

**MANAGEMENT PLAN
OCEAN GROVE
RECREATION RESERVE**

The Dunedin City Council

Parks and Recreation Department.

INTRODUCTION

The Ocean Grove Recreation Reserve forms the easternmost part of a belt of reserve land stretching along Dunedin's ocean frontage from Second Beach to the Tomahawk Creek. As the Tomahawk, and then the Ocean Grove Domain, the reserve has been administered for the Department of Lands and Survey by a local Domain Board since 1928.

The passage of the Reserves Act 1977 brought about the abolition of domains, which, pending their classification under the Act, were to be held and administered as recreation reserves. Subsequently, the Department of Lands and Survey, in accordance with its policy under the National Parks Act 1980, requested that the Dunedin City Council consider assuming responsibility for management of the reserve following the expiry of the Board's term in February 1985. The vesting of the reserve in the Council was formally notified in the 'Gazette', 1985 Page 3336, and its classification as a recreation reserve in the 'Gazette', 1986 page 1899.

In accordance with Section 41 of the Reserves Act 1977, the Council is required to prepare a management plan for the reserve, to provide for the use, enjoyment, maintenance, protection, preservation and development of the reserve, as appropriate, for the purposes for which it is classified.

The purposes of a recreation reserve are defined by Section 17 of the Act as:

'Providing areas for the recreation and sporting activities and the physical welfare and enjoyment of the public, and for the protection of the national environment and beauty of the countryside, with emphasis on the retention of open spaces and on outdoor recreational activities, including recreational tracks in the countryside.'

2. RESOURCE STATEMENT

2.1 Location

The reserve is located in the Ocean Grove - Smaills Beach district of Dunedin City, approximately five kilometres from the Chief Post Office. 1: extends roughly east from Lawyers Head towards the mouth of the Tomahawk Creek at Smaills Beach. Three smaller allotments are located within the built-up area of Ocean Grove.

2.2 Access

The main point of access to the sporting facilities on the reserve is a sealed roadway (Domain Avenue) leading off Tomahawk Road. Mining contractors currently gain access to the Tomahawk Beach via a track alongside the Tomahawk Lagoon outlet, and to a sand mine to the east of the sportsfield via a metalled crack off Tomahawk Road. A metalled track between these two leads to the former surf club premises overlooking Tomahawk Beach.

Both the Oregon Street playground and the section at the eastern end of the Tomahawk Lagoon are accessible only via narrow entrances off Oregon Street. Carparks or lay-bys are situated at the following :- alongside the Lagoon outlet (unmetalled), Domain Hall (sealed), Lagoon (metalled), Recreation Hall (sealed), off Tomahawk Road (metalled), gun emplacements (metalled), Tomahawk Road above Smaills Beach (two, metalled), and Southdale Road (metalled).

Because the reserve along much of its boundary adjoins public roads it is generally easily accessible to pedestrians with the result that a network of tracks crosses the sand dunes. To the Smaills Beach area, a rough track developed by the Tautuku fishing Club provides pedestrian and vehicular access to the beach.

2.3. Legal Description

Following reappellation at the time Of classification, is now described as :

Tomahawk Survey District

Lot 1, D.P. 15460, Block II	7127 m2
Section 44 (formerly Sec.43), Block III;	3648 m2

Otago Peninsula Survey District

Section 49 (formerly part Sections 23 and 43, and lots 27-29, D.P. 2695, and Crown land adjoining Sec.43), Block VII	25.0000 ha
Section 52 (formerly part Sec.43), Block VII;	1.9009 ha
Section 50 (formerly Sec.44), Block V11;	1001 m2
Section 51 (formerly Sec.45), Block VII:	2 6320 m2

Total Area	28.7096 ha
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S.O. Plans 21699, 21837; certificates of title 191/299, 400/55, 200/275, 200/276, 201/250, 218/39, 249/227, 2C/1105, bal. 401/119.

2.4. History

Tomahawk Domain : 1928 - 1950

2.4.1. Two allotments set aside as recreation reserves in a 1924 subdivision were declared to be the Tomahawk Domain in Gazette' 1928, page 1426), following a request from the Tomahawk Ratepayers' Association for local involvement in their management.

The Domain Board (appointment notified in 'Gazette' 1928, page 186711 was soon involved in the question of sand removal from Tomahawk Beach and the Crown land behind. The Board sought, and was granted control of the foreshore east of the Tomahawk Lagoon outlet ('Gazette' 1930, page 1,544), and 58 acres of Crown land adjoining- Tomahawk and Smaills Beaches was declared reserve and added to the Domain Gazette' 1930, page 3544, 1931, pages 222 and 474). The Board initiated the sale of sand from the Domain in 1936, and carried out some levelling in 1939.

Membership of the Board fell during the 30's and with the absence of many members on military service, the Department of Lands and Survey assumed direct control of the Domain, appointing a ranger in 1941. The appointment of the Domain Board was revoked in 1942 ('Gazette' page 2762).

