

OPEN SPACES AND RECREATION STRATEGY 2024-54

Quality information

Document

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Review

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Contributors

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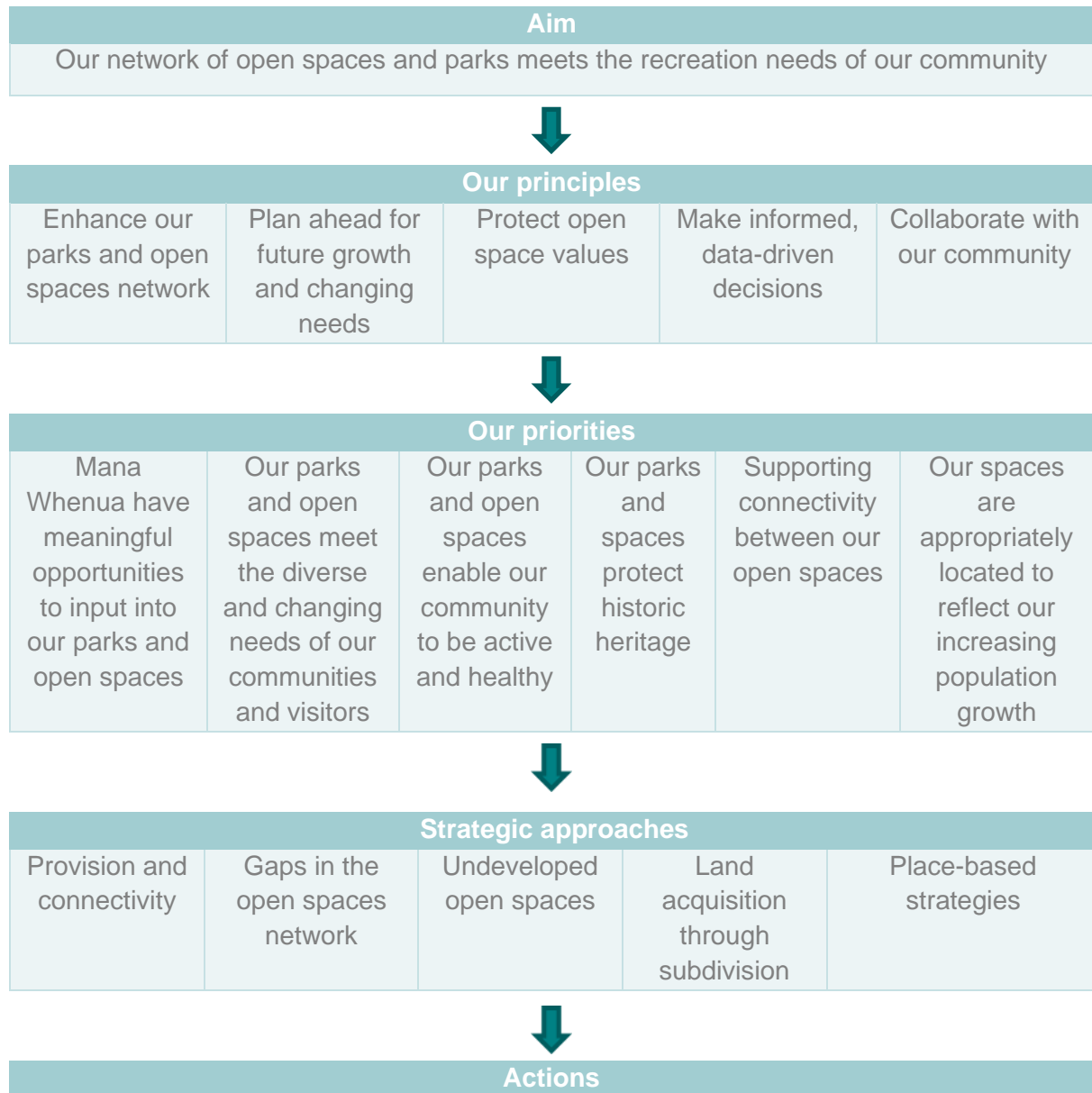
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Part one:

Background

1 Executive Summary

1.1 Our strategy at a glance



1.2 Our strategy on a page

Below is the one-page version of the Strategy. This has been developed to help communicate about the Strategy with others.

OPEN UP about Central Otago's open spaces

The draft **Open Spaces and Recreation Strategy** (the Strategy) ensures Central Otago's network of Council-owned parks and open spaces meets the community's recreation needs over the next 30 years.

The Key Principles of the Strategy

1. Enhance our parks and open spaces network
2. Plan for future growth and changing needs
3. Protect our open space values
4. Make informed, data-driven decisions
5. Collaborate with our community

Parks Categories
Sports & Recreation
Neighbourhood
Public Gardens
Nature
Cultural Heritage
Outdoor Adventure
Civic
Recreation & Ecological Linkages
Other (Specialist & Leased)

We own and manage

1162 ha of parks land, (492 ha publicly accessible), **260 ha** actively maintained, **34** playgrounds, **21** cemeteries (57 hectares)

Key considerations

Connectivity – Supply – Growth – Accessibility - Volunteer and partnerships – Events – Design – Wayfinding – Culture - Protection of open space - Future investment into open space

Our challenges and focus areas are

Acquiring maintaining, and improving the quality, quantity, and accessibility of open spaces to meet the demands of future growth and increased visitor numbers. Proposed subdivisions to adhere to the provision of open spaces and off-road connections including to existing open spaces. Where new spaces aren't appropriate, financial contributions from developers will be required.

To achieve this, we will take these strategic approaches

Provision and connectivity – Gaps in the open spaces network – Undeveloped open spaces – Land acquisition through subdivision – Place-based strategies.

To achieve a **Connected Open Spaces Network**, most residential areas should have:

- ✓ **Neighbourhood Parks** within 500m radius (5-10 min walk) from most residential areas, typically 3000-5000 m², with grass, play equipment, seating, and paths.
- ✓ **Sport and Recreation Parks:** Within 1500m radius of most residential areas. Larger, multi-use parks (minimum 10 ha), with sports fields, changing rooms, lighting, and parking, located near residential areas with good access. These should be connected with greenways and off-road linkages to ensure accessibility and reduce fragmentation.

2 Strategic direction

2.1 Aim

Our network of open spaces and parks meets the recreation needs of our community.

2.2 Principles

Our principles				
Enhance our parks and open spaces network	Plan ahead for future growth and changing needs	Protect our open space values	Make informed, data-driven decisions	Collaborate with our community
<p>Take a holistic, network-based approach to management.</p> <p>Develop & maintain parks and open spaces appropriately for their purposes.</p> <p>Connectivity between open spaces.</p> <p>Enhance the network to meet changing community needs.</p>	<p>Consider future growth and changing recreation needs, including community use and provision of open space</p> <p>Monitor and respond to trends.</p> <p>Effective planning.</p> <p>Adaptable to change.</p> <p>Consider stakeholder, user, and visitor needs.</p> <p>Work with developers to ensure fit-for - purpose recreational spaces and linkages are provided in all developments.</p>	<p>Protect and enhance our natural, cultural, and historical heritage.</p>	<p>Our staff have the necessary skills and experience.</p> <p>We keep up with industry 'best practice'.</p> <p>We monitor trends that impact on parks and open spaces.</p> <p>We use reliable data and community feedback to aid decision-making.</p> <p>We consider the relevant benefits, costs, risks, rewards of our actions.</p>	<p>We have close working relationships with Mana Whenua, other agencies, landowners, and community groups.</p> <p>Consider community needs and wider community benefits.</p> <p>Provide recreational opportunities for our community where practicable.</p>

3 Introduction

This is Central Otago District Council's first Open Spaces and Recreation Strategy. While Reserve Management Plans and various other sport and recreation strategies have previously been sufficient guiding documents for Council, significant population growth over the past ten years, as well as projected population growth, has highlighted the need for an Open Spaces and Recreation Strategy for the district. The Strategy will provide clear guidance for the supply and development for the district's open spaces network.

People value the Central Otago district in which they live. It feels safe and caring, and it offers peace and quiet for those who want it. Many are drawn to Central Otago by work/business opportunities and value the work/life balance the district offers. Others are motivated to live in Central Otago by its appealing natural environment, and by the opportunities provided for an active outdoor lifestyle.¹

This strategy provides an overview of what open spaces Central Otago District currently provides across the district, as well as community expectations and key issues within open spaces. This strategy will determine a long-term aim for the District's Open Spaces network over a 30-year period.

3.1 Purpose of the strategy

The Open Spaces and Recreation Strategy sets the intention for the supply and development of our open spaces and parks network for the next 30 years.

Over the next 30 years we plan to work on:

- Increase our greenway networks
- Providing the right parks and open spaces in the right places
- Improved connections between parks, open spaces and residential areas
- Enhancing our current parks and open spaces
- Upgrade our current playgrounds by providing quality play experiences where needed
- Ensuring our town centres are attractive and vibrant
- Strengthen our relationships with mana whenua
- Working smarter with other agencies and volunteer groups
- Work with developers to ensure new developments provide adequate open spaces and connections to ensure liveable communities are developed.
- Using our spaces to tell our local stories.
- Enhancing natural areas under Council control.

