



Dunedin Town Belt Management Plan

January 2007



DUNEDIN CITY
COUNCIL
Kaunihera-a-rohe o Otepoti

Dunedin Town Belt management plan

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1 INTRODUCTION

Reserves have a major role in contributing to the maintenance and enhancement of amenity and recreation values in the City by providing attractive open spaces and facilities for the enjoyment of active and passive recreational activities by both residents and visitors. Reserves also provide areas for the preservation and enhancement of ecological and landscape values.

The purpose of the *Town Belt Management Plan* is to provide a policy framework for the use, enjoyment, maintenance, protection, and appropriate development of the reserves in the Town Belt.

The Dunedin Town Belt is an important asset to the City and fulfils an important amenity role within Dunedin: it is a significant landscape feature; provides areas for recreation; and is an important ecological resource. As a high profile public reserve, its management and maintenance is important to the Dunedin community (especially for those who are neighbours of, or regularly use, the reserve). Council has adopted policies for the management of the Town Belt with the realisation of its natural values and the community interest in its preservation.

Reserve values are those things that are important and desirable about reserves. The main values for the Town Belt are recreation, landscape, amenity, ecological, cultural heritage, and educational values.

This management plan applies to all Council reserves considered as part of the Town Belt. It has been prepared in accordance with the procedures outlined in Section 41 of the Reserves Act 1977.

Formation of the Town Belt Management Plan

The first reserve management plan for the Town Belt was prepared in 1982, however, it was not approved until 1990. This plan was reviewed in 1998. The current plan is a comprehensive review of the 1998 plan.

The plan provides a framework, obtained through research and public consultation, that will guide management decisions over the next ten years. Changing circumstances are accounted for by ongoing review and regular, comprehensive reconsideration at ten-yearly intervals. Although the plan provides an overall direction for management, day-to-day management is controlled via a programme of works which covers a much shorter time span and allows for more immediate contingencies. These day-to-day works are specified in the management contracts prepared by the Dunedin City Council.

Description of Reserves

The Town Belt is located in the central urban area of Dunedin. It stretches across several suburbs including Mornington, Roslyn, Maori Hill, Woodhaugh and Opoho. Access to the reserve is possible at many points along its approximately 4.7 kilometre length. For organised sporting purposes, access is possible at The Oval, Montecillo Ground, Mornington Park, Jubilee Park, the Belleknowes Golf Course, Robin Hood Park, Littlebourne Ground, Moana Pool, Prospect Park, the Gardens Ground and Opoho Park. Access for general recreation purposes is available at these sites as well as through the network of tracks throughout the reserve and areas such as Unity Park, Woodhaugh Gardens and the Southern and Northern Cemeteries.

The Dunedin Botanic Garden, although legally part of the Town Belt of Dunedin, is managed separately from the Town Belt. It has its own Management Plan and its management is not addressed in this document.

There are several areas that, to all intents and purposes, form part of the Dunedin Town Belt, but which were not included in the formal definition of the reserve at the time of its vesting. Included in this are areas such as Roberts Park (neighbouring Moana Pool) and reserve land in Newington Avenue. Additional land adjoining areas of the Town Belt has also come through land acquisition. These areas are included in the definition of the Town Belt used in this plan and managed as part of the Town Belt.

The Arthur St Reserve and Cemetery has been included in this plan. These areas have been managed by the Dunedin City Council for some time, however, it has recently been discovered that statutory actions were not completed in the past, and therefore this land does not belong to Council. Management of these areas is unlikely to change and they have been left in this plan while outstanding matters are addressed.

