

4.0 GENERAL POLICIES

Many of the management issues requiring policies are common throughout all of the reserves described in this management plan.

These issues are covered in the General Policies Section. If an individual reserve requires a specific policy not covered in the General Policies Section this will be covered within the Individual Reserve descriptions.

4.1 CLASSIFICATION

Scenic reserves are managed for preserving in perpetuity areas of natural scenic value for their intrinsic worth and for the benefit of the public.

Scenic reserves provide passive recreation such as walking and nature watching rather than the more active pursuits, which would be more common on Recreation reserves.

Recreation reserves provide areas for both passive and active recreation with an emphasis on the retention of open space and on outdoor recreational activities.

Local Purpose reserves are managed for the purpose of providing and retaining areas for educational, community, social, or other local purposes as specified in the classification.

Consideration should be given to changing the classification of some reserves in the future to Scenic Reserve to give a higher level of protection under the Reserves Act 1977 in recognition of the significant historic landscape, recreational and environmental values found at each reserve.

Suggested classification changes are noted in each individual reserve section.

Objective:

- *To provide, protect and enhance the amenity, recreational, environmental, scenic and historic values of the reserves in the Invercargill District while providing public access where appropriate.*

Policies:

- 4.1.1 Environmental reserves defined in this Management Plan as 'scenic' shall be managed in compliance with Section 19 of the Reserves Act 1977.
- 4.1.2 Environmental reserves defined in this Management Plan as 'recreation' shall be managed in compliance with Section 17 of the Reserves Act 1977.
- 4.1.3 Environmental reserves defined in this Management Plan as 'local purpose' shall be managed in compliance with Section 23 of the Reserves Act 1977.

4.2 GENERAL USE

With the goal for environmental reserves to have the classification of Scenic reserves, priority is therefore towards the preservation of natural resources within and around these reserves.

Reserves are a major source of open space in the City and are provided for the benefit, enjoyment and use of the public. "Use" policies guide the response of Council to applications to use the reserves. The scope of "uses" that may be proposed is wide and includes: sport, passive recreation, art and cultural events, commercial promotions and festival activities.

Council reserves the right to decline a proposal for use of a reserve, or take action as it sees fit against a user, or stop a use, if the use is likely to cause any adverse effects to the reserve, reserve users or reserve neighbours.

Council occasionally receives applications for the use of reserves for temporary or long-term commercial activities. Commercial activities are an acceptable part of the range of activities within the reserves of the City provided they are consistent with the primary purpose of the reserves as classified under the Reserves Act 1977. The activities should not adversely impact on the reserve, reserve values, reserve users or reserve neighbours.

Long-term non-commercial use of a reserve occurs predominantly through lease arrangements. It generally relates to non-commercial activities carried out from sports fields, clubhouses, halls and other indoor facilities and community group buildings. This generally means long-term enclosure of reserve space for the use by a particular group that then obtains a greater benefit than that received by the general public.

Objective:

- *To allow and encourage public use that is compatible with the purpose of the reserve.*

Policies:

- 4.2.1 The utilisation of each environmental reserve shall be in compliance with its classification as a Recreation, Scenic or Local Purpose reserve and the general and individual policies set out in this Management Plan.
- 4.2.2 Access to environmental reserves will be free of charge to the general public except as provided for in Policy 4.2.4 or where exclusive use has been granted.
- 4.2.3 All events on environmental reserves must be booked in advance with the Parks Division and users must comply with the "Terms and Conditions" for use of the Reserve. These terms and conditions are reviewed and updated from time to time.
- 4.2.4 Council may charge a fee for use of environmental reserves where the user gains a special benefit that is not available to other reserve users, or where there are costs associated with the activity or event.

- 4.2.5 Environmental reserve facility and park fees and charges are adopted by Council annually and are identified in Council's Annual Plan.
- 4.2.6 Where necessary, Council will consider temporary closure of a reserve, or part of a reserve, in conjunction with statutory requirements for the protection and wellbeing of environmental reserves and for the protection and control of the public using them.
- 4.2.7 Council may grant a permit for commercial activities to temporarily occupy part of an environmental reserve for a period of up to six consecutive days (Section 54(1)(d) and Section 56(1)(b) Reserves Act 1977), if it is necessary to enable the public to obtain the benefit and enjoyment of the reserve or for the convenience of those using the reserve.
- 4.2.8 Council may grant a long-term lease or licence for a recreation or commercial activity to occupy part of environmental reserves where the activity complies with the Reserves Act 1977.
- 4.2.9 Any user of any environmental reserve shall be responsible for ensuring that any adverse effects on the reserve and reserve values, reserve users or reserve neighbours can be avoided, remedied or mitigated, except as otherwise authorised by Council and includes compliance with Council Bylaws.

4.3 ACCESS INTO AND THROUGH RESERVES

The level and standard of access provision into an environmental reserve needs to be appropriate to the reserve classification, reserve values and the anticipated level of public utilisation of the reserve.

At various times Council may close the reserves or parts of the reserves for issues of safety, maintenance, development and wildlife protection. Some events may also require temporary closure of part of the reserves. Some occupation agreements may allow restricted access by the general public into areas of the reserve by the use of fences and/or forms of barriers.

Motorised and non-motorised vehicles on reserves can be a source of danger to other reserve users, plant and wildlife, and may have the potential to cause damage to reserves.

Many of these reserves contribute as important recreational, environmental and community resources, whether they are classified as scenic, recreational or local purpose reserves, and are popular for informal and formal recreation.

To protect and preserve each reserve's special values, it is important to ensure the public areas and walkways are well defined. It is also important that Council has the ability to limit or exclude public access into certain areas where the impact of human activities would be at the detriment of the vegetation habitat.

Tracks and footpaths are often integral to the ease of use and enjoyment of a reserve by users, providing recreational opportunities and links between areas.

