



# CHRISTCHURCH BOTANIC GARDENS MANAGEMENT PLAN

2007



**CHRISTCHURCH**  
CITY COUNCIL · YOUR PEOPLE · YOUR CITY



## CONTENTS

Foreword

Introduction

Acknowledgements

Copyright Notice

Plan Status

### PART I RATIONALE FOR A BOTANIC GARDENS FOR CHRISTCHURCH

- |    |  |   |
|----|--|---|
| 1. | What is a botanic garden and its purpose?                | 2 |
| 2. | What does the Gardens provide?                           | 2 |
| 3. | What is the Gardens national and international standing? | 3 |
| 4. | Who uses the Gardens?                                    | 4 |
| 5. | General issues for the Gardens                           | 5 |
| 6. | Is there a need for change and development?              | 6 |

### PART II RESOURCE INFORMATION

- |     |                               |    |
|-----|-------------------------------|----|
| 7.  | Location and regional context | 9  |
| 8.  | Legal and planning            | 9  |
| 9.  | Administration                | 11 |
| 10. | Functions and operations      | 13 |
| 11. | History                       | 16 |
| 12. | Site structure and character  | 22 |
| 13. | Plant collections             | 29 |
| 14. | Buildings and structures      | 40 |
| 15. | Public use                    | 46 |
| 16. | Analysis and conclusion       | 48 |
-

Part III GOALS, OBJECTIVES AND POLICIES

	Goals	51
17.	Administration policies	53
18.	Functions and operations policies	54
19.	Circulation policies	59
20.	Layout and character policies	60
	Tree policies	60
	Open space policies	61
	Open woodland policies	69
	Dense woodland/shrubland policies	70
	Conservatory policies	73
21.	Wildlife policies	76
22.	Building policies	76

Part IV ISSUES AND ACTION PLAN

23.	Living collections	79
24.	Recreation and events	99
25.	Layout, landscape and circulation	109
26.	Conservation	114
27.	Heritage	125
28.	Education and awareness	132
29.	Networking and communication	147
30.	Research	154
31.	Funding	166
32.	Non-building infrastructure	173
33.	Buildings	175

---

34.	Marketing	183
35.	Risk management and business plan	195
References		203

**Figures**

8.1	<i>Existing site features map</i>	10
9.1	<i>Botanical Services Operations Team positions</i>	12
25.1	<i>Tree Life Expectancy</i>	112
33.1	<i>Collection support layout concept – proposed building complex</i>	181
33.2	<i>Human support layout concept – proposed building complex</i>	182



## Foreword

The Christchurch Botanic Gardens<sup>1</sup> has had a long history of amenity and horticultural development and change, reflecting the interests and values of the various curators and the Christchurch gardening public. This updated plan reinforces these values in a comprehensive and organised way, in addition to promoting the strengthening of the scientific functions of the Gardens and reflecting modern botanic garden plant collection and display trends.

Within this plan, the Gardens has been organised according to a proposed circulation network and open space system. A notable feature of the circulation system will be the formation of five special purpose walkways emphasising different aspects of the Gardens' cultural and botanical features. The collections identified in the plan have been amended and reorganised to reflect the above proposed patterns. In addition, the more 'informal' plant groupings have mostly been situated on the peripheries of the Gardens and along the Avon River corridor, with the more formal collections situated in the inner core. Especially attractive displays are situated at the main entrances and along the proposed Victoria Walk.

Overall, this plan aims to not only build on existing values but also to bring the Gardens into the 21<sup>st</sup> century by reflecting the wider significance of the plant world in an era of rapid environmental change, as well as by acknowledging Southern Hemisphere values.

## Introduction

The Gardens is Christchurch's single most popular visitor destination according to the Canterbury Tourism Council. Its popularity is illustrated by the estimated 1.2 million visits made by local and other visitors every year.

The existing strength of the Gardens lies in its scenic and horticultural qualities. This plan aims to strengthen these values, in addition to improving its botanical aspects, especially those with garden associations. Improvement of the Gardens scenic and botanical qualities and upgrading the circulation system in keeping with the Gardens civic importance will also ensure that the Gardens continues to function as one of Christchurch's most important visitor attractions and also be a feature of major economic importance to the City.

This updated plan has been developed from the 1995 edition with considerable new content (see Parts I and IV below).

The Plan is divided into four parts:

**Part I** – Provides the rationale for a botanic gardens in Christchurch and assesses the expected form of the Gardens against the history, development and nature of botanic gardens worldwide and their relevance in the modern world (prepared by the former curator of the Gardens, the late Dr David Given<sup>2</sup>).

**Part II** – Describes the Gardens resources and comments on issues and opportunities affecting the Gardens.

---

<sup>1</sup> From this point forward in this plan the Christchurch Botanic Gardens will be referred to as the 'Gardens'.

<sup>2</sup> Dr Given was curator from October 2003 to November 2005.

---

**Part III** – Management goals, objectives and policies.

**Part IV** – An **Issues and Actions Plan**, which recommends the future direction and development of the Gardens. It is the result of a major strategic review undertaken by the late Dr David Given over the two years leading up to the publication of the draft management plan in 2006. Under specific categories of activity, it presents a discussion of issues and needs, proposes goals to be achieved and recommends relevant actions to be taken.

This management plan is linked to a number of other plans and documents - in particular, to the Hagley Park Management Plan 2007 and the Hagley Park/Botanic Gardens Master Plan 2007. Both these plans were advertised for public comment in 2006 simultaneously with this one. The Hagley Park Management Plan covers the management of Hagley Park, which surrounds and is closely linked with the Gardens. The master plan is a long term strategic plan for both Hagley Park and the Gardens, and includes reference to proposed actions, projects and concepts detailed in the management plans.

The objectives and policies, and proposed goals and actions, of this management plan provide an updated management direction for the Gardens. Through public involvement, it is anticipated this reflects a consensus of opinion on the future of the Gardens.

## Acknowledgements

The following Christchurch City Council staff contributed in a significant and specific way to the development of this updated plan:

**Derek Roozen** – Parks and Waterways Planner (overall plan co-ordination and preparation);

**Dr David Given** – Curator (strategic review);

**Jeremy Hawker** – Botanical Services Operations Team Manager (plan overview and co-ordination of Botanical Services Operations Team input);

**Jenny Moore** – Landscape Architect (landscape layout/circulation concepts);

**Crispin Schurr** – Architect (facilities (building) concepts);

The development of this plan was also only possible with the valued input of many other Council staff, including, in particular, staff of the Botanical Services Operations Team.

## Copyright Notice

All maps, logos and images in this plan are the property of the Christchurch City Council, unless otherwise acknowledged. These are not to be copied or reproduced without prior permission.

## Plan Status

Adopted by the Christchurch City Council on 16 August 2007 as the operative plan.

---



*Albert Edward Oak (planted 1863)*

---