¹ Central Otago Destination Management Plan, p.30

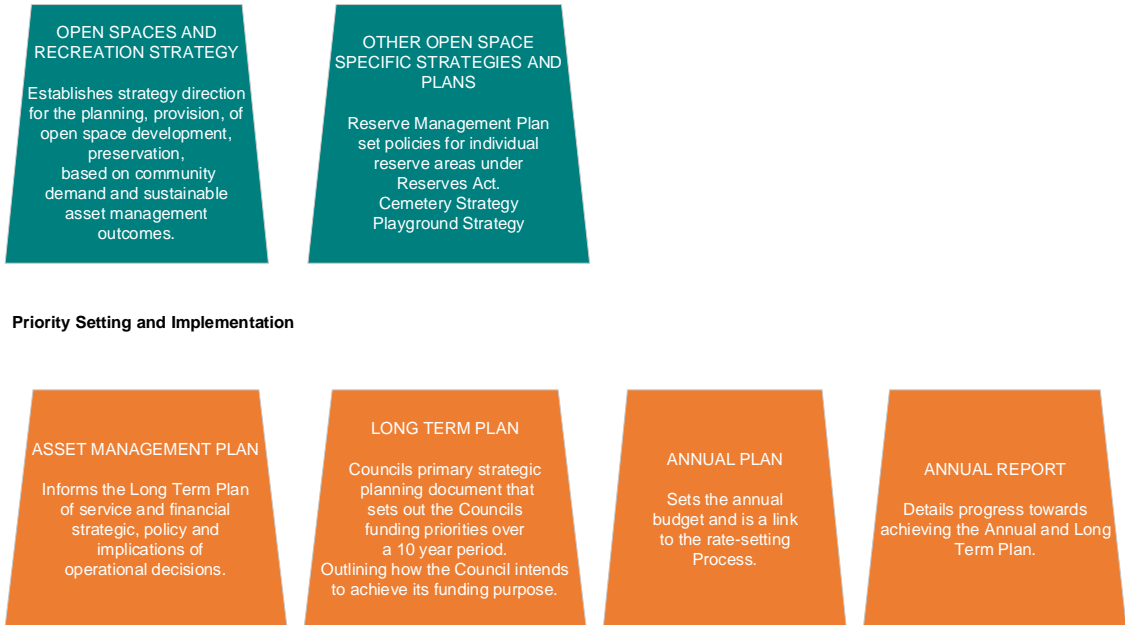
3.2 Strategic Context

National	Relevant Legislation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reserves Act 1977 • Sport and Recreation NZ Act 2002 • Local Government Act 2002 • Health Act 1956 • Resource Management Act 1991
	Strategic Guidance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sport NZ 2020-2032 Strategic Direction • Sport NZ Everybody active: Strategic plan 2020-2024 • New Zealand Disability Strategy 2016-2026 • Government Policy Statement on Land Transport 2018 • Treasury Living Standards Framework • National Policy Statement for Indigenous Biodiversity (forthcoming) • NZS 4404:2010 Land Development and Subdivision Infrastructure Standard
Regional	Relevant Legislation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Otago Regional Policy Statement 2019 (Partially Operative) • Otago's Land and Water Regional Plan (forthcoming, ORC) • Otago Regional Council Pest Management Plan 2019
	Strategic Guidance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (Otago Regional Council)
Local	Key Plans and Strategies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Central Otago's A World of Difference Regional Identity Values • Play Strategy (Forthcoming) • Sustainability Strategy • Vincent Spatial Plan • Cromwell Spatial Plan • District Plan • Community Outcomes • Reserve Management Plans • Annual Plan • Long-term Plan • Wilding Conifer Strategy • Reserve Naming Policy • Tree Policy

3.2.1 Links with Council’s strategies, policies & plans

Council’s Open Spaces and Recreation Strategy ties in with Council’s District-wide vision, called Shaping Tomorrow Together, provides the context within which this Strategy sits. The Vision has provided clear guidance for Council that open spaces and recreation provide an important role around community well-being.

Figure 1: Parks Strategic Framework Analysis and Strategic Direction



4 About Central Otago District Council

4.1 Central Otago Regional Identity

The planning of our parks and open spaces must consider and accurately capture who we are as communities and as a place.

There are a few places in the world which will leave you with a lasting sense of difference. Central Otago is undoubtedly one of them, from its landscapes, its seasons, its people, its product and experiences. Together we must celebrate and look after it. There will be many influences that could affect our unique Central Otago district, meaning it is important that we make wise choices that last beyond the life of this strategy.

Central Otago's Regional Identity defines who we are and what we value within Central Otago district. Our regional identity is based around a set of values that build on the region's uniqueness and help to create the kind of place we can be proud of now and into the future. As individuals, business and communities we can enhance our region by standing by our regional values.

For more information visit <https://centralotagonz.com/discover/our-values/>

4.2 Community insights

Consultation undertaken by Sport Otago has helped us understand the levels of participations in sport and recreation and the value that people place on open space in our district. This is reinforced by consultation undertaken by Central Otago District Council, including the Central Otago District Council Residents' Survey 2022 and a pre-engagement survey undertaken for the purpose of informing this Strategy.

4.2.1 Sport Otago: Current levels of participation in sport and recreation

Sport Otago's research on participation in sport and recreation demonstrated which types of 'sport' (including informal recreation) our residents choose to participate in. It was found that the top three activities were 1) Walking for sport or leisure, 2) Gardening and 3) Jogging/running.

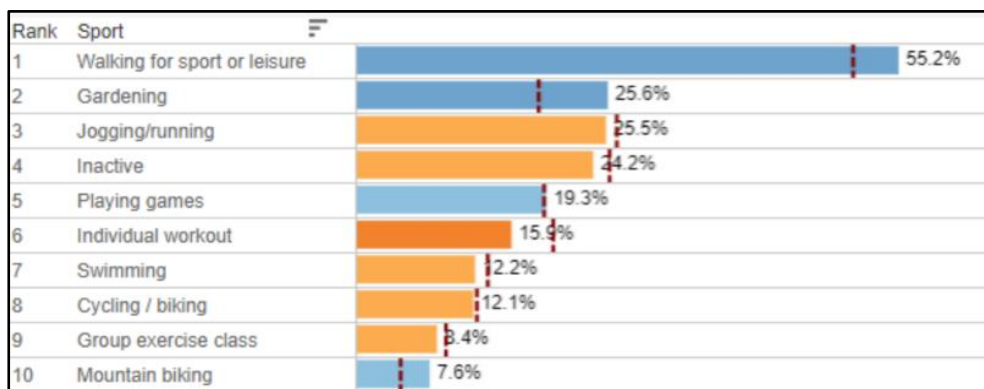
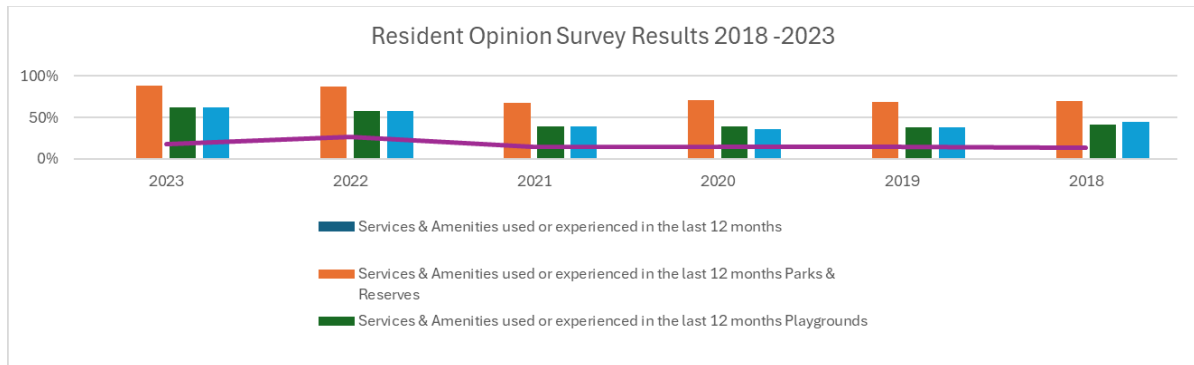


Figure 1: Based on Sport NZ's Active NZ Survey. % Active (last 7 days) = 75.8% Top Activities (last 7 days): Top 10 (red dotted line = national average).

4.2.2 Central Otago District Council Residents' Survey

Council undertakes an annual survey to measure its performance with respect to the services it provides during the year, to identify issues for the coming year and to identify priorities for the coming year. The survey has been undertaken for seven years in a row.

Respondents were asked to select which of Council's services and amenities they had used or experienced in the last 12 months. The graph below shows the percentage of respondents who have used or experienced each service or amenity.



4.3 Growth in the district

Central Otago District is growing. Population statistics indicate that the population of Central Otago is increasing at a steady rate, with growth in Cromwell and Vincent Wards being the most prominent.

Table 1: Demographic predictions 2024 to 2054

Ward	2024	2034	2054
Cromwell Ward	10,941	14,202	20,522
Maniototo Ward	1,781	1,885	1,954
Teviot Valley Ward	1,945	2,153	2,548
Vincent Ward	12,041	14,261	18,365
District Total	26,707	32,501	43,390

5 What is open space and why is it important?

5.1 What is open space?

This Strategy focuses on open spaces and parks owned or managed by Central Otago District Council. It is recognised that other landowners and agencies provide other recreational opportunities throughout the district.

For the purpose of this strategy, open spaces and parks includes:

- Parks & reserves
- Sports fields
- Playgrounds
- Greenways
- Walking and cycling tracks
- Beautification areas
- Town centre gardens and street furniture

5.2 Why is open space important?

Open space plays a vital role in making the Central Otago District a great place to live work and play. There are places for people to meet, connect and get involved in the community. Parks and open spaces often host many of the events and activities that bring visitors to the district, and they are critical to our economy. Open space areas provide the following benefits:

Amenity benefits

Improves local and regional liveability

Provides a focus/identity to locations

Provides attractive, natural places to gather

Provides residents outdoor sporting, amenity and gathering spaces.

Economic benefits

Adds value to properties and localities

Provides an asset for tourism and events

Supports the recreation, tourism and events industry

Provides destinations for visitors and tourists

Provides active transport routes and networks.

Environmental benefits

Protection of features and landscapes,

Protection and enhancement of ecological values and biodiversity

Enables awareness and understanding of nature

Enables participation in conservation

Provides visual contrast to built environment

Climate change resilience/adaptation

Protects ecosystem services

Enables restoration and cultural reconnection via biodiversity corridors.

Cultural benefits

Helps to define urban and rural character and defines urban boundaries
Recognises/supports local identity
Reflects Kāi Tahu values in the natural environment and enables kaitiaki roles
Protection of cultural heritage
Enables protection of Wāhi Tūpuna
Provides sense of place and identity
Provide access to open spaces within an urban setting.

Health benefits

Physical and psychological
Cultural wellbeing and identity, grounding in place.

Education benefits

Creates opportunities to learn to socialise
Learn to be healthy
Learn about natural and cultural heritage
with the landscapes.
Sport and recreation benefits
Places for active engagement and passive enjoyment

Community

Places to socialise
Participate in community events/gatherings

6 What we currently provide

Central Otago District Council manages a variety of open spaces and parks, some of which are highly developed urban parks and some of which are relatively undeveloped natural areas. Below is a summary of our current open space's portfolio.

Council is responsible for a total of 1,162 hectares of parks and recreation land. Of this total 492 hectares is available to the public.

A total of 260 hectares of actively maintained open space is managed by the Central Otago District Council. This equates to 10 hectares per 1,000 residents, which is just below the national median² of 10.5 hectares per 1,000 residents.

A total of 85 hectares of Sports and Recreation Parks is provided, which at 3.2 ha/1,000 residents is higher than the national median of 1.6 hectares per 1,000 residents. It is noted that not all the land referred to a sports grounds is available for active sport. Work is continuing to refine these figures.

A total of 34 playgrounds is provided. This equates to 8 playgrounds per 1,000 children under 15, which is above the national median of 5.1 playgrounds per 1,000 children under 15. Many of these playgrounds provide poor play experiences for users.

The provision of cemeteries assists with peace of mind for people, knowing their loved ones will rest in peaceful well-kept environments. Council is responsible for eleven cemeteries and Cemetery Trusts manage the other ten cemeteries. There are 57 hectares of Cemetery land within the district.

We also manage the Cromwell Pool and Alexandra Pool directly, along with a seasonal community swimming pool in Ranfurly. Millers Flat and Ophir swimming pools are operated by community trusts. The Teviot Valley Community Board financially contributes towards the operation of the Roxburgh Pool.

