing beneath.
E F OPEN GRASSLAND AREAS E and F
Maintain the current open grassland areas by ensuring no further encroachment of regenerating kanuka and other vegetation. Stock grazing and mowing regime when appropriate.
REVEGETATION/ NEW PLANTING AREAS
Plant areas with a selection of native and exotic plants to stabilise bank, reduce erosion and weed invasion, and provide food for birds.
BEACH ROAD PLANTING
Plant to control invasive plant species and visually enhance the area. Opportunity to enhance the exotic heritage plantings.
ENTRANCES
1 BEACH ROAD MAIN FEATURE ENTRANCE
Develop visual main entrance. Include low stone wall, low planting, new steps and informative signage/map.
2 PENLINGTON PLACE ENTRANCE (NORTH)
Enhancement to include new kissing gate, low planting and signage. Provide two informal carparks that do not compromise pedestrian access. Investigate universal access.
3 PENLINGTON PLACE ENTRANCE (SOUTH)
Develop entrance with new pedestrian kissing gate, stock proof gate, rural fencing, low planting and signage. Align entrance along the legal boundary road to enable access to the adjoining residential property.
4 WATSON STREET ENTRANCE
Develop entrance with new pedestrian kissing gate, low planting and signage. Do not compromise emergency vehicle access.
5 RUE NOYER ENTRANCE
At the boundary of Stanley Park install a kissing gate. At Rue Noyer entrance upgrade with signage and consider low planting in consultation with private landowner.
6 TOP OF PARK ENTRANCE
Install new kissing gate. Do not compromise emergency vehicle access.
WALKING TRACKS
BEACH ROAD LOOKOUT TRACK
Enhance walking track along Beach Road frontages from Beach Road Main entrance to Beach Road Lookout. Realign track to reduce track gradients.
MAIN WALKING TRACK
Develop and realign main walking track from Beach Road Lookout to Watson Street Entrance. Main track within grassland areas to remain grassed and track within forest areas are to be grit, unless alternative surface required.
SECONDARY WALKING TRACKS
Develop and upgrade secondary walking tracks including improved direction signage and steps where necessary. Tracks within grassland areas to remain grassed and track within forest areas are to be grit. (Tracks leading from Julius Place are to be installed after the road is constructed and entrances established).
LOOKOUT AREAS
BEACH ROAD LOOKOUT
Enhance existing lookout area over Akaroa Harbour including seating and interpretation signage / information.
JULIUS PLACE LOOKOUT
Investigate and develop lookout area to enjoy views to the north east of the Akaroa Township, Harbour and French Bay. Include safety fence and railing.
HIGH VIEW LOOKOUT
Develop lookout at a suitable location at the top of the upper block to maximise the views. Incorporate seating and interpretation.
PICNIC AREA
Install new picnic table near Penlington Place entrance.
PARK FURNITURE
Install bench seats at identified locations that are designed in keeping with the rural landscape character of Stanley Park.
Install new timber kissing gate.
New stock fence
Christchurch City Council
Stanley Park / Beach Road / Akaroa
Indicative Development Plan
DRAFT
Original Plan Size: A3
ISSUE. 1 July 2013
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6 RESOURCE INFORMATION

6.1 Purpose of the Park

The Reserves Act 1977 requires that parks and reserves be classified according to their principal purpose. This does not mean that they are managed exclusively for this purpose, but rather that this is the "principal purpose". Stanley Park is classified as a Recreation Reserve, as defined by Section 17(1) of the Reserves Act 1977.

Therefore, the Park is to be managed as a Recreation Reserve:

For the purpose of providing areas for the recreation and sporting activities and the physical welfare and enjoyment of the public, and for the protection of the natural environment and beauty of the countryside, with emphasis on the retention of open spaces and on outdoor recreational activities, including recreational tracks in the countryside.

Other provisions (under Section 17(2) of the Act) include:

(a) The public shall have freedom of entry and access to the park, subject to the specific powers conferred on the administering body by sections 53 and 54 of the Reserves Act.

(b) Where scenic, historic, archaeological, biological, geological, or other scientific features or indigenous flora or fauna or wildlife are present in the park, those features or that flora or fauna or wildlife shall be managed and protected to the extent compatible with the principal or primary purpose of the park.