Council is committed to working towards the removal of barriers to the participation of the elderly or people with limited mobility in leisure and

recreational activities on reserves. Improved access to parks and reserves can increase the use of a park by enhancing comfort and convenience for a range of users and provide significant safety benefits.

It will not always be feasible or desirable to make all facilities fully accessible. Different degrees of accessibility will be achievable at different sites.

Wherever possible, the design or upgrade of a facility shall incorporate features that allow easy access for the elderly or people with limited mobility. For features to be recognised as fully accessible they need to comply with national standards.

Objectives:

- *To provide safe and easy access into and through environmental reserves where any adverse effects on the environmental values can be minimised.*
- *To ensure pedestrian safety by restricting vehicle access on the reserve.*
- *To allow tracks, cycle ways, informal trails and footpaths over reserves.*
- *To manage the preservation of the natural environment for future generations.*
- *To improve access to the reserve where practical and feasible to ensure everyone is able to enjoy it.*

Policies:

- 4.3.1 Environmental reserves will be open for public access except where restrictions and limitations are necessary for the reserve's protection and management or public safety.
- 4.3.2 Existing car parking shall be maintained to a level which is compatible with the nature of the reserve in a style that does not detract from its aesthetic qualities or recreational use.
- 4.3.3 Motorised vehicles, other than emergency and maintenance vehicles are not permitted in the environmental reserves other than on areas designated as roadway or parking, without prior written authority from Council.
- 4.3.4 Where car parking areas are provided for clubs and organisations, all costs relating to the formation and maintenance of the car park shall be borne by the club or organisation concerned.
- 4.3.5 Temporary vehicle access for special events may be granted for specific purposes and then terminated at the completion of the event.
- 4.3.6 Non-motorised vehicles are prohibited from using any of the pedestrian tracks within the environmental reserves without prior written authorisation from Council or unless specifically identified in the individual reserve descriptions and sign posted on site.
- 4.3.7 Council shall use the NZ Standards Handbook - Tracks and Outdoor Visitor Structures (SNZ HB 8630:2004) as a guide to developing and maintaining

walking tracks in reserves. All walking tracks on the environmental reserves shall be developed and maintained to the "Walking Track" standard where resources permit.

- 4.3.8 Where practicable, paths and tracks on environmental reserves shall be developed to a barrier free standard for use by people with mobility difficulties or limitations.
- 4.3.9 New walking tracks shall only be developed in environmental reserves where the effects on the environmental values of construction and long term public utilisation can be kept to a minimum.
- 4.3.10 Environmental reserve buildings, associated facilities and landscaping will be designed or upgraded where practical and feasible, to meet the current national standard and design criteria for access for people with disabilities.
- 4.3.11 Council will provide the necessary tracks and facilities to allow safe access through environmental reserves while protecting their natural values.
- 4.3.12 Council reserves the right to exclude the public from certain areas of the environmental reserves containing significant values or to limit activities that may damage the natural vegetation habitat.
- 4.3.13 To allow development that is appropriate for and generally acceptable for a reserve of its nature. Additional projects will be assessed on a case by case basis.

4.4 TREES AND VEGETATION

Trees and vegetation contribute to reserve amenity, historical, environmental, cultural and landscape values.

Often the vegetation forms a significant part of these natural values and can become the most visible feature on a reserve. In many cases the remnants of native vegetation found on environmental reserves are representative of the vegetation cover that would have been found in surrounding areas prior to human occupation.

It is important to monitor, manage and maintain vegetation on reserves where possible. However, exotic vegetation can become a nuisance or danger to reserve users and reserve neighbours. It can also affect the use or enjoyment of the reserve or adjoining properties. Council will consider remedial action where appropriate to resolve these problems.

People regularly approach the Parks Division requesting permission to collect firewood and pine cones from fallen or cut trees on reserves. Firewood permits are generally only given to non-profit community groups or individuals for personal use only.

Objectives:

- *To display a variety of trees and shrubs on environmental reserves.*

- *To develop and maintain the vegetation on environmental reserves as a significant function contributing to reserve attractiveness.*
- *To maximise the benefits of vegetation on environmental reserves while avoiding, minimising or mitigating the adverse effects on reserve neighbours.*
- *To protect and enhance the native vegetation found on environmental reserves as important wildlife habitats and as remnants of previous vegetation cover.*
- *To gradually remove all exotic vegetation from environmental reserves over a long term period.*
- *To control the removal of exotic wood from felled or fallen trees for safety, landscape or management purposes.*
- *To control the unauthorised removal of vegetation from reserves.*
- *To ensure the integrity of shelter is maintained into the future.*

Policies:

- 4.4.1 Planting and maintenance of vegetation on environmental reserves shall be planned strategically and designed to enhance and protect the scenic and horticultural qualities and natural character of environmental reserves.
- 4.4.2 Wherever possible and practical, only native species sourced locally, or those most suitable to the area, shall be planted and maintained in the environmental reserves.
- 4.4.3 Vegetation shall be planted where it will not cause harm or is not likely to spread, or as a part of any re-vegetation programme to protect the genetic health and purity, stabilisation, amenity and enhancement of the environments.
- 4.4.4 Planting and management of vegetation on environmental reserves will take into account:
- (a) Management objectives and policies for the reserve.
 - (b) Any landscape plans for the reserve.
 - (c) The effect the vegetation will have on adjacent properties at the time of planting and in the future.
 - (d) The effect the vegetation will have on underground and overhead network utility infrastructure and its future maintenance.
 - (e) Horticultural, landscape and ecological considerations.
- 4.4.5 Council will support local initiatives to re-vegetate areas within the environmental reserves to an approved planting programme.
- 4.4.6 Maintenance, adding or removal of vegetation will only be undertaken by Council, or Council approved contractors unless written approval from Council has been received.
- 4.4.7 Before making any decision on complaints received about trees on environmental reserves, Council will consider and assess the effect of the alleged nuisance by:

- (a) Discussing the issue(s) with the alleged party(s).
- (b) Considering the potential danger to life and property.
- (c) Considering the interests of the public and park users.
- (d) Considering the value and protection of the tree.
- (e) Considering the purpose and classification of the reserve.

