

**Christchurch City Council**

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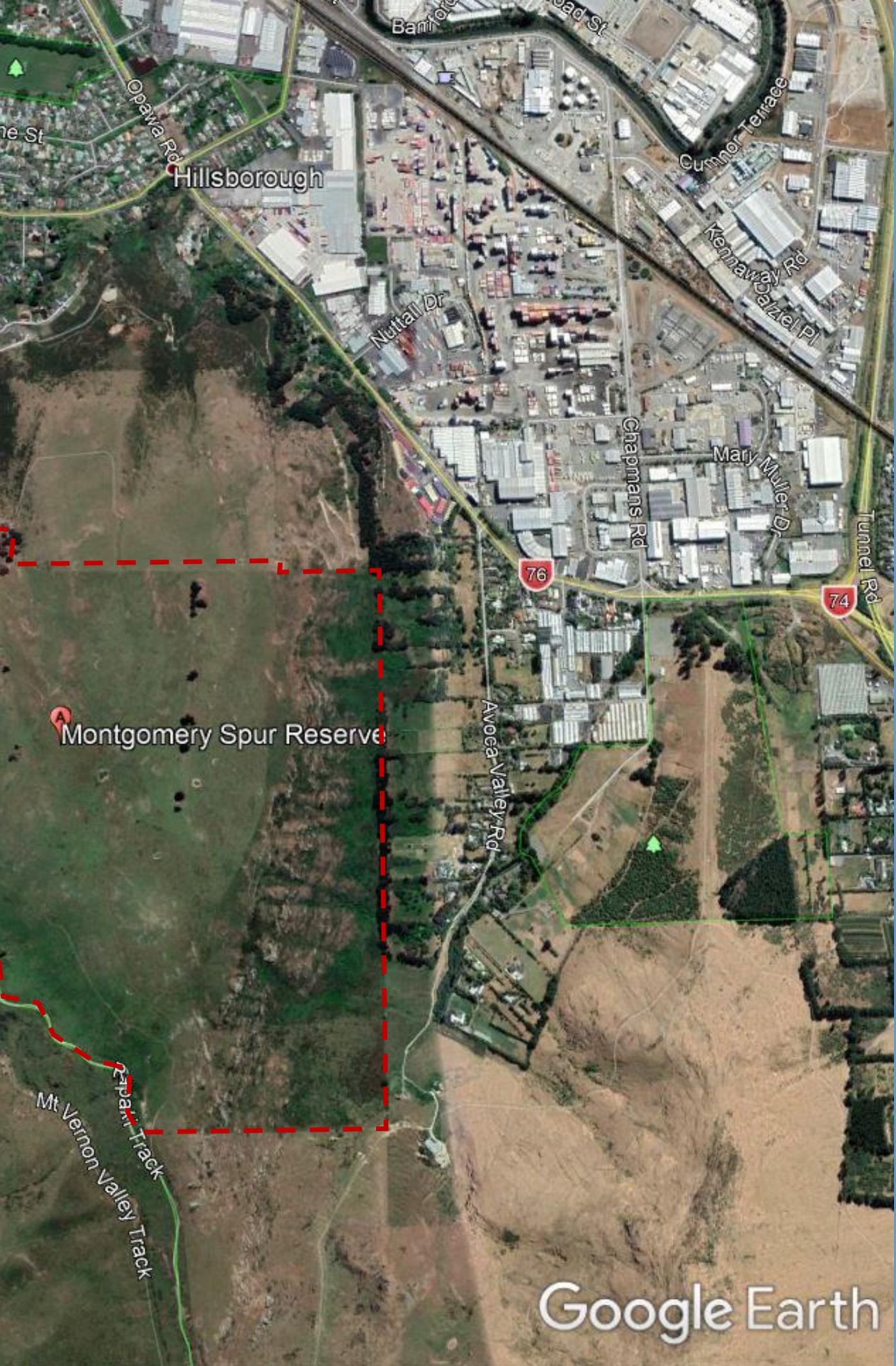
**Montgomery Spur Reserve  
Management Plan  
2010  
(incorporating amendments 13 May 2021)**

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Google Earth

Montgomery Spur Reserve is part of the Port Hills reserve network that the public can enjoy for the purposes of recreation while preserving the ecosystem and landscape value of the Spur. On a clear day, one can view the Southern Alps, Pegasus Bay, the Kaikoura's and the Canterbury Plains from Montgomery Spur Reserves slopes.

The management plan is a requirement under the Reserves Act 1977. A management plan sets out policies and objectives that will show the public how a Local Authority intends to manage a reserve.

Montgomery Spur Reserve is classified as a Scenic Reserve under the Reserves Act 1977, Section 19.

The Council adopted the management plan at its meeting on the 27th May 2010, this then being the operative management plan for Montgomery Spur Reserve.

The Council, at its meeting on 13 May 2021, resolved to approve changes to the management plan including adding reference to a new mountain bike linking track.

## ^ FOREWORD ^



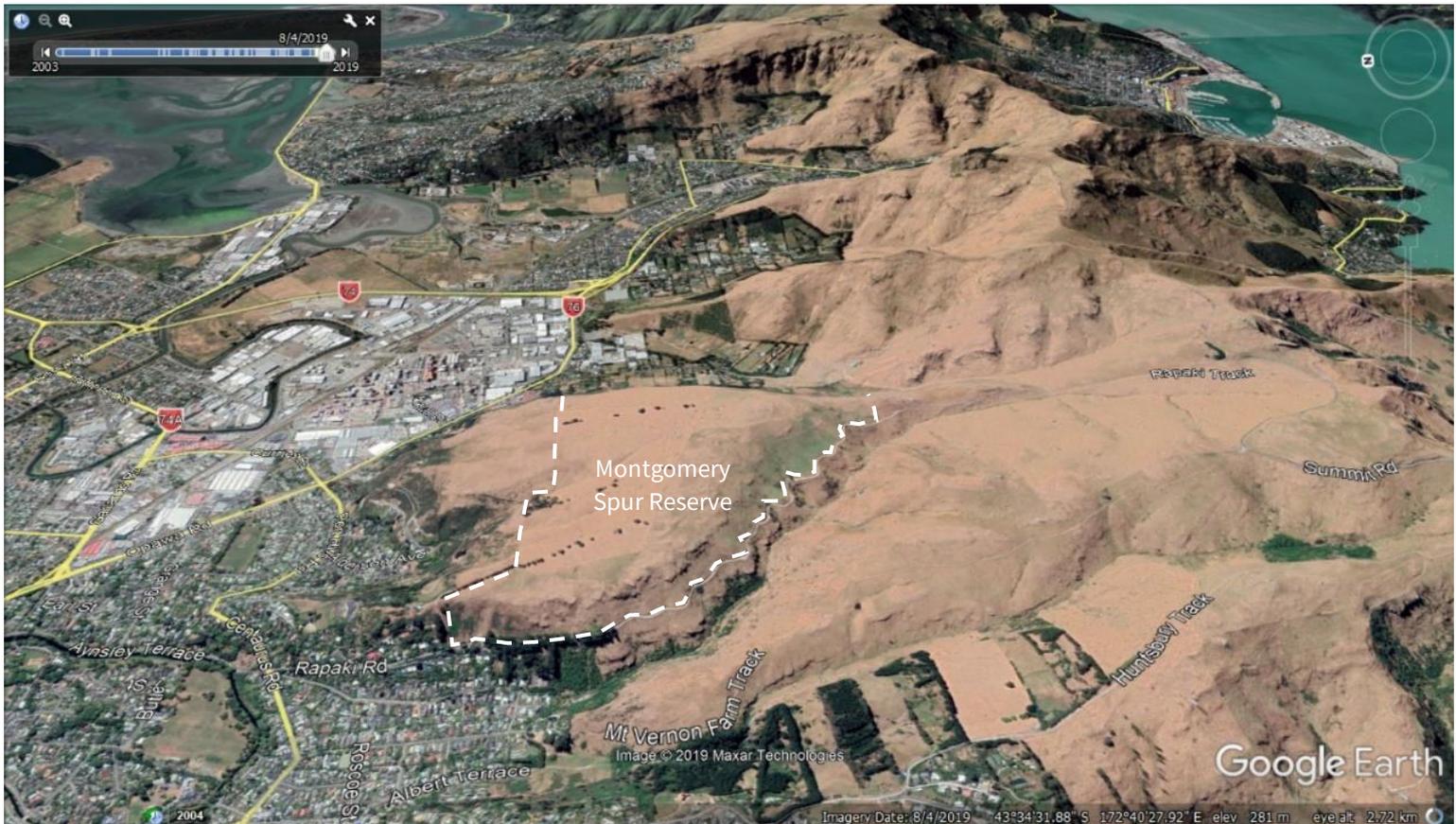
NOTE: Montgomery Spur Reserve boundary (red dashed line) is partly shown and is indicative only.



