



Parks, open spaces and waterways



The city's gardens and parks are beautiful. Before I came to Christchurch they told me about the Garden City and I really like this aspect of the city; I wouldn't live anywhere else in New Zealand.

In Beijing, where I grew up, most of the parks are beaten earth and you normally have to pay to get into gardens, so the greenery and space of Christchurch is wonderful. They're such restful places, too. If you have a busy life, being able to go to a park or the gardens means you can relax and get rid of the stress. Even if you're having a bad day, having beautiful plants and flowers around will cheer you up and make everything seem OK.

Yvonne Zhang

Engineer
St Albans

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Why does the Council provide parks, open spaces and waterways?

The Council provides parks, open spaces and waterways to meet community and environmental needs. These include access to open space, protection of natural resources and scenic values, contribution to the city's landscape and its Garden City image, management of the land drainage network and providing places for burial and remembrance.

What is the Council doing regarding parks, open spaces and waterways?

Urban Parks

The Council provides and manages 709 parks within the city's urban area. These parks provide areas for recreation and organised sport, garden environments and green corridors, and contribute to the city's natural form, character and amenity values.

Regional Parks

The Council provides and manages 71 regional parks, including those within coastal areas, the Port Hills and the plains. These parks are used for informal recreation, conservation of natural resources and scenic values, and cultural and heritage preservation.

The Botanic Gardens

The Council provides and manages the Christchurch Botanic Gardens (21 hectares in size) so that residents and visitors to Christchurch can enjoy its garden environments and plant collections.

Cemeteries

The Council provides and manages nine operational cemeteries to meet the burial and remembrance needs of the community.

Waterways and Land Drainage

The Council provides and operates the city's stormwater system, manages the waterways into which it discharges, and it protects and enhances the life-supporting capacity of the city's waterways and wetlands.

How does the Council's work contribute towards our Community Outcomes?

Community outcome	How the Council contributes	How much?
Safety	By ensuring our Parks, open spaces and waterways are healthy and safe places, and by controlling and minimising flood and fire hazards.	✓✓
Community	By providing welcoming areas for communities to gather and interact, and by meeting a range of community burial needs.	✓✓
Environment	By offering opportunities for people to contribute to projects that improve our city's environment.	✓✓✓
Governance	By involving people in decision-making about Parks, open spaces and waterways.	✓✓
Prosperity	By contributing to Christchurch's Garden City image and attracting business, skills and tourism.	✓
Health	By providing areas for people to engage in healthy activities. By managing surface water.	✓✓✓
Recreation	By offering a range of active and passive recreation and leisure opportunities in Parks, open spaces and waterways.	✓✓✓
Knowledge	By providing the opportunity to learn through social interaction and recreation.	✓
City Development	By providing inviting, pleasant and well cared-for environments, and by ensuring the drainage network allows the city to function during rainfall.	✓✓✓



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What does the Council plan to do in the future?

<i>What is Council's objective?</i>	<i>What policies, strategies or drivers support this objective?</i>	<i>What is the Council already doing?</i>	<i>What will we do in years 1 to 3?</i>	<i>What will we do in years 4 to 10?</i>	<i>How will we know if we achieve our objective?</i>
To provide a network of parks, open spaces, waterways and wetlands that meet community and environmental needs.	Policies and Strategies: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recreation and Sports Strategy • Natural Asset Management Strategy • Environmental Policy • Heritage Conservation Policy • Waterways, Wetlands and Drainage Guide • Parks and Waterways Access Policy Drivers: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Garden City image • Environmental conservation • Management and conservation plans • Code of Urban Development • City Plan/Resource Management Act 1991 • Reserves Act 1977 • Burial and Cremation Act 1964 	Providing parks.	Continue at the same level.	Continue at the same level.	The level of parks provided is, at least, maintained.
		Maintaining parks, waterways and wetlands in a clean and tidy condition.	Continue to do the same.	Continue to do the same.	The level of customer satisfaction with appearance of parks, waterways and wetland areas is, at least, maintained.
		Providing a variety of recreation opportunities and facilities in parks.	Continue to do the same.	Continue to do the same.	The level of customer satisfaction with the variety of opportunities is, at least, maintained. The range of recreation facilities is at least maintained.
		Providing the Christchurch Botanic Gardens.	Continue to do the same.	Continue to do the same.	The gardens remain a top attraction for residents and visitors.
		Providing cemeteries which can meet the city's burial needs.	Continue to do the same.	Continue to do the same.	Council cemeteries continue to meet current and future burial demands.
		Providing and maintaining land drainage infrastructure.	Continue to do the same.	Continue to do the same.	Proportion of properties with no nuisance flooding during a normal rain event. Satisfaction with appearance of waterways and wetlands.