- 4.4.8 Where appropriate, planting programmes shall be developed and maintained to further enhance the native vegetation in the environmental reserves.
- 4.4.9 Environmental reserve vegetation shall be monitored at regular intervals to detect changes over time and to help identify the success of work programmes and initiatives.
- 4.4.10 All exotic vegetation shall gradually be removed from environmental reserves.
- 4.4.11 Exotic grass growth in the environmental reserves shall be controlled and managed in appropriate areas where open space and recreational facilities are required. All other exotic grasses shall be removed as part of an approved planting programme to gradually re-vegetate areas.
- 4.4.12 Firewood permits may be granted to groups and individuals for a fee for the removal of exotic wood from felled or fallen trees, or from pruning operations upon application, including:
- (a) Members of the public where the wood is for personal use only.
 - (b) Non-profit community groups where the proceeds of the sale are being used for projects approved by Council.
- 4.4.13 No live or standing trees or vegetation are to be removed or damaged during wood removal operations.
- 4.4.14 Advise private landowners on species suitable to plant adjacent to boundary fence lines or gardens in urban situations for screening purposes.

4.5 FAUNA

Environmental reserves often provide significant avifauna and entomological habitat and in many cases act as 'islands' within highly modified environments.

The quality and quantity of vegetation found within the reserves is linked to the quality and quantity of habitats for insects and the numbers of birds visiting and breeding.

Objective:

- *To protect the habitat of insects and bird life within the environmental reserves.*

Policies:

- 4.5.1 The habitat for indigenous fauna on environmental reserves shall be protected and enhanced wherever possible.

- 4.5.2 Fauna on environmental reserves shall be monitored at regular intervals to detect changes over time as resources permit.

4.6 PEST PLANTS AND ANIMALS

Environmental reserves are often located within highly modified and built up areas making them particularly at risk of invasion of pest plants and animals.

Pest plants and animals are a threat to the health of the environment. Some pest species contribute significant detrimental effects on native plants, animals and ecological processes, or impose an adverse visual impact on the landscape.

The Regional Pest Management Strategy defines gorse (*Ulex europeaus*) as a 'containment pest plant' and requires that gorse be destroyed within 10 metres of any property boundary where the neighbouring property is free of gorse. Gorse, over time, can damage fences and render them ineffective in controlling stock.

The control and eradication of weeds on Council reserves is the responsibility of the Invercargill City Council Parks Division. The effective control of weeds is undertaken to comply with the Regional Pest Management Strategy for Southland.

Natural regeneration within environmental reserves shall be encouraged through the control of persistent weed species and pest animals.

Objective:

- *To minimise the impact of pest plants and animals on reserve values, reserve users and reserve neighbours.*

Policies:

- 4.6.1 Pest plants and animals on environmental reserves shall be controlled in accordance with the 'Regional Pest Management Strategy, 2007' or any subsequent reviews of this strategy.
- 4.6.2 Council will endeavour to remove invasive weed and pest animal species in and around environmental reserves by approved control methods.
- 4.6.3 Animals and birds deliberately abandoned in environmental reserves may be considered a pest and destroyed.
- 4.6.4 Council will liaise, support, assist and cooperate with Regional Council and other interest groups to provide for the detection, control and monitoring of pest plants and animals on environmental reserves.
- 4.6.5 Council will monitor reserves for dumped weeds and promote anti-garden weed dumping to residents generally or in specific locations.

4.7 DOMESTIC ANIMAL CONTROL

Uncontrolled domestic animals can cause damage to plants and soil structure of reserves, restrict regeneration and may endanger other reserve users.

Objective:

- *To protect vegetation, waterways and soil structure on environmental reserves and to provide a safe and attractive reserve for all users.*

Policies:

- 4.7.1 Uncontrolled animals are not permitted on environmental reserves unless otherwise provided for through an appropriate lease or license under Section 73 of the Reserves Act 1977 as indicated in an Individual Reserve policy or with written permission of Council.
- 4.7.2 Council will continue to use grazing as a management tool where it does not cause inappropriate adverse effects.

4.8 DOGS ON RESERVES

Council adopted the Dog Control Policy for Parks and Reserves in May 2005. This policy refers only to dogs on parks, reserves and open spaces that are managed and controlled by the Parks Division.

Dog faeces can carry diseases which can affect humans and other dogs. When a dog fouls in public, the person controlling the dog is responsible for the immediate removal of the faeces.

Objectives:

- *To provide environments within the city's parks and reserves where dogs and people can happily co-exist.*
- *To allow dogs and their owners reasonable access to the city's parks and reserves, at the same time protecting the safety and comfort for all users.*
- *To make available areas of open space in the city's parks and reserves, which provide reasonable exercise and recreational opportunities for dogs and their owners.*
- *To minimise danger and/or nuisance caused by dogs to the public or to wildlife and natural habitats on the city's parks and reserves.*
- *To provide appropriate signage and public notification to dog owners (or those people exercising their dogs) informing them of their responsibilities while using the city's parks and reserves.*

Policies:

4.8.1 Access

Appropriate levels of access to parks and reserves for dogs and their owners shall be made available.

4.8.2 Safety and Conflict

Dog access to parks and reserves shall be restricted or, in some cases, prohibited where the likelihood of conflict exists between dogs, the public or the environment.

4.8.3 Exercise Areas

Dog exercise areas shall be made available to provide sufficient opportunities for the needs of dogs in the City's parks and reserves.

4.8.4 Signage and Education

A review of the dog control signage on parks and reserves in the City shall be carried out with a goal of standardising and simplifying this. Opportunities for informing the public on dog control policies on parks and reserves, such as newsletters, media releases and advertising shall also be considered. Appropriate signage will be erected at various locations to assist dog owners in complying with this policy.

