

Summary submission form

Instructions

You may send us your submission...

Please read before completing your submission

It will help us process your submission if you clearly state the issue you want the Council to consider, what specific action you think the Council should take, and why that should be done.

If you wish, you can present your submission at a hearing. (If that is the case, please tick the box). The hearings will be held between Thursday 25 May and Wednesday 7 June 2006. Generally, 10 minutes are allocated for hearing each submission, including time for questions.

It will help us if your submission also refers to the page of either the full version or the summary version.

Please note: we are legally required to make all written or electronic submissions available to Councillors and to the public. This includes the name and address of the submitter. All submissions will be published on the Council's website from 10 May 2006.

No anonymous submissions will be accepted.

By mail

Please mail your submission (no stamp is required) to:

Freepost 178
Our Community Plan
Christchurch City Council
PO Box 237
Christchurch 8003



By email

Please email your submission to:
ccc-plan@ccc.govt.nz
Please make sure that your full name and address is included with your submission.

On the internet

You may enter your submission using the form provided on the Council's web site at:
<http://www.ccc.govt.nz>
Please follow all the instructions on the web site.

Please remember to indicate if you wish to present your submission in person at one of the hearings.

Please ensure your submission arrives no later than Friday 5 May 2006.

Your submission

You may use this form for your submission on the draft Our Community Plan if you wish. Whether you use this form or not, please include your name, address and contact telephone number with your submission.

Tick one I do NOT wish to present my submission at the hearing, and ask that this written submission be considered OR
 I wish to talk to the main points in my written submission at the hearings to be held between Thursday 25 May and Wednesday 7 June 2006

Are you completing this submission: For yourself On behalf of a group or organisation

If you are representing a group or organisation, how many people do you represent?

My submission refers to: Full version Page No. Summary version Page No.

Do you also want to respond to: Development Contributions Aquatic Facilities Other

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Signature [Signature] Date 5 May 2006

Port Hills Park Trust Board

Submission April 2006 to the Christchurch City Council on "Our Community Plan LTCCP".

1. Background

The Port Hills Park Trust Board ("PHPTB")

The PHPTB was established in 1985 for the 'preservation and conservation of resources offered by the Port Hills as an area for active and passive recreation, sport and education, to be enjoyed as far as is practicable by the people of Canterbury, in particular, and by visitors from beyond Canterbury in general' and also 'other charitable undertakings or undertakings as may be selected by the Trustees'.

The PHPTB Trustees include the Mayor (or a nominee of that person), a representative of Lincoln University, a representative of the local Member of Parliament, a representative of the Christchurch Civic Trust and three others representing the people of Canterbury. The Port Hills Park Trust Board is the owner of Mt Vernon Farm Park. Its Trust Deed envisages the Trust participating in extending the conservation and protection of further areas on the Port Hills.

Trends

Our Community Plan notes a number of trends goals and objectives (pp 49 to 53) in particular:

- Projected population growth of 2.3%pa in the next 10 years (p.31)
 - Increasing spread of development and redevelopment of the City
 - Managing water and land drainage systems effectively and contributing to landscape, ecology, recreation, heritage and cultural values
 - Providing and supporting sport, recreation and leisure activities
- And many others which are significant to the issues raised in this submission

2. Submission on the 'Let's Talk It Through' document

In June 2005 the Port Hills Park Trust Board made a submission on the '**Let's Talk It Through**' document and in summary it stated:-

The Port Hills Park Trust Board seeks that there be additional reference in both the Community Outcome sections and also the Council Goals and Objectives sections of the Community and Council's support and interest in recognising the importance of the Port Hills as an icon landscape and also the need to extend the recreation activities on the Port Hills.

A series of detailed suggestions as to suitable words which could have been added to several of the Community Outcomes and the City Council goals and objectives to the advantage of the content of the document were also included. in that submission.

3. Inclusion of Port Hills in the LTCCP 2006

A careful reading of the present Draft LTCCP finds there are no explicit references in the descriptive text, although they could be inferred to be encompassed on pages 44, 45 and 46 under Community Outcomes of **A City of People who Value and Protect the Natural Environment, A Healthy City and An Attractive and well-designed City.**

There is passing mention of the Port Hills as a significant geographical feature of the City at page 36 and on page 121 it is noted that Regional Parks on the Port Hills are among the 71 such parks managed by the Council. (Although several are also managed by others including Mt Vernon (of 235 hectares) by the Port Hills Park Trust Board).