(c) Those qualities of the park which contribute to the pleasantness, harmony, and cohesion of the natural environment and to the better use and enjoyment of the park shall be conserved.

(d) To the extent compatible with the principal or primary purpose of the park, its value as a soil, water, and forest conservation area shall be maintained.

6.2 Land Tenure and Classification

The land parcels that make up Stanley Park, as covered by this management plan, are listed in the table below and shown on the Land Parcels and Gazette Info Plan overleaf. As at January 2010, all the land parcels have been classified as Recreation Reserve under the Reserves Act 1977 and together total an area of 6.997 hectares including the unformed legal road.

Legend	Lot	Area	Gazette Notice/ Certificate of Title	Classification
1	Pt Lot 1 DP 2869	6.4229ha	NZ Gazette 2007 p 1409. CB256/15	Recreation Reserve
2	Lot 13 DP 34118	0.0383ha	CB13F/1088	
3	RS 41483 District of Canterbury	0.0249ha	NZ Gazette 2010, p 190. Formerly legal road	
4	Lot 16 DP 34118	0.0873ha	CB13F/1089	
5	Lot 10 DP 44882	0.0967ha	No title	
6	Lot 8 DP 44882	0.0143ha	Formerly legal road	
7	Lot 2 DP 344385	0.1431ha	NZ Gazette 2010, p 190	
8		0.1695	Legal Road (Unformed)	Legal Road (Unformed)

Legal Road (unformed)

There is an unformed legal road that passes through the upper block of Stanley Park, linking to other unformed legal roads above the Park. This is not reserve land or subject to the Reserves Act, but it is covered by the scope of this Management Plan and is to be managed as part of the Park until such time as it becomes a formed road.

Registrations

Stanley Park is included in the Akaroa Historic Area which is registered (Register Number 7443) with the New Zealand Historic Places Trust under the Historic Places Act 1993. The Historic Area encapsulates the character and form of Akaroa. It is also identified in the Banks Peninsula District Plan as an area with significant historic character worthy of protection.

