

7. HAGLEY PARK/BOTANIC GARDENS MANAGEMENT AND MASTER PLANS

General Manager responsible:	General Manager City Environment DDI 941-8656
Officer responsible:	Greenspace Manager
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PURPOSE OF REPORT

1. The purpose of this report is to seek Council approval to put the draft Hagley Park and Christchurch Botanic Gardens Management Plans 2006 and the draft Hagley Park/Botanic Gardens Master Plan 2006 out to public consultation as required under Section 83 of the Local Government Act 2002 and, in the case of the Hagley Park Management Plan, Section 41 of the Reserves Act 1977.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

2. Hagley Park is Christchurch's most significant city park. It is centrally located within the city and is renowned for its extensive acreage (161 hectares), wide open spaces, tree avenues and woodlands. The park is also a major sporting and cultural focal point being used by many resident sports groups, for weekly inter-school sports matches and inter-club sports matches and by community sport and recreational groups. The adjacent Christchurch Botanic Gardens is an internationally recognised institution visited by most city residents and visitors. Its role includes recreation, education, research and conservation.
3. Hagley Park offers a diverse range of relaxation, entertainment and recreational opportunities in close proximity to the city centre.
4. Resulting from the park's diverse range of opportunities, considerable pressure is put on the park and its facilities. Management of the park as a whole requires sensitive balancing of these pressures, which, if not co-ordinated in an integrated manner, could have the potential to degrade the very nature of the park that makes it one of the most attractive parks within the city.
5. Regulation of the many uses and appropriate management is therefore required to ensure the unique features are retained and enhanced for future generations. A comprehensive management plan is therefore regarded as an essential tool to guide and direct Hagley Park's development and management into the future.
6. The Hagley Park Management Plan, last reviewed in 1991 as part of the Council's statutory obligations, is currently undergoing review and revision. Extensive public consultation on Hagley Park and the Botanic Gardens by the Council in late 2004 attracted many submissions and media attention. There was earlier research by Opinions Market Research on the Botanic Gardens. This input has been invaluable in evaluation of a proposed direction and vision for both the Park and the Gardens .
7. An extensive analysis of issues affecting the Botanic Gardens has been undertaken, including the update of the Christchurch Botanic Gardens Management Plan, last reviewed in 1993. This is a non-statutory plan, but is being treated as such. It is seen as desirable to review this plan now, in conjunction with the review of the Hagley Park Management Plan, to set the context for the future integrated direction, development and management of both the Botanic Gardens and Hagley Park. The draft updated plan incorporates an in-depth strategic review of the role and functions of the Botanic Gardens, which was largely prepared by the late Dr David Given in his capacity as curator. Although there is not a statutory requirement to prepare an updated plan, a revision of this Management Plan in light of recent consultation is seen as desirable.
8. To encapsulate the operation, management, direction, vision and desires highlighted through the evaluation of public submissions for both the wider Hagley Park and the Botanic Gardens area, the management plan steering group agreed it was necessary to link the management plan process through a wider and more strategic and visionary master plan.

9. The Hagley Park/Botanic Gardens Master Plan is a “road map”, setting out the park’s and the Botanic Gardens’ priorities for the long term, based on input received from the consultation process, staff and the Council. It provides an integrated vision and direction for the park and gardens, and is a start in encouraging active participation by all users and city residents in the development, enhancement and protection of the intrinsic values of this significant public area for generations to come.
10. In June 2005, a steering group report was presented to the Council’s Executive Team recommending that a master plan be prepared to set out the Council’s long range vision for the combined area. This report recommended that the existing Hagley Park Management Plan be reviewed, that planning for new operational and visitor facilities for the Botanic Gardens be included and that a strategy be prepared for progressing issues relating to existing leases within the Hagley Park boundaries.
11. On 13 June 2005, the Executive Team accepted the report’s recommendations and issued instructions for the preparation of the draft master plan and draft updated management plans.
12. These draft documents have now been completed, after internal review by relevant Council units. They are now put forward to the Council for approval to proceed to public consultation, following a final review by the Hagley/Ferrymead Community Board.
13. Timeline for consultation and completion:

Community Board/Councillor review	Tuesday 27 June to Wednesday 19 July 2006
Council meeting	Thursday 20 July
Plan publicly notified	Saturday 19 August
Public submission period	Monday 21 August to Wednesday 25 October
Submission analysis	completed by Monday 4 December
Hearings period	week of 11 December
Plan revisions	completed by 23 February 2007
Final Council approval	March 2007

FINANCIAL AND LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS

14. The Hagley Park Management Plan is a statutory plan and is subject to Section 41 of the Reserves Act 1977, with respect to its preparation and the processes of publicly consulting on it.
15. The Christchurch Botanic Gardens Management Plan and the new Hagley Park/Botanic Gardens Master Plan are not statutory documents; although not subject to the same process as the statutory plan it was deemed appropriate by the Council previously that they should be processed in a similar manner to achieve a consistency of consideration by the public and also to provide for some cost benefit in similarity of process.
16. Notwithstanding the specific Reserves Act requirements for the Hagley Park Management Plan, all three plans will be publicly consulted on in accordance with the Special Consultative Procedures provisions of the Local Government Act 2002.

THE DOCUMENTS FOR PUBLIC CONSULTATION

17. The following table identifies the methods proposed to be employed to make the plans readily available for public access (quantities to be confirmed):

Method of Distribution	Hagley Park/ Botanic Gardens Master Plan 2006 (draft) [approx 144 A4 pages]	Hagley Park Management Plan 2006 (draft) [approx 181 A4 pages]	Christchurch Botanic Gardens Management Plan 2006 (draft) [approx 242 A4 pages]	Promotional brochure/ submission form [A3 double- sided]
Printed copies (between 50 and 100), including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ For Council ▪ At Civic Offices, service centres & libraries (for view) ▪ Available on request 	√	√	√	
Printed copies (1,500 to 2,000), including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Mailed to identified stakeholders, including all 2004 submitters. ▪ At Civic Offices, service centres & libraries (free to take) ▪ Available on request 				√
On CD, for distribution to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Community board members ▪ Key venues 	√	√	√	
Pdf and html files on dedicated pages on Council's website	√	√	√	√

STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the Council:

1. Approve the draft Hagley Park/Botanic Gardens Master Plan 2006 and draft Christchurch Botanic Gardens Management Plan 2006 and that both draft plans be advertised for public submissions in conjunction with the Hagley Park Management Plan.
2. That pursuant to section 41 of the Reserves Act 1977, the draft Hagley Park Management Plan be advertised for public submissions for a period not less than eight weeks commencing on or about Monday 7 August 2006.