As pointed out in the PHPT Board previous submission *The further development of open space and recreation areas on the Port Hills are also examples of 6 of the Council's proposed Goals and Objectives.*

In that June 2005 submission the PHPTB requested that the outcomes be strengthened: *to better reflect the Community's concerns and interests in the Port Hills with more specific references to the Port Hills open space reserves system which is in multiple ownerships and all used for public recreation, landscape protection and biological qualities which add significantly to Christchurch's special qualities and diversity.*

and the submission continued: *A prosperous city must also be a distinctively different city and these icon areas do just that. The Port Hills, with its existing and future reserves provides a distinctive feature and also serves as the gateway to Banks Peninsula, which together provide a valued domain for the people of Canterbury and a unique and striking visitor destination*

4. General Conclusion on LTCCP Recognition of the Port Hills.

The Port Hills Park Trust Board requests, on its own behalf and also on behalf of other organisations, voluntary groups and citizens who manage, use and admire the Port Hills, that some explicit references be made in the LTCCP to the significance and value of the Port Hills reserve system to Banks Peninsula and Christchurch City. This can be done conveniently by minor additions at the following places:-

- Page 38 first paragraph by an explicit reference in the 'Our Environment Today' section to **'Banks Peninsula and the open space summit, hill and valley areas of the Port Hills'**
- Page 50 under No 8 add **'and surrounded by the open spaces of the Waimakariri River areas, Pegasus Bay beaches and the elevated reserves of the Port Hills.'**
- Page 52 add at the end another bullet point: **'Protect and support sustainable management of the extensive open space framework surrounding Christchurch abutting the Waimakariri River, the Pegasus coastal fringe and the Port Hills.'**

5. Specific Reference to the Proposed Port Hills Forest Park.

(Note:- A Plan of the Port Hills Summit Road Parks showing the Proposed Cashmere forest park is Attached)

Since mid 2003 the PHPT Board has been undertaking feasibility studies in relation to the present pine forest in the Cashmere and Worsley Valleys with a view to their purchase and restoration as an integrated forest management ,to secure biodiversity and a public recreation area. This has been supported by a Campaign Team of very experienced financiers, planners, recreationists, land and forest scientists established as a committee of the Board. Detailed research has been undertaken in conjunction with university personnel including a complex array of technical and planning matters leading to the preparation of an Integrated Forest Management Plan. These studies give confidence to the campaign team and the Board that the area has immense potential as a biodiverse production and recreation area. This is a challenge to provide a forest with challenge and great opportunities for relaxation for the citizens of Christchurch in an environment which contrasts with other Port Hills reserves whilst it complements the Bottle Lake and other forests of the plains with its steep topographic interest and attributes. The four values of landscape, recreation, biodiversity and catchment/conservation all together support the outcomes set out in the LTCCP and also the City Plan zoning for the area. This proposal is a neat match to these purposes.

Estimates using a computer model of the forestry maintenance, forest enrichment, re-vegetation costs and the cost of developing the afforested areas have been undertaken. These are associated with walkway, equestrian, mountain bike, tramping and rock-climbing networks needed for family and venture recreation activities. As a result the Trust is poised to negotiate with the present owners, who are willing and supportive of our proposal, for the public acquisition of the land.

Obviously funding will involve a mix of private sponsorship, public subscription and a long term contribution by the Christchurch City Council toward this capital investment, the total package to be negotiated during 2007.

6. LTCCP Support for Cashmere Forest Park.

The PHPT Board has resolved to pursue this programme as an independent exercise and to initiate the necessary Changes to the City Plan at an appropriate time. The area is to be planned in a unique, environmentally sensitive manner, as a public reserve with a variety of functions and activities forming a gateway to the Summit road area, Lyttelton Harbour and the many other reserves on Banks Peninsula.

So far as the PHPTB is concerned, public acquisition is the goal and it is immaterial whether this is by the Council or the PHPTB; however the PHPTB as an independent charitable trust is able to attract funding for this purchase from sources not available to the Council and once acquired, expects to attract considerable volunteered effort towards the development and maintenance of the park and, like Mount Vernon, run it at a fraction of the cost the Council would incur if owned by the City Council.

The PHPT Board considers it is imperative to the public confidence in this major undertaking, involving a reserve area for public use of the same scale as the adjacent Bowenvale Valley and Victoria Park, (see map attached) that the City

Council at least recognise and make a reference to its share or contribution toward Cashmere Forest Park in its Strategic land purchases programme referred to on page 72 of the LTCCP.

Although a firm price for purchase and a date have not yet been finalised, the Board is confident this will be achieved in the next three years and must be provided for in the '*Discretionary projects: priority*' category at this stage at least to ensure a City Council contribution to part of the cost of the anticipated financial cost.

The PHPT Board notes and supports the statement and policy set out at the foot of page 72: 'A specific loan (\$60 million) will be raised to create a revolving reserve fund for land purchase'. It is of the view that such an effective policy is long overdue and also that the modest amount sought (say \$1 million) for this proposed extensive Cashmere Forest Park falls within the purview of that policy.

This LTCCP recognition will give additional commitment and authority from the City Council to this exciting and City-enhancing project. A project which otherwise does not require immediate action by the Council and for an activity which will be planned and operated without becoming a future call on the Councils parks operating budgets.

