

Parks, beaches, gardens



Users: Individuals, sporting clubs and organisations, visitors to Christchurch

General Benefit: Environmental, recreational

Rationale for assigning benefits

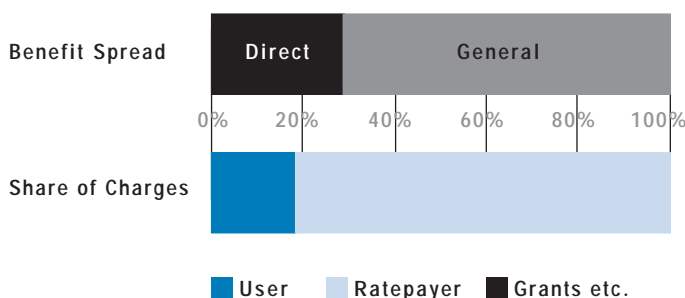
Direct benefit is gained in the form of recreation and quality of life by those who visit the parks or take part in any of the various sporting or entertainment activities held there. General benefits are gained from the contribution parks make to the City, and from the importance of green, open space in an urban environment. The garden parks, in particular, provide a general benefit by helping determine the character of the City and contributing to the identity of Christchurch. Users are charged for events, for example weddings held in parks. Sporting clubs and other organisations which use parks are charged costs for leasing parks property.

Other considerations

It is Council policy to make green, open space available for the people of Christchurch to enjoy. Charging individuals to visit parks is impractical. The cost of benefits are therefore shared between the residential, commercial, rural and institutional sectors, weighted slightly towards the commercial sector from the benefits businesses receive from sports, leisure and entertainment events held in parks.

Christchurch has 638 parks covering almost 5,000 hectares, including beaches, riverbanks, neighbourhood parks, conservation areas, City and sports parks, along with garden parks such as the Botanic Gardens and Mona Vale. This part of the Council's service also includes the maintenance of nine cemeteries and landscaping of streets and riverbanks. The Council develops and maintains the City's parks at an annual cost of \$16.7 million.

Who should pay?



Who benefits?