Legal Description and Status

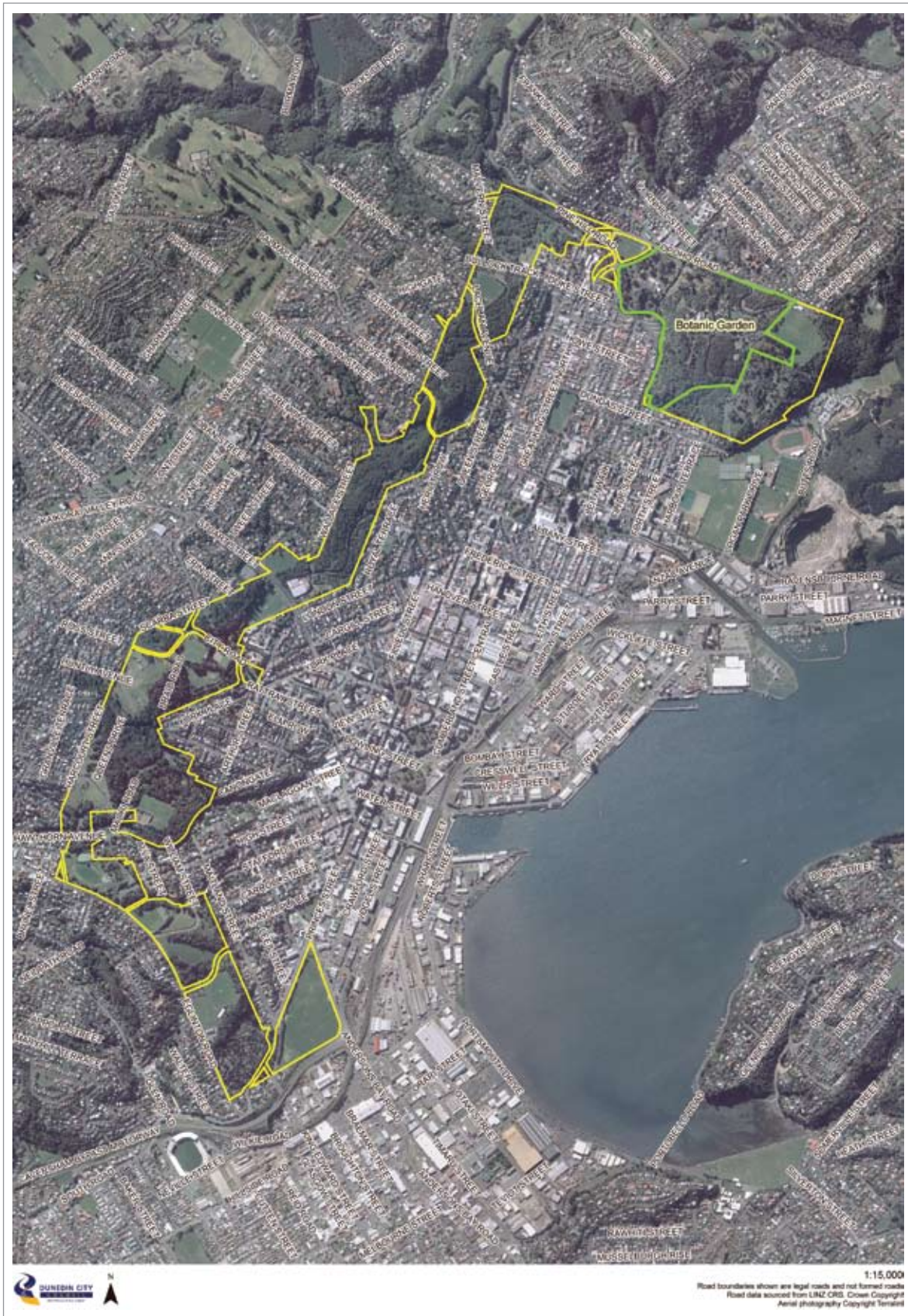
The land managed as the Town Belt consists of a number of properties with a variety of statuses. It includes land that was originally set aside as part of the Town Belt and land managed for similar purposes. The legal description of the land managed as Town Belt is shown in Appendix 6.1.

1.1 Vision for the Town Belt

The Town Belt is protected, enhanced, extended, and well managed under sustainable ecological principles as Dunedin's premier urban natural and recreational landscape located between the hill suburbs and the City centre.

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2 MANAGEMENT PLANNING FOR RESERVES

2.1 Aims and Objectives of Reserves Management Plans

Reserve Management Plans assist with achieving the following visions in the Dunedin City Council's Strategic Plan 2006/07 – 2015/16:

Active City

Vision: a city that provides and encourages participation in a broad range of sporting, recreational and leisure activities.

Sustainable City and Environment

Vision: a city that makes the most of its natural and built environment.

Culture and Learning

Vision: a city that celebrates and supports culture and excellence in the arts and education.

2.2 Purpose of a Management Plan

The Dunedin City Council has a statutory responsibility to manage reserves on behalf of the community under the Reserves Act 1977. The Act requires the Council to prepare Management Plans in which it outlines its intentions for the use, enjoyment, maintenance, protection and preservation of its reserves.

The Act prescribes a basic reserve management framework with which management plans must comply. The aim of the legislation is to ensure reserve management and development is based on sound principles and that, through involvement in the planning process, the needs of the public are clearly identified.

Management plans establish a series of objectives and policies for the management and, where relevant, the development and use of reserves, with the aim of resolving any conflict over competing uses and expectations, while taking into account the long-term needs of both the reserve and the community. The primary purpose of such strategic planning for Council's reserves is to ensure environmental and economically sustainable management of reserves and their values for the people of Dunedin and visitors to the City.

Management Plans provide guidelines for future decision-making, ensuring consistency and balance. A plan's recreational aims and objectives are considered in the context of wider Council recreational strategy and policy. One of the documents which helps provide this framework is the *Sport and Recreation Strategic Plan (2002)*, which outlines the priorities and guidelines for the provision of recreation services within Dunedin. The aim of the management plan is to ensure that proposals for the reserves meet the purpose

of the reserve, and, through the public's involvement, ensure their needs are facilitated while managing the resource in a sustainable manner.