The Ocean Grove Amenities Society provided the impetus for the formation of a new Domain Board, raising the matter at a local meeting in 1944, and with the Department in 1948. Interest in the recreational use of the Domain was strong, and a public meeting was held in 1949 to elect the members of the new Board.

Ocean Grove Domain : 1950 - 1985

2.4.2. *Reservation and Control*

The appointment of the Ocean Grove Domain Board was notified in the 'Gazette', 1950 page 464. The new name reflected the 1949 change of the locality's name from 'Tomahawk' to 'Ocean Grove', and the Domain consisted of the two lots within the township and the 58 acres stretching along the coast.

The Board immediately addressed the difficulty posed by the setting of the Domain's western boundary at the Lagoon outlet, and with the agreement of the Ocean Beach Domain Board, a portion of Domain and Crown land between the outlet and Lawyer's 'lead' was transferred to the Ocean Grove Domain by Section 30 of the Reserves and Other Lands Disposal Act 1950.

The control of the Tomahawk foreshore, vested in the old Board in 1930, was now vested in the Ocean Grove Board for a further 21 year term Gazette' 1951, pages 643 and 1782).

The closure of part of Luke Street, and its incorporation into the Domain together with adjacent Crown land was effected in 1953-55, and notified by 'Gazette' 1955, page 370. The Peninsula County Council had initially consented to the closure on condition that an alternative route be provided between Short Street and Domain Avenue, however, this condition was withdrawn on the advice of the Department of Lands and Survey.

In 1957, the Board agreed to the taking of part of the Domain as the new Tomahawk School site, notified in the 'Gazette' 1959, page 433. The Board however, subsequently discovered that the land taken included part of their intended sports area, and a re-survey of the school site was requested. The surplus land was returned to the Domain by 'Gazette' 1962, page 1345, 1963 page 592.

The inclusion in the Domain of the Tomahawk Boat Club shed was first raised in 1957. The shed, built in 1930, had remained the property of the Boat Club trustees, although while under Amenities Society management during the war years, it had been widely used by community groups. By 1958, a number of the Boat Club trustees were also members of the Domain Board and with their agreement. it was transferred to the Domain ('Gazette' 1958, page 1858).

The Board commenced the purchase of adjacent properties (lots 13-17, D.P. 3063) in 1959, subsequently obtaining the Minister's approval and adding the properties to the Domain gazette' 1960, page 849, 1961 page 1489). Development proposals by the Board required the closure of part of Domain Avenue and in order that this could be carried out, the last remaining property serviced by the road (lot 12) was added to the Domain ('Gazette' 1962, page 1546), as was the required part of Domain Avenue ('Gazette' 1962, page 1611).

The reappellation of the many sections and lots comprising the Domain was gazetted in 1964 (page 2309), and in 1966 part of the Domain was taken for the site of the Ocean Grove Sewerage Works ('Gazette' page 418).

In 1969 a property adjacent to the Domain (Pt Section 25 and lots 27-29, D.P. 2695) was offered to the Board, and subsequent to donation was declared part of the Domain ('Gazette' 1970, page 1478).

The Board sought the purchase of two parcels of land adjacent to Smail's Beach in 1972 in order to level and tidy the area, however, only one landowner agreed to sell, and Lot 1, D.P. 15460 was declared part of the Domain ('Gazette' 1976, page 633). Control of the Tomahawk foreshore for a further 21 year period was granted by the Tomahawk Beach Order 1972 gazette' page 527).

The Board's last seven-year term of appointment finished in February 1985. Its years of operation were notable for the long service given by individual members; indeed three of the inaugural members of the

Board, Messrs J. Fox, A. Johnston and A. Stiles, were still serving in the last Year of the Board's appointment.

2.4.3. *Development and Recreational Use*

The Ocean Grove Domain Board inherited in 1950 a largely undeveloped recreational resource, consisting for the most part of rolling sand dunes.

Near the Tomahawk bridge, where some levelling and sand removal had taken place, a Board member operated an icecream stall under a licence granted in 1948; this use continued under two successive licensees until the closure and demolition of the shop in 1967.

Development of the Domain land in Glen (now Oregon) Street for a childrens' playground and tennis courts had been proposed in the 1940's and following the levelling and topdressing of the site in 1951-52, playground equipment was erected in 1953.

The development of the Domain for sporting use required the prior removal of a large tract of older dunes, initially by contract and more recently by arrangement with the mining lessees Nash and Ross. The Board identified the most suitable site for sportsgrounds as the "basin" adjacent to Domain Avenue, and so its development programme from 1951. onward was intended to enlarge the area of f I at land. Construction of the first sportsfield was achieved by 1956 and its extension by 1963. The use of the fields by the St Kilda Soccer Club was formalised in 1963 by the granting of a 25 year permit under the Reserves and Domain Act 1953, the club having the previous year completed its changing room facilities. Floodlights were erected by the club in 1964. The St Kilda club continued its use of the ground until its amalgamation with Morning ton AFC in 1969, and the following year its permit was annulled. In 1974 the Board contemplated a 25 year lease arrangement with the Caversham AFC, but finally in 1980 signed an agreement with the Grants Braes Club, who in 1982 erected removable changing rooms beside the existing facilities.