4.8.5 Dog Fouling

Every person, whose dog defecates on any City park or reserve, is required to remove the deposited faeces from the reserve area immediately or dispose of the material in a suitable receptacle.

4.8.6 Responsibilities

It is the responsibility of the person exercising the dog on the City's parks and reserves to ensure the dog is fully registered and that it complies with any other Council Dog Control Bylaw.

4.8.7 Enforcement

Parks Division officers shall convey the agreed policies to dog owners when observing any offence. Enforcement will be via Council's dog control officers and, if necessary, by provision of the Reserves Act 1977, parks rangers and the introduction of bylaws.

4.8.8 Definitions

Dogs-on-a-Leash Areas

Areas where dogs are required to be leashed at all times are:

- All parks and reserves in the Invercargill City Council area, with the exception of areas classified as -
 - Dog-prohibited areas.

- Designated dog-exercise areas.

Dogs-on-a-leash areas include all walking tracks on parks “short walks” and all cemeteries and crematoria areas. A list of walking tracks is located in the Parks office.

Dog-Prohibited Areas

Areas where dogs are prohibited are:

- Anywhere within ten metres of any children’s play equipment, including skateboard ramps and paddling pools.
- The designated playing areas of all marked sports fields.
- The areas around the Sandy Point ponds and lagoons specifically designated as wildlife habitats [*refer to Sandy Point Management Plan*].
- The area around and in the Donovan Park pond where there is risk of disturbing wildlife [*refer to Donovan Park Management Plan*].
- Areas that from time to time the Council will notify by way of signage and advertising that there is a temporary dog prohibition in place because of wildlife, stock or other issue.

Designated Dog-Exercise Areas

These are areas designated for dog exercise where dogs are permitted to be at large while under continuous surveillance and effective control. Maps showing these areas are located in the Parks office.

- Sandy Point Domain, excluding playgrounds, marked sports fields and the ponds and lagoons designated as wildlife habitats. Dogs must be on a lead while on all formed walking tracks.
- Donovan Park, excluding marked sports fields and the Donovan Park pond where there is a risk of disturbing wildlife.
- Elizabeth Park, excluding playgrounds. Dogs must be on a lead while on all formed walking tracks.
- Turnbull Thomson Park, excluding playgrounds and marked sports fields. Dogs must be on a lead while on all formed walking tracks.

Notes

- *The person exercising the dog must be able to control it as if it was on a leash. If the person exercising the dog cannot stop or retrieve the dog immediately with a whistle or call, then the person cannot exercise their dog with its leash off.*
- *The person exercising the dog must carry a leash at all times.*
- *The person exercising the dog must be capable of restraining the dog.*

- *The person exercising the dog is responsible for removing any deposited faeces from the dog exercising area.*

4.9 BOUNDARIES AND FENCING

Council reserves adjoin a variety of land uses in settings, from urban to rural, with a range of fencing styles, materials and heights used. The condition of boundaries is an important consideration when protecting environmental reserves.

Good quality fences and boundaries that are stock proof and that direct pedestrians to formed entrances and restrict vehicle access are required where appropriate. Fences and barriers may be required within reserves to prevent vehicular access to certain areas or to enclose service areas where appropriate.

While Council is prepared to meet its Fencing Act 1978 obligations, it is important that ratepayers are not burdened with paying for boundary fencing that exceeds the standard of fence beyond that which is considered a minimum requirement.

Council sets a maximum contribution based on a cost per lineal metre for an appropriate standard of fence style which is reviewed annually. If a boundary fence is considered necessary, a contribution from Council may be made subject to an application being received in writing stating the reason for the fence and requesting assistance. Once it is determined that a new fence is required or the current fence should be replaced, the applicant is advised.

Applications for a fence will be assessed on its design in terms of visual permeability and its contribution to the attractiveness of the reserve.

Over time some reserves have been encroached by adjacent landowners. Encroachments typically range from the minor and easily removed without effect (such as washing lines and fences), to access driveways and, in the more extreme cases, to parts of dwellings. No new encroachments are permitted without the approval of Council.

Objectives:

- *To protect the natural vegetation within environmental reserves from stock and public entry by adequately fencing boundaries.*
- *To meet boundary-fencing obligations under the Fencing Act 1978 where required.*
- *To protect reserve values and encourage freedom of public movement into and through reserves.*
- *To limit the number of fences or barriers on reserves to those which will protect reserve values, reduce the adverse effects on reserve neighbours, or which will ensure reserves can be used safely.*
- *To provide a unified boundary with plantings.*
- *To stop encroachments on reserve land.*

Policies:

- 4.9.1 Environmental reserve boundaries shall be maintained to a standard that prohibits stock from entering the reserve, directs people towards formed access points, and restricts vehicle entry.
- 4.9.2 Boundary fences shall be kept clear of any invasive weeds, encroachments and of any activities seen as detrimental to the preservation of the reserve.
- 4.9.3 Fencing is not always required around or within environmental reserve boundaries, provided there is no risk of stock invading the reserve. However, occupiers of neighbouring properties need to be aware of the reserve boundaries. This is so there is no encroachment from neighbours onto reserve land at any time.
- 4.9.4 Council will investigate requests for contribution towards the construction of boundary fences on environmental reserves only when it is deemed necessary and where it is to be established on the correct legal boundary.
- 4.9.5 Council will meet its boundary fencing obligations under the Fencing Act 1978 where there is a justifiable need. Council shall contribute on a per metre basis up to a maximum amount based on the current rate at the time of application as approved by Council resolution annually. Council shall in each case assess the type of fence appropriate to the character, use and environs of the reserve.
- 4.9.6 Where an environmental reserve occupier requests the enclosure of its facilities, the cost of erecting and maintaining appropriate fences to the satisfaction of Council shall be borne by the reserve occupier and required written approval from the Parks Manager for colour and design prior to construction.
- 4.9.7 Enclosure of an activity or feature within an environmental reserve with a fence or barrier will only be permitted if there is a justifiable need, eg protecting other reserve users from the effects of the activity and protecting reserve values.
- 4.9.8 Boundary fences will be inspected annually.
- 4.9.9 Unify fence lines with plantings where necessary.
- 4.9.10 Where encroachments onto reserve land have been identified, these need to be addressed through formal agreements or stopped immediately.