6.1 Supporters of the District's open space and recreation

Supporters include:

- Aukaha
- Tourism Central Otago
- Otago Regional Council
- Department of Conservation
- Central Otago District Arts Trust
- Central Otago Heritage Trust
- Trails trusts
- Sport Otago
- Schools
- Community groups
- Sports clubs

² Yardstick 2020 results. Yardstick is an international benchmarking programme operated by the NZ Recreation Association

6.2 Other providers

Council is not the only provider or manager of parks and open spaces in our district. We acknowledge the contributions of others:

- The Department of Conservation
- Land Information New Zealand
- Education providers (e.g. schools)
- Otago Regional Council works with landowners and community groups to improve biodiversity
- QEII National Trust
- The Otago Central Rail Trail Trust
- Private landowners who protect and enhance the environment and/or allowing their land to be used for recreational opportunities – i.e. Alexandra & MTB – Matangi.

6.3 Management Categories

Central Otago District Council's parks are split into nine categories, based on the New Zealand Recreation Association (NZRA) parks categories framework 2011 (reviewed 2017).

Table 2: Description of Parks Categories

Category	Description/Primary Purpose
Sports and Recreation	Parks (often quite large areas) set aside and developed for organised sport and recreation activities, recreation facilities and buildings, often multiple use.
Neighbourhood	Parks developed and used for informal recreation and sporting activities, play and family-based activities, and social and community activities.
Public Gardens	Parks and gardens developed to a very high horticultural standard with collections of plants and landscaping for relaxation, contemplation, appreciation, education, events, functions, and amenity/intrinsic value.
Nature	Parks that offer the experience and /or protection of the natural environment, containing native bush, coastal margins, forestry, farm parks, wetlands, riparian areas and water bodies.
Cultural Heritage	Parks that protect the built cultural and historical environment and/or provide for heritage conservation, education, commemoration, mourning and remembrance.
Outdoor Adventure	Parks developed and used for recreation and sporting activities and associated built facilities that require a large scale, forested, rural or peri-urban environment.
Civic	Areas of open space often provided within or adjacent to central business districts, and developed to provide a space for social gatherings, meeting places, relaxation and enjoyment.
Recreation and Ecological Linkages	Areas of open spaces that are often linear in nature that provide pedestrian and cycle linkages, wildlife corridors and access to water margins. May provide for environmental protection, and access to waterways.
Other (Specialist and Leased)	Areas of open spaces that do not fit into the above categories. In Central Otago, this is often land that is unmanaged, underutilised and/or leased.

6.4 The Standard, based on parks categories

6.4.1 Sports and Recreation

Description

A Sport and Recreation Park is designed and used for both organised sport and informal recreation, and is often multi-use, providing for a range of community activities and facilities.

It is likely to have formally maintained sports turf for a mixture of winter and/or summer sport. The sports turf areas are maintained fit for purpose for the sports code use. It may accommodate hard court and built recreation facilities. Toilets, sports training lights (provision by a mix of Council and sports clubs), changing facilities and car parking may be available and some may have resident club facilities. Some parks may have recreation facilities such as playgrounds, and other facilities serving a local neighbourhood and community function creating a multi-function park with a wide range of activities occurring. Some parks may be entirely leased for sports or recreation activity.

Typical activities may include organised sport, social sports, active recreation, informal sport and recreation, walking, amenity and open space, and events

Council traditionally provides multi-use grass facilities and sporting codes provide club infrastructure required for their sport.

Examples include:

- Alpha Street Recreation Reserve
- Anderson Park
- Omakau Recreation Reserve
- Molyneux Park

Provision

Sports and Recreation Parks are predominantly located throughout the district, based on both small communities that have a reserve as their hub, e.g. Maniototo and Clyde Recreation Reserves, and in the larger towns of Alexandra and Cromwell. They are designed to meet local community needs for sports fields and facilities.

Sports parks should be of a size that accommodates at least two full-size winter fields (approximate dimension 130m x 80m each, equal to approximately 1 hectare per winter field) and also provide suitable land for on-site car parking, facility development and an off-field training ground. This equates to a minimum parcel of land of 10 hectares and up to 15 hectares to cater for multi-use activities. The relatively large areas of land for future Sports and Recreation Parks will enable multi-use activities to cater for a number of sports and recreation activities.

Land provided will need to be level with well-drained, good quality soils, clear of public utilities.

They will be located near residential areas, with good arterial road and off-road access and visibility. Services and facilities will ideally be centralised.

6.4.2 Neighbourhood

Description

A developed urban park designed for use by the local residential community. They are generally smaller in size, ranging from 1,000m² up to 15,000m². The average ideal size is considered to be from 3,000m² to 5,000m².

The neighbourhood park should be easily accessible, ideally from more than one road frontage, centrally located in residential area, away from high volume roads. The neighbourhood park will be well maintained; be free draining; have flat or gently undulating grassed areas; be safe; and provide an attractive welcoming ambiance to the immediate local community. Neighbourhood parks are provided to “fill in” any gaps in the parks network to provide full distribution and access to parkland in urban residential areas. Neighbourhood parks should provide an open grass area suitable for small-scale ball play, children’s play equipment, seating, paths and attractive amenity planting. Larger parks may accommodate small community buildings and small-scale sports facilities such as basketball half courts. Typical activities may include play, relaxation, recreation, amenity/open space.

Examples include:

- King George Park
- Naseby Domain
- Table Park

Provision

The level of service target is to provide access to an open space park area within a 10-minute walk of any residential property in urban areas. This means parks should be distributed so that there is no greater distance than 500 metres from an urban residential property to a park. Parks, for example Sports and Recreation Parks, etc, may also meet this need and duplication is not necessary. Neighbourhood parks should be a minimum of 1,500m² with a preferred provision of up to 5,000m² with at least 70% comprising usable flat land with good drainage, good soils and not adjacent to public utilities.

The size is larger than many existing or traditional neighbourhood parks, but it allows for a reasonable mix of activities including a large ball-play space, basketball half court, playgrounds (both junior and senior), gardens and “quiet” spaces. It is also important to be able to provide a reasonable separation for adjoining residential properties from the active/noisy activities. Neighbourhood parks should have an open frontage (providing a safe ambiance) with at least one full road frontage plus pedestrian/cycle access to other streets, to maximise linkages to as many parts of the neighbourhood as possible. Ideally neighbourhood parks should have three access points. They should be centrally located in a residential area, away from high-volume roads.

Suitable land for neighbourhood parks will generally be acquired at the time of planning new subdivisions (or, where assessed as not required, development contributions would contribute towards the upgrading of existing assets as purchase of open space land in areas that don’t meet the 500m radius access target. In our rural areas, it is unlikely that any additional neighbourhood parks will be required during the life of this strategy.

6.4.3 Nature

Description

The primary purpose of Nature Parks is to provide opportunities for people to experience or protect the natural environment and to provide habitat for flora and fauna. Typically, areas of indigenous bush, wetlands, or other natural landscapes are considered Nature Parks. They may include walking tracks, mountain bike tracks, picnic areas and facilities to support and service these activities.

Central Otago District Council has traditionally not provided this style of park, primarily as the area does not have many Nature Parks under Council's management.

The values and attributes of Nature Parks include:

- Large-scale sites
- Low-impact recreation activity
- Intact or relatively intact natural ecosystems
- Unique, significant or threatened NZ indigenous flora and fauna
- Natural wetland areas
- Water bodies such as lakes/ponds
- Outstanding natural features and landscapes including geological features

Examples include:

- Taieri Recreation Reserve
- Lower Manorburn Dam Recreation Reserve

Provision

Nature Parks contain natural features that are being restored or conserved. Typically, they will be adjacent to/or contain water bodies such as wetlands or will be areas of native bush/grassland or another native ecological habitat. They can significantly add to visual and open space landscape values. Some sites may be acquired and managed as natural parks that do not have existing strong values but where their management as areas of native vegetation is considered the most appropriate land use. Nature Parks can be quite large where they contain wetlands, grassland or native bush. For planning purposes no minimum size is identified, although it is expected sites will be no smaller than 1 hectare. Land may be located anywhere in the district, where a site has specific values that warrants its acquisition.

It is noted that there is mixed ownership between, Council, DOC and private landowners for the Taieri wet lands. Council is of the view that the actual wetland area would be better administered by DOC. While the more arable areas managed by CODC.

Discussions with all relevant parties on a potential land swap in this area would be beneficial to securing long term management of this significant wetland.

6.4.4 Public Gardens

Description

Public Gardens include parks that are of significance to the district with an emphasis on horticultural displays.

The primary focus for Public Gardens is to create a place of beauty and tranquillity through high-quality horticultural design and maintenance and other features as appropriate to the park's character. They often also may contain historic heritage values. Acquisition may be a result of gifting of privately developed gardens.

They will generally exhibit one or more of the following values and attributes:

- Peace and tranquillity
- Horticultural excellence and diversity
- Visitor destination
- Particular unique feature or character
- Historic, artistic or cultural values
- Horticultural and/or environmental education

Public Gardens will be developed and maintained to a high standard.

Examples include:

- Cromwell Rose Garden Anderson Park
- McArthur Gardens (Pioneer Park)
- Teviot Gardens

Provision

Creation/acquisition of additional Public Gardens will be based on the opportunity to acquire a site that has specific special characteristics that warrant its acquisition or protection. Any site acquired will then need to be developed to a high standard to ensure that the benefits from the acquisition are maximised.

For planning purposes no minimum size is identified although it is expected sites will be no smaller than 5,000m². Additional public garden sites maybe developed as park of the Cromwell Town Centre upgrade project.

6.4.5 Recreation and Ecological Linkages

Description

Recreation linkages cover a wide range of purposes, from developed areas with mown grass and trees, revegetation areas through to undeveloped green areas.

They also provide a wide range of functions, from largely unused or inaccessible areas through to areas used actively for picnics, walking, biking and other recreation.

They often provide for walkway/transport linkages from one neighbourhood to another or to link parks together.

They may be based on geographic features within the urban environment, where buildings are not possible, for example stream gullies, drainage areas or steep hillsides.

Generally, recreation linkages will have a low level of development, except where usage and demand warrant it. This may include formalising accessways, tracks, park furniture and signage.

Examples include:

- Alexandra-Clyde River Track
- Clyde Greenways
- Cromwell Greenways
- Roxburgh Esplanade

Provision

Recreation linkages areas can be land that need not be fully accessible and may provide a community benefit through the visual amenity they provide such as incorporating a stand of trees and the opportunity to protect or enhance biodiversity. Land need not be flat but the cost benefit of maintaining difficult gullies, steep land and other non-developable land should be carefully considered prior to any future acquisitions.

Minimum parcel size of land is not a specific requirement for the future, although, in terms of general planning, a minimum of 3,000m² should be seen as an effective area which will provide visual impact.

Location of recreation linkages will generally be related to geographic features and dispersed throughout the district providing corridors of “green” possibly linking parks via walkway systems.

Spatial plans developed by Council will generally indicate active residential growth is appropriate and thus where recreational linkages will be required to ensure connectivity between these new growth areas and existing residential area is required.

6.4.6 Cultural Heritage

Description

Cultural Heritage Parks primarily relate to the cemeteries but also included a number of heritage and memorial sites.