The former boatshed, taken over in 1958 was completely renovated in 1960, and as the Domain Hall became the major meeting place for the district. Its upgrading, and the provision of toilet and kitchen facilities, occupied the Board for the remainder of the decade. With the gradual decline of Ocean Grove's other public hall, the Glencairn Hall, the provision of a large indoor recreation facility became an urgent priority, and the Board in 1974 implemented its longterm plans to build a recreation hall as a second storey to the sports pavilion constructed by St Kilda AM. The new hall was completed in 1977, and provided facilities for the Ocean Grove Badminton Club.

A local surf life saving club was set up in 1931 and erected a watch-tower on the Domain. Clubrooms were constructed in 1956 and served the club until its recess in 1958, and the Tomahawk Anglers Club from 1974 to 1979.

Various dog clubs have had involvement with Ocean Grove since 1968 when the lease of the land and shop formerly occupied by the icecream stall to the Otago Cocker Spaniel. Club Association was proposed. No long term lease eventuated. The Otago Kennel Association had use of land to the north of the sewerage plant for two years from 1968-70, after which it was intended to grant a lease. In 1974 the club unveiled plans for construction of a building, and its use of the Domain continued until. 1980.

The Otago Canine Training Club approached the Board in 1970 seeking use of that part of the Domain previously occupied by the St Kilda AM, and were granted a yearly renewable permit from April 1971. Their occupation ceased in 1979 when they shifted to Ellis Park, and eventually to Forrester Park.

Other clubs have made occasional use of the reserve: these included the German Shepherd Club (weekly) the Southern Ladies' Kennel Association and Otago/Southland Collie Club (national and provincial shows) and the Toy Dogs Club and Cavalier King Charles Spaniel Club.

The headland between Tomahawk and Smaills Beach was fortified during, World War II with the construction of two gun emplacements on the Domain. The Board and County had long sought their demolition by the Army but in 1961 decided instead to retain the structures for storage purposes, and accordingly took over responsibility for their maintenance (and demolition 4.E so desired.) The gun emplacements were among the features of Ocean Grove most noticeably improved by recent developments under the Project Employment Programme. The emplacements, tidied, painted and surrounded by rustic fences, were redeveloped as a scenic lookout. Other works included the

construction of : boardwalks and carparks serving visitors to the beach; retaining walls alongside the sportsfield and at the edge of the Tomahawk Lagoon; and barbecue and picnic facilities at the latter site.

2.4.4. *Sand Mining*

Sand mining has been an integral part of the Domain's development, providing level land for recreational use, and funds from royalties for the Board's work programmes.

There had been considerable illegal removal of sand from the Beach and Domain during the war years, and the 1952 application to the Board by Messrs Nash and Ross for a mining lease over part of the reserve offered a means of controlling extraction. The first three year term of the lease began in January 1953, the contractors initially mining by use of a dragline and winch from the cliffs above the beach, then switching to a bulldozer after 1955. The lease was renewed in successive three year terms until 1967, then for two five-year terms from 1968-72 and 1974-78. The operations of Nash and Ross were extended in this time from the original lease area to include the surrounds of the playing area, and in 1972 the Board requested as a condition of the lease that Nash and Ross take sand where and as directed by the Board, in order to extend the level sportsfield. The conditions of the lease issued in 1974 by the Department of Lands and Survey prohibited further extraction of sand to the seaward of the existing face, and required that further sand be removed by tidying of this face and continued extraction to the east around and beyond the sports pavilion. The lessee was required. to reinstate dunes after the removal of sand by contouring t,~ a natural appearance and replanting marram grass.

At the same time, sand mining operations were extended with the consent of adjoining landowners, including the Otago Education Board to incl).-,de sand resources removable from the Domain side of these properties.

With the passage of the Mining Act 1971, the authority to grant mining rights was transferred from the Department of Lands and Survey to the Mines Division of the Ministry of Energy. Two five yearly licences were issued to Nash and Ross : No. 32867. covering an area adjacent to the Tomahawk School and northwards to Tomahawk Road in September 1-1980; and No. 32877, covering the foreshore and beach at the Tomahawk Lagoon outlet, in July 1982. The mining of sand on the windward side of a residential community has occasionally been the cause of complaints by Ocean Grove residents.

2.4.5. *Environmental Concerns*

The Lawyers Head sewer outfall was constructed in 1907-08, and pollution of both Tomahawk and Smaills Beaches has occurred since that date. Following complaints from the Domain Board in 1961, the Dunedin Drainage and Sewerage Board in 1967 adopted proposals to construct a treatment plant (construction completed in 1981) and retain the Lawyers Head outfall. The alternative proposal (relocation of the outfall further east at Maori Head) was deemed technically unsuitable by the Drainage Board, and had been opposed by community groups in Ocean Grove.

