

THE MASTERPLAN PLAN OVERVIEW

This Masterplan gives guidance for the long term management of the mid section of the Heathcote River/Ōpawaho. The Christchurch City Council applies values based management to all of the City's waterways including the Heathcote River/Ōpawaho, taking account of six values: landscape, ecology, recreation, heritage, culture and drainage.

This document provides background to the project from which 4 Key Goals have been developed using information gathered from neighbourhood improvement plans, ongoing consultation with iwi, individual neighbourhoods, and professionals such as ecologists (freshwater and terrestrial), ornithologists, engineers, planners and landscape architects. A series of concept plans (refer to Part 4) contained in this document illustrate how the idea of a Linear River Park could be developed as a focus for community recreation, education, relaxation and as an attractive environment for walking and cycling through the river corridor.

Knowledge gathered from the consultees was used to guide the development of this Masterplan to ensure that the river corridor can be improved to reinforce community values and neighbourhood identity.

These recommendations included:

- widening riverbanks and narrowing adjacent road carriageways to provide for a healthy future of long-lived large tree planting,
- reducing vehicle through traffic with more formed walkways and strengthening of existing cycle ways,
- providing a balance between native and exotic planting,
- creating habitat for aquatic flora and fauna,
- improving accessibility and visibility to the river,
- varying the riverbed and its banks to maintain flood capacity,
- developing partnerships with schools, educational and recreational groups,
- providing more integrated artwork along the riverbank; and
- working in partnership with Ngāi Tahu to protect and restore the ecological health and mauri (life force) of the Heathcote River/Ōpawaho, and identify, protect and restore sites of importance, celebrating the natural and cultural heritage of the river.