Cemeteries are provided as a location for interments and remembrance. The primary objective is to create a respectful environment that is attractive, restful and suitable for reflection and grieving. Cemeteries will require a high level of development to meet their purpose and visitor needs. They are included within the park network to reflect the wide range of uses and values cemeteries provide.

Other heritage parks include historic elements or other links with cultural history that are managed with the primary purpose of preserving the significant heritage values and features, and enabling appropriate public access, education and remembrance, e.g. memorial sites.

Typical activities may include:

- Protection, restoration, enhancement
- Historical information and education
- Commemoration
- Burials/ mourning, remembrance

Includes all cemeteries and war memorials.

Memorial site examples include:

- Ranfurly War Memorial Reserve
- Naseby War Memorial

Provision

Provision of cemeteries will meet the future interment needs of the community to provide appropriate sites for burial close to the key population centres and towns.

There is mixed service delivery model throughout the district with a mix of Council-managed sites plus trust-managed sites.

The provision and location of cemeteries is dealt with in more depth in the Councils Cemetery Strategy.

6.4.7 Civic

Description

Civic spaces are areas of open space provided within retail/business areas, designed to provide a space for visitors to the town centre, casual gatherings, meetings, relaxation, lunchtime, etc. These areas will have a high standard of development and presentation associated with their high-profile location and visitor usage.

Many streets are planted with trees and gardens to enhance the landscape, provide shade, shelter, visual interest, beautification and, in some cases, for traffic management purposes.

Typical activities may include:

- Lunch/meetings for workers/shoppers
- Open space in town centre, business or industrial area
- Social and community gatherings
- Entertainment
- Events / performances

Examples include:

- Centennial Avenue Alexandra
- Alexandra Town Centre Tarbert Street
- Cromwell Mall

Provision

The size of Civic parks and streetscapes can vary widely from a few hundred square metres up to a hectare or more for large squares. Provision is largely dependent on historic design, but consideration should be given to the creation of Civic parks in all new business/retail centre developments.

Civic parks are located in central locations that are easily accessible or where a natural point of congregation will occur.

Street gardens will generally be provided:

- On roundabouts and traffic islands to create visual awareness, beautification, seasonal colour and contrast, and as a ground cover for maintenance purposes
- At entrance to subdivisions to create visual interest and beautification
- In CBD areas with high levels of foot traffic

6.4.8 Other (Specialist and Leased)

Description

The New Zealand Recreation Aotearoa Parks Categories Framework sets out eight categories of parks but encourages organisations to create an additional category if they have a group of parks which do not fit these eight categories. Central Otago District Council has some parks and open spaces which do not fall within these categories.

Typical activities may include:

- Council-run Campground
- Leased (for activities that do not contribute to recreation opportunities within the district for the public).
- Unmanaged (not available for public use but not necessarily being used for anything. Often these open spaces might be grazed ad hoc (not for income, but as a means of maintaining them).

Examples include:

- Council-run Campground - Omakau Recreation Reserve (Council operates Omakau Campground on this open space). Technically means this space can't be used freely by public for recreation, although public pass through this land to use the playground on this land etc.
- Leased - Waipiata Domain (part of this reserve is leased to local farmers who graze the land) or Alexandra, Clyde, Roxburgh, Naseby and part of Cromwell Golf courses.
- Not managed:
 - Wedderburn – Not managed, technically able to be used by public for recreation but not maintained.

7 What the community have told us they want

Council undertook two surveys (between 2022 and 2023) to help inform this Strategy. These surveys sought the communities feedback on how they use open spaces and what they envisage for open spaces in the future. Council considered this pre-engagement research essential to provide base information for the preparation of this Strategy. Results produced from the survey help us understand how our community use parks and other open spaces, and how they might be used in the future.

It is noted that some respondents provided feedback on activities that have been traditionally outside Councils capacity to cater for example horse trails, mountain bike trails and mixed-use trails. Other landowners and agencies have typically provided for these.

Physical wellbeing (93%) and mental wellbeing (85%) are the key reasons that respondents get out and use public spaces, followed closely by social wellbeing. Respondents predominantly travel by car to get to the public spaces they use. Some walk, run or bike. Operational matters (such as toilets and rubbish bins), dogs on trails (and accessibility of different parks were noted as things that prevent people from using or enjoying public open spaces.

When looking at the future, respondents suggest Council focus on walking and cycling tracks and linkages as well as sports facilities and greenways. Respondents felt that Council should be exploring ways to encourage more physical activity, including considering a wide range of new and innovative sports and activities that are offered elsewhere.

Satisfaction with Council pools remain high, although regulating pool temperatures and keeping up with maintenance were notes as challenges.

To foster wellbeing, Council was encouraged to maintain existing facilities, but also partner to support community activities and provide additional seating for picnics, events and green spaces. To make our communities more welcoming, respondents felt that information needed to be accessible showcasing the clubs, events and activities available. Roughly two-thirds of respondents expressed satisfaction with the way open spaces look in their area. When looking ahead 30 years, respondents wanted to see a continued focus on protecting open spaces and increase native plantings where appropriate.

Barriers to visiting parks and open spaces by foot or bike include inadequate trails and cycleways connecting those spaces, as well as living rural although more than half of respondents reported satisfaction with the off-road connections to greenways in their area.

When asked what role Council should play in supporting speciality activities such as motocross or equestrian, more than half of respondents felt that role should be one of support/facilitation as opposed to a leading role. This survey feedback provides important insights into the priorities of Central Otago and its open spaces for the future.

Part two:
Key
considerations

8 Key considerations

These key considerations provide guidance around what must be taken into consideration to enhance Central Otago's Open Spaces Network. These considerations have been informed by engagement with the community, during the pre-engagement surveys (undertaken in 2022 and 2023).

8.1 Connectivity

Open space should be distributed to create a contiguous network where possible that establishes recreational trail networks, cycling and walking linkages. Connections can provide for recreation linkages such as walkways or cycleways, and/or support ecological connectivity or establish greenbelts or esplanade strips. Connections or linkages can also make moving around neighbourhoods easy and can provide an alternative and sustainable mode of active transport.

The district has an impressive network of walking and cycling trails, and this is very popular for both recreation and tourism, the vast majority of which are operated and maintained by other agencies.

When new developments are planned, they must have quality connections within a walkable neighbourhood and connect with existing trails and reserves where possible.

8.2 Supply

All residents within urban/built up areas should live within reasonable walking distance to an open space area. For a reserve to be 'accessible' it should generally be located within 500m of a residential property it serves and easily and safely accessible by foot.

All Council-managed open space land in the district has been identified spatially and shows existing open spaces and where they are located. It identifies buffers around Neighbourhood Parks (500m) and Sports and Recreation Parks (1500m), based on industry best practice. This data (attached as **Appendix 1**) will be used to inform future planning decisions for the supply, connectivity, and quality of open space. This will assist Council to understand and provide for the specific needs of the different communities in the district, particularly in our built-up areas.

8.3 Growth

Population increase, visitor growth and intensification in urban areas will mean our existing parks and open spaces will need to accommodate more use. While generally new open space areas will not be acquired in existing developed areas the capacity of existing open space will need to be improved either through upgrades or receiving a higher level of service.

Provision for growth is addressed in Section 9.

8.4 Accessibility

Pathways to parks should be accessible for parents with young children and people with limited mobility. This is becoming increasingly important with our ageing population. For a park to be 'accessible' it should be located within a certain distance from the property it serves and safely accessible by foot. It is dealt with under the 'Supply' subheading.

8.5 Volunteers and partnerships

Central Otago District is fortunate to have a number of community groups, clubs and partners that are motivated to make a difference to their community through a range of different causes. While volunteer numbers around New Zealand are declining, there is a clear rise in popularity in volunteering efforts in recreation and ecological enhancement services. Groups interested in these areas include community associations, sports clubs, biking clubs and environmental groups.

These volunteers give up their own time to contribute to the success of the district's open space network. Examples of work undertaken are:

- Track and trail construction
- Wilding conifer control
- Predator control
- Native planting
- Fundraising and installation of community facilities

Council has an opportunity, to maximise the efforts of volunteer groups in the recreation and ecological enhancement spaces, by encouraging and enabling these groups where possible.

Organisations that are external to Council such as Department of Conservation, Otago Central Rail Trail Trust, Southern Lakes Trails, Roxburgh Gorge Trail Charitable Trust and the Clutha Gold Trail Charitable Trust have crucial role in delivering trails throughout or district. Cromwell Mountain Bike Club and Mountain Bikers of Alexandra to deliver more targeted booking opportunities.

8.6 Events

Council and other providers of open space provide for many of the regional and national events that are regularly hosted in the district. This can range from large-scale events to smaller community events. Well managed events can have a very positive effect on the district, drawing the community together and bringing financial, social, cultural, and environmental benefits. The use of reserves to support and enable events is encouraged where appropriate. This strategy's objective is to ensure that our open spaces are well designed, accessible, connected and valued. It also seeks to provide access to a diversity of high-quality open spaces that provide for a variety of experiences.

8.7 Design

The layout and configuration of a reserve and any infrastructure provided will ultimately determine the success of the reserve. Each activity, particularly sporting activities, will have specific requirements for the size, configuration, topography and orientation. Multifunctional

open spaces are encouraged as they enable socialising and are an efficient use of land and facilities. Below are guidelines for how a reserve should be designed:

- Co-locate sports grounds with other recreation facilities such as a playground and walking circuits to make a multifunctional open space.
- Maximise street frontage and locate in central / prominent locations within a development to maximise accessibility, both visual and physical, and to provide good passive surveillance from passers-by and neighbouring properties.
- Relatively flat well-drained terrain is desirable as it provides for a wide range of activities, however some variation in terrain can add interest and play opportunities.
- 2 to 3 hectares is considered appropriate for a multiuse reserve.
- Avoid overly elongated, narrow or irregular shapes with dead ends. Provide multiple entrance points and walking and cycling connections through the open space to link with the surrounding neighbourhood.
- Consider appropriate infrastructure such as seating, water fountains and fencing.
- Apply the Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design principles (CPTED) to maximise safety of spaces
- Fully accessible design principles are integrated where practicable.

8.8 Wayfinding³

The community should be aware that the open space network exists. By providing information about the activities and facilities our open spaces offer, their history and their special features, the community and visitors can make the most out of our parks and open spaces. The community can learn about their open spaces through signage, website information and participating in community events and activities in these areas. The community can become involved in the management of their parks by engaging in consultations on Reserve Management Plans and Development Plans or volunteering in club activities or restoration programmes.

8.9 Culture

As our district grows, the demographics of our population are also shifting. It is essential that our open spaces cater to different cultural needs and desires.

8.10 Protection of open space

Many of our reserves while highly developed some contain areas of significant vegetation and/or biodiversity. These natural areas protect important ecosystem services.

There are several mechanisms available to protect the public open space network. Parks and open spaces are generally protected from inappropriate development by being in public ownership and through being vested and classified as a reserve under the Reserves Act 1977. Reserve Management Plans may be prepared for classified Recreation Reserves as required and must be prepared in consultation with the public.