As with any sea outfall or partially treated effluent, some risk to health remains. Having carried out tests in 1983-85, the Department of Health has meantime recommended the retention of notices warning against bathing at, or the consumption of shellfish taken from, Tomahawk or Smaills Beaches. The Drainage Board is aiming to achieve water standards at the Beach suitable for public bathing, however the treatment process cannot ensure that shellfish are uncontaminated.

Tomahawk Lagoon has been the focus of attention for a multitude of statutory, local and community bodies. The Domain Board became involved in the question of maintaining the lagoon outlet in 1955 when Nash and Ross were first requested to clear the outlet for the Board, and the Department of Lands and Survey were asked to bring the problems of flooding and erosion on the lagoon shoreline to the attention of the Catchment Board. The local Amenities Society joined the fray in 1956, erecting a weir at the junction of the two arms of the lagoon, and in 1958 the Tomahawk Lagoon Improvement Committee was formed as a means of local action, and together with the Domain Board, brought matters of concern to the attention a from the Peninsula County Council, Dunedin Drainage and Sewerage Board and Otago Catchment Board. In 1970, the Wildlife Service, Department of Internal Affairs became responsible for the administration at the lagoon as a wildlife management reserve Gazetted 1970, page 2006) and was subsequently requested by the Dunedin Drainage and Sewerage Board to undertake maintenance of the channel between the Lagoon arms. With the subsequent demise of the Lagoon Improvement Committee., the Domain Board became the main vehicle for local involvement in lagoon matters, and was instrumental in calling together concerned parties in 1982.

As a result of their consultation, the Catchment Board has recently completed a new weir between the two arms of the Lagoon. The Domain Board's commitment of \$1,640 towards its construction is now taken up by the City Council as administrator of the recreation reserve.

wind erosion has also been a concern on the reserve, particularly on the exposed foredune zone where pedestrians, horses and trail bikes have exacerbated the problem. In the early 1950's, the Domain Board planted 750 macrocarpas (since removed) to prevent sand drift onto the sportsfield; more recently the drift of sand, which was threatening the Ocean Grove sewerage plant, has been arrested by the construction of brush fences along the foreshore by P.E.P. scheme workers.

Parts of the Tomahawk coastline have been used over the years for both legal and illegal rubbish dumping. The areas cleared by Nash and Ross have been backfilled with hard fill, and the slopes below Lawyers' Head Road were used to tip fill from the excavation of the Dunedin Stadium site in 1979. A strip of land adjoining the reserve to the east of the gun emplacements was purchased by the Peninsula County in 1964 and 1967 as a rubbish tip and used for that purpose for some years. The illegal dumping of rubbish by individuals first concerned the Board in 1951 and has particularly affected the Smaills Beach area.

2.5. Physical Features

The reserve, and the Ocean Grove district generally, is for the most part situated on sand deposits of varying age and stability. The deposition of sand has formed large flats at Ocean Grove and Smaills Beach, deflecting the natural flow of watercourses and forming the freshwater Tomahawk Lagoon. The adjacent hillslopes of Otago Peninsula are overlaid with sand some distance from the sea.

Five zones may be identified within the reserve area:

1. the foredunes, immediately behind the Tomahawk and Smaills Beach foreshores; the dynamic face of the sand deposits, subject to wind and occasional wave erosion, and to colonisation by marram grass and herbs; the stabilised dunes, with ground cover of mixed grass and scrub;
3. the prominent rocky headlands; part of Lawyers Head at the western extremity of the reserve, and the promontory between Tomahawk and Smaills Beaches, falling steeply to the beach below.
4. land at Tomahawk Road and Oregon Street reclaimed from the waters of Tomahawk Lagoon, and
5. cleared level areas; former dune lands in the vicinity of Domain Avenue, alongside Tomahawk Road and at Oregon Street which have been levelled, topped and grassed for recreational use;

Because of the reserve's east/west orientation along the coastline, a common feature is the onshore drift of salt spray and sand from the beaches, affecting most of the reserve's area.

2.6. Vegetation and Soils

The original soils of the reserve are all sand derived, for the most part with poor structure and horizon development, and excessively or well drained. Over a small area to the east of Centre Road, the sand overlays loess deposits.