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NOTE: Montgomery Spur Reserve boundary (white dashed line) indicative only and partly shown.



Montgomery Sp

Data SIO, NOAA, U.S.  
Image Landsa  
Image © 202

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NOTE: Montgomery Spur Reserve boundary (red dashed line) indicative only.



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S. Navy, NGA, GEBCO  
at / Copernicus  
1 TerraMetrics

Google Earth

43°34'06.68" S 172°39'37.50" E elev 9 m eye alt 656 m

## **1 OVERVIEW**

### **1.1 Introducing Montgomery**

In 1927 Montgomery Spur was purchased by John Montgomery, the son of the Honourable William Montgomery. John Montgomery, and then his son Jock, utilised the land for both grazing and seed exportation. John Montgomery unexpectedly passed away in 1946 after succumbing to illness in a very short time. Jock then farmed the land until new owners stepped in during the 1980's. Grazing and stock work was common from this point up to the time of Council's acquisition of the land area.

The name Montgomery Spur was subsequently taken from John Montgomery. Prior to the proposal to develop the land (late 1990's), the name Montgomery Spur had not been widely used. Instead, many people linked the land with the names Glenelg Spur, Murray-Aynsley or Rāpaki.

### **1.2 Introducing Montgomery Spur Reserve**

Montgomery Spur Reserve is a classified Christchurch City Council scenic reserve on the Port Hills. It has a land area of 126.6 hectares and is zoned Open Space Natural in the Christchurch District Plan.

Montgomery Spur Reserve is located at 70 Rāpaki Road, Hillsborough Christchurch, and rises to a maximum height of 285 metres above mean sea level. Montgomery Spur is situated directly east of the Rāpaki Track and offers unobstructed views across the plains and coast. The spur is one of the most notable landscape parcels in Christchurch's backdrop. The area has Mount Vernon Park (Managed by the Mt Vernon Farm Park Trust on behalf of the Port Hills Park Trust Board) to the west and Avoca Valley to the east.

Montgomery Spur Reserve has a relatively easy gradient for walking. In recent years the neighbouring Rāpaki Track has become increasingly popular for its recreational value. It is expected that many who use Rāpaki Track utilise Montgomery Spur Reserve as part of their recreation experience.

The Montgomery Spur Reserve Management Plan is the first occasion such a document has applied to land title Part Lot 1 DP 2855, containing 126.6392 hectares, 25A/1227 Christchurch City Council, Scenic Reserve.

### **1.3 Retention of an outstanding natural landscape**

Montgomery Spur was the focus of much discussion during the application to change the zoning from rural hills to living hills from 1998 – 2003. During this time groups formed and organisations and residents submitted to both the Christchurch City Council and the Environment Court to show their opposition to development on the Spur.

The application sought to develop the Spur into a residential neighbourhood by changing the zoning from Rural Hills to Living Hills. At the time groups had formed to protect the Port Hills from further development. Out of this came a group known as the Friends of Montgomery Spur. Along with this group, the National Council for Women, the Montgomery Spur Heritage Trust, the Summit Road Society and others worked through Resource Consent processes to have the application for the Living Hills zoning to be turned down.

The terms, nationally significant, regional icon and natural outstanding landscape were utilised to describe both the Port Hills and Montgomery Spur through this period. With the decision of both the Christchurch City Council and then the Environment Court to retain the Rural Hills zoning, Montgomery Spur Reserve was then retained as an outstanding natural landscape.

### **1.4 Purpose of the management plan**

The purpose of the management plan is to recognise the values of the reserve, establish a vision for its future, and set management objectives and policies to achieve desired outcomes. The plan has been developed in consultation with the public and follows the process outlined in the Reserves Act 1977.

The Reserves Act 1977 - section 41; 3. outlines the following:

*The management plan shall provide for and ensure the use, enjoyment, maintenance, protection and preservation, as the case may require, and to the extent that the administering body's resources permit, the development, as appropriate, of the reserve for the purposes for which it is classified, and shall incorporate and ensure compliance with the principles set out in section 19 as the case may be, of this Act for a reserve of that classification.*

## **1.5 Ngāi Tahu: Tangata Whenua**

The area of Montgomery Spur Reserve (“the park”) is located within the takiwā of two Christchurch Papatipu Rūnanga - Te Hapū o Ngāti Wheke (Rāpaki) Rūnanga and Te Ngāi Tūāhuriri Rūnanga. In preparation of this Management Plan the relationships held by tangata whenua with the area have been identified and recommendations included to address the values held for the park and the surrounding area, and there will be an ongoing relationship between the Council and the Rūnanga in the implementation of this Management Plan. One of the significant recommendations of the report is for the use of a dual name for Montgomery Spur Reserve. As part of the development of the final plan, Ngāi Tahu will put forward a name to be used alongside Montgomery Spur Reserve. Other recommendations are addressed throughout this Management Plan and will be given effect to in the implementation of this Management Plan.

## **1.6 Rāpaki Track**

The Rāpaki Track is a benched track on legal road running alongside the western boundary of the reserve. It separates the reserve from Mt Vernon Park. The track starts at the end of Rāpaki Road and continues on to the Summit Road, partly through Mt Vernon Park administered land. It is one of the most used recreational areas of the Port Hills, being popular for mountain biking, walking and running. The gradient is ideal for people with low skill and fitness levels.

## **1.7 Historical trail for early settlers in Christchurch and Ngāi Tahu**

A path running down Montgomery Spur provided a link from Lyttelton Harbour through to the Canterbury Plains for Māori and for early European settlers. It was used by Ngāi Tahu when journeying between the Rāpaki settlement and the Kaiapoi settlement. In the 1840s the Deans brothers used it to take stock to their farm at Pūtaringamotu (Riccarton), and it was subsequently used by the early settlers of Christchurch as a route between Lyttelton and the city.

(de Thier 1976 page 170, Ogilvie 1996 pages 42 – 44, Black Maps),  
(<http://www.ccc.govt.nz/Parks/TheEnvironment/blackmap.pdf>).

## 1.8 Mt Vernon Park

Mt Vernon Park is privately owned by the Port Hills Park Trust Board who have set up the Mt Vernon Farm Park Trust to manage the area. The land lies to the west of Montgomery Spur Reserve. The Trust has a management plan much like this document with a list of objectives and policies by which they manage Mt Vernon Park. Thanks to the efforts of the Trust, the public can now access many areas of the Port Hills while utilising Mt Vernon Park.

The Christchurch City Council urges the public to be aware and to respect the rules that the Trust has in place when accessing Mt Vernon from Rāpaki Track and Montgomery Spur Reserve. A copy of the Mt Vernon Park Management Plan can be found at the Christchurch Central City Library.



Looking at the Mt Vernon Park car park from Rāpaki Track.

## 2 VISION

To maintain an open tussock landscape on Montgomery Spur Reserve through rural management that offers a recreational link to neighbouring areas of park land and scenic benefit to the public from either the Spur itself or as a backdrop to the city.