³ Knowing where you are, where you are heading, how to get there.

Council's District Plan provides "designations" under the Resource Management Act that provides another layer of protection for reserves.

Many reserves also protect historic heritage features such as monuments, buildings, graves or memorial plantings. These features provide the opportunity for residents and visitors to learn about the unique history of the district.

8.11 Future investment into open spaces

Council will consider investment into open spaces that are free of wildling species and pest-free. Any land must also comply with the parks categories descriptions outlined in Section 6.2 above.

Part three:

Strategic

approaches

9 Strategic approaches

To respond to the challenges and opportunities facing parks and open spaces we have developed strategic approaches to address District-wide issues. The strategic approaches are planning and policy-related e.g. provision and development guidelines.

9.1 Provision and connectivity

This strategy sets parameters for open space provision in new subdivisions and developments. Some newer suburbs have been developed without any greenspace or connectivity. This strategy ensures that new open space reserves are located centrally within neighbourhoods. Also, that they are safe, walkable and easily accessible to residents.

Table 3: Amount of open space in Central Otago District

Category	CODC park area (ha)
Sports and Recreation	85
Neighbourhood	53
Public Gardens	0.521
Nature	207
Cultural Heritage	57
Outdoor Adventure	60
Civic	16
Recreation and Ecological Linkages	39
Other (Specialist and Leased)	0.824

9.2 Gaps in the open spaces network

The location of every open space in our district has been identified. Although work to refine exactly the best parks category land sits within is ongoing.

The Parks Categories Maps demonstrate any perceived 'gaps' in the open spaces network, i.e. areas that are undersupplied by open space. This is achieved through buffers drawn around all parks that fall within two categories of parks.

There are buffers shown around:

- Sports and Recreation Parks (1500m buffer)
- Neighbourhood Parks (500m buffer)

An example of the mapping is included below:

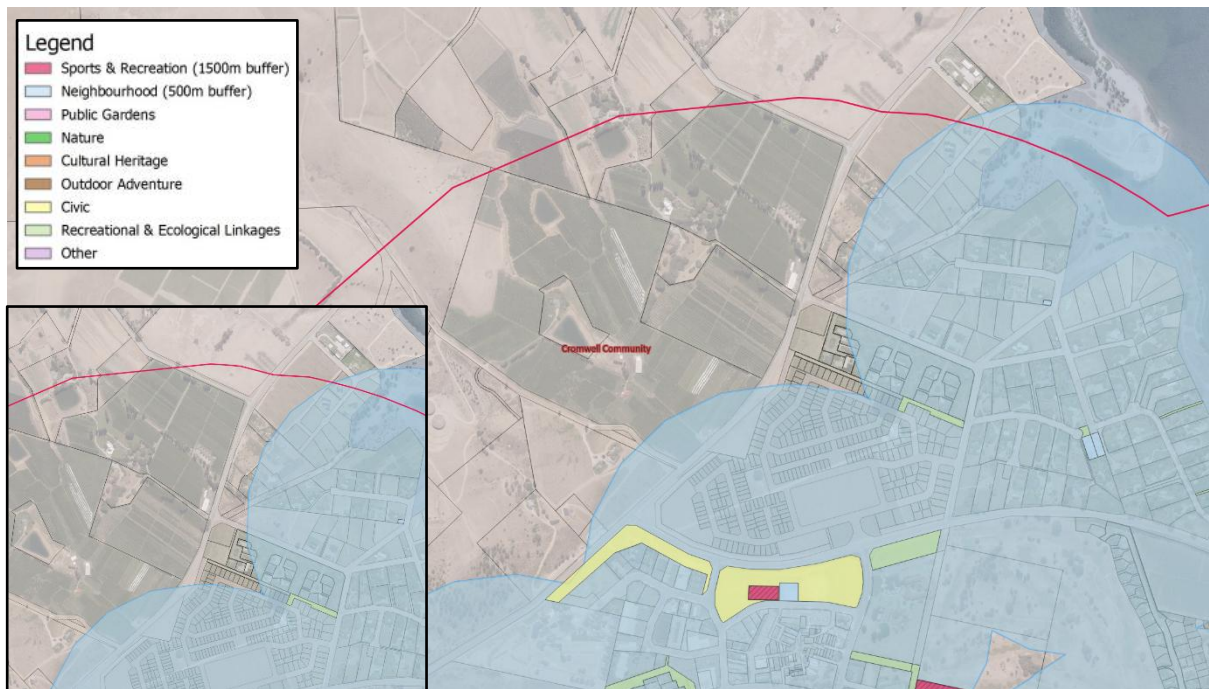


Figure 2: Example of open spaces mapping

Section 10 below identifies the district ward-by-ward, and evaluates the current provision of open space.

9.3 Undeveloped open spaces

There is undeveloped (or underutilised) open space owned by the Central Otago District Council, particularly in rural areas. Over time, Council will identify these open spaces and investigate potential options for the future (such as disposing of, leasing, repurposing). Consideration of disposal, repurposing or land swap is worth considering for these underutilised open spaces.

Disposal

Council should be cautious when considering disposing of land. Consultation with the community will be required to inform this process.

Repurposing

In some cases, Council and the community have decided the best option is for the land to be leased, often to neighbouring farms for grazing. This provides income and means Council holds ownership over the land, ensuring future-proofing.

Land Exchange

Exchanging land with other landowners for land that contains enhanced qualities for Council is a legitimate process to ensure certain qualities on the land are managed by the most appropriate organisation.

Consultation

As a part of consultation on this Strategy, Council will be engaging with community to obtain feedback on how they want this underutilised to be dealt with in the future.

9.4 Land acquisition through subdivision

Proposed subdivisions must adhere to provision guidelines in this Strategy. In the first instance, subdivision developments will be assessed to determine if proposed new residential allotments are located within a suitable walking distance from existing open spaces. The subdivision must provide off-road connections to existing open space. If not, it must provide a suitable Neighbourhood Park, adhering with the Recreation Aotearoa Parks Categories Guidelines above.

If new open space (such as a Neighbourhood Park) is not required, the development will contribute through financial contribution requirements for open space.

Council may strategically provide additional open spaces (e.g. acquisitions, easements, covenants, reserve contributions, etc.) to address network gaps and to establish better connectivity between existing open spaces and large residential areas.

9.5 Activating Community Groups and Volunteering

There are many individuals and organisations in our community who volunteer their time in ways that are related to enhancing Council owned and/or managed open spaces to provide enhanced opportunities for recreation for the wider community. At present, Council has little structure around how to manage such volunteers.

If there is demand and Council can see a benefit, Council could look at different ways to provide more support and structure around volunteer efforts. It would be beneficial to map out locations and specific projects that would be suitable to be managed or undertaken by community volunteer groups.

Some Councils have a dedicated role, or a dedicated portion of a role, that exists to provide structure and support to volunteers. This could be an opportunity to work cohesively with our community volunteering groups.

9.6 What recreational activities does Council provide for?

Traditionally Councils in New Zealand have provided for sport and recreation opportunities for traditional sports such as netball, rugby, football, tennis and playgrounds, noting that this is by no means an exhaustive list.

Over time, public expectation for what Councils provide has evolved and is becoming more diverse, for example, skateparks and pump tracks, disc golf, pickle ball courts to name a few.

The community have a higher expectation around the level of facilities provided for example demand facilities where Children's sport is played inside away from the elements as opposed to outside.

Fields, turfs and surfaces are expected to be constructed with a much more intensive technology. This reflects the important that New Zealand places on sport and recreation. However, Sport New Zealand for several years have been promoting the idea of sports hubs where many recreational activities both indoor and out can be undertaken, rather than being

spread out across a town. Alexandra already has this at Molyneux Park and the proposed developments at Cromwell Racecourse Recreation Reserve may see a similar set up for that reserve in the future.

9.7 Place-based strategies

Central Otago District is made up of four wards:

- **Cromwell Ward** (includes Cromwell/Bannockburn/Pisa Mooring/Tarras)
- **Maniototo Ward** (includes Ranfurly/Naseby/Waipiaata/Wedderburn)
- **Teviot Valley Ward** (includes Roxburgh/Roxburgh Lake Village/Millers Flat)
- **Vincent Ward** (includes Alexandra/Clyde/Omakau/Ophir/St Bathans)

This section includes an analysis of what park land is currently provided for within each of the four wards and then considers a place-based strategy for each ward to achieve a functional Open Spaces Network.

9.8 Open Spaces in the Cromwell Ward

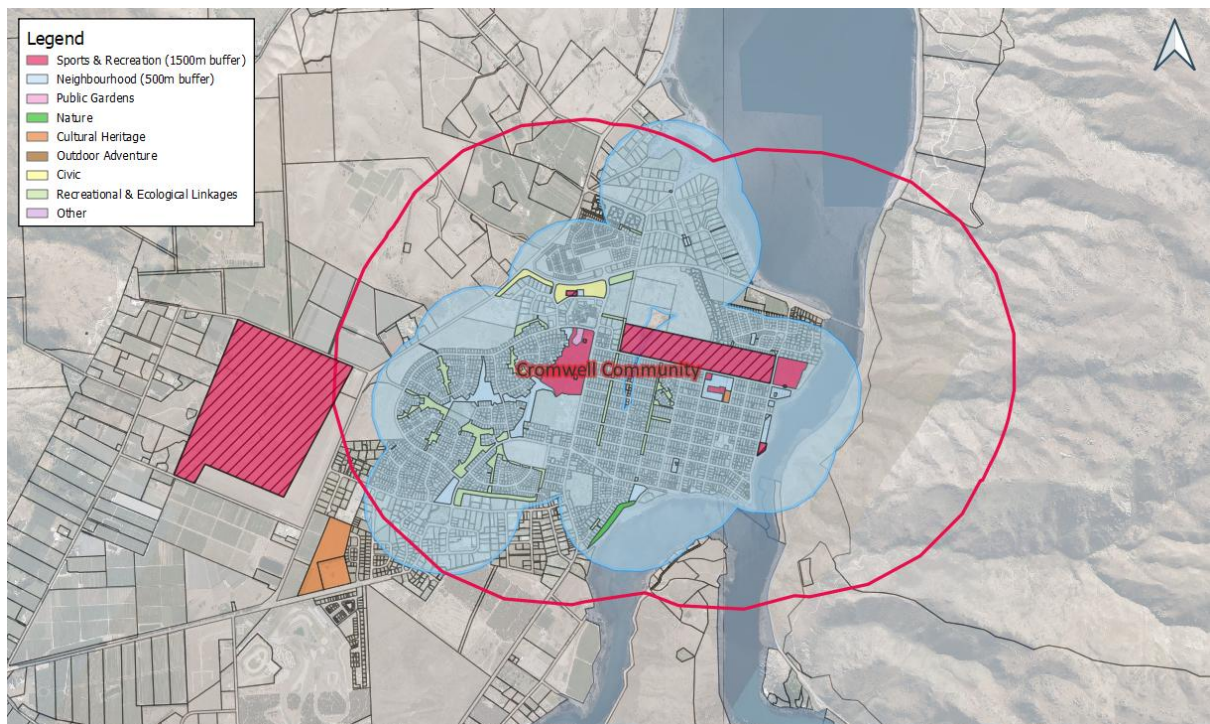
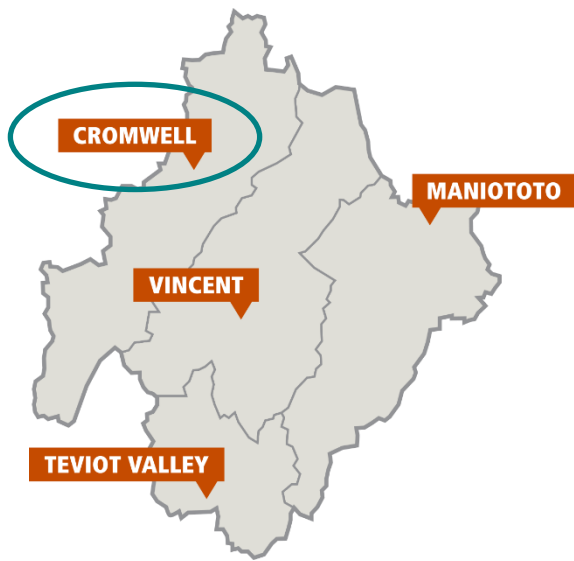