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Measuring our achievements

Measures and Targets	Current performance	06/07	07/08	08/09	09/10	10/11	11/12	12/13	13/14	14/15	15/16
Area of urban park per 1,000 population (ha = hectares).	4.7 ha (total 1,616 ha)	4.7 ha (total 1,623 ha)	4.7 ha (total 1,631 ha)	4.7 ha (total 1,638 ha)	4.7 ha per 1,000 population (total 1,685 ha).						
% of urban residences within 400 metres of a park.	90%	90%	90%	90%	90%						
Area of regional park per 1,000 population.	13 ha (total 4,460 ha)	13.1 ha (total 4,460 ha)	13.2 ha (total 4,620 ha)	13.4 ha (total 4,700 ha)	14 ha per 1,000 population (total 5,020 ha).						
Customer Satisfaction with appearance of parks and with range of recreation opportunities available in parks.	91% 85%	>90% 85%	>90% 85%	>90% 85%	>90% 85%						
Provision of Recreation Facilities: Playgrounds per 1,000 children,	>4	>4	>4	>4	5 playgrounds per 1,000 children.						
Youth facilities per 1,000 youth,	>1	>1	>1	>1	>1 youth recreation facility per 1,000 youth.						
Playing fields per 1,000 sports participants.	14 winter 7 summer	14 winter 7 summer	14 winter 7 summer	14 winter 7 summer	15 winter fields per 1,000 sports participants, 8 summer fields per 1,000 sports participants.						
Number of people visiting the Botanic Gardens per year (m = million).	1.2 m	1.2 m	1.2 m	1.2 m	1.2 m						
Capacity of Council cemeteries.	13,500 full plots (20+year capacity). 3,500 ash plots (20+ year capacity).	14,000 full plots (20+year capacity). 3,500 ash plots (20+ year capacity).	13,500 full plots (20+year capacity). 3,500 ash plots (20+ year capacity).	16,000 full plots (25+year capacity). 3,400 ash plots (20+ year capacity).	15,900 full plots (20+year capacity). 2,500 ash plots (20+ year capacity).						
% of non-flooding properties.	99%	99%	99%	99%	99%						
Residents' satisfaction with the appearance of waterways and wetlands.	73%	75%	75%	75%	75%						



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What negative effects or risks can occur in relation to our Parks, open spaces and waterways?

<i>Negative effects</i>	<i>Mitigation options</i>
Trees damage paving, disturb underground and overhead services, and block drains. They may shade neighbouring properties.	Root cutting, tree pruning, tree removal, appropriate tree location and species selection. Remove leaf litter from drainage grates.
Vandalism and graffiti to park assets.	Fix vandalism damage, remove graffiti, and work to prevent these activities.
Anti-social behaviour in parks.	Meet appropriate safety guidelines and carry out audits. Provide lighting and appropriate surveillance.
Noise disturbance to neighbours.	Comply with City Plan boundary set-back requirements for structures or facilities.
Contamination of soil or water from use of agrichemicals.	Limit the use of agrichemicals where possible and/or substitute with organic or mechanical measures. Ensure agrichemicals are applied in accordance with product requirements and to industry standards.
Fire hazard to adjoining properties.	Use land management practices that reduce fire hazard, seasonal fire controls, and ready response available for rural fires.
Contaminants from many sources travel in the stormwater system.	Monitor and investigate stormwater quality and sources of contaminants.
Maintaining and altering streams and rivers banks can affect habitats.	Review grass cutting on river banks. Use stream restoration projects to provide some additional habitat.

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The Council's key assets relating to Parks, open spaces and waterways

Parks (including the Botanic Gardens) 781, land area 6,097 ha	Stormwater pipes 729 km
Paths and walkways/tracks 391 km	Stormwater pumping stations 32
Park specimen trees 48,213	Rivers 124 km
Planted areas (shrubs and tree groups) 138 ha	Wetlands approximately 1,000 ha
Park furniture 6,132 items	Drains and tributaries 290 km
Play and sport facilities 407	Cemeteries nine operational (74 ha)

Maintaining our assets

The cost of maintaining the city's parks, open spaces and waterways is expected to keep increasing over the next 10 to 15 years. More assets will be required to meet the city's growth, and to respond to local needs. The current assets will need to be renewed when they reach the end of their functional lives.

Maintenance on parks and open space assets is primarily carried out by a service provider under a long-term contract. Some asset areas have shorter term maintenance contracts.

Maintenance on the utility and natural waterways is carried out under a number of specialist contracts of medium duration. The cost of maintaining waterways will increase as additional assets are acquired and as a result of external factors such as fuel and dumping costs.

Assets such as playgrounds, structures and carparks are renewed based on their condition and service utility. Renewal projects are usually competitively tendered. Asset renewal may also result in improvements, for example where natural stream values are restored as part of a drain renewal.

