

4. REVIEW OF THE HAGLEY PARK MANAGEMENT PLAN

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The purpose of this report is to advise the Parks, Gardens and Waterways Committee of the intention of the Greenspace Unit to review the Hagley Park Management Plan 1991 and to seek Council approval for the commencement of public consultation on this review.

INTRODUCTION

Hagley Park, in conjunction with the adjoining Christchurch Botanic Gardens, Avon River and nearby Mona Vale, is Christchurch's premier central public open space. It is an asset to the city that most residents and visitors experience and likely have some feeling about. It warrants a robust, relevant, up-to-date and visionary plan that can best guide its management well into the future. Under the Reserves Act 1977 there is a requirement to review management plans frequently.

BACKGROUND

Hagley Park is a Recreation Reserve held and managed for public recreation purposes under the Reserves Act 1977 by the Christchurch City Council. It is also administered by the Council under the Christchurch City (Reserves) Empowering Act 1971 (amended in 1974).

The park is currently managed under the Hagley Park Management Plan. The current version was prepared in 1991. Under Subsection 41(4) of the Reserves Act there is a requirement for the Council to keep the management plans of the reserves it administers under continuous review and therefore a review of this particular plan is now timely.

Council staff have already undertaken some preparatory work for this review including:

- Identifying the linkages with other related planning projects, such as that currently in train for the Botanic Gardens.
- Assessment of the current relevance of the existing management plan's policies and how well they have been implemented to date.
- Preparation of a discussion document to outline the issues affecting Hagley Park, establish a tentative planning timeframe and identify potential stakeholders.
- Transfer of the existing management plan document to an electronic format, with the intention that this will be able to be accessed via a dedicated page on the Council's website.
- Development of a consultation plan in conjunction with that for the Botanic Gardens redevelopment for implementation of initial public notification/consultation commencing in August 2004.

LINKAGE

Hagley Park has a strong linkage to other public areas, in particular the Christchurch Botanic Gardens, the Avon River corridor immediately alongside, and Mona Vale nearby. Elements of this linkage include:

- The use of parts of Hagley Park for Botanic Gardens' purposes, such as for botanical plantings, access, car parking and, possibly in the future, a state-of-the-art visitor/information centre.
- A common boundary of Hagley Park and the Botanic Gardens with a good length of the Avon River.
- Prominent vistas from each of the Botanic Gardens and Hagley Park into the other area's space across the Avon River.
- A similar degree of heritage and high standard of landscape development between Hagley Park, the Botanic Gardens and Mona Vale, with the contrasting, less developed corridor of the Avon River touching all three.

These areas have traditionally been separately planned for, with management plans for both the Botanic Gardens and Mona Vale also in place. The plan for the Botanic Gardens was last reviewed in 1995, making it due for review, but the Mona Vale plan dates back to 1988, making it well overdue.

There is an opportunity to integrate the planning for the areas described into a “central city triad park master plan”, with a separate section dealing with each area and its unique character and values but having all integrated under a common vision. The benefits of this include:

- Being able to raise the profile of the grouped areas as an icon central open/green space for Christchurch, such as Central Park is to Manhattan Island, New York, USA.
- Being able to better plan for and manage the overlap of use between the areas, especially that between Hagley Park and the Botanic Gardens, including both existing and possible new situations.
- Implementing a timely review of the management plan for the Botanic Gardens, which will be required, in any case, for any development in, and major changes to, that area.

SCOPE/TERMS OF REFERENCE

There is a statutory requirement upon the Council to follow a set procedure in the preparation of the Hagley Park Management Plan, as set out in Section 41 of the Reserves Act 1977. This requirement also applies to the review and change to the existing plan.

Under Subsection 41(5) of the Act, an initial action required is for public notice to be given of the Council's intention to review the plan and to call for submissions. This is programmed for August 2004, with a submission period set for a period of two months.

Once the plan is reviewed and draft adjustments made, there is a requirement, under subsection 41(6) of the Act, for further public consultation to take place, with submissions invited over a period of two months. This is expected to take place early next year.

Part 6 of the Local Government Act 2002 places an obligation on the Council to consult with interested and affected parties in the course of its decision-making process in relation to any matter and give consideration to the views and preferences expressed by those parties. As long as this is not inconsistent with the process of consultation as required by the Reserves Act 1977 there is an opportunity to expand upon the statutory consultation process with respect to the Hagley Park Management Plan review. This can be, for example, linking in with other consultation processes such as that for the Botanic Gardens' redevelopment, convening public workshops and other meeting forums, and integrating with the consultation for other management plan reviews (that is, for the Botanic Gardens and Mona Vale).