Figure 3: Cromwell by Park Categories

9.8.1 Sports and Recreation

Table 4: List of Sports and Recreation Parks in the Cromwell Ward⁴

Name	Location
Alpha Street Reserve	Cromwell
Anderson Park	Cromwell
Bannockburn Domain	Bannockburn
Nepulsultra Street Reserve	Cromwell
Taras Domain	Tarras

In 2022, Council commissioned the Cromwell Reserves Supply and Demand Assessment Report. This Report considered current use, anticipated future use, sporting trends and population projections. Cromwell is expected to grow significantly over the next 20 years. This report demonstrated that there is already an existing deficit of sports fields in Cromwell (football and rugby). It was found that Cromwell requires outdoor space for several more sport fields. In 2022, it was estimated that a further three full sized equivalent sports fields are required to meet the current demand, with a further three likely to be required in the medium term (5 years).

The Queenstown Central Otago Sports Regional Facility Strategy 2018 indicated that investigations should be undertaken to explore the potential for the Cromwell Racecourse Reserve being used as a regional sports hub complex. Council has no large land holdings within Cromwell's urban area that would be suitable for expansion of sports fields.

Council is developing a masterplan for the Cromwell Racecourse reserve to determine if a sports hub and existing equestrian activities can both operate on this reserve.

The goal is to focus on the development of recreational activities in one location, for example, the Cromwell Racecourse Reserve. If one location was developed as a sports hub, this would allow other parks to fulfil other needs.

Sports fields will not be developed in communities outside Cromwell, such as Pisa Moorings or the proposed Parkburn Quarry, as this would cause further fragmentation of sporting facilities within the wider Cromwell area.

Bannockburn

The Bannockburn Recreation Reserve is used for a limited range of activities. The sports field is situated in the middle of the campground. It is not used regularly for organised sports but provides an open space that can be used informally and is sometimes used for organised recreation. The different activities undertaken at the Bannockburn Domain (for example the campground/playground/Bowls Club) are currently coexisting well.

Future development

Any future development to the north of Pisa Moorings, such as Parkburn Quarry, will require a Neighbourhood Park, including a Play Area. Additionally, it must provide Recreational and Ecological Linkages that connect any new development, and new open spaces within it, to existing open spaces in Pisa Moorings

⁴ For complete list, refer to appendices.

9.8.2 Neighbourhood

Table 5: List of Neighbourhood Parks in the Cromwell Ward⁵

Name	Location
Donegal Street Reserve	Cromwell
Dustin Park	Pisa Moorings
Fruit Bowl Reserve	Cromwell
Lowburn Hall Domain	Lowburn
Melmore Terrace Reserve	Cromwell
Nepulsultra Street Reserve	Cromwell

9.8.3 Recreation and Ecological Linkages

Table 6: List of Recreation and Ecological Linkages Parks in the Cromwell Ward⁶

Name	Location
Brittany Cover Marina Reserve	Pisa
Bruce Street Greenway	Cromwell
Cromwell Western Greenway	Cromwell
Donegal Street Reserve	Cromwell
Down Street Greenway	Cromwell
Roberts Drive Reserve	Cromwell

Cromwell is well known for its greenways, which link residential areas, sport and recreational facilities, schools and the town centre. In recent years, some developments have not had as strong of a connection with the rest of the greenway network compared to the more established part of Cromwell. The community in Cromwell have made it clear that this is a priority for their town. Future developments and subdivision must be able to provide clear off-road linkages, and connection to the rest of the greenway network. An off-road connection (possibly in the form of an underpass) between Cromwell town and the Cromwell Racecourse Recreation Reserve is paramount for the Cromwell Racecourse Recreation Reserve to be successfully developed as a recreation hub.

Future development

With Cromwell forecast to experience significant growth over the next 30 years, it is important that we identify where this growth is likely to occur and what open spaces are likely to be required to service this growth. For example, another development like Wooing Tree Estate would require a minimum of:

- Recreational and Ecological Linkages (also known as Greenways) that provide off-road connection to other greenways and Sports and Recreation Parks.
- Neighbourhood Park, containing play area.

Provision guidelines should be applied to ensure that all properties within the subdivision are located within suitable distances from specific open spaces.

The surveys that were undertaken for this strategy reinforce that the community value Recreational and Ecological Linkages. These linkages are valued because they enable people to get from their house to get from their home to their destination, using off-road connections only.

⁵ For complete list, refer to appendices.

⁶ For complete list, refer to appendices.

A future development to the north of Pisa will require a minimum of a network of Recreational and Ecological Linkages and a Neighbourhood Park.

9.8.4 Cultural Heritage

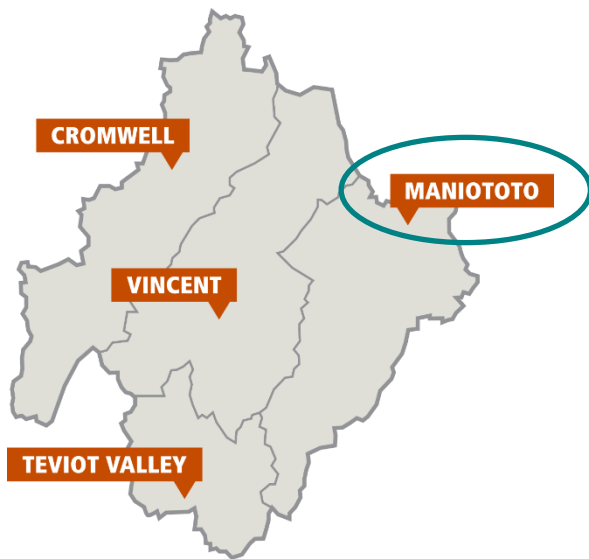
Table 7: List of Cultural Heritage Parks in the Cromwell Ward⁷

Name	Location
Cromwell Cemetery	Cromwell
Litany Street Cemetery(closed)	Cromwell
Tarras Cemetery	Tarras
Nevis Cemetery	Nevis

Based on projected interment rates, Cromwell Ward Cemeteries have adequate interment space for the next 100 years.

⁷ For complete list, refer to appendices.

9.9 Open spaces in the Maniototo Ward



The Maniototo Ward contains a number of small rural settlements that are geographically remote from each other, such as Ranfurly, Wedderburn, Paerau, Oturehua, Patearoa, Waipiata, Becks, Gimmerburn, Blackstone, Kyeburn and Naseby.

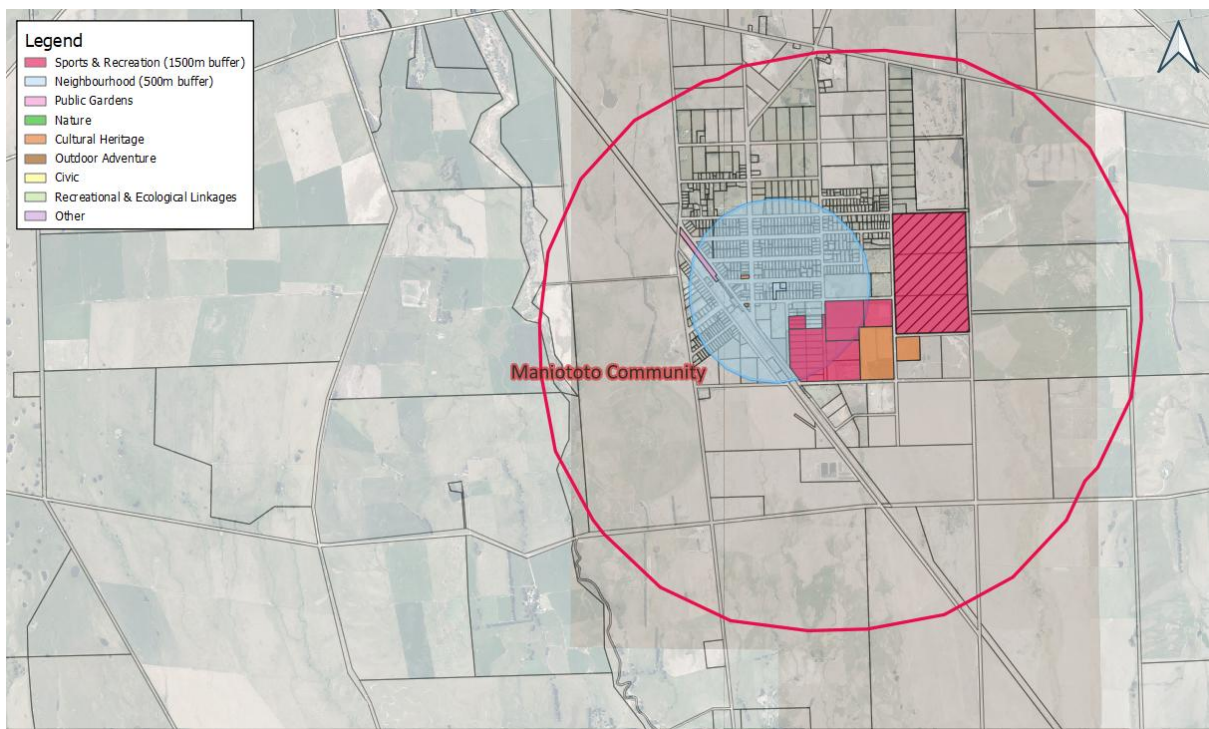


Figure 4: Ranfurly by Park Categories

9.9.1 Sport & Recreation Parks

Table 8: List of Sport & Recreation Parks in the Maniototo Ward⁸

Name	Location
Maniototo Park	Ranfurly
Naseby Domain	Naseby
Oturehua Recreation Reserve	Oturehua
Patearoa Recreation Reserve	Patearoa
Waipiata Domain	Waipiata

Based on projected population of the Ward, the Maniototo does not require any more Sports and Recreation Parks land, in fact there is a surplus for current population and usage. This is expanded upon in the section below.