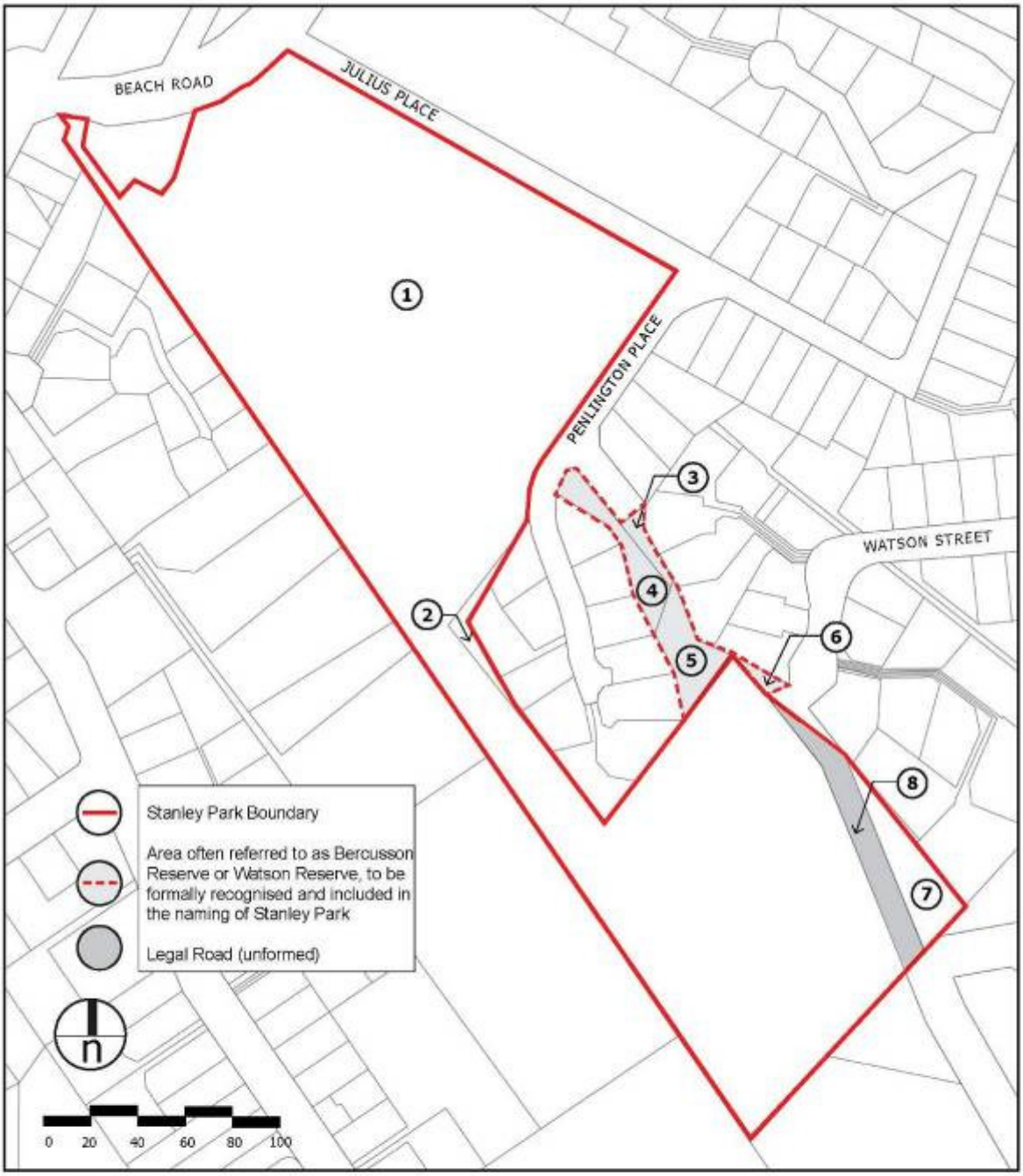
Existing Easements

In March 2008 approval was granted for an easement in Stanley Park to provide for a meteorological weather station and an associated right of way for access over Lot 2 DP 2869 and contained in Certificate of Title CB256/15. This was subsequently established in cooperation with the National Institute of Water and Atmosphere (NIWA), with an automated full weather station with a six metre anemometer mast in a ten by ten metre fenced enclosure situated immediately above the Fire Siren. The area around the weather station is an exclusion zone for any large vegetation, in accordance with the weather station clearway requirements.

There are also underground easements for services (for example stormwater) through the Park. The water tank is situated on legal road so does not require an easement under the Local Government Act.

Adjacent Walkways

There is a public walkway from Stanley Park to Selwyn Avenue and Rue Noyer, located on private land. This public walkway is formalised through a Deed of License first established on 18 August 1993 for a term of ten years, the purpose of which was to allow the public use of the walkway for recreational purposes. The Deed has since been re-established on 1 January 2005 for a further ten years and sets out terms and conditions for use and developments.



LEGEND

1. PT LOT 1 DP 2869, 6.4229ha
   Classified Recreation Reserve
2. LOT 13 DP34118, 0.0383ha
   Classified Recreation Reserve
3. RS 41483 (SO15515) 0.0249ha
   Classified Recreation Reserve
   NZ Gazette Notice No: 391, 21/01/2010
4. Lot 16 DP 34118, 0.0873ha
   Classified Recreation Reserve
5. Lot 10 DP 44882, 0.0967ha
   Classified Recreation Reserve
6. Lot 8 DP 44882, 0.0143ha
   Classified Recreation Reserve
7. Lot 2 DP 344385, 0.1431ha
   Classified Recreation Reserve
   NZ Gazette Notice
   No: 391, 21/01/2010, PG 190
8. Legal Road, (unformed) referred to as 'Rue Chabonniere', approx. 0.1695ha

NB: Stanley Park is part of the Akaroa Historic Area, Register Number 7443, which is registered with the New Zealand Historic Places Trust (NZHPT) under the Historic Places Act 1993

Stanley Park | Beach Road | Akaroa
Land Parcels and Gazette Info Plan

JULY 2010
| 1 2500 @ A4 | Rev A

Map Data from webmap - Christchurch City Council

6.3 Zoning

Stanley Park is zoned Recreational Reserve in the Banks Peninsula District Plan. It is surrounded largely by land zoned 'Residential', with portions of 'Akaroa Hill Slopes' zoned land around the upper boundaries, where development is restricted to protect the character of the township. There is also 'Rural' zoned land directly above the Park and a portion of 'Town Centre' zoned land along Beach Road.

