

Open spaces naming policy 2024

Department:	Parks and Recreation
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Purpose:

This policy sets out a clear framework for naming open spaces and considers Councils' obligations under the Local Government Act and the Reserves Act to give effect to the principles of Te Tiriti o Waitangi (Treaty of Waitangi).

Principles and objectives:

- To provide a clear and consistent process for naming of open spaces owned or administered by Council.
- To ensure the district's identity and heritage is recognised and maintained in the naming of open spaces.
- To encourage locally significant te reo Māori names for open spaces and to enable greater visibility of mana whenua connections to Central Otago.

Scope:

This policy applies to the naming of open spaces (as defined below) in the Central Otago District.

This policy only applies to open spaces owned or administered by Council.

This policy is subject to the section 16(10) of the Reserves Act 1977.

Section 16(10) of the Reserves Act 1977 sets out Council's obligations related to the classification and management of reserves, including naming.

The Minister, or the territorial authority or regional council in the case of a reserve vested in a territorial authority or regional council, may, from time to time, by notice in the Gazette, declare that a reserve shall be known by such name as is specified in the notice, and the Minister or the territorial authority or the regional council, as the case may be, may in like manner change the name of any reserve. Any change of name shall not affect the appointment or term of the administering body controlling the reserve or any member thereof:

Definitions:

Council	Central Otago District Council
Dual naming	Refers to open spaces that have both te reo Māori and English names. A dual name may not be a direct translation or transliteration of an existing English name.
Open spaces	Areas of land owned or administered by the Council for sporting, recreational, historical, environment and social purposes. May or may not be vested pursuant to the Reserves Act 1977. Also includes parks and reserves.
Unnamed open spaces	Open spaces with no formal name.

Naming of open spaces:

- Smaller open spaces may not be named but are identifiable by location.
- Naming of an open space will not preclude naming parts of an open space, its facilities or significant features within it, for example, a fountain, artwork or memorial.

Renaming of existing open spaces:

- The renaming of open spaces may be supported where a new name would better align with the purpose of this policy, to promote the district's identity, heritage and mana whenua connections.
- Council reserves the ability to rename an open space in the future on the grounds of discrimination or behaviour from a subject that is otherwise harmful to the wider community well-being.

Engagement with mana whenua:

- Council engages with mana whenua to determine if open spaces are of significance to mana whenua.
- Council has a partnership agreement with Aukaha. Naming of relevant sites of significance are handled in accordance with this agreement.
- Mana whenua may prefer a dual naming arrangement. See dual naming policy below.

Engagement with affected parties:

- Council assesses whether engagement needs to be undertaken under Council's Significance and Engagement Policy.

Suggested names:

- Council considers whether there is a name in common use for the site already and whether any names have already been suggested.
- If there are no suggested names, Council seeks additional suggestions through consultation.
- Suggested names are assessed against considerations. See considerations policy below.

Considerations:

- A recommendation to name an open space will include evidence that the proposed name meets one or more of the considerations set out below:

Considerations
Celebrates placemaking and belonging.
Celebrates Central Otago's history by commemorating individuals, associations and events (see policy below).
Ensuring that under-represented groups that have played an important part in Central Otago's history are given appropriate prominence.
Aligns with name of an adjacent street or suburb.
Reflects the local landscape, topographical features, flora or fauna (preference for appropriate te reo Māori names).
Where an appropriate name is already in common use or has been published (for example New Zealand Gazette).

- A recommendation to name an open space will include evidence that the proposed name meets one or more of the considerations set out below:
 - Ensuring that under-represented groups that have played an important part in Central Otago's history are given appropriate prominence.
 - Aligns with name of an adjacent street or suburb.
 - Reflects the local landscape, topographical features, flora or fauna (preference for appropriate te reo Māori names).
 - Where an appropriate name is already in common use or has been published (for example New Zealand Gazette).

Commemorating individuals, associations and events:

- There may be some situations in which it is appropriate to commemorate individuals, associations or events that have made a significant contribution to the Central Otago District.

- Council may reject a proposed name on the grounds of discrimination or behaviour from a subject that is otherwise harmful to wider community well-being. Council reserves the ability to rename an open space in the future on the same grounds.

Gifting and Sponsorship:

- From time-to-time Council may be approached with an opportunity to benefit from a gifting and sponsorship arrangement, through circumstances outside of this policy.
- In some cases, it may be appropriate to recognise the name of donor/s and/or sponsor/s within a name.
- Council assesses naming proposals related to gifting and sponsorship on a case-by-case basis.

Language:

- All wording must be approved by Council.
- Proposed names must not contain any language that is vulgar, profane, abusive, hateful, sexually explicit, or expresses bigotry, racism, discrimination, or hate.
- Proposed names must not contain information that is defamatory, threatening, disparaging, inflammatory, false, unsubstantiated, or violates the privacy or intellectual property rights of any third party.
- Proposed names may be created in any internationally recognised official or indigenous language. An accurate English translation must be provided to Council for the purpose of assessing the application. All translation required will be verified by a professional translator.
- Council supports bilingual signage and will allow exemptions to size and design specifications to allow for translation on signage.

Te reo Māori names:

- Council supports te reo Māori names for open spaces.
- To recognise the significance of names provided by mana whenua, naming of relevant sites of significance, including decisions around obtaining wider public approval, are handled in accordance with the partnership agreement between Council and Aukaha.

Dual naming :

- Council supports dual naming.
- Council acknowledges that dual naming can provide opportunities to:
 - promote te reo Māori by use of a direct te reo Māori/English translation.
 - improve the visibility of mana whenua connections to a place.
- Where a te reo name is gifted for an open space and the space is to have a dual name, the te reo name is first.

Historical significance

Any proposed names with historical significance are referred to the local relevant Historical Society or Heritage New Zealand for verification.

Non-historical significance

Council will undertake due diligence to verify applications relating to non-historical issue.

Relevant legislation:

- Local Government Act 1974
- Local Government Act 2002
- Resource Management Act 1991
- Reserves Act 1977

Related documents:

- Council's Reserve Management Plans
- Council's Open Space and Recreation Strategy (forthcoming)
- Council's Play Strategy (forthcoming)
- Council's Significance and Engagement Policy
- Council's Regional Identity and Values¹
- Partnership agreement between Council and Aukaha

¹ [Our Regional Identity & Values | Central Otago \(centralotagonz.com\)](https://www.centralotagonz.com)

Appendix 1: Flowchart for naming of open spaces

This flowchart provides a visual aid to demonstrate how this policy will be applied. Note that Council will have formal procedures that will be followed, and this diagram is indicative only.