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## 3 OBJECTIVES & POLICIES

### 3.1 Land management objective:

**The open space character, silver tussock, rock outcrop vegetation, matagouri and sheep grazing of the Spur are to be retained**

- POLICIES:**
- 3.1.1** The open space and rural character of the reserve are to be conserved to optimise the benefits of public enjoyment and recreation in an outdoor setting.
  - 3.1.2** Areas of significant vegetation (including matagouri and threatened rock outcrop plants) on the eastern slope of the reserve shall be protected from grazing damage.
  - 3.1.3** The Council retains the right to manage broom and gorse as a nurse species for establishing vegetation and protecting threatened species, while meeting the 10 metre boundary control obligations under the Regional Pest Management Strategy.
  - 3.1.4** Weed control and other chemical applications on Montgomery Spur Reserve shall be undertaken so as not to compromise organic certificates of neighbouring property owners.

- 3.1.5** Several plant species of significance have been identified on the rock outcrops. These species and any others that are identified on the reserve shall be managed appropriately and spraying or top dressing not permitted in the areas that these are found. All known locations of such vegetation shall be recorded. Discussions need to be undertaken with the City Botanist and Planting Ranger before commencing with any work in the rock outcrop areas.
- 3.1.6** In situations where, in Council's opinion, any removal of vegetation or a surface is in a condition that poses a risk of erosion, the Council will exercise its right to manage the problem in an appropriate manner.
- 3.1.7** Management of vegetation shall be carried out by appropriate grazing methods that conserve the silver tussock grassland and other habitats of the reserve.
- 3.1.8** The indigenous rock outcrop vegetation is to be managed in a sustainable manner and grazing of these areas is to be restricted if deemed necessary for their protection.
- 3.1.9** Trees and other plants will be selected according to their suitability to the environmental conditions, use of the site, and shall be managed with the primary aims of providing shelter, amenity, or ecological value.
- 3.1.10** In situations where, in the Council's opinion, any tree is in a condition that poses an immediate safety risk, the Council will exercise its right to have the tree removed as soon as possible.
- 3.1.11** Identified ecological values within the reserve are to be protected.
- 3.1.12** The habitats of the reserve shall be cared for in line with the Council's Biodiversity Strategy.
- 3.1.13** Timber and dead wood could be retained on site where it offers the opportunity for habitat and benefit to the health of the land.

### **3.2 Cultural heritage & history objective:**

#### **Cultural heritage is protected and history acknowledged appropriately**

- POLICIES:**
- 3.2.1** If anything of an archaeological nature is encountered (e.g. shells, charcoal-stained soil, fire-cracked stones, artefacts or human remains) during any programmes of work such as excavation, fencing, or roading etc, the NZ Historic Places Trust and Te Hapū o Ngāti Wheke (Rāpaki) Rūnanga are to be contacted immediately and work to be temporarily stopped.
  - 3.2.2** Identified history of the reserve shall be recognised and incorporated into an interpretation plan for the reserve.
  - 3.2.3** Mahinga kai collection is enabled through appropriate planting in suitable areas on the reserve.
  - 3.2.4** Pole markers on walking tracks shall be in the style of Pou Pou, their design, location and installation shall be undertaken in partnership with local Rūnanga.
  - 3.2.5** A name shall be sought from Ngai Tahu to determine an appropriate Maori name for use alongside Montgomery Spur Reserve and shall be formalised through the Christchurch City Council naming process.

### **3.3 Scenic & landscape objective:**

#### **Views from the reserve and its landscape are protected and not forsaken**

- POLICIES:**
- 3.3.1** Signage is to conform with Council signage guidelines, bylaws, standards, and policies. The size and location of signs in the Reserve are to be designed in such a way as to minimise visual detracting from the natural environment.

- 3.3.2** The scenic values of the reserve are to be retained and consideration given to those scenic values through any installation of tracks or other recreational and management facilities.
- 3.3.3** Opportunities for admiring the city from the slopes of the reserve are provided to optimise the recreational benefit to the public.
- 3.3.4** The iconic three tree lines on the reserve shall be planted with replacement trees of Hall's totara (*Podocarpus hallii*). This planting shall be in a suitable location that mimics the present three tree line formation.
- 3.3.5** The existing three tree line shall be retained until the trees become diseased or pose a safety concern.

#### **3.4 Recreation objective:**

**Develop areas for recreation that are suitable for the reserve and surrounding environment**

- POLICIES:**
- 3.4.1** Seating shall be kept at a minimum on the reserve.
  - 3.4.2** Where possible marker poles will identify a route that optimises the public's recreational benefit of the reserve.
  - 3.4.3** A mountain bike track, named as the Taramea Mountain Bike Track, that offers the opportunity for a step down in level from traditional Port Hills tracks should be provided that is classed as an intermediate grade track.
  - 3.4.4** Further to policy 3.4.3, another mountain bike track, this to run between the mountain bike track referred to in policy 3.4.3 and the Rapaki Track just above the Rapaki Road end, shall be provided as shown on the indicative landscape development plan in appendix 7.7 of this management plan.

- 3.4.5** A walking track, named as the Kowhai Walking Track, to run between connection points with the Rapaki Track at the highest and lowest extents of Montgomery Spur Reserve, shall be provided as shown on the indicative landscape development plan in appendix 7.7 of this management plan.
- 3.4.6** Organised low impact events will be permitted in the reserve in accordance with Council policy and practise, and if it promotes outdoor recreational opportunities within the reserve.
- 3.4.7** Recreational structures and facilities are minimised to retain the open space character of the reserve.
- 3.4.8** A specified horse route shall be investigated to allow for riding over the Spur on condition that they do not interfere with grazing activities, pedestrian or mountain bike users and that they do not access the rock outcrops or the gully systems unless a specific route is installed.
- 3.4.9** Recreational motorised activities are prohibited from utilising Montgomery Spur Reserve.
- 3.4.10** Dogs on lead will be permitted to utilise the track network of Montgomery Spur Reserve outside of the lambing season. Dogs will not be allowed to utilise the track system during lambing season.
- 3.4.11** The naming of any recreational track shall take into consideration the historic ties of both Ngāi Tahu and the Deans of Canterbury stock route.

### **3.5 Access & links objective:**

#### **Investigate options to gain quality access and links onto the reserve**

- POLICIES:**
- 3.5.1** Management will retain the right to vehicle access onto the reserve where it meets management and maintenance goals.
  - 3.5.2** Access points are considerate of other users to ensure conflicts are limited.

**3.5.3** Cycling and pedestrian links from Avoca Valley, Alderson Ave, Erewhon Tce, Glenelg Spur and Rāpaki Road and Track will be investigated to optimise the benefits to the public and residents.

**3.5.4** Access points will be established between neighbouring reserve land or public trust land in partnership with administering bodies.

**3.5.5** Council Officers will work with neighbouring land owners to identify options for public access from various points into Montgomery Spur Reserve.

### **3.6 Volunteers objective:**

#### **Investigate volunteer aid for maintenance of the reserve**

**POLICIES:** **3.6.1** Christchurch City Council Rangers, where appropriate, will seek volunteers' involvement with maintenance of Montgomery Spur Reserve.

### **3.7 Farming activities objective:**

#### **Farming will be utilised as a tool for land management**

**POLICIES:** **3.7.1** Council will retain the right to use grazing as a management tool for reducing fire risk and managing vegetation in the reserve.

**3.7.2** A lease shall be formulated between council and a grazier that adheres to the policies and objectives of this management plan.

**3.7.3** Cattle shall not be permitted to graze Montgomery Spur Reserve. The reserve shall be utilised for sheep grazing and lambing only. No other animals will be utilised for grazing Montgomery Spur Reserve.

**3.7.4** Grazing will remain at a level where it will not place pressure through over or under grazing on the silver tussock. Assessment shall be undertaken by appropriate Council officers.