A management plan also provides Council with efficiency gains in the management of the reserve by not requiring further public notification or ministerial consent for matters that would otherwise require such public notice. The ability to forgo some public consultation/approvals recognises that the compatibility of an activity with the overall purpose of a reserve has already been addressed in the management planning process.

2.3 Management Planning Under The Reserves Act 1977

The Reserves Act 1977 is designed to protect public land, to designate its predominant values and to ensure the land is managed to promote and sustain those predominant values. To promote good management, the Act requires the development of Reserve Management Plans. These plans may vary greatly in their detail, but they must comply with the over-riding principles of the Act (outlined below). The management plan preparation process is also prescribed by the Act.

The Community and Recreation Services Department of the Dunedin City Council has the responsibility to prepare management plans for Dunedin's reserves. These management plans should:

Provide for and ensure the use, enjoyment, maintenance, protection and preservation... and... the development, as appropriate, of the reserve for the purposes for which it is classified.

Reserves Act 1977 41(3)

Most of the Town Belt is classified as Recreation Reserve under the Reserves Act 1977, and has a strong ecological and landscape focus. Other parts of the reserve have Local Purpose (Cemetery) and Scenic Reserve status under this Act.

The primary purpose of a Recreation Reserve, under the Act, is to:

Provide areas for the recreation and sporting activities and the physical welfare and enjoyment of the public and for the protection of the natural 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.

Reserves Act 1977 17(1)

The primary purpose of a Scenic Reserve, under the Act, is to:

Protect and preserve in perpetuity for their intrinsic worth and for the benefit, enjoyment, and use of the public, suitable areas possessing such qualities of scenic interest, beauty, or natural features or landscape

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that their protection and preservation are desirable in the public interest.

Reserves Act 1977 19 (1)(a)

The primary purpose of a Local Purpose Reserve, under the Act, is to:

Providing and retaining areas for such local purpose or purposes as are specified in any classification of the reserve.

Reserves Act 1977 23 (1)

The reserves are classified as Local Purpose (Cemetery) and have been set aside for that purpose. The Burials and Cremations Act 1964 is also used to guide the administration of this type of reserve.

2.4 Consultation Processes

The management planning process is summarised below.

| Process specified in Reserves Act 1977 | Dunedin City Council Consultation |
|---|---|
| Publicly notify intention to prepare the Management Plan and invite interested persons/organisations to make submissions on the proposed plan within a minimum period of one month. | Council's intention to prepare the <i>Town Belt Management Plan</i> was advertised on 16 April 2005 with a one month submission period. |
| The Draft Management Plan is prepared giving consideration to comments received. | The submission comments received in relation to the Town Belt were considered when preparing the draft. |
| The Draft Management Plan is adopted and advertised for submissions for a period of a minimum of two months. | Draft approved at the Community Development Committee Meeting 29 August 2006. Submission period 29 July – 3 November 2006. |
| Consideration of submissions and objections at a hearing. | 4 December 2006 |
| Appropriate changes are made to the Draft Management Plan. The final Management Plan is adopted by Council. | 19 February 2007 |
| The adopted Management Plan is forwarded to the Minister of Conservation for approval of the Scenic Reserve sections in accordance with Section 41(1) of the Reserves Act 1977. | 27 April 2007 |

2.5 The Review Of Reserve Management Plans

Site-specific reserve management plans are subject to ongoing review and regular, comprehensive re-consideration at approximately ten-yearly intervals. Public comment will be sought on each management plan as it is reviewed. Where the Reserves Act 1977 enforces provisions specific to any particular reserve, those provisions are noted and, where the nature of a reserve or its facilities requires the implementation of additional policies, these are set out in this management plan.

The separate document, the *Reserves Management Plan—General Policies*, contains policies for the management of all reserves, and is read in conjunction with site-specific management plans such as the *Town Belt Management Plan*. The *Reserves Management Plan—General Policies* is reviewed more frequently than site-specific plans. This creates a more flexible and dynamic management planning approach, which means the way the Council manages its reserves is more relevant to the current issues and needs of the people that use the reserves.

2.6 Consideration Of Other Management Documents

Reserve management planning does not occur in isolation. Broader aims, objectives and policies guide it. Some of this guidance originates from the aims and objectives of the Council and statutory documents such as the District Plan, Annual Plan, Activity Management Plans, and Long Term Council Community Plan. Other non-statutory documents such as the Sport and Recreation Strategic Plan, Play Strategy, Fees and Charges Policy, and the *Track Strategy* also provide direction for the policies contained in management plans.

Reserves Management Plan—General Policies

The *Reserves Management Plan—General Policies* forms an integral part of this, and other management plans, and is intended to be read with reference to specific policies in the plans.