4.10 BUILDINGS AND STRUCTURES

Environmental reserves are created principally for preserving the indigenous flora and fauna and indigenous associations for the benefit, enjoyment and use of the public. Some buildings and structures such as toilets, boardwalks or bridges are considered necessary for the enjoyment and full utilisation of the reserves.

Providing outdoor furniture on reserves that is appropriately designed and blends in with the surrounding landscape can add to the user's enjoyment and full utilisation of reserves.

Objectives:

- *To provide and maintain well designed and appropriately located buildings and structures in environmental reserves to improve utilisation and add to the enjoyment of the reserve by its users.*
- *To ensure that all reserve facilities are maintained to an appropriate standard that enhances amenity values of the reserve.*

Policies:

- 4.10.1 Any proposal to develop a building or structure on an Environmental Reserve will be dependent on the availability of resources and the type of reserve of which it is proposed for.
- 4.10.2 Applications for new buildings or changes to existing buildings on environmental reserves require Council approval and shall meet the Objectives and Policies of 6.1 - Requests for Development on Reserves with particular emphasis on Policy 6.1.9 which identifies the requirements of any development plan.
- 4.10.3 The design of any building or structure in environmental reserves shall be subject to Council approval and shall be in keeping with the surroundings to enhance and complement the landscape.
- 4.10.4 Buildings and structures on environmental reserves shall be maintained to a high standard and, where practicable, designed to limit the opportunity for vandalism.
- 4.10.5 Buildings and structures on environmental reserves will be designed or upgraded, where practical and feasible, to meet with the current national standard and design criteria for access for people with limited mobility or pushchairs.
- 4.10.6 The number of buildings and structures in the environmental reserves shall be limited to a level that facilitates safe and appropriate use of the reserve.
- 4.10.7 The natural, scenic and recreational values relevant to the environmental reserves shall be protected and managed by allowing only those buildings and structures which complement the setting in which they are placed.
- 4.10.8 Applications for extensions to existing buildings shall only be granted where the extension is seen as enhancing the enjoyment and full utilisation of the reserve.
- 4.10.9 Exterior colour schemes of buildings and structures on environmental reserves shall be approved by Council. The painting and creation of murals (not advertising) on buildings and structures may be considered on submission of a copy of the design and proposed colour scheme to Council.
- 4.10.10 Where appropriate, buildings on environmental reserves shall be shared with other recreation users of the reserve and, when not required for events or gatherings, made available for other non commercial community use.
- 4.10.11 The establishment, design and maintenance of new or existing public toilets on environmental reserves shall take into account current New Zealand Standards.

- 4.10.12 The number and location of new or existing public toilets on environmental reserves shall be kept under constant review.
- 4.10.13 Any tenanted buildings are to be maintained to a presentable standard of high quality for visitors to see.
- 4.10.14 Clubs and associations shall be responsible for maintenance of their buildings and facilities on environmental reserves to an appropriate standard as determined by Council.
- 4.10.15 Clubs and associations shall be responsible for the full cost of removal of any building and associated facilities when no longer required.
- 4.10.16 No application for extensions will be granted to those buildings on environmental reserves that are classified as non-conforming buildings.

4.11 OCCUPATION AGREEMENTS

The term 'occupation agreement' refers to any lease, license, easement or other agreement granted between Council and a person, organisation or company that is occupying part of a reserve.

Council's power to grant an occupation agreement over reserves varies depending on the status of the reserve concerned and the rights transferred from the Crown. Any application will require Council approval and be subject to the objectives and policies of this plan.

Objectives:

- *To permit the occupation of reserves for approved individuals, groups, uses or facilities by the granting of occupation agreements.*
- *To balance the retention of open space with appropriate use and occupation of reserves.*
- *To ensure public accountability of reserve management.*
- *To ensure adequate remedy or mitigation of any adverse effects on reserve values caused by leases, licences, easements or other occupation agreements.*
- *To ensure that all costs associated with the development and implementation of occupation agreements are the responsibility of the applicant.*

Policies:

- 4.11.1 All organisations and occupying landowners with buildings, facilities, easements or grazing on environmental reserves shall be required to hold an occupation agreement as provided for by the Reserves Act 1977.
- 4.11.2 Application for any new occupation agreement on the environmental reserves will be in writing providing detailed information about the type of occupation. Applications for occupation agreements shall meet the Objectives and Policies of

6.1 - Requests for Development on Reserves with particular emphasis on Policy 6.1.9 which identifies the requirements of any development plan. Information provided will allow Council to assess all applications in an equitable and consistent manner.

- 4.11.3 Council shall draw up leases and licences subject to the provisions contained in the First Schedule, and the Sections of the Reserves Act 1977 relevant to the reserve classification and purpose of the lease or licence.
- 4.11.4 Easements shall be subject to Sections 48 and 48A of the Reserves Act 1977.
- 4.11.5 All costs associated with occupation agreements shall be the responsibility of the applicant.
- 4.11.6 Occupation agreements shall include clear steps to be taken in the event of a reserve facility or building being no longer required by an occupier, lessor or owner before the end of any occupation agreement.
- 4.11.7 The approved occupier of any area of an environmental reserve shall not sublet, assign, transfer, mortgage or part with possession of any part of the land or building without the prior written consent of Council.

4.12 OUTDOOR FURNITURE

Providing outdoor furniture on reserves that are appropriately designed and blend in with the surrounding landscape can add to the user's enjoyment of a reserve. Outdoor furniture such as seating and rubbish bins need to be maintained so that they remain an attractive asset to the reserve and do not become a safety hazard.

