

Dunedin Botanic Garden Plan



The Botanic Garden

- First Botanic Garden in New Zealand. Established in 1863. Dunedin's 'Living Museum'
- 33 hectares, 1/3 regenerating native forest, 14 Collections with over 100 birds, 125,341 plants, 8862 types of plants, 376 garden beds, 13 staff, 11 apprentices and 1 intern.
- NZGT 6 Star Garden of International Significance





The Plan's Purpose

- Establish a 20-year vision and set of strategic goals to guide the future direction of the Botanic Garden
- Inform the Parks and Recreation Group's long-term planning and budgeting
- Feed into Council's 10-year planning process
- Consider planning, operational projects, partnership initiatives and capital projects
- Help to promote the value and importance of the Botanic Garden locally, nationally and internationally





A Fresh Vision for the Garden



Our Vision

A thriving, inspiring, sustainable garden where collections, conservation, culture, and curiosity connect.

Mission Statement

To inspire curiosity and understanding of plant and wildlife conservation by showcasing biodiversity, promoting sustainable practices, and sharing knowledge through research, education, and cultural engagement.





Existing Plans

Dunedin Botanic Garden Reserve Management Plan 2000

This is a statutory document prepared under the Reserves Act 1977 and outlines the policies that the Garden will be managed under.

Having a strategic document like the Botanic Garden Plan helps inform the direction of how we want the Garden to be used and therefore the policies we put in place to enable/protect that.





Existing Plans

Botanic Garden Development Plan - 2007

The purpose of this plan was to identify (landscape/asset) development projects in the Garden for capital investment (Council/Friends/External).

Three projects from the 10 proposed in this plan were funded and implemented:

1. Mediterranean Garden in 2010
2. Propagation and Nursery in 2015
3. Children's Garden in 2024





Botanic Garden Plan Development

- Phase 1 – Engagement with Stakeholders in December 2020
- Phase 2 – Draft plans written and internal feedback received
- Phase 3 – Second round of engagement with stakeholders mid 2023
- Draft plan updated and presented to Council in 2024
- Draft plan reviewed in 2025-2026 to include an updated Mana Whenua cultural statement and Te Taki Haruru





Stakeholder Engagement

- Initial focus on staff and Friends of the Botanic Garden to understand issues, opportunities and the vision for the future
- Wider engagement with groups representing social, economic, cultural and environmental values.





Engagement Summary – Main Themes

Collections: Preserve the Garden's unique plant and bird collections and maintain horticultural and botanical integrity

Sustainability: Prioritise sustainability and create strategies for reducing carbon emissions and promote environmental stewardship

Partnerships: Collaborate with other organisations and institutions to promote conservation and sustainability

Education: Integrate education into all aspects of the Garden's work





Engagement Summary – Main Themes

Interpretation: Connect people and plants and promote environmental resilience. Improve interpretation and messaging at the Garden

Accessibility: Improve physical accessibility within the Garden and provide more information on how to access and enjoy the Garden

Visitor engagement: Engage visitors through storytelling, educational programs and recreational activities. Investigate ways to improve inclusivity and diversity at the Garden





Te Tahi Haruru

	Principles, values and key intents
Goal One Integrity	Autikaka Tapu and noa <i>Balance is restored, and the future of our people and resources is protected.</i>
Goal Two Knowledge	Autūroa Mana <i>Mana whenua are leaders, influencers and partners.</i>
	Autakata Whakapapa <i>The traditional authority of mana whenua in Ōtepoti Dunedin is recognised through partnerships based on reciprocity and respect.</i>
Goal Three Stewardship	Autikaka Tapu and noa <i>Balance is restored, and the future of our people and resources is protected.</i>
	Auora Mauri <i>The mauri of Ōtepoti is restored and enhanced.</i>