The *Reserves Management Plan—General Policies* document covers all basic issues of the day-to-day administration of reserves in Dunedin. The *Town Belt Management Plan* does not replicate those policies as they are under constant and separate review. The *Town Belt Management Plan* takes precedence where both the *Reserves Management Plan—General Policies* and the *Town Belt Management Plan* address the same issue. Otherwise both documents are used to guide management of the reserves.

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The following considerations have policies within the General Policies document:

Administration Policies

- District Plan
- Council As An Affected Party
- Community Consultation
- Tangata Whenua, Mana Whenua and Iwi
- Naming of Reserves
- Enforcement
- Use of Hazardous Substances
- Pest Animal and Plant Control
- Trees and Tree Management
- Forestry Management On Reserves
- Lookouts and Viewpoints
- Fencing
- Promotion of Reserves
- Fire Control
- Heritage Conservation

Use Policies

- Use of Reserves
- Special Events
- Public Access and Reserve Closure
- Exclusive Use
- Commercial Use – Concessions (other than Leases or Licences)
- Encroachments
- Occupation Agreements
- Network Utility Operators
- Liquor Licences
- Signs
- Partnerships and Sponsorships
- Commemorative Plaques and Trees
- Tracks
- Car Parking
- Reserve Lighting
- Sportsfield Lighting
- Litter Control and Dumping
- Camping
- Circuses and Side-Show Operators
- Aircraft and Helicopter Landings
- Fireworks Displays
- Research and Education
- Harvest of Cultural Material or Harvest of Material for Cultural Purposes
- Volunteers Working on Reserves

Development and Change Policies

- Landscape
- Changes in Recreational Facility Use
- Buildings and Structures (including playgrounds)
- Toilet and Shower Facilities
- Abandonmen

Track Strategy

The *Track Strategy* develops a citywide context for the management and development of tracks. As such, it

seeks to secure a balanced approach to track development and management, and it considers the Council's tracks in light of those managed by the Department of Conservation and other groups. Any track development within the reserve must take account of the policies developed by the *Track Strategy*. As management plans are statutory documents they legally have a higher standing than other Council policies in regards to reserve management matters.

Sport and Recreation Strategic Plan

The *Sport and Recreation Strategic Plan* defines the Council approach to delivering its recreation and sport services in the city. The strategic plan provides a framework and philosophy for the role of Council, and prioritises spending across the variety of recreational activities that Council provides for the city. The Strategy makes a number of recommendations specifically in regards to tracks in the Town Belt, in particular: ensuring a high level of service for tracks, having an effective track network, and creating a track from the Oval to the Botanic Garden along the length of the Town Belt.

Burial and Cremation Act 1964

The Burial and Cremation Act 1964 is relevant for the management of the Northern and Southern Cemeteries and the Arthur St Cemetery. The Act provides rules for the management of both open and closed cemeteries, and applies in conjunction with the Reserves Act 1977.

Historic Places Act 1993

The NZ Historic Places Trust classified the Northern and Southern Cemeteries as Category I in the Historic Places Register in 2006. Therefore this document is relevant to the management of these areas in conjunction with the other relevant Acts discussed above.

Dunedin City District Plan Considerations

The objectives in the Dunedin City District Plan affect the management of the Town Belt in two main ways. First, in authorising activities on the Town Belt, Council needs to be mindful of the effects of reserve activities on adjacent properties, and rules in the District Plan. Second, in managing and developing the Town Belt Council needs to consider the Town Belt's wider role in the urban landscape. In recognising this role, development proposals will need to consider District plan provisions for urban landscape conservation areas, areas of significant conservation value, significant trees and heritage items. The provisions of the District Plan reinforce the importance given to landscape and ecological values in the objectives of this management plan.

The Town Belt is zoned Residential 1 in the District Plan with an Urban Landscape Conservation Area

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overlay. Areas such as Woodhaugh Gardens, are identified as an 'Area of Significant Conservation Value' (ASCV). The Town Belt also contains significant trees and heritage buildings and structures, such as the Northern Cemetery.

The impact of development on adjoining residential properties on the Town Belt also requires serious consideration. Development on these properties can result in impacts on reserve vegetation or land stability, requests for trimming trees to increase views or minimise shading, requests for access over the Town Belt either during development or permanently, and can result in encroachment in the form of driveways, earthworks, gardens, lawns, and buildings. Consideration of the potential effects needs to be undertaken during the assessment of any resource consent application.



3 AIMS, OBJECTIVES, AND POLICIES

Vision

The Town Belt is protected, enhanced, extended, and well managed under sustainable ecological principles as Dunedin's premier urban natural and recreational landscape located between the hill suburbs and the City centre.

3.1 Introduction/Explanation of terms

The aims, objectives, and policies in this document combine to achieve the vision for the Town Belt.

Management Aims

The aims of a management plan must be able to stand the test of time and should require little in the way of amendment even when the plan is reviewed. The aims are related to the classification and purpose of the Reserve. They provide a framework within which any future proposals for development/enhancement, or any other form of action that may have an impact on the reserves, can be considered.