Objective:

- *To provide outdoor furniture that enhances the experience of the reserve user.*

Policies:

- 4.12.1 Outdoor furniture on environmental reserves shall be designed to a high standard.
- 4.12.2 Outdoor furniture shall be provided in environmental reserves where an identified need has been established and where resources permit. The number, design and placement of outdoor furniture shall be in keeping with the purpose and levels of use of the reserves and appropriate to the setting.

4.13 MONUMENTS, ART WORK AND SCULPTURE DISPLAYS

Objective:

- *To provide monuments, art work and sculpture displays to enhance the experience for visitors to the reserve.*

Policies:

- 4.13.1 Monuments, art work and sculpture displays will be considered where appropriate and practical so it is in keeping with the natural and surrounding character of the reserve.
- 4.13.2 Materials and colour schemes of monuments, art work and sculpture displays shall be approved by Council. The creation, materials and colours of monuments, art work and sculpture displays may be considered on submission of a copy of the design and proposed colour scheme to Council.
- 4.13.3 Monuments, art work and sculpture displays will be designed to a high standard and, where practical, be designed to limit the opportunity for vandalism.
- 4.13.4 Permanent monuments, art work and sculpture displays in reserves will need to be robust, weatherproof and long lasting.
- 4.13.5 Maintenance of monuments, art work and sculpture displays in reserves will be undertaken by Council, or Council approved operators.
- 4.13.6 The design of any monuments, art work and sculpture displays shall be subject to Council approval and shall be in keeping with the surrounds to enhance and complement the landscape.
- 4.13.7 Temporary monuments, art work and sculpture displays are allowed on reserves until such time as the purpose for the display is finished and then they will be removed. They will be the responsibility of the event organisers or reserve occupiers.
- 4.13.8 Any proposals for monuments, art work and sculptures will be subject to the siting of them not compromising the other values of the park.

4.14 NETWORK UTILITY INFRASTRUCTURE

Utility infrastructure can impact on reserve values, neighbours and users by restricting the current use of a reserve and the potential development of the reserve for future enjoyment.

Overhead service lines or structures relating to the provision of essential services detract from the appearance of reserves and place limitations on the vegetation and recreational activities that can occur under the service line.

It is not desirable to have network utility infrastructure on reserves, and reserves should not be regarded as infrastructure corridors. Full consideration should be given to alternative locations.

Objectives:

- *To allow network utility operators conditional access to reserves for the purpose of inspection, maintenance, ongoing operation and upgrading of existing utility infrastructure.*

- *To ensure adverse effects of network utility infrastructure on the reserve values, users and neighbours are able to be avoided, remedied, compensated or mitigated.*
- *To permit new network utility infrastructure only where it is deemed essential for the reserves.*

Policies:

- 4.14.1 No new network utility infrastructure will be permitted on environmental reserves unless a definite benefit to these reserves can be established.
- 4.14.2 All new network utility infrastructures only deemed essential for a reserve shall be laid underground and only to service the activities and facilities within the reserve.
- 4.14.3 Council will permit network utility operators conditional access to reserve land to inspect, maintain, operate or upgrade existing works, subject to the provisions of the relevant empowering Acts, the Reserves Act 1977 and conditions of Council.
- 4.14.4 The utility provider is responsible for all costs associated with temporary closures of reserves and the costs of reinstatement in the event of damage to a reserve from the network utility infrastructure.
- 4.14.5 Network utility operators must supply a useable and up-to-date 'as built' infrastructure plan, with detail to be agreed by Council officers, including information regarding their location on reserves as a condition of any occupation agreement.

4.15 LIGHTING

Council recognises that some reserve user groups wish to operate at night. The aim with lighting is to enhance the real and perceived safety of the environment.

While lighting can be considered an essential component of night use in a reserve area, it is appropriate that some or all of the cost should fall to those who attract users of facilities at night. It is also important that the effects of lighting on reserve neighbours are taken into consideration.

There is no intention of providing lighting in environmental reserves as there is limited night time use.

Objectives:

- *To allow car park and access way lighting where appropriate.*
- *To enhance the real and perceived safety of the reserve through the provision of lighting along key pedestrian paths.*

Policies:

- 4.15.1 Council will only consider the provision of lighting on environmental reserve land where there is a clear public benefit or for amenity, security and safety reasons.

- 4.15.2 Where an identifiable beneficiary from Council's lighting of car parks and access ways exists, the full operation, maintenance and replacement costs will be passed on to this beneficiary.
- 4.15.3 The reserve occupier is responsible for the provision and maintenance of lighting associated with their activity, with the approval of Council.
- 4.15.4 Council shall consider best practise and lighting engineering standards, energy efficiency and appropriate design for the location when establishing new lighting fixtures on environmental reserves.
- 4.15.5 The light spill generated from any activity on environmental reserves shall not exceed 5 lux at any residential boundary between the hours of sunset and sunrise.

4.16 SIGNS

Signs inform the public of their responsibilities as users of the reserves and advise users of the management and maintenance responsibilities of the reserve and its facilities.

Signs are also used as a way of educating and informing the public on features of reserves. They should make it easier for users to find their way around reserves and locate areas of interest.

Signs can also dominate and detract from the user experience.

The implementation of the policies on signs on reserves is subject to the appropriate provisions of Council Bylaws, District Plan rules and the requirements of the Reserves Act 1977.

Objectives:

- *To minimise the adverse visual effects of signs while maximising useful information to reserve users.*
- *To ensure sign information, styles and types are consistent across all reserves.*
- *To provide signs that assist in user orientation and park legibility.*

Policies:

- 4.16.1 Council shall use NZ Standard for the 'Design and application of outdoor recreation symbols' (NZS 8603:2005) as a guide when providing and maintaining signs on environmental reserves.
- 4.16.2 Signs shall be for the purpose of proper and beneficial management, administration and control of the environmental reserves.
- 4.16.3 Environmental reserve interpretational signage and promotional brochures may be developed as required to inform and educate the reserve visitors.