Typical renewal/replacement periods (approximate) for key assets include:

- Play equipment - every 20-25 years
- Paths (surfaces) - every 20 years
- Park trees - every 100 years
- Shrub beds - every 10-15 years
- Seating - every 35 years
- Timber-lined drains - every 40 years
- Stormwater pipes - every 100 years



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Changes planned for assets

<i>Driver</i>	<i>What will be done?</i>	<i>Year 1 cost (\$ 000)</i>	<i>Year 2 cost (\$ 000)</i>	<i>Year 3 cost (\$ 000)</i>	<i>Years 4 to 10 cost (\$ 000)</i>
Renewals and replacements	Assets are maintained in accordance with the parks, open spaces and waterways asset management plan, including stormwater management systems, tree replacement, playgrounds, park structures, car - parks and bridges.	8,229	12,612	12,964	74,423
Increased levels of service	Service improvements are planned in the areas of foreshore development, riverbank works, cemeteries and re-vegetation projects.	650	659	671	6,289
Increased demand	Assets will be added in accordance with the parks, open spaces and waterways asset management plan including fencing, lighting, walkways, paths, landscaping, a new facility in the Botanic Gardens and major strategic land purchases for stormwater management and the purchase and development of new reserves associated with growth.	15,616	21,928	20,252	102,373



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Cost of proposed services

	CCC 2006/07 \$000's	BPDC 2006/07 \$000's	Total Plan 2006/07 \$000's	Plan 2007/08 \$000's	Plan 2008/09 \$000's	Forecast 2009/10 \$000's	Forecast 2010/11 \$000's	Forecast 2011/12 \$000's	Forecast 2012/13 \$000's	Forecast 2013/14 \$000's	Forecast 2014/15 \$000's	Forecast 2015/16 \$000's
Activity operational cost -												
Cemeteries	1,310	61	1,371	1,383	1,412	1,444	1,459	1,491	1,525	1,555	1,582	1,582
Regional parks	6,098	590	6,688	6,987	7,291	7,563	7,598	7,705	7,834	7,970	8,117	8,033
The botanic gardens	4,894	-	4,894	4,821	4,870	5,007	5,534	5,643	5,756	5,850	5,943	5,931
Urban parks	16,717	811	17,528	18,233	18,948	19,588	20,014	20,485	20,972	21,303	21,698	20,926
Waterways and land drainage	13,482	377	13,859	14,171	14,774	15,230	15,836	16,186	16,530	16,843	17,097	17,333
Total expenditure	42,501	1,839	44,340	45,595	47,295	48,832	50,441	51,510	52,617	53,521	54,437	53,805
Activity operational revenue -												
Cemeteries	711	18	729	752	775	796	817	836	854	870	885	899
Regional parks	559	70	629	649	669	687	705	721	737	751	763	776
The botanic gardens	164	-	164	169	174	179	184	188	192	196	199	202
Urban parks	497	203	700	722	744	765	784	803	820	835	849	864
Waterways and land drainage	18	20	38	39	40	42	43	44	44	45	46	47
Capital revenues	4,990	519	5,509	8,243	9,015	9,804	10,609	11,551	11,936	12,310	12,661	13,022
Total operational revenue	6,939	830	7,769	10,574	11,417	12,273	13,142	14,143	14,583	15,007	15,403	15,810
<i>Fees and charges</i>	<i>6,924</i>	<i>830</i>	<i>7,754</i>	<i>10,559</i>	<i>11,402</i>	<i>12,257</i>	<i>13,124</i>	<i>14,125</i>	<i>14,565</i>	<i>14,989</i>	<i>15,385</i>	<i>15,791</i>
<i>Grants and subsidies</i>	<i>15</i>		<i>15</i>	<i>15</i>	<i>15</i>	<i>16</i>	<i>18</i>	<i>18</i>	<i>18</i>	<i>18</i>	<i>18</i>	<i>19</i>
Total operational revenue (by source)	6,939	830	7,769	10,574	11,417	12,273	13,142	14,143	14,583	15,007	15,403	15,810
Net operational cost	35,562	1,009	36,571	35,021	35,878	36,559	37,299	37,367	38,034	38,514	39,034	37,995
Vested assets	9,780	-	9,780	10,279	10,630	17,201	11,321	18,639	11,682	11,940	12,171	12,407
Net cost of services	25,782	1,009	26,791	24,742	25,248	19,358	25,978	18,728	26,352	26,574	26,863	25,588
Capital expenditure												
Renewals and replacements	7,553	699	8,252	13,206	12,242	8,581	9,496	9,859	10,175	10,571	11,009	11,309
Improved service levels	670	-	670	660	672	745	821	899	921	941	959	978
Increased demand	20,351	-	20,351	21,536	21,256	23,132	17,461	13,303	13,156	13,409	13,856	14,152
Total capital expenditure	28,574	699	29,273	35,402	34,170	32,458	27,778	24,061	24,252	24,921	25,824	26,439

Rationale for activity funding (see also the Revenue and Financing Policy, page 267)

User charges for certain services, such as cemeteries and ground hire, are collected at levels considered reasonable by the Council. In many areas, such as providing access to open spaces, charging is not feasible.

The level of revenue sought from these activities by the Council for the 10 years covered by the LTCCP is illustrated above. The balance of the net operating cost is funded by General rates, as the whole community benefits from these activities.

Development contributions are applied towards appropriate capital expenditure. The balance is funded corporately in accordance with the Revenue and Financing Policy.

Refer to page 267 for a summary of the corporate funding approach for capital expenditure.