Organised sport in the Maniototo Ward is played over a range of locations, with the most-used facility being the Maniototo Park in Ranfurly. Ranfurly is characterised as a farming community, more so than the rest of the district. Ranfurly provides a recreational 'hub' for the surrounding farming community. People travel to Ranfurly for sport and recreation such as rugby.

The reserve is large enough to accommodate the town's current recreation needs and there is no expectation that projected population growth over the next 30 years will change this. This Sports and Recreation Park also contains a stadium. Traditional sport, such as rugby, netball, cricket, tennis and hockey are popular in the Maniototo Ward.

External providers provide other recreational opportunities. The Maniototo is unique in terms of sport and recreation needs for several reasons, including that it is rural but also made up of small townships that are popular as domestic tourist destinations, particularly those that are close to the Rail Trail.

Recreation that is popular in the Maniototo Ward includes mountain biking, ice skating, ice curling, fishing and hunting. Many of these activities are provided through external providers. Sometimes the land is Council-owned and leased to the external provider and sometimes it is owned by the external provider so separate to Council.

Naseby is a popular holiday location and is known for its ice curling and related ice sports. Cricket and tennis are both provided for by the Naseby Domain.

9.9.2 Neighbourhood

Table 9: List of Neighbourhood Parks in the Maniototo Ward⁹

Name	Location
John Street Reserve	Ranfurly
Maniototo Lions Park	Ranfurly
Patearoa Water Supply Reserve	Patearoa
Waipiata Hall Reserve	Waipiata Domain

⁸ For complete list, refer to appendices.

⁹ For complete list, refer to appendices.

Ranfurly

The aerial map of open spaces in Ranfurly (Figure 9) highlights that while majority of the urban area in Ranfurly is catered to by the John Street Reserve, some residential homes are not within 500m of a Neighbourhood Park. These include the residential areas in the north of the town and also a small area in the southwest. It is recognised that the school does provide open space opportunities to the residential homes in the north of the town. The school also provides an artificial turf for the district. If there is an opportunity for Council to acquire open space in Ranfurly in the areas that are not catered to by existing Neighbourhood Parks, then this may be pursued.

Naseby

Naseby is well supplied with Neighbourhood Parks. If development in Naseby is to occur, much of this development will likely be covered by existing Neighbourhood Parks. If development is proposed outside of the areas catered to by existing Neighbourhood Parks, developers must supply Neighbourhood parks within the proposed development, as applies to the entire district.

Other settlements

There are a number of open space areas around the district in other towns, such as Wedderburn, Oturehua and Waipiata¹⁰. As the community use of these areas is more accurately defined then how they are categorised may change.

9.9.3 Recreation and Ecological Linkages

While there are many open spaces in Ranfurly, none of them are categorised as Recreation and Ecological Linkages.

The community have indicated before that they desire for more off-road connections. If opportunities arise to acquire land, Council may consider these for the purposes of off-road connections.

9.9.4 Cultural Heritage

Table 10: List of Cultural Heritage Parks in the Maniototo Ward

Name	Location
Naseby Cemetery	Naseby
Hamiltons Cemetery (closed)	Hamiltons
Gimmerburn Cemetery	Gimmerburn
Ranfurly Cemetery	Ranfurly
Swinburn Kokonga Cemetery	Kokonga
Kyeburn Diggings	Kyeburn

The Maniototo Ward is considered to have sufficient space in existing cemeteries for the foreseeable future.

Not an exhaustive list.

9.9.5 Underutilised open space

Many of the settlements in the Maniototo Ward have significant open space that is underutilised or unmanaged. Thought needs to be given to how this open space should be used going forward to maximise benefit to the community.

As a part of consultation on this Strategy, Council will be engaging with community to get a steer on how they want this underutilised open space to be dealt with in the future.

9.10 Open spaces in the Teviot Valley Ward

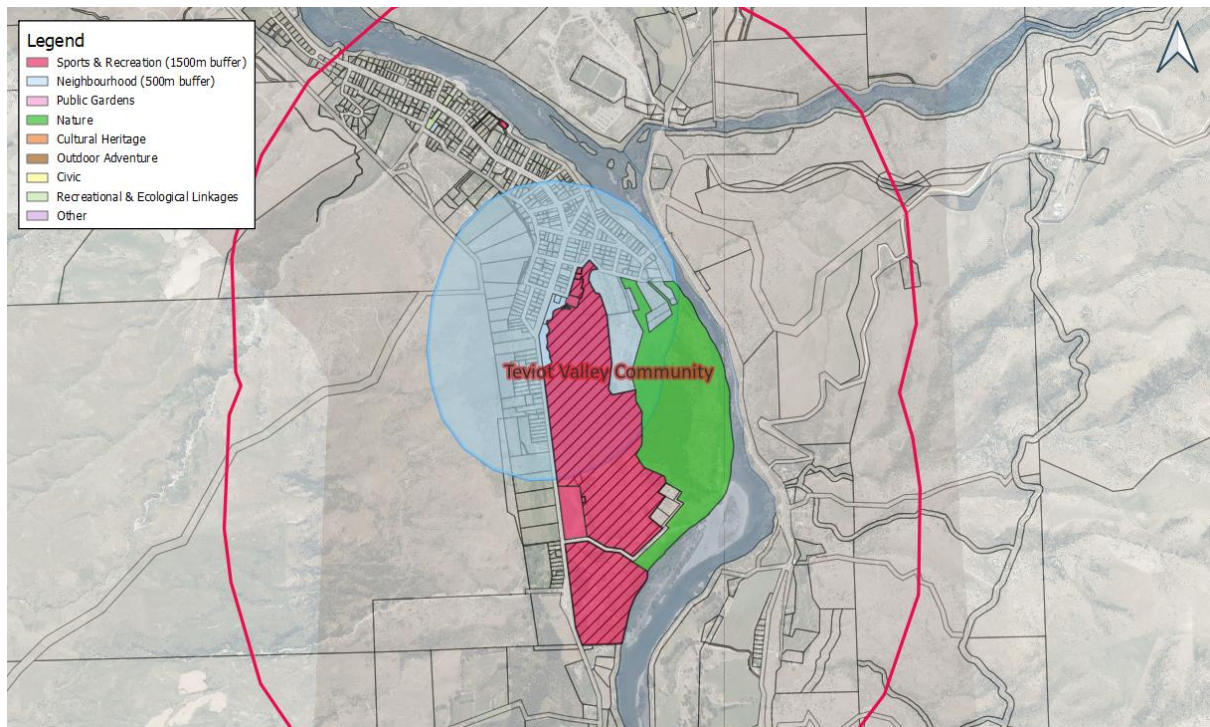
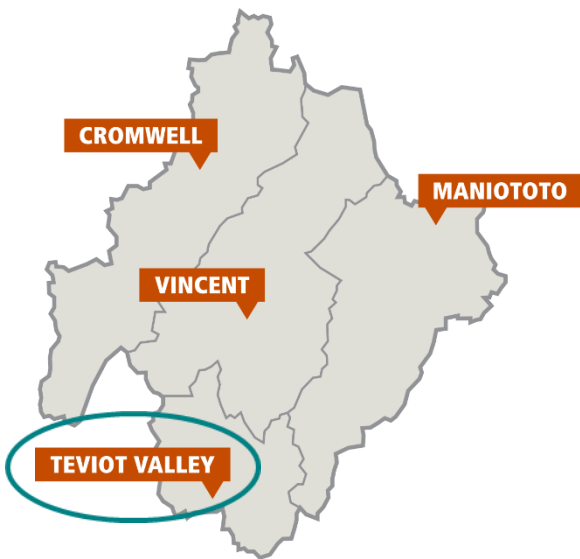


Figure 5: Roxburgh by Parks Categories

9.10.1 Sports and Recreation

Table 11: List of Sports and Recreation Parks in the Teviot Valley Ward

Name	Location
King George V Memorial Park/ Roxburgh Recreation Reserve	Roxburgh
Millers Flat Recreation Reserve ¹¹	Millers Flat

Population projections for the Teviot Valley, show the population is expected to grow slowly over the next thirty years. Based on these projections, the Teviot Valley has sufficient Sports and Recreation Parks for its current population and projected growth.

Roxburgh

Roxburgh has a Sports and Recreation Park, named Roxburgh Recreation Reserve which is large enough to accommodate the town's sport and recreation needs. The Reserve is currently not at capacity and considered underutilised. This Reserve contains a range of sports clubs and activities and has plenty of space for growth if required. The draft Roxburgh Spatial Plan indicates future development is likely to occur adjacent along State Highway 8 and at the former Health Camp property, both which are located next to the Reserve. The Spatial Plan does not encourage development on the other side of the river. There is one playground, which is used by locals and visitors and is located at the southern end of town.

Future development

Any future development must link back to the existing open space network. There are adequate sports fields to meet existing and future demand based on population growth. There is one playground which is used by locals and visitors. If there is residential development across the bridge, there would need to be consideration for a Neighbourhood Park (including a playground), as well as Recreation and Ecological Linkages.

Lake Roxburgh Village

Lake Roxburgh Village has adequate Sports and Recreation Park land in relation to its population size. It is crucial that Lake Roxburgh maintains some level of open space but the amount of Sports and Recreation Park land in relation to the current and projected population of the Village is not in balance. Council investigations into whether some of this land could be divested may be undertaken in the future. Council will engage with the community on this matter.

Millers Flat

Council does not have ownership over any Sports and Recreation Parks in Millers Flat. The area known locally as the 'Rodeo Grounds' is owned by the Millers Flat Recreation Society. Council-owned land includes the tennis court, playground and swimming pool. Other open space areas are owned by groups such as the Lions Club and the Cemetery Trust.

There are sports fields at the Rodeo Ground, which are used by the Community for events.

¹¹ CODC not the landowner

9.10.2 Neighbourhood

Table 12: List of Neighbourhood Parks in Teviot Valley Ward

Name	Location
King George V Memorial Park¹²	Roxburgh
Lake Roxburgh Village Reserve	Roxburgh
Millers Flat War Memorial Reserve	Millers Flat
Roxburgh Bridge Piers Reserve	Roxburgh
Teviot River Gardens	Roxburgh

Roxburgh is well-supplied by park land. Majority of Neighbourhood Park land is supplied at the south end of Roxburgh, in the Roxburgh Recreation Reserve. The Teviot Valley spatial plan should be considered when evaluating whether more and where additional Neighbourhood Park land is required. Given Roxburgh is not expected to grow significantly over the next 30 years, the open spaces network in Roxburgh could be significantly improved by focusing on improving Recreation and Ecological Linkages to existing Neighbourhood Parks. Strengthening Recreation and Ecological Linkages will allow those living in the north of the township to get from their homes to the Roxburgh Recreation Reserve (and other parks) using off-road linkages.