7. **LTCCP Support for Mount Vernon**

The Port Hills Park Trust Board depends on continued grants funding from the City Council for the continued operation, maintenance, planning and research of Mount Vernon Farm Park as a public farm park. In recent years the Council has maintained annual grants of \$20,000 per annum. It is difficult to see where this funding might be provided from in future given the stated objectives and funding provisions included in the draft LTCCP. Continued support is obviously a good investment for the City and adequate provision is requested.

8. **Specific Conclusion**

Support and recognition in the LTCCP for the proposed Cashmere Forest Park, is therefore requested. Specifically it is requested that the following be added to the LTCCP at the end of Page 73 under the heading

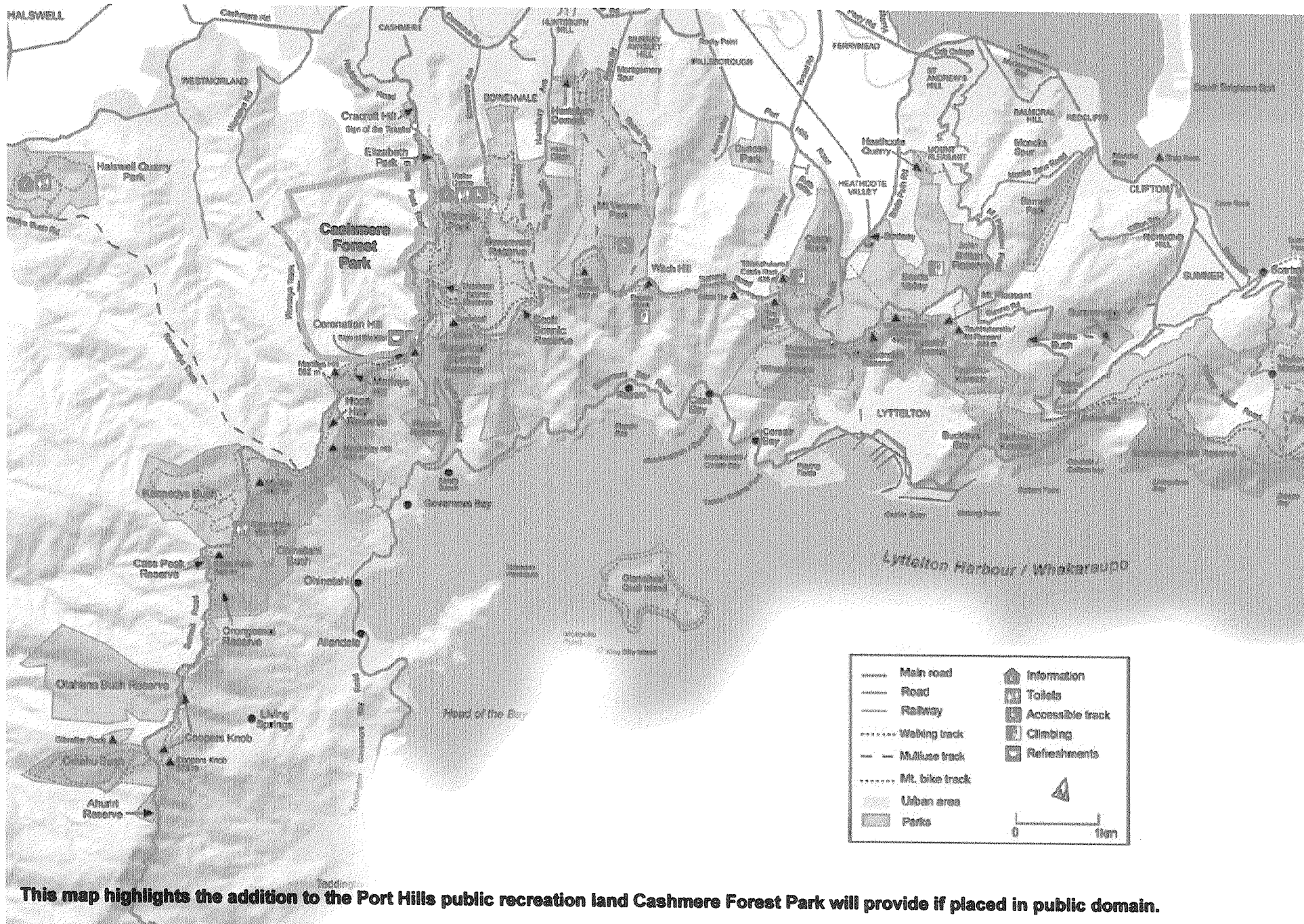
Discretionary projects: priority

Cashmere Forest Park. Council contribution to the public acquisition of this 380 hectare hill and valley system of conservation, flood management and public recreation area, linked across to the adjacent Victoria Park and with the flood plain management of the lower Cashmere and Worsley valleys below, to be developed by the Port Hills Park Trust Board in cooperation with the Council. Funding a Council share of \$1 million to assist the purchase is required in 2007 to 2009.

Signed on behalf of the Port Hills Park Trust Board

Oscar Alpers
Chairman

5th May 2006



This map highlights the addition to the Port Hills public recreation land Cashmere Forest Park will provide if placed in public domain.