- 4.16.4 The number of signs on environmental reserves shall be kept to the minimum number required to meet the needs of users.
- 4.16.5 No trade sign or any other form of advertising shall be permitted in the environmental reserves or on structures within the reserves.
- 4.16.6 Permanent advertising signs are not permitted on environmental reserves.
- 4.16.7 Temporary advertising intended to alert or inform the public about a forthcoming event or attractions on the reserve may be permitted at the discretion of Council. The position of all temporary advertising shall be approved by Council. All costs shall be the responsibility of the applicant and temporary signs shall remain in place for a maximum of 14 days.
- 4.16.8 No reserve occupier with an occupation agreement on an environmental reserve shall erect any sign unless prior written approval from Council has been received.
- 4.16.9 Reserve occupiers must apply to Council to place signage on their buildings. The size, style and scale of signage will be taken into consideration and in particular, the effect or visual impact the sign will have on reserve users and reserve neighbours. All signs on buildings shall be limited to the name of the club or organisation and shall be within the dimensions of 3m long by 1.2m deep and to a maximum area of 1.5m². Any requests for signage outside these dimensions must be approved by way of Council resolution.
- 4.16.10 Reserve occupiers will be responsible for meeting the costs of producing, erecting, maintaining, removing and replacing signs relating to their activity to be located on or adjacent to their buildings.

4.17 DISPOSAL OF RUBBISH

Council is committed to reducing the amount of litter that is deposited on Council Land. The dumping of rubbish on reserves or the inappropriate use of existing rubbish disposal facilities can detract from the reserve values and the proper functioning of reserves.

Council's general policy is to not provide rubbish bins on public parks except in high use/high profile areas. Visitors are therefore encouraged to take their rubbish home with them.

Council is also concerned about the impact garden escapees can have on areas of environmental importance. Garden escapees, or weeds, often come from garden waste being dumped onto neighbouring reserve land.

Objectives:

- *To preserve reserve values through appropriate disposal and collection of rubbish and garden waste.*
- *To encourage reserve users on reserves to act responsibly by requiring them to take home their rubbish.*

Policies:

- 4.17.1 Dumping of domestic refuse, trade waste, garden refuse, rubble or other debris in the environmental reserves is not permitted.
- 4.17.2 Reserve user groups are responsible for ensuring the area of their responsibility is kept clear of rubbish.
- 4.17.3 Litterbins may be provided in few individual environmental reserves for the reserve users. Only litter incidental to reserve use shall be placed in these bins. Household rubbish is not permitted to be placed in these litterbins.

4.18 CAMPING

Camping is only permitted on reserves administered under the Reserves Act 1977 in the Invercargill District in camping grounds specific to that purpose. Potential problems resulting from freedom campers on reserves include toilet waste disposal, rubbish and damage to parks.

There are registered camping grounds on reserves in Bluff and at Sandy Point, as well as other private facilities, that provide adequate camping grounds for visitors to the City.

Freedom camping is not permitted on environmental reserves given their importance as reserves with significant natural values, and the potential damage that freedom campers may have on these natural values.

Objectives:

- *To conserve the public health, well being and safety of the public while on reserves.*
- *To ensure the public have equity of use over reserves under the Council's control.*
- To prohibit camping in reserves.

Policies:

- 4.18.1 Camping is not permitted on environmental reserves.
- 4.18.2 In special circumstances, camping on environmental reserves for one off events may be approved by Council resolution.

4.19 NUISANCE

Certain activities on reserves including vegetation, loud noise or extreme glare have the potential to disturb other reserve users, reserve neighbours or cause damage to indigenous species and wildlife habitats.

Objective:

- *To protect and enhance environmental values, while at the same time, reducing the impact of any potential nuisances.*

Policy:

- 4.19.1 Activities on the environmental reserves that cause ongoing and extreme annoyance to other reserve users, neighbouring properties, or which are likely to cause damage to indigenous species and wildlife habitats are not permitted.

4.20 PLAYGROUNDS AND PLAY EQUIPMENT

The provision of a variety of well-maintained and safe play equipment throughout the District is important for the development of children. Play equipment complements the areas of open space available to children for informal play.

Management of environmental reserves focuses on the preservation of the natural amenities. Playgrounds are not compatible with the conservation objectives unless there is a strong need for them and they are appropriate to the reserve's natural setting.

Objectives:

- *Playgrounds will only be considered on environmental reserves if there is a public need and if they are compatible with the reserve's conservation objectives.*
- *To ensure an acceptable level of health and safety is provided for playground users.*
- *To maintain playgrounds that are stimulating and fun, and to encourage children to engage in physical activity.*
- *To limit the development of any new playgrounds on environmental reserves.*

Policies:

- 4.20.1 Council will only consider the provision of play equipment on environmental reserve land where there is a clear public benefit or a high public demand for it. Proposal of play equipment will also be dependent on the type of reserve it is requested for.
- 4.20.2 All new or upgraded playgrounds and play equipment constructed on environmental reserves shall comply with the New Zealand Safety Standard for playgrounds - NZS: 5828:2004 or any subsequent review of this standard.
- 4.20.3 All playgrounds and play equipment on environmental reserves shall be given a monthly maintenance check and a six monthly safety check to ensure all pieces of equipment are maintained to a safe standard and meet the current New Zealand Safety Standard for Playgrounds.

- 4.20.4 Informal play opportunities shall be encouraged, through the design of open spaces within environmental reserves, using the natural landforms and existing features.