6.4 Reserve Management

With the Banks Peninsula District Council's (BPDC) inception in 1989, this Council obtained the responsibility for Stanley Park and held the land in fee simple. Despite the Park not being a classified reserve at that time, it was perceived by the community to be a public park and it was minimally managed by this Council.

In 2004 BPDC Council agreed that Stanley Park should be formally classified as a reserve and, upon recommendation, the Akaroa/Wairewa Community Board approved and appointed a community based Reserve Management Committee. This followed a process of public advertisement and approval, with the appointees including neighbouring residents who responded to the advertisement, a Community Board member and a Councillor. The Committee was responsible for developing a Stanley Park Concept Management Plan, and implementing this to manage and develop the Park.

With the Banks Peninsula District Council's amalgamation with the Christchurch City Council in March 2006, the management of the Park now resides with the Christchurch City Council. As a result the Council, in conjunction with the Stanley Park Reserve Management Committee has prepared this management plan for Stanley Park. The Reserve Committee, under the authority given by the Council, will remain responsible for the day to day management and maintenance of the Park as per the delegations listed below:

For further reference please refer to C*ouncil's Delegations to Community Boards, and the RMC delegations [EXTRACT]* from the joint report by the Chairmen of the Akaroa-Wairewa Community Board and Lyttelton-Mt Herbert Community Board August 2007.

"The BPDC RMCs generally have the following delegations (as outlined in the various Reserve Management Plans):

1. *Powers under the Reserve Management Plans to administer and manage the reserves. The elected committee is to be made up representatives from the community, domiciled sports clubs and community facilities groups.*

2. *Powers to manage the reserve and provide open space facilities for the community and clubs in the locality to use.*
   This includes:
   - *Provision and maintenance of sports grounds. Maintain sports turf and different code requirements such as lighting and provision of sports goal posts.*
   - *Provision and maintenance of passive areas for recreation including activities such as walking and picnicking.*
   - *Control and eradication of pest plants and animals.*
   - *Tree maintenance including felling or removing any trees dead diseased or dying.*
   - *Providing park furniture such as seating, picnic tables, fences and signs.*

- *Maintain vegetation.*
- *Control certain activities on the reserve to protect the reserve and users.*
- *Allocate areas of the reserve for clubs and organisations to operate.*
- *Provide areas for driveways and car parking.*
- *Maintain any buildings on the reserve.*
- *Hire halls and buildings to the public. This does not include buildings owned by clubs and other organisations such as preschool groups.*
- *Maintain toilets and assist in developing new facilities.*

3. *Health and safety ensuring the reserves are safe for all visitors and all buildings and structures are maintained in a safe condition. The committee must keep a hazard register to eliminate, isolate, or minimise any hazards identified.*

4. *Reserves are to be managed under the Reserves Act 1977 including leasing, how they should be managed, classification and purpose, and public consultation. The Reserve Committees need to be aware of the legislation and the responsibilities to work within the provisions of the Act and the Management Plans.*

5. *Meet the five key values of the former Banks Peninsula Reserves Strategy being the provision of amenities on the reserves, identify and preserve the values of landscape, culture, heritage, ecology and recreation. Ensure the development of the reserve is sympathetic to other users and the environment and is at an appropriate scale so as to compliment the amenity and other values."*

Further information can be obtained through the Guidelines for Reserve Management Committees, in *the Joint report by the Chairmen of the Akaroa-Wairewa Community Board and Lyttelton-Mt Herbert Community Board August 2007.*

6.5 Physical Description

Stanley Park sits on a narrow spur in central Akaroa, running up from Beach Road along the waterfront to the rural hills above the township. It has an unusual shape, being composed of two roughly rectangular blocks, connected by two narrow corridors.

The topography of Stanley Park contains both gentle and steep slopes, with a relatively level area near Penlington Place. The steeper slopes are generally forested areas dominated by maturing kānuka forest, with the remaining gentle slopes being open grasslands, which are grazed. The Park also contains a few large specimen trees.

The perimeter of the lower Park block is bound by an unformed legal road to the east and bush clad residential land to the west. The upper block is bound by hill slopes and rural land, and these combine to make the Park appear larger than it actually is.

