

Stanley Park Reserve Committee

Stanley Park Reserve Triennial Goals & Operational Plan 2026-29

The purpose of this Three Year Plan is to improve the safety, amenity and maintenance of Stanley Park through a combination of new capital works funded by CCC, ongoing CCC maintenance and volunteer working bees over the three year period from January 2026 to December 2028. The Plan does not aim to change Stanley Park or to introduce new features or landscapes to it, but merely to bring the standard of existing facilities to an acceptable level as there have been several nasty accidents in the Park in recent years due to the poor standard of the infrastructure.

Stanley Park is a 6.8 hectare Recreation Reserve in the centre of Akaroa. It stretches from sea level to approximately 120m in altitude, and offers excellent views over the town and the harbour. The terrain is generally steep with some flatter areas. The Park has a mix of open grassland and regenerating kanuka, with some larger trees. There is a network of walking tracks providing access around and through the park, with entrances in the town centre from Beach Road and in the residential areas of Akaroa from Penlington Place and Watson Street. The Park is used extensively by local residents to access the town centre from residential areas and for recreational and dog walking. The connectivity between residential areas and the town centre is therefore important. It is also extensively used by visitors to the town. Grassland in the Park is managed with light sheep grazing, and the rural working farm atmosphere is recognised as part of the Park's unique character. General maintenance, including the mowing of some track sections is carried out by the CCC Community Parks Team based in Duvauchelle.

The Stanley Park Reserve Committee is responsible for the co-management and planning of activities within Stanley Park Reserve. This committee is elected by the local community on a triennial basis to represent community views, thereby providing guidance for management of the reserve by CCC. As stated in the Terms of Reference 2026, the committee shall prepare a Triennial operational plan to identify priorities, goals and a work programme for the three years.

The Plan has been developed by the Stanley Park Reserve Committee under the auspices of the Stanley Park Reserve Management Plan. It builds on the work done in the Park over many years by both CCC and the Committee. In developing this Plan the Committee has conducted group walkabouts in the Park, discussed the proposed works with an experienced local contractor, and approved the concepts of the Plan at its meeting in November 2025.

The focus areas for management within the reserve for the 2023-2026 triennium include:

- Improve public safety on the existing network of walking tracks
- Improve the overall amenity and public access throughout the Park and achieve the Easy Walking track standard to the extent possible given the terrain of the Park
- Continue management of the grassed open areas through light sheep grazing, without damaging improved walking tracks

- Make it easier for Community Parks staff to maintain the Park by providing tracks with a more durable base and by reducing the overall number of tracks
- Maintain views from the tracks and across open grassed areas in the Park
- Secure funding from CCC for the work required, through the various funding streams available, including the Banks Peninsula Reserves Development Fund, the Annual Plan 2026-27 and the next Long Term Plan (2027-37).
- To complete the planned work by the end of December 2028, staging it over a three-year period. Work listed in the Plan is classified as Priority 1,2 or 3, with the aim of completing Priority 1 work by July 2026, Priority 2 work in financial year 2026-27, and Priority 3 work by December 2028.

The purpose of this triennial operational plan is to clarify outcomes and guide priorities for work in Stanley Park. The operational plan is non-statutory, however it serves as guidance for setting budget allocation and planning activities. The plan should be updated annually in line with budgeting for the reserve.

Stanley Park Reserve Goals 2026-2028

Focus Area	Triennial Goals
Pest animals	N/A – dealt with by Pest Free BP
Track development	Principal focus of plan is to upgrade existing tracks to Easy Walk/Walking Track standard
Track maintenance and drainage	All tracks to be maintained in good condition, including monitoring of drainage and improvements if needed
Signage	Signs to be updated as tracks improved due to some minor re-routing and inaccuracies in existing signage
Fencing	Upgrade fencing to be stock proof
Benches	Adding 4 additional plank benches
Fire prevention	Boundaries alongside neighbouring properties kept clear of long grass and debris to a width of 10m.

Stanley Park Reserve Operational Plan 2026-2028				
Focus Area	Targets FY2026	Targets FY2027	Targets FY2028	Aspirational Budget Estimate
Track development	- Bercusson track upgrade - Watson Street entrance track upgrade	- Saddle Hill View track upgrade - French Village track upgrade - Kanuka Poles Track upgrade - Copper Beech track upgrade	- Upper Bush track upgrade - Rue Noyer steps upgrade	\$70,259
Track maintenance	All tracks maintained	All tracks maintained	All tracks maintained	
Signage	Update on track signage	Update on track signage	- Replace entrance sign Beach Road - Add sign at Rue Noyer - Add Interpretation panel at Weather station	\$7,500
Fencing	Repair fence above Watson Street entrance		- Repair boundary fencing - Erect internal fencing around upper bush area	\$19,250
Benches			4 plank benches	\$2,000