Two exotic species, tree lupin and marram grass dominate the reserve's vegetation today and provide an important check on wind erosion. Vegetation types on the reserve roughly match the zones identified above:

1. On the foredunes, marram grass predominates with the occasional specimen of *Senecio elegans*, iceplant and bidibidi;
2. Behind the foredunes, marram grass merges with a mixed low scrub: tree lupin (common, occasionally dense), taupata and flax (scattered), gorse (locally prominent near the old surf club building and on the roadside above Smaills Beach), mallow (frequent alongside the sportsfield) and *Senecio elegans* (scattered). Individual specimens of *Muehlenbeckia*, poroporo, iceplant and elderberry are also present with a dense stand of elderberry near Smaills Beach. A few specimens remain of the macrocarpa plantings made on the sand dune alongside the Ocean Grove Church of Christ and at Smaills Beach;

A year after fire swept through the dunes behind Tomahawk School , the vegetation is regenerating strongly - marram grass is sprouting afresh on the dune tops, and in the moister gullies, lupin seedlings have germinated along with a host of garden weeds;

3. Between Lawyers Head and the Tomahawk Lagoon outlet, and also alongside Tomahawk. Road to the east of the sewerage works , the mixed scrub gives way to dense stands of taupata;
4. On the headland below the gun emplacements, the steep slopes are covered in Hebe, marram, taupata, lupins and herbs, windshorn on the exposed southerly face;
5. The hillslopes above the Tomahawk lagoon were formerly densely clothed in gorse which has been recently cleared
Elderberry has been cut back but is regenerating, and high on the hill are a stand of pines, a clump of boxthorn and occasional nyaio.
6. The remainder of the reserve is maintained as mown or rough grass.

2.7. Present Use

2.7.1. Recreational and Community Organisations

The reserves main facilities for organised use are provided by its recreation ground and two halls. These cater for the following

- i) Recreation Hall (licenced to hold 180 people), and adjacent grounds:

Ocean Grove Badminton Club
Grants Braes AFC (also maintain their own clubrooms on the reserve)
St Kilda Tavern Cricket Club
Otago Kennel Association and other canine clubs

With the development of Forrester Park for canine club use, involvement of these organisations at Ocean Grove has declined to championship use only, and will cease entirely on the completion of full catering facilities at their new premises.

- (ii) Domain Hall (licenced to hold 100 people):

Glencairn Indoor Bowls
Dunedin Karate Club

In addition, both halls are used for social functions and the Domain Hall is used for meetings of the Tomahawk C.W.1. and local committees. Both halls have adequate kitchen facilities.

The reserve adjoins two fishing grounds - Tomahawk Lagoon, and Smaills Beach which is the launching point for members of the Tautuku Fishing Club.

2.7.2. Equestrian Use

Tomahawk and Smaills Beach are regularly used by horse owners - both by the local stables and by recreational riders. The Highcliff Pony Club has recently been granted use of part of the Oregon Street playground to which its members have been gaining access via an adjoining private property.

2.7.3. Other Recreational Use

The beaches are a popular and attractive area for walking and viewing from the hills above, particularly since the adjacent foredunes have been modified only by the introduction of vegetation. Bathing on the beach is restricted by the ongoing health risk nosed by water pollution.

Two childrens' playgrounds have been constructed on the reserve, the oldest, in Oregon Street, has fallen into disrepair and a second has been built under the P.E.P. scheme alongside Tomahawk Road. Under the same scheme, picnic facilities were provided at the gun emplacements and, together with two brick barbecues, at the Lagoon side reserve. Neither site is currently provided with rubbish bins.

2.7.4. Leases and Agreements

The Grants Braes AFC has occupied the sportsgrounds (a total area of 1.88 hectares) under an agreement negotiated with the Board in 1980. The other body seeking occupation rights on the reserve, the Highcliff Pony Club, was offered a lease over part of the Oregon Street playground in 1984, but this has not yet been formalised.

2.7.5 Sand Removal

Mining has currently ceased in the area under licence no. 32867, while the application for a new licence over this area is considered by the Mines Division. The second licence held by Nash and Ross, no. 32877, permits extraction over an area of 2.1530 hectares at the outlet of Tomahawk Lagoon, and is serviced by an access track from Tomahawk Road. The conditions of the licence are listed as follows:

1. Licence to be for a term of five years.
2. Licensee to pay to the Mines Division of the Ministry of Energy a royalty of \$1.50 for every cubic metre of sand removed.
3. Licensee to remove no more than 1000 cubic metres of sand from the beach per annum and such amount to be reduced at the discretion of the Minister of Energy if sand profile surveys show that the beach level is dropping.
4. The sand to be supplied only to industries using it for asphalt, concrete plaster and others requiring high quality impurity-free sand and not to be used for fill.
5. Licensee to be allowed to remove as much sand from the outlet of the Lagoon as is necessary to maintain the outlet in a clear state, to the satisfaction of the Minister of Energy and the Otago Catchment Board.
6. Licensee to be required to keep separate records of the quantity of sand removed from the beach and from the Lagoon outlet.
7. Licensee to ensure that the channel cut from the cutlet to clear the sand is no deeper than one metre below the level of the beach and no greater than three metres in width.
8. Licensee not to erect any buildings.
9. Licensee to leave sand at the end of each day's operation so that there will be no danger to children playing in the area.
10. All excavating and loading of sand to be carried out by the licensee.
11. If licensee wishes, he may at any time during the term of licence, arrange for surveys of the beach's sand level to be undertaken at six monthly intervals for a period of not less than two years, and as a result of these surveys, apply to have the quantity of sand allowed to be removed from the beach reviewed.