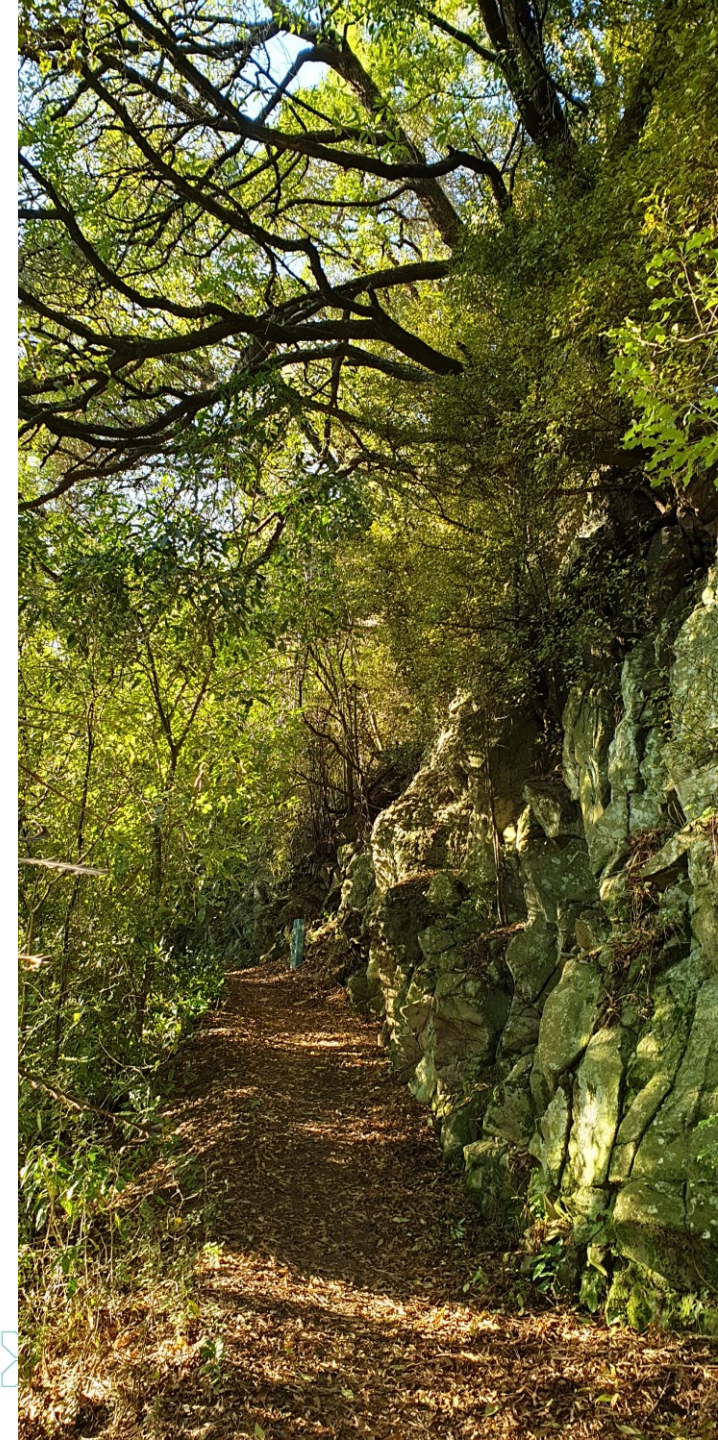
Te Tahi Haruru

	Principles, values and key intents
Goal Four Welcoming	Autūroa Mana <i>Mana whenua are leaders, influencers and partners.</i>
	Autakata Whakapapa <i>The traditional authority of mana whenua in Ōtepoti Dunedin is recognised through partnerships based on reciprocity and respect. Mana whenua are leaders, influencers and partners.</i>
Goal Five Involvement	Autūroa Mana <i>Mana whenua are leaders, influencers and partners.</i>
	Auora Mauri <i>The mauri of Ōtepoti is restored and enhanced.</i>



Kai Tahu Mana Whenua Statement

- Te Rūnaka o Ōtākou holds a range of interests in the Botanic Garden and seeks to be actively engaged in partnership with the Dunedin City Council (DCC). This includes the management, conservation and utilisation of native flora and fauna, including taoka species; the protection of native biodiversity and freshwater values and the development of training and employment opportunities.
- Mana Whenua also seek meaningful input into relevant experiences, education, signage, events, performances or other arts within the Botanic Garden, as well as any further mahi that upholds DCC's obligation to Te Taki Haruru, the Ngai Tahu Claims Settlement Act 1998 and the commitment to the Treaty of Waitangi.





Goal 1: Our collections have integrity and are valued

- Review and update the Collections Policy
- Enhancing our collections maintenance
- Develop stories that connect people to the collections



Goal 2: The Garden is a hub of learning

- Create opportunities for research
- Develop a wide-ranging education programme
- Develop and provide training opportunities for staff and volunteers
- Establish formal education partnerships with mana whenua, Ōtākou Whakaihu Waka and Te Kura Matatini ki Otago



Goal 2: The Garden is a hub of learning

- Review and update educational material to be relevant to current conservation, horticulture and biodiversity topics.
- Design and develop spaces that support public workshops and programmes.
- Design and build display gardens that have educational purposes such as climate resilience and sustainable gardening practices.
- Support the delivery of visitor education programmes by qualified experienced coordinators.

Goal 3: We embrace environmental stewardship

- Incorporate modern sustainability and environmental stewardship principles
- Improve our carbon footprint
- Review the purpose and future focus of the Aviary, assess community sentiment and the Aviary's role in promoting environmental sustainability and conservation.
- Give effect to how the Botanic Garden may enhance the wider ecosystem surrounding the Garden





Goal 4: An inviting and accessible place to visit

- Create a masterplan
- Visitor experience plan
- Create an events and engagement plan



Goal 5: Inspire people to get involved

- Develop a volunteer programme that provides a range of opportunities at the Botanic Garden
- Support the Friends of the Garden to devise a strategy for recruitment and support



Goal 6: Sponsorship and fundraising

- Provide pathways to attract external funding or in-kind expertise to embellish the Botanic Garden's own resources
- Investigate the economic benefit that the Garden brings to the City
- Develop a sponsorship and partnership strategy



Action Plan

- Provides structure, accountability and a systematic approach to achieving the goals identified in the Plan.
- Each goal has been evaluated and allocated specific actions to achieve it
- These will be reviewed annually and updated as required



Year One

Goals	Action
Goal Four and Two	Create a masterplan that considers the layout and assets within the Botanic Garden.
Goal Three	Review the future function of the aviary
Goal Four	Investigate the economic benefit of the Garden
Goal Six	Develop a sponsorship and partnership strategy

Year Two

Goals	Action
All goals	New Reserve Management Plan
Goal One and Three	Review the Collections Policy and collections management practices
Goal Two	Review and evaluate aviary and plant collections and develop living collections plan
Goal Two	Develop a volunteer programme
Goal Two and Four	Visitor Experience Plan
Goal Five, Three, Two and One.	Engagement and Events Plan

Questions?