- 3.7.5** Dogs shall be prohibited from areas of Montgomery Spur Reserve during lambing season or where it is necessary for the health and well-being of the stock. At all times, dogs should be on a lead at Montgomery Spur Reserve.
- 3.7.6** The public shall retain the right to access the working farm areas of Montgomery Spur Reserve where or when it does not conflict with the well-being of stock or adversely affect grazing operations. If restrictions are required, they will be indicated via appropriate signage and any necessary public notice.
- 3.7.7** Fence lines and stiles shall not be placed on ridge lines, rather where possible they shall sit below ridge lines to ensure they have minimal impact on the scenic value of the Spur.



Sheep grazing on Montgomery Spur Reserve with Port Hills road in the background

### **3.8 Utility services objective:**

**Allow access for essential utility services that are to the benefit of the environment, landscape and its visitors**

- POLICIES:**
- 3.8.1** Utility services necessary for the servicing of facilities within the reserve shall be permitted.
- 3.8.2** The visual and physical impact of services shall be minimised and services will be placed underground where possible.
- 3.8.3** Structures that detract from the open space character of the reserve that are not currently in place shall not be permitted unless it is providing an essential public benefit or it is to the benefit of the reserve.

- 3.8.4** Montgomery Spur Reserve will be considered as a litter free park, as such bins will not be provided, and reserve visitors are expected to take all rubbish with them.

**3.9 Commercial activities objective:**

**Commercial activities shall adhere to this management plan**

- POLICIES:** **3.9.1** Commercial activities shall be discouraged when they do not meet the vision or objectives of this document.

**3.10 Management plan review objective:**

**To ensure that the management plan remains a useful tool for managers of Montgomery Spur Reserve**

- POLICIES:** **3.10.1** Keep the management plan under continuous review in accordance with Section 41 (4) of the Reserves Act 1977.
- 3.10.2** That the Montgomery Spur Reserve Management Plan when reviewed is aligned with similar plans for the Port Hills.



## 4 ISSUES

### **Recreational use of the land:**

Two key issues have been raised in regards to recreation on Montgomery Spur Reserve, these being walking and mountain bike access. For mountain biking in particular it has been established that there is no easy grade track that offers an introduction from the plains to the hills. All other Port Hills mountain bike tracks have a grading of intermediate, difficult or extreme. Montgomery Spur Reserve offers riders with intermediate grade mountain bike tracks with great views. Such tracks are not be at the technical level of other established Port Hill tracks.

Following policy 3.3.3 in the management plan, the Taramea Mountain Bike Track was developed in Montgomery Spur Reserve in 2013. This has now become the most popular mountain bike track on the Port Hills. Along with about 250,000 visitor experiences each year on the Rapaki Track adjoining Montgomery Spur Reserve, there has been growing community demand for greater separation between walkers/runners and mountain bikers in this very popular recreational area.

In 2018, in an effort to help alleviate the congestion, the Port Hills Park Trust Board gave permission for the Christchurch Single Track Club to build a mountain bike track in Mount Vernon Park, which the Trust owns, on the western side of the Rapaki Track. This new track is also very popular, connecting to the Taramea Mountain Bike Track via the Rapaki Track to make a continuous fun ride. It has resolved some of the conflict and safety issues in the top section of the Rapaki Track.

The Canterbury and Christchurch Single Track Mountain Bike Clubs have requested the Port Hills Regional Parks Team to work again in partnership with them to design and build a section of mountain bike track in Montgomery Spur Reserve. This will enable riders to enter or leave the park and ride to the Summit Road and back without using the busy Rapaki Track. Along the way, riders can loop around the Taramea Mountain Bike Track.

The goal is to encourage riders to stay off the Rapaki Track, particularly when riding downhill. This will reduce the risk of conflicts and provide for increased enjoyment for all users. The new track will complete the overall plan for cyclists to be able to ride entirely away from the Rapaki Track if they wish to.

There is also one earlier approved, although not yet constructed, new track for Montgomery Spur Reserve. This is the Kowhai Walking Track, which will enable walkers and runners to enjoy the park separately from mountain bikers.

The development of the further mountain bike track has been approved with the adoption of the amended management plan in 2020. The new tracks are mapped on the indicative landscape development plan in appendix 7.7 of this management plan.

Starting from the bottom and moving up, the new mountain bike track starts from the Rapaki Track just up from the top of Rapaki Road. The first 400 metres of track requires benching. As this section of track is within a rock fall 1 and 2 zone it will require a resource consent to be applied for.

The rest of the track is to be formed by cutting grass with a mower. Over time, the grass will wear down to mineral earth. Track design and construction will follow best practice methodology specified by the International Mountain Bike Association (IMBA). Best practice design and construction, such as track alignment, ensures minimal environmental degradation and helps prevent long term maintenance issues. An ongoing maintenance programme will also be in place.

Over 90% of the Kowhai Walking Track will be formed by cutting grass and delineating the route with marker poles. The first 150 metres up from the Rapaki Track at the Rapaki Road end will require benching work. As with the new mountain bike track, this section is also within a rock fall 1 and 2 zone and work will require resource consent too. This will be included in the application for resource consent for the 400 metre section of the nearby new mountain bike track.

**Access and links onto the Spur:**

Staff and the public have identified the issue of accessing Montgomery Spur Reserve. At present the park is landlocked on two sides (Avoca Valley and from Alderson Avenue). The only access at present is off the already very busy Rāpaki Road and Track. Residents from Avoca Valley and Alderson Avenue have stated a desire to have access from the eastern side of the reserve and away from Rāpaki Road. Rāpaki Road residents have stated that they would like an alternative access as Rāpaki Road becomes congested due to use of the Port Hills. Council officers would need to look at alternative opportunities to access Montgomery Spur Reserve in order for any future links to be secured.

**Farming activities:**

Increased use of the area could put stress on stock at certain times of the year. Montgomery Spur Reserve is an important location for lambing. A balance needs to be created where the public retains the right to use the park while the health and well-being of the ewes and lambs at lambing time is not forsaken.

Grazing will be an important factor in retaining the silver tussock landscape for the future. People have stated that they would like to see farming and the silver tussock thrive and that the rural character of the land remains. In order for this to occur, Montgomery Spur Reserve needs to be an appropriate and attractive location for lambing and grazing.

**Botanical:**

Woody weed pests broom (*Cytisus scoparius*) and gorse (*Ulex europaeus*) have established a foothold on the lower western slope of the reserve. They have been identified as suitable as 'nursery crops' to allow native vegetation to develop in their shelter and eventually replace them. The threat of erosion is another key factor in the desire to retain the broom and gorse while other vegetation establishes in their place.

The public have stated that the 3 lines of trees on Montgomery Spur Reserve are important to the backdrop of Christchurch. However, others have stated that they do not wish to see pines or macrocarpa on the slopes of Montgomery Spur Reserve. One of the biggest issues in retaining trees in regard to the future of Montgomery Spur Reserve are the dry conditions due to soil type and the harsh climatic conditions to which the spur is subjected. Any tree planting will need intensive management and care. Species will also need to be able to cope with the environment on the slopes and it is important that at the present time the trees are offering shelter to stock on these slopes. Gully plantings will be more suitable to the area to ensure there is shelter for stock in the future.

**Scenic and landscape issues:**

The landscape has been identified as of national importance. Any track or other recreational development has to be wary of this value and not detract from it.

The public was clear in their support for very low-level development on Montgomery Spur Reserve, and that it should only be necessary infrastructure that is placed on the slopes of the park. A marker pole route (using Pou Pou as markers) for walking and considerate placement of surfacing for other recreational activities will allow for this to occur.

**Tangata Whenua:**

Council staff have worked with local Rūnanga to ensure that this Management Plan identifies and addresses Ngāi Tahu values and aspirations for this area. Continuing this relationship will ensure opportunity remains for involvement in the management of Montgomery Spur Reserve.

## 5 RESOURCE INFORMATION

### 5.1 Land tenure

Christchurch City Council holds the Certificate of Title and will manage the land with the potential for private grazier to hold stock on the reserve.