Management Objectives

The objectives of a management plan elaborate on the means necessary to achieve the established aims. They should be oriented towards action and provide the basis for developing specific policies on matters that reserve managers will need to address.

Management Policies

The policies become the means by which objectives are achieved. Over time, as certain specific objectives are attained or require change, relevant policies will also be amended. The policies in the management plan guide all future aspects of the reserve and provide the framework for continuity of management.

All general management policies for reserves are described in a separate document, the *Reserves Management Plan—General Policies*. The policies contained in the *Reserves Management Plan—General Policies* also apply to the management of the Town Belt, unless specifically over-ridden by policies in this document. The reader should refer to the *Reserves Management Plan—General Policies* document as if it was a physical part of this plan but note that the *Reserves Management Plan—General Policies* are frequently reviewed to ensure continual relevance.

The aims, objectives and policies are in no order of priority.

3.2 Administration

Aim

1. The Town Belt is managed in accordance with all relevant legislation, relevant Council policy, and statutory instruments.

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Comments

The Dunedin Town Belt includes land of varying status. The majority of the area is classified as a Recreation Reserve under the Reserves Act 1977, there is also land classified as Local Purpose Reserve (Cemetery) and a Scenic Reserve. Management, use and development of the reserves is subject to the specific provisions of the Act relating to their classification. Any additional land that has been, or future land that may be, added to the original Town Belt will be held under an appropriate classification and managed as part of the Town Belt.

Woodhaugh Gardens contains an area classified as Scenic Reserve as well as areas classified as Recreation Reserve. The scenic areas need to be managed in a way that is consistent with the principles for Scenic Reserves specified in the Reserves Act 1977.

The Southern, Northern, and Arthur St Cemeteries are managed in accordance with the Reserves Act 1977 and the Burial and Cremation Act 1964. These cemeteries are closed and therefore their prime management recognises that they are historic cemeteries rather than active ones. The Northern and Southern Cemeteries also fall under the requirements of the Historic Places Act 1993.

Development and use of the Town Belt is also subject to the provisions of the Resource Management Act 1991 and the Dunedin City District Plan. Consents required under this Act are in addition to, not a substitution for, the consent of the Dunedin City Council as reserve administrator. The statutory obligations need to be recognised and satisfied as part of the future planning for the reserves.

Some boundaries may be reviewed and rationalised to facilitate better management or deal with current issues. Minor boundary rationalisation will ensure the integrity and intention of the Town Belt is retained. Where reserve land exists or is acquired adjacent to the Town Belt, this will be managed, where appropriate, as part of the Town Belt. The land on which Olveston Historic House is located will be classified as a reserve and be managed as part of the Town Belt.

Objectives

1. To give effect to this plan by ensuring management of the Town Belt is in accordance with relevant legislation and policy.
2. Land in the Town Belt will be held and managed under the appropriate reserve classification.
3. Council takes advantage of opportunities as they arise to increase the size of the reserve and to rationalise its boundaries.

Policies

1. Activities on the reserves shall be consistent with the requirements, objectives, policies or rules set out in any statute, by-law, relevant management plan, District or Regional Plan.
2. The plan will be reviewed on a ten yearly basis to ensure objectives and policies are updated in the public interest, and to take account of changing aspirations and requirements.
3. Council may increase the size of the Town Belt through land acquisition if that land enhances the recreation, landscape, heritage, ecological and/or cultural values of the reserve. Boundaries may be rationalised where appropriate.
4. Any additional land added to the Town Belt will be classified under the Reserves Act 1977 as appropriate and managed under this management plan.
5. Where reserve classification or status is not appropriate to meet the needs of the reserve, a change to its classification may be investigated.

3.3 Protection of Reserve Values

Aims

1. A sustainably managed Town Belt in which the recreation, ecological, natural, landscape, cultural, and historic values are protected, maintained, and enhanced.
2. The Town Belt provides an attractive backdrop to the City and its role in the Dunedin landscape is recognised. The mix of native and exotic species complements the other green spaces that frame the City. Views from the reserve lookouts have been preserved, and many locations within the Town Belt afford excellent views of the City.

3.3.1 Ecological Values

Comments

The Town Belt is covered by a wide variety of vegetation types, including open sports fields, predominantly native bush north of Stuart Street, and predominantly exotic bush to the south of Stuart Street gives a parkland type setting. Together they make up the image we have of the Town Belt today. The present vegetation must be accepted collectively as the starting point for the future vegetation and its management.

Management of the Town Belt involves the protection and enhancement of the desirable ecological values of the Town Belt. These values include those associated with native and exotic vegetation, native and exotic fauna and the relationships between flora and fauna.

Past management of the Town Belt has resulted in a native/exotic mix of vegetation and fauna. This mix contributes significantly to the natural and landscape

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values of the City. Future management of the reserve should protect and enhance those desirable aspects of ecological values. Undesirable aspects, such as noxious plants and animals, should be managed so that the quality of the reserve is enhanced.