6.6 Soils

The soils of the lower hill slopes around Akaroa tend to be a relatively thick colluvium (loose collection of soils) with a mixture of loess and high fertility volcanic soils. Loess is a free draining sandy loam formed from wind blown volcanic soil particles and it should be noted that loess slopes are easily eroded, particularly when their vegetation cover is removed.

6.7 Climate

The climate data collected between 1979 and 2007 indicates that on average, Akaroa receives almost twice as much rain as Christchurch City, and averages 1,319 millimetres per year. Meteorological Service data records torrents of water emanating from Stanley Park and across Beach Road in 1973[5]. The mean temperatures for Akaroa indicate that, during the summer, the temperatures experienced are similar to temperatures in Christchurch City, while it typically has a slightly warmer winter.

6.8 History

Akaroa is celebrated for its village character, historic associations and unique scenery. Over the years the town has changed somewhat, but it has always retained its scenic village atmosphere. This has been shaped in no small part by Stanley Park on the town's central spur, providing both a backdrop to the town and a recreation space for the people of the Akaroa District.

Akaroa is rich in history. In pre-European times it was a place of Māori settlement based on the rich food resources of the lands and waters of the peninsula. In the early 19th century it became an important centre of trade between Ngāi Tahu and Pākeha. It was in this district that the Ngāti Toa chief, Te Rauparaha, completed his raids on Ngāi Tahu pā with the sacking of Ōnawe in 1832. It was the first of three South Island locations where Ngāi Tahu signed the Treaty of Waitangi in 1840 (signed first at Ōnuku followed by Ōtakou and Ruapuke). Akaroa was also one of the earliest whaling stations in the South Island, and was where the British first demonstrated sovereignty in the South Island in August of 1840.

Like the majority of the Banks Peninsula area, the Akaroa Harbour basin was once heavily forested. However, the native bush was largely cut or burnt down in the 1850s and 60s for the development of farmland. There has been some regeneration of native bush; however, it generally consists of a narrower species range than the original forest vegetation.

The certificate of title for Stanley Park states that the land was originally acquired by the Akaroa Borough Council on 19 December 1887. The area of land vested in the Council then was the same irregular shape as today, with the residential sections above Penlington Place excluded from the Park. This land was one of Akaroa's early parks, dating back prior to 1880.

Since 1887 the land has remained in Council management, being leased out for horse grazing until at least 1939. The land at the base of the Park behind the Fire Station was at one time a stone quarry. But, by 1902 the section below the quarry was occupied by the Akaroa Volunteer Fire Brigade and vested in the New Zealand Fire Service in 1981.

Although previously unnamed, by December 1908 the land was referred to as Stanley Park, named after Captain R.N. Stanley. He was Captain of the H.M.S. Britomart, which was dispatched to Akaroa in 1840 to ensure British sovereignty over the South Island was in evidence before the French colonists arrived. Captain Stanley raised the British flag on 11 August 1840, taking possession of the South Island in the name of the Queen of England. Only a few days later a small group of French colonists arrived and settled in the district.

[5] Extract (Page 98) from *Historical flooding Research and Mapping Project*, *Akaroa Harbour Settlement Study Areas,* Suky Thompson, 2008. Refer to *Insite Report: Stanley Park*, Helen O'Carroll August 2009

It is worth noting that in preparation for the 1940 centennial celebration of the signing of the Treaty of Waitangi, much of Akaroa's public landscape was upgraded. Significant events were inscribed into the fabric of the town, including the Akaroa Beautifying Society's low rock wall immediately below Stanley Park on Beach Road, and its associated plantings of red gums. This is referenced by the simple '1940' inscription on the front of the culvert contained in this wall, which still exists today. Stanley Park is also part of Akaroa's Historic Area (Registration Number 7443), as recognised by the New Zealand Historic Places Trust. This Historic Area was registered on 5 February 1999.

Since the Second World War many of the areas immediately surrounding Stanley Park have been opened up for subdivision. The possible disposal of parts of Stanley Park was an ongoing issue. However, in 2004, after requests by neighbouring property owners to purchase some of the upper parts of Stanley Park, the Akaroa community strongly opposed this and the Park was removed from the Council's Reserve Disposal Schedule.