2.7.6. Summary

The Board has not always found it easy to reconcile the demands of conflicting user groups: the use of the sports grounds by canine clubs drew complaints of fouling, and an attempt to protect pedestrians from danger by the prohibition of horses from the beach after 10.30 a.m. daily was thwarted when the Board, in the face of strong protest from the equestrian lobby, agreed "not to enforce" its newly-adopted bylaw. Unlimited access of horse riders, pedestrians, footballers in training and motorcyclists has contributed to the deterioration of the foredune zone, and the use of the Tautuku Club's track as a vehicular entrance to Smaills Beach has been a source of continuing frustration to the Club.

Contention surrounding the issue of sand mining on the reserve has centred not so much on conflict with other users as on the effect of operations on the reserve and environs. Mining on the beach is limited in both extent and hours of operation, so that recreational users are at least able to escape if earthmoving disrupts their leisure time. The inland sand pit, however, places some restriction on current provision for recreational use, in that the access road to the mine limits the size and orientation of the reserve's sportsfields. The improvement of the sportsfields cannot thus be achieved until the mine is either closed, exhausted, or provided with an alternative access route.

2.8. Adjoining Land Use

Adjoining properties are predominantly residential (Ocean Grove) and extensive farming (Smaills Beach). A number of property owners have obtained access across the reserve, with or without the consent of the Board, and there is occasional encroachment onto the reserve. Land uses directly affecting reserve management include:

- stables, 185 Tomahawk Road,
- Tautuku Fishing Club premises, Smaills Beach,
- Tomahawk lagoon wildlife management reserve,
- Tomahawk Primary School, Luke Street,
- Ocean Grove sewerage works, Luke street.

The last two facilities are both virtually surrounded by reserve, with only narrow frontages onto the street.

Alongside the road to Smaills Beach, the reserve adjoins a number of small parcels of land, largely indistinguishable from it by their vegetation. Several of these parcels near the gun emplacements are under Parks and Recreation Department administration, having originally come into Peninsula County Council ownership as rubbish tips. It would seem logical to add these areas to the reserve. At the Smaills Beach end, a parcel owned by Mrs J. Mathieson was sought by the Board for addition to the reserve, but retained by the owner as a source of sand for farm use. Once this resource is exhausted, the land will be of little value to the owner, and its addition to the reserve should again be sought. The property is currently separated from the reserve by a legal unformed road (Southdale Road) whose closure and addition to the reserve has also been sought by the Board. This procedure (and the concurrent legalisation of part of Tomahawk Road which now crosses the Mathieson property) awaits the prior addition of the Mathieson property to the reserve. In the meantime co-operative management of the private and reserve properties is required.

2.9. Importance of the Reserve in the Region

The reserve and its adjacent beaches provide the bulk of the public open space in the Ocean Grove district, and the development of recreational facilities well serves the local community.

On the wider scale, it is an important part of Dunedin's shoreline reserve system, protecting and preserving a belt of impressive coastal scenery and providing Dunedin citizens with the closest opportunity to view and study dunelands.

The reserve's sandy soil is recognised as a two-fold resource for the City: in the provision of four free-draining fields for winter sports; and of a large sand reserve for commercial and industrial needs and for the development of sportsfields elsewhere in the City.

3 MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES

- 3.1. Protection of the natural features of the reserve, particularly the unstable foredune area.
- 3.2. Development of existing sportsfields to provide optimum playing surfaces and associated facilities.
- 3.3. Optimum use of available buildings and sportsfield space.
- 3.4. Development of the reserve to enhance the visual appearance and amenity of the district.

4. MANAGEMENT POLICIES

4.1. Control

To manage and administer the reserve for recreation purposes.

Explanation

The purposes of a recreation reserve, as defined by Section 17 of the Reserves Act 1977, include both the protection of the natural environment and the provision of recreation and sporting areas. Recreational use of the reserve is subject to the specific provisions of the Act, and to Part M11 of the Dunedin City Council Consolidated Bylaw 1977.

4.2. Control of Foreshore

To manage and administer the adjacent foreshore, subject to Section 165 of the Harbours Act 1950, so that its use complements that of the reserve.

Explanation

Control of the foreshore by the reserve's administrators has, since 1930, enabled them to monitor recreational and mining activities, and regulate these where necessary to protect the foredunes. Under Section 165 (2) of the Harbours Act, the public body granted control of the foreshore may, subject to the approval of the minister of Transport, make bylaws governing its use. The bylaws adopted by the former Board are acceptable for adoption by the Council, with the exception of the clause relating to equestrian use, which the Board found impossible to enforce.

The Council's control of the foreshore for 21 years from 1 December 1985 has been formalised by the Tomahawk Beach Foreshore Order 1985.

Implementation

The Council shall call for public submissions on the bylaws governing the foreshore, and give these due consideration when drafting the bylaws. The stability of the foreshore shall be monitored in consultation with the Otago Catchment Board.