### 5.2 Legal status and classification

Montgomery Spur Reserve is made up of the following title:

- Part Lot 1 DP 2855, containing 126.6392 hectares, fee simple title CB25A/1227 held by the Christchurch City Council, Scenic Reserve

The reserve is classified as a scenic reserve under section 19(1)(a) of the Reserves Act 1977. The purpose of a scenic reserve is described in the Reserves Act 1977 as follows:

*19 Scenic reserves (1) It is hereby declared that the appropriate provisions of this Act shall have effect, in relation to reserves classified as scenic reserves—*

*19 Scenic reserves (1) (a) For the purpose of protecting and preserving in perpetuity for their intrinsic worth and for the benefit, enjoyment, and use of the public, suitable areas possessing such qualities of scenic interest, beauty, or natural features or landscape that their protection and preservation are desirable in the public interest.*

The Act goes on to describe a scenic reserve as an area that is managed for the public's access and enjoyment:

*19 (2) (b) The public shall have freedom of entry and access to the reserve, subject to the specific powers conferred on administering bodies by sections 55 and 56 of this Act.*

*19 (2) (c) To the extent compatible with the principal or primary purposes of the retention and preservation of the natural or scenic values, open portions of the reserve may be developed for amenities and facilities where these are necessary to enable the public to obtain benefit and enjoyment from the reserve.*

### **5.3 Physical description**

#### **Stock yards**

The stock yards are used for drafting during lambing season and for treatment of stock. The yards are easy to locate due to being directly east of the much used Rāpaki track.

#### **Upper western slope**

The upper western slope overlooks the Rāpaki track on the eastern side of Mt Vernon. This area is a logical link with Mt Vernon Park and Rogers track. The slope has stunning views looking towards the Canterbury Plains and the Southern Alps. In late afternoon the sun shines brilliantly over this area of Montgomery Spur Reserve as it sets in the west. The slope has fewer rock outcrops than one can find on the eastern side, however it offers true farm landscape.

#### **Eastern slope**

The eastern slope is dominated by the rock outcrops that form a spine along the ridge of the slope. On the northern areas of the slope dramatic drop-offs fall away into Avoca Valley. The slope has views overlooking the New Brighton Pier, Pegasus Bay, the Southern Alps, central city and Ferrymead.

#### **Lower western slope**

The lower western slope is dominated by broom and steep terrain. The slope is a favoured by stock due to the presence of water from the trough and the cover provided by the broom.

#### **Rock outcrops**

The rock outcrops on Montgomery Spur Reserve offer a stunning variation to the pasture land that dominates the area. The rocks are great locations for people to admire the views of the New Brighton Pier, Avoca Valley and the mountain ranges surrounding Pegasus Bay. The rocks are strewn along the eastern slopes looking like relics and ruins from previous civilisations.

Extensive rock outcrops occur above Avoca Valley. Although covering a large area, they are not particularly steep. This allows stock easy grazing access to most, and the crevices have not been able to hold much in the way of native species as have less accessible rock outcrops at higher altitudes on the Port Hills. Smaller outcrops occur just above Rāpaki Track. They also have only fragmentary native vegetation.

The main native plants on the rock outcrops are native shrubs. The very exposed upper rocks above Avoca Valley have low-growing appressed plants of prostrate kowhai (*Sophora prostrata*), porcupine shrub (*Melicytus alpinus*) and *Coprosma propinqua*, with pohuehue (*Muehlenbeckia complexa*) growing within them. Associated herbs include silver tussock and pasture grasses, the low growing native *Leptinella squallida* is quite common. A small population of the highly threatened Banks Peninsula forget-me-not (*Myosotis australis* var. *lytteltonensis*) has recently been discovered on these outcrops away from the reach of grazing animals.



Rock outcrops and vegetation above Avoca Valley on Montgomery Spur Reserve.

The more sheltered cliffs have more upright shrubs, of which matagouri (*Discaria toumatou*) is the most notable. This plant is not at all common on the Port Hills and this may represent one of the larger populations of this shrub in the area.

### **Silver tussock grassland**

The clumps of silver tussock are virtually the last native plant left amongst pasture grasses and herbs over most of Montgomery Spur Reserve. The ease of walking through the grassland will be of great value to people recreating there. The silver tussock grassed areas allow you to get a feel for how rugged the Port Hills are for stock and for those early settlers that had to cross over from Lyttelton when starting a new life in Christchurch. The city has few areas for true escape, while, although Montgomery Spur does not entirely allow you to escape in the true sense, it certainly does allow for imagination and separation from city life.

The silver tussock grassland is being maintained in its present state by grazing, there has been considerable disagreement in regard to the appropriate management of such grasslands. However, apart from the need to control woody weeds, there appears little benefit to be gained from major adjustments to the current management regime which involves grazing by sheep. Lowering grazing intensity will likely result in the silver tussock being replaced by rank grass and weed growth, while intensive grazing, especially with cattle, is likely to further reduce tussock density. The difficult aspect of management is the need to control stock numbers in response to climatic extremes, especially drought.

### **Gullies**

Montgomery Spur has three gullies running through the land. The eastern, central and western gullies. All three gullies overlook the central city with trees lining the western side of each. Low rank vegetation occurs in each, with significant drop-offs from the central and western gullies.

### **Table top**

This is noted as the highest point on the reserve, 285 metres above sea level. At the top of this point one can expect great views of Canterbury, Christchurch, Pegasus Bay, the Port Hills and the Southern Alps.

## **5.4 Soil**

In appendix 7.2 is a soil map. The map outlines soil type and its boundaries on Montgomery Spur Reserve.

The following are soils of Montgomery Spur Reserve:

Well drained basalt and loess soils:

- Cashmere hills soil
- Cashmere shallow silt loam, rolling phase
- Evans steepland soil

Moderately drained basalt and loess soils:

- Clifton hills soil
- Scarborough hills soil
- Kiwi hills soil

Imperfectly drained loess soil:

- Takahe deep silt loam
- Takahe hills soil

While there are a number of soils that contribute to the make-up of Montgomery Spur Reserve, they are not vastly different and do not signal the need for major changes in management type.

## 5.5 Climate

Montgomery Spur Reserve is north-facing with high levels of radiant energy on its exposed slopes. The high levels of exposure to sun can be attributed to the area receiving virtually continuous light by facing north and its lack of shadow coverage from neighbouring landforms.



Montgomery Spur Reserve and Mount Vernon in the snow during October 2008.

Montgomery Spur Reserve can be best described as having a Mediterranean climate. It is subject to hot, dry conditions during the summer, and much like the Mediterranean, it has predictably high levels of winter rainfall. During the depths of the Christchurch winter the spur has few frosts and only short term snow coverage.

Montgomery Spur Reserve is subject to the norwester, and the various easterly winds. The norwester is effective at drying the park out during the summer months. The easterly winds bring in rain from the Pacific and can be very unwelcoming for those on the eastern slopes. Southerly winds are more prevalent in winter and deposit most of the rainfall.