A variety of weed and animal pest species exist on the reserves to varying degrees. Control of undesirable plants and animals is essential to ensure the protection of desirable reserve vegetation and biota. This is the primary factor affecting ecological values on the reserve.

A weed or pest plant is an undesirable species growing in a location where it detrimentally impacts on the values of the desirable indigenous or other vegetation, or values of the reserve.

It has been identified that Muehlenbeckia is an important host to a number of native invertebrates of which many feed exclusively on this plant. Muehlenbeckia has been actively removed in the past but will now be controlled and managed under the guidance of ecological assessments to allow for these invertebrates to exist along with distinctive and rare vegetation that has regenerated through removal of Muehlenbeckia.

The Reserves Act 1977 requires the extermination, as far as possible, of exotic species in scenic reserves, unless the Minister of Conservation determines otherwise. This requirement is relevant to the area of scenic reserve at Woodhaugh Gardens.

Possums are present on a number of areas. Their impact on native vegetation will depend on the type of vegetation present and the number of possums in the reserve and immediate area. Possum numbers are monitored and controlled on the reserve where appropriate.

Management of the Town Belt involves the protection and enhancement of the desirable ecological values of the Town Belt. These values include those associated with native and exotic vegetation, native and exotic fauna and the relationships between flora and fauna.

Many of these reserves are nearby to, or adjoin, other protected tracts of indigenous vegetation that enhance both the conservation values of the reserve and their potential for recreation activities. The linkages between these reserves and other tracts of indigenous vegetation are important to provide corridors for movement of native fauna.

Objectives

1. To protect, maintain, and enhance the Town Belt's biodiversity of desirable ecological habitats, flora and fauna, and areas of special interest within the Town Belt that contribute to the functioning of ecological systems and native habitats.

2. To establish a programme of monitoring and recording changes occurring in the vegetation in the Town Belt to assist with future management.
3. Establish and maintain a balanced forest system within the confines of the city including both exotic and native forest types.

Policies

1. The Ecological Assessment Report 2006 will be used as a guiding document for management of flora and fauna in the Town Belt. A works programme will be prepared based on findings and recommendations in this report.
2. Major changes in vegetation will be recorded and compared to base line data in previous Ecological Assessment Reports to indicate changing patterns over time.
3. Any planting carried out in the area of indigenous endemic species shall be propagated from seed or plant sources within the Dunedin Ecological District, and consideration shall be given to using flora that will provide a food source for native birds and insects that are appropriate to the site/environment.
4. Where seed is required for the purpose of propagating species for replanting within the Town Belt as part of Council's revegetation projects, Council will permit the collection of seeds by a suitably qualified person, employed or contracted by Council to carry out this work.
5. The Council may enclose or otherwise temporarily close off to the public any part of a reserve where there are significant adverse effects on ecological values or for management programs, such as revegetation. Closure shall not result in significant adverse effects on other values.
6. To permit the removal of vegetation where required, and where agreed by the Dunedin City Council, for the development of tracks to facilitate recreational activities in the Town Belt.
7. To allow appropriate research on reserves which will be beneficial to Council for the management of flora and fauna within the Town Belt. Where exclosure plots are required, these may be permitted.
8. Any rare or endangered native flora or fauna in the Town Belt will be protected as required by relevant statutes. Where appropriate, Council will liaise with the Department of Conservation to ensure appropriate management of populations of nationally threatened species e.g. mistletoes.
9. All possible action will be taken to prevent activities in adjoining areas from compromising the ecological values of the reserves.

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10. In regards to the Scenic Reserve in this plan, trees and bush shall not be cut or destroyed, except with permission of the Minister of Conservation.
11. No wood will be allowed to be removed from core and native areas of the Town Belt, Woodhaugh Scenic Reserve or areas managed for conservation and ecological purposes except for approved safety, landscape and management reasons. Felled and fallen trees will be left in these areas for habitat management purposes, where safe and not visible from surrounding roads and paths.
12. Council will carry out local control of Muehlenbeckia under the recommendations of the ecological surveys.

3.3.2 Landscape Values

Comment

The Town Belt's main roles in the Dunedin landscape, as a background to the 'downtown' area, and as a visual marker separating the inner city from the outer suburbs, could be compromised by its management. Council has the responsibility to ensure that new developments and management of existing facilities, do not adversely affect the landscape values of the Town Belt.

Two mechanisms ensure that landscape values are not affected. The first of these is the requirements of the Reserves Act 1977 for the protection of landscape values.

The general purpose of the Act is to:

[provide] for the preservation and management for the benefit and enjoyment of the public, areas of New Zealand possessing ... environmental and landscape amenity or interest.