Signs indicating Council's control of the foreshore shall be erected and maintained at main entrances to the beach.

4.3. Protection of Foredunes

To take such measures as are necessary to prevent and remedy the erosion of the reserve's foredune zone.

Explanation

Such measures already effected include construction of brush fences on the dunes' seaward side, and of boardwalks between carparks and the beach. See also 4.5 below (Access).

Implementation

The Department shall monitor the stability of sand deposits, and where necessary take action to correct erosion, in consultation with the Otago Catchment Board.

4.4. Vegetation Management

To encourage the succession of native species within those areas of the reserve not set aside for recreational activities.

Explanation

Taupata (*Coprosma repens*) in particular, is gradually replacing the existing tree lupin cover on older sand deposits, and has been supplemented by plantings of native species.

The succession of native species may require some control of local infestations of gorse, boxthorn, elderberry and mallow.

Implementation

Natural succession will be supplemented where necessary by further planting of suitable native species (see Appendix). Where sand faces are exposed, primary revegetation by marram grass and tree lupin will be encouraged by planting and sowing.

4.5. Access

Where necessary, to limit pedestrian, equestrian and vehicular access to the reserve to separate conflicting uses and prevent environmental damage.

Explanation

The problem of access being gained to entirely inappropriate parts of the reserve has been most evident at Smaills Beach, where the Tautuku Fishing Club's track across the dunes is used as a public road onto the foreshore, and vehicles are subsequently stranded on the beach.

Vehicular access to the beach at this point, and to the former surf club premises beside Tomahawk Beach, has been accompanied by antisocial behaviour, litter and rubbish dumping.

The riding of horses or motorbikes and other vehicles onto the dunes (or onto any part of the reserve other than driveways or other authorised areas) is prohibited by the Council's bylaws.

While pedestrian access poses a lesser threat to the reserve environment, intensive use of sensitive areas (e.g. football training on the dunes) is to be discouraged.

Implementation

- Vehicular access to Smaills Beach via the existing track shall be restricted to authorised users (the Tautuku Fishing Club, their invitees and emergency services) by the erection of a suitable barrier, in co-operation with the Club and the adjacent landowner. Vehicular access shall otherwise be limited to formed driveways. Pedestrian access only shall be permitted to the former surf club premises.
- Equestrian access to the foreshore shall be permitted only via the existing tracks at the lagoon outlet and Smaills Beach, during such times as the Council may permit equestrian use under foreshore bylaws. (See 4.2 above).
- Pedestrian access to the foredunes shall be restricted, as far as possible, by the construction of boardwalks traversing the dunes, supplemented where necessary by fencing. Where necessary, the Department may take measures to prohibit access to any part of the reserve to prevent erosion and permit revegetation.
- Notices or other means of publicity shall be used where necessary to inform reserve users of the reasons for restrictions on use.
- Access to the foredunes for educational purposes shall be permitted in co-operation with Otago Education Board staff.

4.6. Sand Removal

To recommend the removal of sand from the reserve only where the operation is essential to the needs of local industry, is necessary to prevent flooding, or will contribute to the recreational development of the reserve, and will not contribute to or aggravate beach erosion.

Explanation

These criteria have guided decisions of administering bodies since sand mining began on the reserve and foreshore. The needs, firstly of monumental masons, and now of the asphalt and concrete industries, have been cited in support of the continued removal of sand from the foreshore, and the development of the existing playing

fields has been made possible by extensive sand removal operations. In addition, the continued removal of sand from the Tomahawk lagoon outlet has prevented flood damage to low-lying residential properties adjoining the lagoon.

Although the former Board supported complete removal by mining of a dune between the Primary School and Tomahawk Road, Council has recommended that mining in this area be terminated, and that the dune remnant be reshaped and planted in keeping with the reserve's character.

The Board's plans involved the dumping of hard-fill to bring the finished level of the mined area up to that of the existing carpark, with the proposed purpose of establishing a bowling green. Both the wisdom of laying out a bowling green on hard fill over sand, and the need for such a facility in the Ocean Grove district are questionable. In the absence of any other proposed recreational development, further mining of this dune is not supported, and the retention of a small dune as a windbreak for adjacent recreational areas is preferred.

The final decision on any mining proposal rests with the Minister of Energy, or on appeal, with the Planning Tribunal.

Implementation

The Council shall support the continued operation of sand removal at the Tomahawk lagoon outlet and foreshore within the area and under the conditions described in Mining Licence 32877.

The Council shall seek the cessation of sand removal over the area covered by expired Mining Licence 32867, and the rehabilitation of the area to a low maintenance bush cover.