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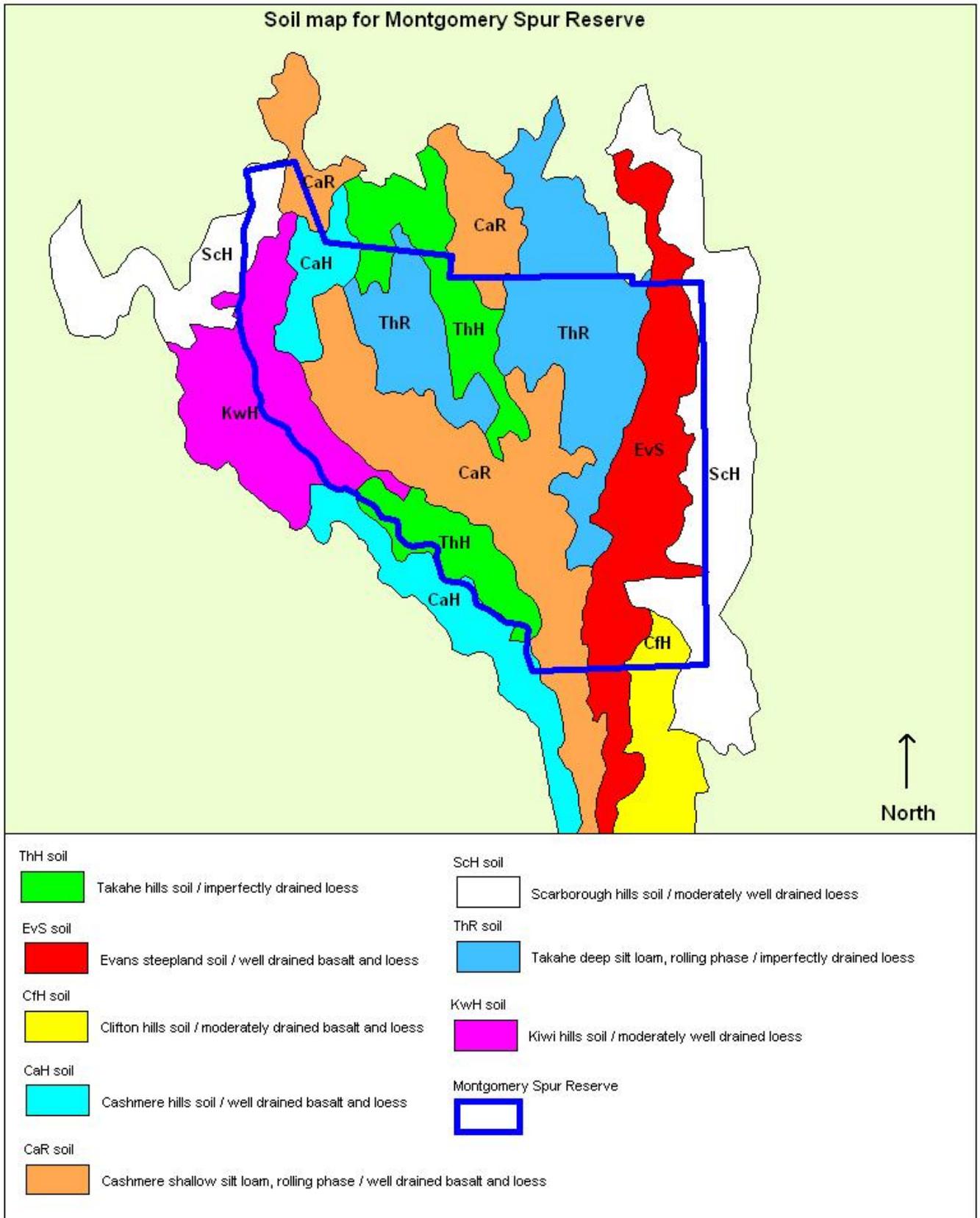
## **6 DOCUMENTS RELEVANT TO THE RESERVE**

- Reserves Act 1977
  - Local Government Act 2002
  - Biodiversity Strategy 2008-2035
  - Canterbury Biodiversity Strategy
  - Long Term Plan
  - Christchurch District Plan
  - Port Hills Recreation Strategy
  - Bylaws
  - Canterbury Regional Pest Management Plan.
  - Public Open Space Strategy 2010-2040
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## **7 APPENDICES**

- 7.1** Council resolution on plan approval
- 7.2** Soil map
- 7.3** City Botanist report
- 7.4** Tangata Whenua report
- 7.5** References
- 7.6** Indicative landscape development proposals
- 7.7** Indicative landscape development plan

## 7.1 Soil map



## 7.2 City Botanist report by Trevor Partridge

In June 2007 I visited parts of Montgomery Spur Reserve on two occasions to determine the values and areas of indigenous vegetation. On the second occasion I was accompanied by Grant MacLeod to look at options for tracks to ensure that the botanical values are not compromised by their location.

Montgomery Spur Reserve comprises a rounded ridge between the Rāpaki Track to the west, and the upper slopes of Avoca Valley to the east. It comprises pasture and rock outcrops at low to mid altitude on the Port Hills, so does not include the higher altitude elements that many of the large grassland reserves of the hills possess. It is currently used for grazing by sheep under a lease agreement.

This report provides a brief description of the values of the reserve and comments on their location and the possible impacts of greater use by the public. It is proposed to create walking and cycling tracks and associated facilities within the reserve. Access in to the reserve is not straight forward and involves travelling either up or down Rāpaki Track to the easiest point of entry. Thus facilities in the reserve are likely to be of the wilderness type.

### Vegetation

The pre-human vegetation of Montgomery Spur and indeed most of the lower Port Hills would have been mixed podocarp/hardwood forest dominated by tall trees such as totara (*Podocarpus totara*) and perhaps matai (*Prumnopitys taxifolia*). Dominant broadleaf trees would have included ribbonwood (*Plagianthus regius*), mahoe (*Melicactus ramiflorus*) and broadleaf (*Griselinia littoralis*) with tree fuchsia (*Fuchsia excorticata*) in gullies. The larger rock outcrops would have supported shrubland and silver tussock (*Poa cita*) where these were large enough to open the forest canopy.

The first Europeans were greeted by completely different vegetation. Polynesian fires pushed the forest into the gullies and allowed the fire-tolerant low shrubs and especially silver tussock to dominate the landscape of the eastern Port Hills. Early paintings and photographs show the forest remnants confined to gullies and short tussock grassland the dominant vegetation. Farming activities have ensured the continuation of that pattern, the introduction of new plant species such as gorse (*Ulex europaeus*) and pine (*Pinus radiata*) as well as pasture grasses created the landscape and vegetation seen today.

Two main types of vegetation occur in the reserve today. Silver tussock grassland occurs on the deeper soils of the main part of the ridge itself and the rock outcrops support a mixture of silver tussock and native and exotic shrubs. Native forest has all but gone and its presence is only marked by the occasional tree amongst the more sheltered rock outcrops above Avoca Valley. Pines have however been planted as shelter belts on the rounded spurs.

### **Silver tussock grassland**

The clumps of silver tussock are virtually the last native plant left amongst pasture grasses and herbs over most of the reserve. The tussock density varies from very sparse to about 20% cover, which is at the lower end of the gradual process of tussock to sward cover ratio. Only where severely overgrazed or where ploughed are tussock densities lower. Within the reserve the general pattern is of lower density at the lowest altitudes. The dominant pasture grass is browntop (*Agrostis capillaris*) with some crested dogstail (*Cynosurus cristatus*). Drier areas have Australian danthonia grasses (*Rytidosperma spp.*). There is a variety of associated herbs, thistles, a common problem on the Port Hills, are not common. Other native species are uncommon and comprise the small yellow oxalis (*Oxalis exilis*) and small plants of the scrambling sub shrub pohuehue (*Muehlenbeckia complexa*).



Silver Tussock on Montgomery Spur Reserve with Christchurch in the background.

This grassland is being invaded by broom (*Cytisus scoparius*) and some gorse (*Ulex europaeus*) at the lower altitudes. In places this has formed a canopy and the overtopped vegetation is being displaced. Broom has the ability to occupy virtually the entire reserve so needs to be a major management consideration.

The silver tussock grassland is being maintained in its present state by grazing. There has been considerable disagreement in regard to the appropriate management of such grasslands. However, apart from the need to control woody weeds, there appears little benefit to be gained from major adjustments to the current management regime which involves grazing by sheep. Lowering grazing intensity will likely result in the silver tussock being replaced by rank grass and weed growth, while intensive grazing, especially with cattle, is likely to further reduce tussock density. The difficult aspect of management is the need to control stock numbers in response to climatic extremes, especially drought.

### **Rock Outcrops**

Extensive rock outcrops occur above Avoca Valley, although covering a large area, they are not particularly steep. This allows stock easy grazing access to most, and the crevices have not been able to hold much in the way of native species as have less accessible rock outcrops at higher altitudes on the Port Hills. Smaller outcrops occur just above Rāpaki Track. They also have only fragmentary native vegetation.