On 21 July 2004 the Banks Peninsula District Council decided that Stanley Park should be gazetted a reserve. The Akaroa/Waiwera Community Board agreed and, following public notification, Stanley Park was formally declared a Recreation Reserve on 6 October 2004. As of January 2010, Stanley Park is formally classified as a Recreation Reserve – to provide recreation and enjoyment for the public, retention of open space, and to protect the natural environment and beauty of the countryside.

In 2004, at the recommendation of the Banks Peninsula District Council's Property Committee, a community based Reserve Management Committee was appointed for Stanley Park, with the responsibility for its management and development. With the 2006 amalgamation of the Banks Peninsula District Council and the Christchurch City Council the responsibility for the Park now rests with the Christchurch City Council and the Stanley Park Reserve Management Committee.

In 2008 a new subdivision was granted for the old Akaroa Junior school site immediately adjacent to the lower Stanley Park block, including the formation of the legal road between the Park and the subdivision site. Approval was also granted in 2008 for a meteorological weather station and associated easement in the Park. This was established in cooperation with NIWA, situated immediately above the Fire Siren, and provides weather data every ten minutes.

7 POLICY FRAMEWORK

Management of the Park is governed by the Reserves Act 1977, under which the land is held. The contents of the management plan have been guided by the strategies and policies of the Christchurch City Council, within the framework of the LTCCP 2009-19 and the City Plan. The plans, strategies and policies of greatest relevance are listed below:

- City of Christchurch City Plan
- Proposed Banks Peninsula District Plan
- Long Term Council Community Plan (2009-2019)
- Christchurch City Three Year Plan 2013-16
- Christchurch City Council Activity Management Plans and Asset Management Plans
- Christchurch City Council Operational Pest Plan
- Christchurch City Council Rural Fire Authority Fire Plan
- Christchurch City Council Biodiversity Strategy 2008
- Christchurch Active Living Strategy 2004
- Climate Change Policy 1995
- Climate Smart Strategy 2010-2025
- Parks and Waterways Access Policy 2002
- Physical Recreation and Sport Strategy 2002
- Recreation and Sport Policy 1996
- Christchurch City Council Signage Policy
- Christchurch City Council Artworks in Public Places Policy
- Safer Christchurch Strategy 2005
- Christchurch City Council Draft Tree Policy
- Safer Canterbury, Creating Safer Communities Design Guide 2005
- Public Open Space Strategy 2010-2040
- Surface Water Strategy

The following Management Plan was released in 2013 and while it was not available when preparing this reserve management plan it is important to acknowledge here, to ensure it is made reference to in any future implementation of relevant projects identified in the indicative development plan.

- Mahaanui Iwi Management Plan 2013

8 REFERENCES

A number of documents, information sources were reviewed and accessed during the production of the management plan to obtain the historical and technical supporting information. These include:

- *Akaroa Streetscapes Report*, written for Banks Peninsula District Council by Opus International Consultants Limited 2005
- *Akaroa Walking Routes*, Suky Thompson, June 2007.
- *Akaroa Village Walk Series – Explore Akaroa's Bush Backdrop*, Suky Thompson, Akaroa Civic Trust, 2000.
- *Securing Akaroa Walks on Private Land, Stage 1*, Suky Thompson, May 2008,
- *Stanley Park, Akaroa - Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) Report,* Christchurch City Council, November 2008.
- *Akaroa Historical Overview*, John Wilson and Louise Beaumont, June 2009.
- *Akaroa Harbour Basin Settlements Study – Identifying the Issues*, Christchurch City Council, October 2007.
- *Stanley Park Concept Management Plan*, Stanley Park Reserve Committee, 2006.
- *Christchurch City Council Public Open Space Strategy 2010-2040*, Christchurch City Council, 2010.
- *Christchurch City Council Biodiversity Strategy 2008-2035*, Christchurch City Council.
- *Insite Report: Stanley Park*, Helen O'Carroll, August 2009.
- Department of Conservation: Track Categories - Choosing a Track. *http://www.doc.govt.nz/parks-and-recreation/plan-and-prepare/safety/recreation-facilities-and-services/track-categories/*

Any of the above documents can be made available on request.

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Christchurch City Council Project Team Members

Delia Walker	**Project Co-ordinator/ Recreation Planner**
Natalie Hazelwood	**Project Co-ordinator/ Landscape Architect**
John Marsh	**Consultant Architect**
Trevor Partridge	**Botanist**
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Steve Gray	**Capital Project Team**

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