Reserves Act 1977 3(a)(iv)

The second mechanism is the requirements of the Resource Management Act 1991 and its instrument, the Dunedin City District Plan. In the Resource Management Act 1991, the protection of outstanding landscapes from inappropriate subdivision, use and development is a matter of national importance. Landscape also forms part of a broad suite of characteristics known as amenity values in this Act, and Council is obliged to have particular regard for the maintenance and enhancement of amenity values.

The landscape values of the reserve are reflected in the Dunedin City District Plan by all of the Town Belt being included as an Urban Landscape Conservation Area and Woodhaugh Garden being identified as an Area of Significant Conservation Value (ASCV) (also 3 other sites in the Town Belt are currently being assessed as Areas of Significant Conservation Value).

This recognises the important role the Town Belt plays in the landscape amenity and physical character of the city. The Town Belt contributes to an important network of land with predominantly natural character and significant values surrounding the urban core of Dunedin City. Council has the responsibility to ensure the natural character and values of the reserve are maintained, protected, or enhanced.

Landscape values of the Town Belt, as well as other factors, are taken into consideration when the Dunedin City Council provides comments on resource consent applications on neighbouring properties as a potentially affected party, and on activities on reserves, as landowner.

Objectives

1. To protect, maintain, and enhance, the landscape character, amenity values, and scenic qualities of the Town Belt with consideration of its role in the wider city landscape, its essential visual prominence from Dunedin City, and the views gained from the Town Belt.

Policies

1. Policies in the 'Landscape', 'Council as an Affected Party', and 'Buildings and Structures' sections in the *Reserves Management Plan – General Policies*, should be read in conjunction with this Management Plan.
2. All possible action will be taken to prevent activities in adjoining areas from compromising the landscape values of the Town Belt.
3. Buildings or structures will not be permitted on the reserve where they are likely to significantly impact on landscape or amenity values.
4. Any development that includes planting or earthworks shall be done in a way that protects and/or enhances the landscape character and quality of the reserve.
5. Council will impose conditions to protect landscape values of the Town Belt with any permission given in its capacity as landowner and manager or in submissions on applications for Resource Consents on adjoining properties.
6. To preserve the views of the City from key positions within the Town Belt, particularly Brackens Lookout, Queens View-Robin Hood Park, Unity Park, and Prospect Park. Vegetation trimming or removal will be permitted where necessary to preserve significant viewing areas.
7. Any new buildings or additions to existing buildings, where permitted in accordance with this management plan, should be designed to blend into the landscape, or planting undertaken to assist with this.

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3.3.3 Heritage and Cultural Values

Comments

A number of reserves in the Dunedin area contain known sites of heritage significance. It is important to recognise and retain heritage features, which may include historic structures and archaeological sites. Such sites provide physical evidence of historical events and add to the depth of experience for visitors and local residents when they visit the reserves. Management of the reserves will therefore include retention and interpretation (where appropriate) of heritage features so that their heritage significance is recognised and retained.

The Northern and Southern Cemeteries have significant cultural and heritage values, as well as specifically identified historic structures. The Historic Cemeteries Conservation Trust of NZ (HCCTNZ) has been working with Council to develop the *Southern and Northern Cemeteries Conservation Management Plan*. This document provides the guiding principles for work in the Southern and Northern Cemeteries to assist with the historic conservation management and restoration.

The reserves contain a number of historic structures and features associated with Dunedin's early history. In 2006 the NZ Historic Places Trust classified the Northern and Southern Cemeteries as Category I in the Historic Places Register. The Northern Cemetery on Lovelock Ave contains a number of historic or archaeological sites/structures including Larnachs Tomb, the former Sextons cottage and a midden. These are recognised through the District Plan, being listed on Schedule 25.1.

Objective

1. To identify sites of heritage significance, accord them an appropriate level of protection and maintain them for the enjoyment and education of future generations, where this is compatible with the primary purpose of the reserve.

Policies

1. Policies in the 'Heritage' section of the *Reserves Management Plan—General Policies* should be read in conjunction with this section.
2. Sites of heritage significance within the Town Belt will be protected and preserved where this is compatible with the primary purpose of the reserve.
3. Council will follow the principles of the *Southern and Northern Cemeteries Conservation Management Plan* prepared by the Historic Cemeteries Conservation Trust of NZ, and the Historic Places Act 1993, to guide the heritage management and restoration of these cemeteries.

3.4 Recreational Facilities

Aim

1. The Town Belt offers appropriate recreational opportunities and associated facilities for residents and visitors to Dunedin City.

Comments

The Town Belt's recreational facilities include sports-fields and associated facilities, recreational tracks, playgrounds, park benches, picnic tables, Moana pool, and a paddling pool. These facilities are part of a wider systems of facilities provided to enhance public enjoyment of reserves and to encourage recreational use. The management and development of facilities needs to be balanced against the landscape and ecological values of the reserve.