The Council shall carry out the removal of sand where necessary to implement development proposals (See 4.7 below) In such developments, the areas cleared shall be successively replanted with marram grass and other suitable species as sand removal is completed. Sand removed shall be utilised only for improvement of the City reserves. (Note: The Council's Roading Division has warned that, in the event of such developments taking place at Smaills Beach, the Tomahawk Road construction will be unable to withstand repeated heavy traffic generated by sand removal. The costs involved in subsequent road repair must be taken into account in the costing of development schemes using Smaills Beach sand).

No sand shall be removed from the foredune zone and removal of sand from the beach shall only be supported if sand profile surveys indicate that the operation can be sustained without depletion of the beach/dune sand store.

4.7. Recreational Development

To maintain and upgrade the existing recreational facilities of the reserve, and where appropriate, to provide further facilities in keeping with the character of the reserve.

Implementation

The existing sportsfields shall be reconstructed, as part of the Council's programme, to provide three full size, one junior and one practice field. (Note: Field reconstruction can only proceed once the existing mine access road is removed).

The former surf club premises will be demolished, and the site used as a beach lookout.

Facilities for public use (e.g. signs, litter bins, etc.) shall be provided where appropriate.

Provision shall be made where necessary for the further carparking areas.

Further development of the reserve area fronting Tomahawk lagoon shall be carried out in consultation with the Wildlife Service.

Redevelopment of the school environs shall be carried out in consultation with the Otago Education Board and Tomahawk School Committee.

4.8. Leases

To confirm existing recreational uses by the granting of leases in accordance with Section 54 of the Reserves Act 1977.

Implementation

Leases will be negotiated over the following areas:

Former playground, Oregon Street (all of Section 43 Block III Tomahawk S.D); for appropriate recreational use.

Football clubrooms, Domain Avenue (Part Section 43 Block VII Otago Peninsula S.D) to Grants Braes AFC

4.9. Buildings

To encourage the recreational and community use of the reserve's existing complement of buildings.

Implementation

Community use and management of the Domain Hall shall be fostered by the formation of a locally-elected Hall Committee, which shall be empowered to take bookings and set reasonable charges and conditions for Hall use, and shall take responsibility for day-to-day maintenance of the Hall.

The Recreation Hall and changing rooms below shall be made available to recreational groups on the same basis as other City facilities.

Proposals for further buildings on the reserve should satisfy the following criteria:

Buildings should be necessary for the enjoyment of outdoor recreation.

Buildings should be so sited that they do not diminish the available sporting area, or endanger the foredune zone.

Design of buildings and surrounds should complement the reserve landscape.

4.10. Boundary Adjustments

To adjust the boundaries of the reserve as the opportunity arises to include adjacent areas of similar character and purpose.

Explanation

The reserve boundary above Smaills Beach does not follow Tomahawk Road, although this appearance is given by current management of four areas of land adjoining the reserve. The addition of these areas to the reserve is both logical and desirable, and involves at the eastern end the consequential closure of an unformed paper road (part of Southdale Road) and legalisation of part of Tomahawk Road.

The properties involved are shown on the map, figure 2, and are further described as:

- (a) Section 46, Part Sections 3 and 853R, Block VII Otago Peninsula S.D. (all Certificates of Title 1C/931, 3A/473): current owner - Dunedin City Council.
- (b) Part Section 13 Block VII Otago Peninsula S.D. (Part C.T. 387/222) current owner - E. J. and N.E.B. Wadsworth.
- (c) Part Sections 2 and 3, Block II Tomahawk S.D. (Part C.T. 3D/907) : current owner - J. Mathieson.
Unformed legal road (Southdale Road): that part adjoining the present reserve boundary.

Implementation

The Council shall take the necessary action under Section 14 of the Reserves Act 1977 to include the land described in (a) above in the reserve.

The Council shall negotiate the transfer to the reserve of the private land parcels (b) and (c) as opportunity arises.

The required portion of Southdale Road shall be closed and incorporated in the reserve.

4.11. Access Easements over Reserve Land

To grant easements over the reserve where, in the opinion of Council, it is essential in order to provide safe vehicular access to an adjacent property and the access does not detract from the purpose of the reserve.

Explanation

The former Board permitted access across the reserve to a number of adjacent properties. It is a requirement of Section 48 of the Reserves Act that such rights-of-way be formalised and the above policy has been formulated for City-wide application in accordance with that Section and the principles of the Act. The detailed conditions of grant of rights of way provide, inter alia, that the costs of legal transfer and maintenance of the right of way are borne by the grantee, and that in each case the grantee is levied a charge based on a valuer's assessment of the benefit gained from the easement.

APPENDIX

PLANTS SUITABLE FOR COASTAL SAND ENVIRONMENT

Acacia spp.

Casuarina spp.

Copros ma repens

Cortaderia selloana

Cytisus proliferus

Eucalyptus nicholli

Myoporum insulare (boobialla)

M. laetum (ngaio)

Olearia avicenniaefolia

O. traversii

O.t. 'Dartonii'

Pittosporum ralphii (karo)

Tamarix spp.

(wattles)

(sheoke, etc.)

(tau, Pata)

(pampas grass)

(tree lucerne)