

CHRISTCHURCH BOTANIC GARDENS MANAGEMENT PLAN

2007



http://www.ccc.govt.nz/Parks/HagleyParkBotanicGardens/ChChBotanicGardensMngtPlan/

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Foreword

The Christchurch Botanic Gardens¹ 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 21st 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 Given²).

 $\ensuremath{\textbf{Part II}}$ – Describes the Gardens resources and comments on issues and opportunities affecting the Gardens.

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

² 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);

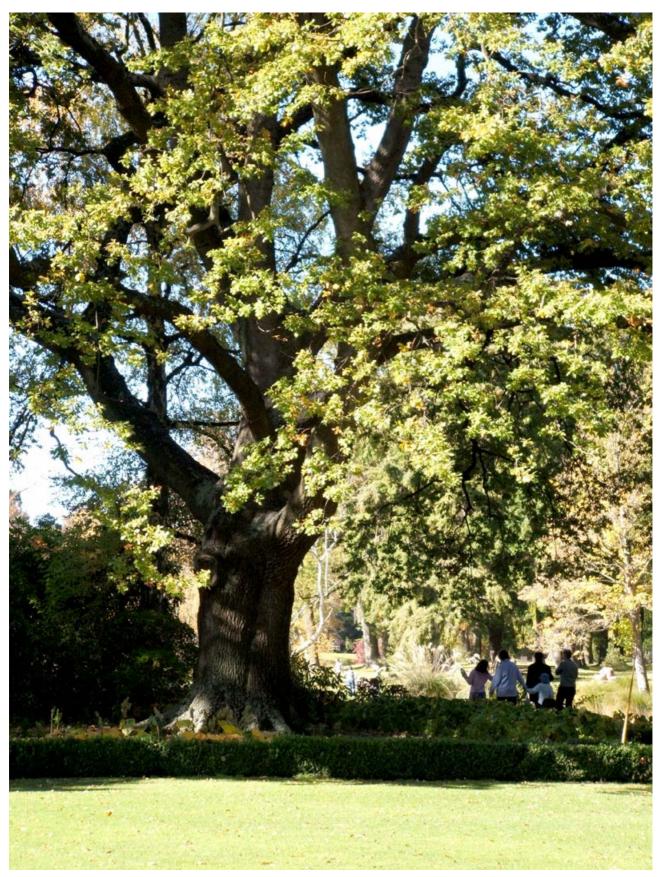
The development of this plan was also only possible with the valued input of many other Council staff, including, in particular, staff of the Botanical Services Operations Team.

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Plan Status

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



Albert Edward Oak (planted 1863)