The main native plants on the rock outcrops are native shrubs. The very exposed upper rocks above Avoca Valley have low-growing appressed plants of prostrate kowhai (*Sophora prostrata*), porcupine shrub (*Melicytus alpinus*) and *Coprosma propinqua*, with pohuehue growing within them. Associated herbs include silver tussock and pasture grasses, the low growing native *Leptinella squallida* is quite common.

The more sheltered cliffs have more upright shrubs, of which matagouri (*Discaria toumatou*) is the most common. This plant is not at all common on the Port Hills and this may represent one of the larger populations of this shrub. Associated shrubs include *Coprosma crassifolia* and *C. propinqua* and native broom (*Carmichaelia arborea*). Patches of bracken fern (*Pteridium esculentum*) occur amongst the shrubs. There are a very small number of conspicuous native trees, perhaps remnants of forest vegetation. Most appear to be mahoe. A few native herbs were recorded, especially where sheltered from stock, including the ferns *Polystichum richardii* and *Cheilanthes distans*. Some unusual finds were single plants of leafless clematis (*Clematis afoliata*) and knobby clubbrush (*Ficinia nodosa*) suggesting that a more thorough examination may reveal other examples of such occurrence.

### **Botanical Values**

In the absence of an associated native flora, and at such low density, the silver tussock grasslands have very limited value. The rock outcrops do however have native vegetation of interest, especially as it contrasts with the more prominent higher altitude rocks of the Port Hills. These values have been recognised by their inclusion in two Ecological Heritage Sites (EHS) in the Christchurch City Plan. The smaller rock outcrops above Rāpaki Track are within the Mt Vernon Valley EHS 24.01, while the Avoca Valley cliffs form the lower altitude extension of Avoca Valley EHS 25.01. Indeed the EHS includes the cliffs as they extend into private property below Montgomery Spur Reserve there. At the upper part of the reserve, these two EHS's join.

### **Impacts of Recreation**

Within the silver tussock grassland, it is very easy to create tracks that mostly avoid the silver tussock. If the inter-tussock included native species, there may be a problem, as there are none, losses will be minimal.

The rock outcrops require some care and sensitivity. However, as most of the native vegetation is shrub, it is relatively easy to identify such areas and avoid them in placing tracks through the outcrops. The most likely place that will need such attention are the Avoca Valley cliffs and there is an obvious sloping shelf at the upper end of the reserve that gives good access to lower altitudes and avoids major areas of shrubs at the same time.

The greatest threat to the vegetation of the reserve is not recreation but the spread of woody weeds, especially broom and gorse. These are spreading both through the silver tussock grassland and along the rock outcrops. Unless this spread is managed, the remaining botanical values of both habitats are under considerable threat. However, there is the suggestion that the sites in which the threatened species are found may instead be protected from grazing or exposure by the presence of shrubs of gorse and broom. Therefore it is important that these sites are marked and no clearing of any vegetation including weeds be undertaken until the roles of those species are determined in regard to the patches of threatened plants. As sites of threatened species, these areas will be monitored to determine the threats to these special plants.

### **7.3 Tangata Whenua report by Andrea Lobb**

Andrea Lobb is the General Manager of Mahaanui Kurataiao Ltd a mandated Ngāi Tahu Rūnanga advisory agency that works to ensure Council documentation and programmes have appropriately engaged with Ngāi Tahu and adequately identified and addressed tangata whenua values in management planning and implementation.

In the preparation of the Montgomery Spur Reserve Management Plan Mahaanui Kurataiao Ltd confirms that a constructive and effective engagement process has been undertaken. Dialogue with local Rūnanga has occurred, a report on tangata whenua values (Pauling 2008, Ngāi Tahu Cultural Values associated with the Montgomery Spur Reserve area) was commissioned in the preparation of this Management Plan.

The report identifies significant traditional associations of Ngāi Tahu with the broad area of Montgomery Spur, and in particular the Rāpaki track. Rāpaki track was one of four major ara tawhito (trails) linking the Ngāi Tahu settlement of Rāpaki and the resources of Te Whakaraupō (Lyttelton Harbour) with the kāika and pā (settlements) and mahinga kai (food and resources) of Ōtautahi and the major settlement of Kaiapoi Pā. It provided the most direct link between Rāpaki and Ōpawaho Pā, and from here to the mahinga kai resources of Te Ihutai (Avon-Heathcote Estuary).

Key recommendations from this report and from dialogue with Rūnanga are included in this Management Plan through the objectives and landscape development proposals, i.e., dual naming, mahinga kai habitat restoration and species plantings, interpretations, Pou Pou style trail posts. Council is also facilitating dialogue between Ngāi Tahu and neighbouring parties where recommendations are relevant to areas adjoining Montgomery Spur Reserve. Engagement with Ngāi Tahu will continue through the implementation of the Management Plan, through Mahaanui Kurataiao Ltd and the Rūnanga.

## 7.4 References

Pauling, Craig (2008) *Montgomery Spur Reserve Management Plan Tangata Whenua Research*.

Ogilvie, Gordon (1996) *Pioneers of the plains; The Deans of Canterbury*. Shoal Bay Press, Christchurch, New Zealand.

de Thier, Walter (1976) *Sumner to Ferrymead; A Christchurch history*. Pegasus Press, Christchurch, New Zealand.

Reference to the Black Maps:  
<http://www.ccc.govt.nz/Parks/TheEnvironment/blackmap.pdf>

## 7.5 Indicative landscape development proposals and plan

The indicative landscape development proposals highlight the projects that would assist in achieving the objectives and policies of the management plan. The indicative landscape development proposals will be used to identify significant expenditure items for which Council may choose to make provision in future Long Term Council Community Plans.

### Long-Term Council Community Plan (LTCCP) disclaimer

No project recommended on the indicative development proposal will be implemented unless the expenditure is provided for through the Long Term Council Community Plan.

Below is the list of projects that have been raised during the draft consultation phase of the management plan's development.

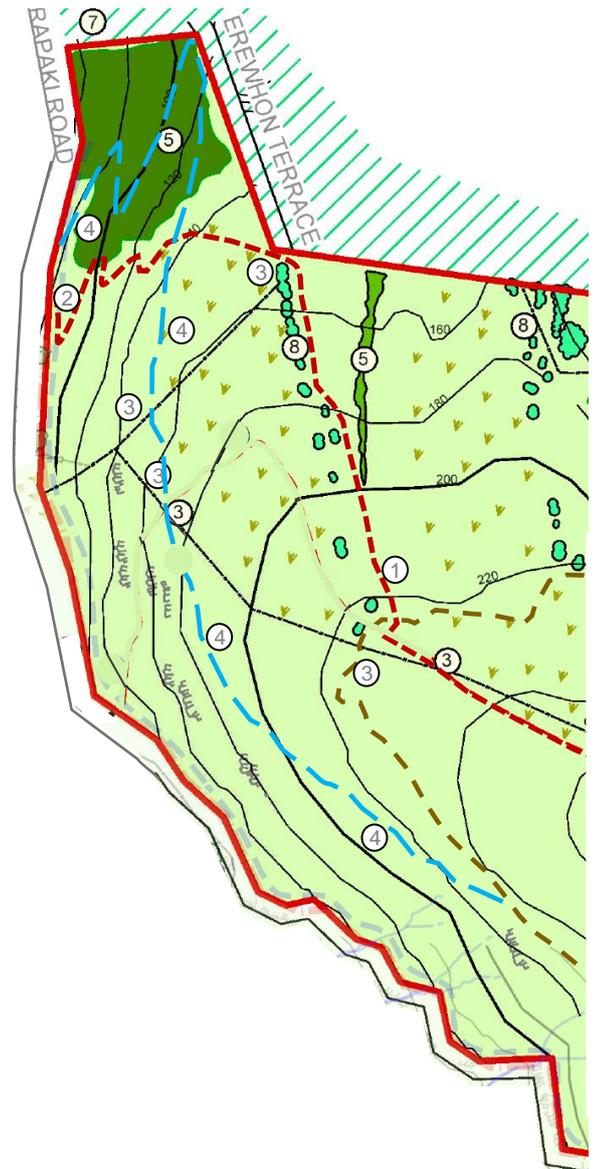
<b>Project</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Funding required</b>
<b>Marker pole route</b>	Walking route that is signalled by marker posts at intervals  Pou Pou design & carving	Individually carved marker posts approx. \$1000
<b>Signage</b>	Traditional park signage that is informative  Tangata Whenua information is authentic & appropriate	Interpretation sign \$2,500 Reserve name signs \$800 per unit Internal track signage \$300 per unit
<b>Access stiles over fences</b>	Install stiles on the park so that people and stock interaction is well managed	\$500 - \$700 per unit installed
<b>Mountain bike track</b>	Develop a new connecting mountain bike track	Mountain bike track formation \$20,000
<b>Investigation for dual use name</b>	Investigate a suitable Maori name to use alongside Montgomery Spur Reserve	Cost to be investigated
<b>Fencing around future plantings</b>	Investigate fencing options and cost for future plantings where fencing will be required	7 wire typical post and wire stock fence approx. \$15 per lineal metre