It is anticipated that the review of the Hagley Park Management Plan will result in:

- Visionary, strategic, attractive and clear planning documentation that serve to promote Hagley Park and provide for the ongoing monitoring of the implementation of relevant and up-to-date objectives and policies for the park.
- Better linkage of the park's objectives and policies to the Council's long-term operational and capital programmes.
- Ongoing ready public access to the planning resource for the park, including a dedicated page on the Council's website and regular newsletters.

CONSULTATION

The public consultation, with the Council's approval, is planned to commence at the beginning of August 2004.

Prior to this, discussions have been held between involved Council staff and a discussion document prepared. This identified issues affecting the park, suggested a timeframe for review, listed actual and potential stakeholders to be consulted, discussed how well the existing plan's policies have/have not been met, and posed possible directions to take for a new updated plan.

At a meeting with the Botanic Gardens Project Control Group at the end of May it was proposed to integrate the planning for the public consultation for the Hagley Park Management Plan review with that for the Botanic Gardens master planning project (reported to the Committee in June), expected to occur about the same time. The intention was to keep the consultations separate but utilise common resources as appropriate to achieve “an economy of scale” and avoid duplication.

A Consultation Plan prepared by Michele Hider of the Communications Team has guided the public consultation programme for the Hagley Park Management Plan review.

KEY ISSUES

There is a raft of actual and potential issues seen to be affecting Hagley Park. These should, at the least, be tabled for discussion if not necessarily acted on. Some of these issues may give rise to enthusiastic debate and, for this reason, may not have been considered to any significant extent previously. The time is now, though, to encourage public comment on these issues, especially as there are ever increasing demands being put on the Hagley Park space.

These issues can be discussed in the public arena at the time of the planned public consultation in August 2004.

TIMEFRAME

An abbreviated timeline of possible key milestones for the review is as follows:

August – September 2004	Public notification of the plan review and consultation (workshops in mid August and an invitation to comment up to the end of September).
October 2004 – December 2004	Analysis of submissions and preparation of a draft adjusted plan.
February 2005	The draft adjusted plan reported to the Committee for approval.
Mid March – mid May 2005	Full public consultation on the draft adjusted plan.
Mid May – mid July 2005	Analysis of submissions and public hearing as required.
July 2005	Report to the Council for adoption of the adjusted plan.
August – October 2005	Finalisation of the plan and plan published.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The cost of the review of the Hagley Park Management Plan will be met from the Greenspace Unit's operational planning budget.

Flow on effects from the plan review resulting in the requirement for future developments and improvements in Hagley Park should initially be covered by the Five Year Capital Expenditure Programme for the Greenspace Unit. Capital expenditure currently specified for Hagley Park is:

	2004/2005	2005/2006	2006/2007	2007/2008	2008/2009
Playing Field Reconstruction			50,000	30,000	30,000
Amenity Landscaping/ Planting Projects	15,000	16,934	15,000	15,000	15,000
Drainage Work			30,000		
Pathways Formation	10,000	11,031	10,000	10,000	10,000
Irrigation Systems	20,000	22,578	50,000	50,000	50,000
Hagley Oval Groundskeeping Facilities	36,000	39,713			
Car Park/ Driveway Formation	5,000	5,258	80,000		
TOTALS:	86,000	95,514	235,000	105,000	105,000

If any major items following consultation and review of the Hagley Park Management Plan come to light these will need to be programmed into the capital works schedule in subsequent years.

COMMUNITY BOARD CONSULTATION

This report will be forwarded to the Hagley/Ferrymead Community Board for its information at its meeting on 4 August 2004.

CONTACTS

Staff regularly involved in the management plan review include:

Plan Review Coordinator – Derek Roozen
Communications Co-ordinator – Michele Hider
Curator Botanic Gardens – David Given
Botanical Services Operations Manager – Jeremy Hawker

Staff

Recommendation: That the Parks, Gardens and Waterways Committee:

1. Receive this report as information.
2. Support the commencement of public consultation on the Hagley Park Management Plan review in August 2004.

Chairman's

Recommendation: That the recommendation be adopted.