4.21 SMOKE FREE PARKS AND RESERVES

Objectives:

- *To encourage healthy and active lifestyles for Invercargill residents through the use of parks and reserves as Smoke Free areas.*
- *That this be promoted in all Invercargill City Council Parks and Reserves, and in particular, within 20 metres of play equipment; entrances to the Queens Park Aviary and Queens Park Animal Reserve; and all marked sports fields.*
- *That the public be encouraged through signage and publicity to maintain a clean, healthy environment in these areas.*
- *That this become a policy in each of the Reserve Management Plans upon their drafting or review.*

Policies:

- 4.21.1 By designating and promoting all Invercargill City Council owned children's playgrounds, the Queens Park Aviary, Queens Park Animal Reserve, and areas designated as sports fields as Smoke free areas.
- 4.21.2 That this be promoted in all Council Parks and in particular within 20 metres of play equipment, entrances to the Queens Park Aviary and Queens Park Animal Reserve, and allocated sports fields.
- 4.21.3 That the public be encouraged through signage and publicity to maintain a clean, healthy environment in these areas.
- 4.21.4 That this become a Policy in each of the Reserve Management Plans upon their drafting or review.
- 4.21.5 That groups booking events on environmental reserves will be encouraged to actively promote their event as smoke free.

4.22 HEALTHY AND ACTIVE PARKS

Council has a role to play in providing public spaces that offer healthy and active opportunities for the public. One of the key outcomes of the "Our Way Invercargill"² strategy plan is "Health and Wellbeing - We are healthy people".

This aligns with the "Healthy Eating - Healthy Action (HEHA)" strategy developed by the Ministry of Health as an approach to improving nutrition, increasing physical activity and achieving healthy weight for all New Zealanders.

² 'Our Way Invercargill' Long Tern Council Community Plan (LTCCP) 2006 – 2016, Invercargill City Council

In addition to this, "Push Play" is a nationwide Sport and Recreation New Zealand (SPARC) campaign to get more New Zealanders more active, more often.

Some of the ways Council can contribute to the "Health and Wellbeing" outcome is through providing opportunities in our parks which include:

- Encouraging Healthy Lifestyles:
 - promoting a 'smoke free' environment.
 - promoting healthy eating.
- Encouraging Active Lifestyles:
 - providing activity friendly environments.
 - promoting active use of the park.
 - providing equity of provision in terms of culture and ability.

Objective:

- *To encourage healthy and active lifestyles for Invercargill residents through the use of parks and reserves.*

Policies:

- 4.22.1 Groups booking events on environmental reserves will be encouraged to provide healthy food alternatives at their event.
- 4.22.2 Council will consider the cultural needs and physical abilities of potential users when designing environments in environmental reserves to ensure the area is welcoming and functional for all.

4.23 LIQUOR CONSUMPTION AND SALE

Reserve users can request consent for special or one off events where liquor is sold or supplied incidental to the principal purpose of the occasion or event being held.

Objective:

- *To allow the consumption of liquor on reserves where the effects on the reserve, reserve values, reserve users and reserve neighbours can be avoided, remedied or mitigated and the relevant statutory and Bylaw requirements are met.*

Policy:

- 4.23.1 Council will not oppose the granting of liquor licences for premises located on reserves or special licenses in defined areas for one off types of events where:
- (a) The granting of permission is consistent with the purposes of the reserve.
 - (b) The effects on the reserve, reserve values, reserve users and reserve neighbours can be avoided, remedied or mitigated.
 - (c) Applicants can provide evidence they have met the requirements of relevant legislation, regulations, codes and permits.

4.24 FIREWORKS DISPLAYS

Groups occasionally wish to use reserves for fireworks displays. These displays are controlled by legislation other than the Reserves Act 1977 but require permission from Council when the activity is to occur on a reserve.

Objective:

- *To allow fireworks displays on reserves if adverse effects on reserve values, reserve users and reserve neighbours are able to be avoided, remedied or mitigated.*

Policies:

- 4.24.1 Fireworks displays are prohibited on environmental reserves.
- 4.24.2 Fireworks displays by organised groups may be allowed on environmental reserves with prior written authorisation from Council.
- 4.24.3 Applicants wishing to use environmental reserves for fireworks displays must provide evidence they have met the requirements of relevant legislation, regulations, codes and permits and provide an acceptable Risk Management Plan before final permission will be granted.
- 4.24.4 Proof of adequate public liability insurance is required for permission to be granted for fireworks displays on environmental reserves.

4.25 FIRES ON RESERVES

Fires on reserves have the potential to cause significant damage to indigenous wildlife habitat, buildings on reserves and to adjacent property and people.

Objective:

- *To protect natural habitat, buildings and structures on parks and reserves from the damage and destruction of uncontrolled fires.*

Policy:

- 4.25.1 The lighting of fires on environmental reserves outside of a contained gas barbeque is not permitted without the prior written authorisation from Council.

4.26 ADMINISTRATION

Environmental reserves are vested in Council for the protection and enhancement of the recreational, environmental and scenic values.

Objectives:

- *To ensure environmental reserves are managed appropriately and consistently in a way that meets the Reserves Act 1977 requirements.*
- *To comply with the Reserves Act 1977 requirements for administration and management.*

Policy:

- 4.26.1 The Invercargill City Council, through the Parks Manager, shall carry out the day to day administration and management of the environmental reserves, using Parks Division Asset and Operation staff and contractors.

4.27 PLAN AMENDMENT AND REVIEW

The Reserve Act 1977 sets out clear requirements for the preparation, amendment and review of Reserve Management Plans.

Objective:

- *To ensure the environmental reserves Management Plan is kept under review to reflect the needs of current and future users and to be consistent with current best practice management procedures.*

Policies:

- 4.27.1 Any change or amendment, not involving a comprehensive review of the environmental reserves Management Plan, shall be made by adopting the procedures specified in Section 41(9) of the Reserves Act 1977.
- 4.27.2 The environmental reserves Management Plan shall be kept under continuous review as laid down in Section 41(4) of the Reserves Act 1977 and shall be operative from the date of signing for a period of ten years, at which time it will be completely reviewed.