9.10.3 Recreation and Ecological Linkages

Table 13: List of Recreation and Ecological Linkages Parks in the Teviot Valley Ward

Name	Location
The Esplanade	Roxburgh
Victoria Park	Roxburgh

Where possible, Recreation and Ecological Linkages within Roxburgh should be prioritised. It is not possible to get from one side of town to the other using off-road connections. There is a riverside walkway that creates an off-road linkage through parts of the town, beginning near the Roxburgh Swimming Pool. This is a key linkage and Council support the development and extension of this trail.

9.10.4 Cultural Heritage

Table 14: List of Cultural Heritage Parks in the Teviot Valley Ward

Name	Location
Ettrick Cemetery	Ettrick
Lonely Graves	Millers Flat
Millers Flat Cemetery	Millers Flat
Roxburgh Cemetery	Roxburgh

The Teviot Valley Ward is considered to have sufficient Cultural Heritage Parks, including cemetery space, for the foreseeable future.

¹² King George V Memorial Park is a part of the wider Roxburgh Recreation Reserve

9.11 Open spaces in the Vincent Ward

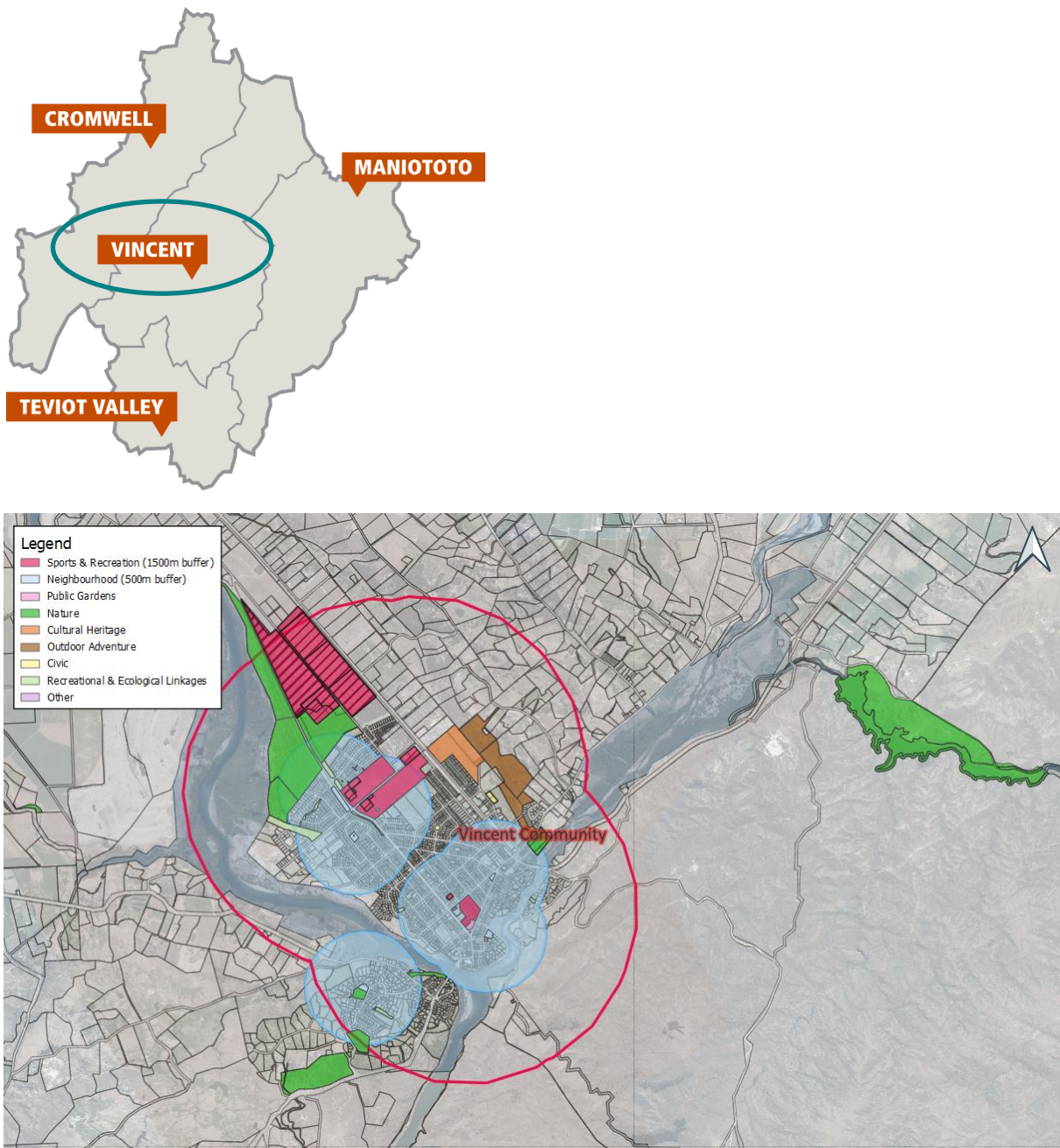


Figure 6: Alexandra by Parks Categories

9.11.1 Sports and Recreation

Table 15: List of Sports and Recreation Parks in the Teviot Valley Ward

Name	Location
Clyde Recreation Reserve	Clyde
Molyneux Park	Alexandra
Omakau Recreation Reserve	Alexandra
Pioneer Park	Alexandra

The Vincent Ward has sufficient Sports and Recreation Park land to meet its current demand. However, development of additional land is required to cater to the district's projected demand and population growth.

Alexandra has two key locations for sport and recreation: Molyneux Park and Pioneer Park. Molyneux Park is considered the main sports hub of the town and is also utilised by the wider district. There are many sport and recreational activities based in Molyneux Park such as cricket (including National cricket), ice skating, netball, rugby, football, hockey, swimming, BMX, bowling, athletics, gymnastics, badminton, climbing, and croquet. The Molyneux Reserve Management Plan includes a more exhaustive list of these activities and all user groups of the Reserve. By contrast, Pioneer Park is underutilised when it comes to organised sports but is also used for large community events such as the Alexandra Blossom Festival and summer markets.

Feedback received from the community indicates that facilities that support field and courts-based recreation in Alexandra are inadequate. This feedback often references male/female changing facilities at Molyneux and Pioneer, toilets, shade/shelter and floodlighting.

In 2023, Council commissioned a sports needs assessment and demand analysis for Alexandra. This project also produced a development plan for Molyneux Park, in Alexandra. It was found that:

- There are sufficient sports fields and netball courts to meet the current and projected demand.

The assessment identified that while there are enough sports fields and courts the following should be taken into account:

- Sports fields - high levels of school use places significant additional pressure on the fields. While school fields have been made available for community use, this arrangement is not guaranteed to continue (no formal agreement).
- Netball courts - while there are sufficient courts, the impact of frost and bad weather can reduce availability. Access to covered / indoor courts would provide significant long-term improvement in quality of netball provision.

The report includes recommendations for the future development of Molyneux Park, to maximise use of this open space. Less involved options for developing the park are focussed around improving the entrance of the park, realigning lease areas, relocating the campervan parking area and improving site wayfinding with a focus on pedestrian and cycle access routes.

Currently Alexandra does not require further development of Sports and Recreation Park land, but it is predicted that this will change within the life of this strategy. In the interim, increased users at Molyneux Park and Pioneer Park can be managed. There is undeveloped space to the west of the Netball Courts where additional sporting needs can be accommodated. Council is aware indoor space is desirable for many sports clubs and organisations. It would be prudent to undertake an indoor facility needs assessment across the district in the short-term.

Omākau and Ophir

Omākau and Ophir are well supplied when it comes to Sports and Recreation Parks, with the Omakau Recreation Reserve being just over 71 hectares in size. The Omakau Recreation Reserve provides for several sport and recreation activities including rugby, football, netball, tennis, golf, squash and camping. There are plans for a new Community Hub facility, which will house the rugby clubrooms and provide for other community events and activities. A large portion of the Reserve is leased for grazing, which could be developed in the future if demand was to increase. Alexandra caters for some sport and recreational facilities (such as ice skating and the Premium Cricket Grounds) for neighbouring towns like Omākau and Ophir.

Ophir has its own recreation reserve, which provides for informal recreation. It also has an unmanaged reserve, which used to have a natural ice-skating rink on it. This reserve has been flagged for investigations around disposal as it currently provides no benefit to the community.

9.11.2 Neighbourhood

Alexandra

There is a gap in the supply of Neighbourhood Parks in the centre of Alexandra. This is based on applying a 500m radius buffer around Neighbourhood Parks. Best practice standards recommend that residential areas are within 500m of a Neighbourhood Park. Going forward, Council could look for opportunities to acquire open space that would be suitable for development of a Neighbourhood Park. It is noted that the primary and high school does provide open space in this location, however there are no formal agreements in place.

Clyde

Clyde is well supplied with Neighbourhood Parks. Future development that does not fall within 500m of existing Neighbourhood Parks will need to supply a Neighbourhood Park to cater to any new residential sites. Like the rest of the district, this will need to include the appropriate facilities. Details around what facilities must be provided in a Neighbourhood Park is included at Section 6.2.

If proposed developments are located within 500m of existing Neighbourhood Parks, Recreational and Ecological Linkages will be required to connect the proposed development with existing Neighbourhood Parks.

The Vincent Ward Spatial Plan provides guidance around where future residential development is to occur. The Plan reiterates the need for future development to be well-connected with open spaces. As residential development occurs, it is crucial that this Strategy is followed to ensure a well-connected open spaces network is developed.

Table 16: List of Neighbourhood Parks in the Vincent Ward

Name	Location
Blackmore Park	Alexandra
Centennial Park	Alexandra
Clyde Bridge Picnic Area	Clyde
Holloway Street Reserve	Clyde
Old Bridge Road Reserve	Alexandra
Richards Park	Alexandra
Rotary Park	Alexandra
Sarah Cameron Reserve	Alexandra
Seaton Square	Alexandra
Table Park	Alexandra
Waldren Place Reserve	Alexandra

9.11.3 Recreation and Ecological Linkages

Table 17: List of Recreation and Ecological Linkages Parks in the Vincent Ward

Name	Location
Clyde Greenway	Clyde

9.11.4 Cultural Heritage

Table 18: List of Cultural Heritage Parks in the Vincent Ward

Name	Location
Alexandra Cemetery	Alexandra
Alexandra War Memorial	Alexandra
Blacks Cemetery	Omākau
Blackstone Cemetery	St Bathans
Clyde Railway Reserve	Clyde
Clyde War Memorial and Cenotaph	Clyde
Drybread Cemetery	Blackstone
St Bathans Cemetery	St Bathans
St Bathans Catholic Cemetery	St Bathans
Clyde Cemetery	Clyde
Manuherekia Cemetery(closed)	Alexandra
Vallance Cottage Reserve	Alexandra

All cemeteries within the Vincent Ward have adequate space for interments for the next 100 years based on projected demand.

10 Appendices

Table 19: List of appendices

Appendix 1	Parks maps
Appendix 2	List of parks by park category