<b>Rest stop</b>	Development of rest stop at a location with a significant view along the marker pole track	\$1000 for seat and rest area.
<b>Investigate access options on the perimeter of Montgomery Spur Reserve</b>	To ensure that access from either the North or Eastern side of the reserve are considered in future planning work	Cost to be investigated and put forward for LTCCP funding in 2012 should land be available
<b>Planting of Halls totara</b>	Planting of Halls totara in line with policy 3.3.4 and 3.3.5	P B 5's (grade to be planted) = \$14.00 each price includes planting and after care
<b>Recreation route on Eastern side</b>	Investigate route for recreational access on the Eastern side of Montgomery Spur Reserve in an appropriate manner.	Cost to be investigated and discussions to be held prior to draft 2012 LTCCP
<b>Landscaping and planting program</b>	<p>Landscaping and planting of areas outlined on the indicative landscape development plan</p> <p>Tangata Whenua values supported in line with policy 3.2.3</p>	<p>Gully planting over a five year period: \$502,200 for 6 ha</p> <p>Tussock planting \$5,800/ha @ 3m spacing's</p> <p>Kanuka planting \$36,500/ha @ 1.5m spacing's (including 3 yrs maintenance)</p> <p>Flax planting \$42,300/ha @ 1.5m spacing's (including 2 years maintenance and caged flax)</p>
<b>Mt Vernon car park usage to access Montgomery Spur Reserve</b>	Investigate access option from Rogers Track and car park at Mt Vernon and work with the Mt Vernon Farm Park Trust on suitable outcomes	Cost to be investigated and discussions to be held prior to draft 2012 LTCCP

The developments above are not part of the statutory process of a management plan. In order to highlight the need for funding, it is necessary to develop a list of proposals as above.

Please see following pages for the Indicative landscape development plan.

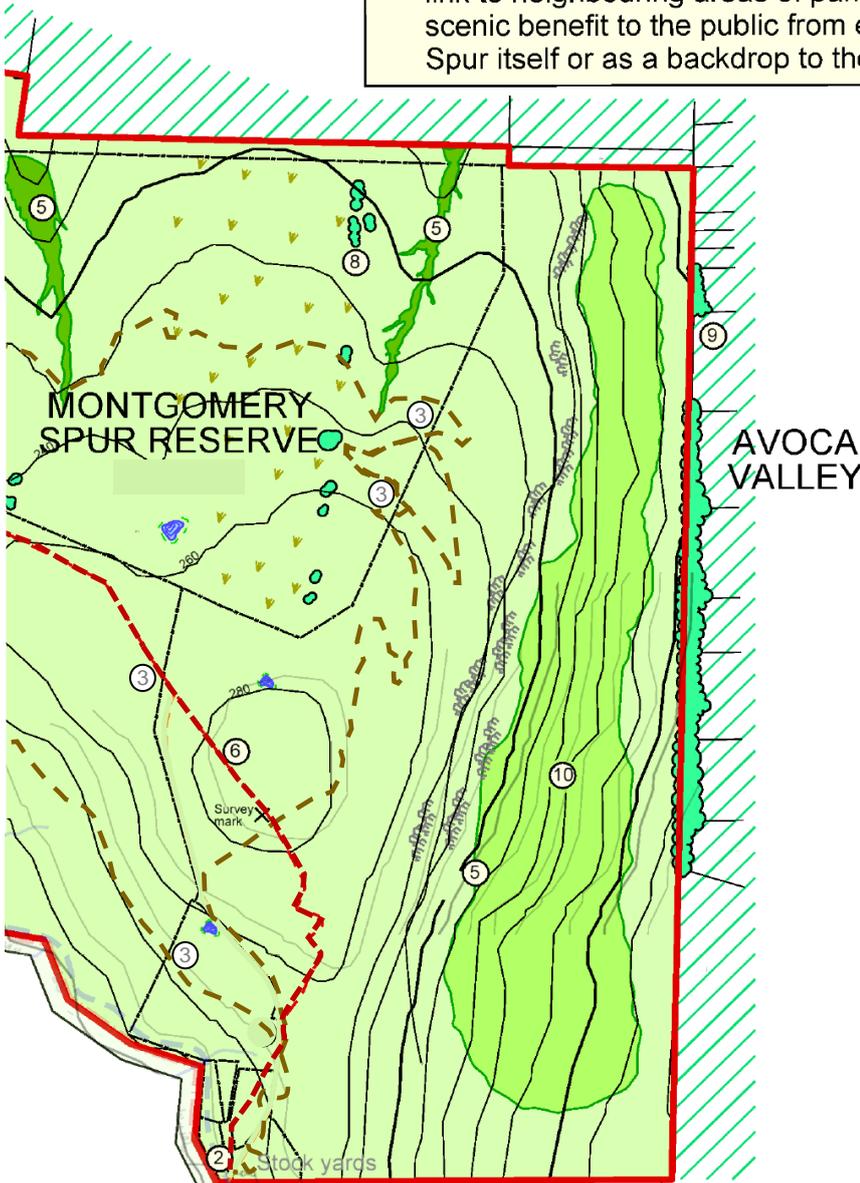
## 7.6 Indicative landscape development plan



LEGEND	
	Approved Kowhai Walking Track
	Existing Taramea Mountain Bike Track
	Proposed mountain bike track
	Areas to investigate for access opportunities
	Areas to be replanted in tussock (Poa Cita)
	Areas to be planted in mixed native shrub species
	Area to have pockets of Kanuka (Kunzea ericoides)
	Existing fence lines
	Areas of rocky outcrops
	Existing exotic trees - retain/replace with Halls Totara
	Existing water bodies

**VISION**

To maintain an open tussock landscape on Montgomery Spur Reserve through rural management that offers a recreational link to neighbouring areas of park land and scenic benefit to the public from either the Spur itself or as a backdrop to the city.



- ① Walking route that is signalled by Pou Pou (marker posts) at intervals.
- ② Park signage indicating name and Ngai Tahu name of the reserve, and interpretation of the site.
- ③ Install stiles on the park so that people and stock interaction is well managed.
- ④ Proposed new linking mountain bike track.
- ⑤ Fencing around future plantings.
- ⑥ Develop a rest stop at a location with significant views along the marker pole track.
- ⑦ Investigate access options on the perimeter of Montgomery Spur Reserve.
- ⑧ Retain existing exotic 3 tree lines and replace as needed with Halls Totara.
- ⑨ Investigate route for recreational access on the Eastern side of Montgomery Spur Reserve.
- ⑩ Landscaping and planting of areas outlined on the development plan. Tangata Whenua values supported through gully planting and use of appropriate species.

Historical Tracks (trails including Deans Stock Route and the Rāpaki ara tawhito Trail) transversed Montgomery Spur, these trails dated back beyond 1852.