The Town Belt provides opportunities for informal recreation such as sightseeing, walking, mountain biking, jogging, and family recreation and play.

As mountain biking is becoming more and more popular in Dunedin it is desirable that the needs of the community to facilitate this recreational use are adequately catered for. This means the provision of tracks for a range of users, skill levels, and in a variety of locations, which are accessible from the city. Future consideration needs to be given to this activity as recreational opportunities are developed in the Town Belt. In particular, the provision of 'family friendly' mountain bike tracks through the Town Belt may be appropriate. A mountain bike track at Jubilee park has been developed to provide an area for less experienced riders, and is occasionally used for child focused bike events.

Suggestions for possible future track developments, particularly those to meet the need for 'family friendly' tracks have been made during the preparation of this management plan, the Sport and Recreation Strategic Plan, and the *Track Strategy*. These and other suggestions will be investigated in the future if time and resources permit. Development of new tracks is a low priority for the Council, as indicated in the *Track Strategy*. The Sport and Recreation Strategic Plan 2002, recommends improvements to the cycle network, a track from the Oval to the Botanic Garden, and having an effective track network. Improving the network of tracks in the Town Belt by increasing links between existing tracks, increasing permitted use of tracks (i.e making them available for mountain biking or cycling), and potentially providing a multi use track that traverses the length of the Town Belt, will significantly increase the recreation and active commuting opportunities available to the community.

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There is also the potential to consider restricting access along some areas of the Town Belt currently accessible by vehicle to be only pedestrian and cycle access. This will assist with improved safety for pedestrians and cyclists, and will enhance the recreation opportunities available to them without the creation of new tracks in certain areas.

Reserve users will need to co-operate and consider each other's interests and values to ensure a high level of user enjoyment and safety are maintained between various activities on the reserves. Signage will be used to facilitate multi-use of tracks where appropriate.

Scenic Reserves require an increased level of consideration of the impact of proposed developments (including tracks) and in many cases will require permission from the Minister of Conservation for proposals. Open areas of Scenic Reserves can be developed for amenities and facilities where they are necessary to enable the public to obtain benefit and enjoyment from the reserve. Activities or developments on Recreation or Local Purpose Reserves may not be appropriate for Scenic Reserves. The Reserves Act 1977 provides guidance in regards to these matters.

Provision of on and off site information is a priority identified in the *Track Strategy*. Increased signage, interpretation material and brochures are proposed in this plan.

Objectives

1. To sustainably manage and enhance existing recreational facilities and opportunities on the Town Belt.
2. To allow the development of new recreational facilities and opportunities where they can be sustainably managed and do not significantly impact on reserve values.
3. To provide for informal recreational activities for the benefit, and enjoyment of the public, taking into account the ecological sensitivity and natural values of the reserves, and their ability to sustain a particular use or an increase in use.
4. To reclaim areas of reserve for open space or revegetation where public good outweighs private good (i.e. club/organisation use).
5. To manage the Town Belt for multi-purpose recreation, focusing primarily on walking, jogging, mountain biking, appropriate sports, orienteering, sightseeing, play, and the appreciation of the natural values, where these uses are compatible with the principal and primary purpose of the reserve.
6. Increase linkages between cycleways and tracks in the Town Belt.

Policies

1. The Council shall monitor recreational use of the Town Belt, and in assessing proposals for recreational activities on the Town Belt shall give consideration to their cumulative impact on the ecological values.
2. Policies in the 'Tracks', 'Use of Reserves', 'Special Events', and 'Exclusive use', 'Development' sections of the *Reserves Management Plan – General Policies* apply in conjunction with this Management Plan.
3. The policies in the Dunedin City Council *Track Strategy* and Policy will be considered in conjunction with this plan. As such tracks will be classed as multi purpose by default, unless Council approves specific exclusions.
4. Organised mountain bike races and events may be held on parts of the Jubilee and Montecillo Parks upon the written approval of Council.
5. Tracks will continue to be maintained to the specifications set out in current management contracts. However, the level of maintenance will be reviewed by staff on a three yearly basis as the maintenance contracts for each reserve are re-tendered.
6. Where appropriate and feasible, Council will identify, enhance or develop tracks suitable for use by members of the community with limited mobility, and people with buggies or prams.
7. Where appropriate Council may develop or allow development of tracks to enhance the recreation opportunities of the Town Belt through linking existing tracks, and 'family friendly' multi use tracks.
8. Signage will be used to promote safety and minimise conflicts between recreational user groups.
9. The 'Dog Control Bylaw 2005' applies in conjunction with this Management Plan. In accordance with that document:
 - a. Dogs are permitted on the reserves (except where otherwise indicated) provided they are under control and all dog droppings are removed by the owner or person having charge of the dog.
 - b. Dogs are not permitted on playgrounds, marked sportsfields, or cemeteries.
 - c. Woodhaugh Scenic Reserve – Dogs are permitted on defined tracks only and on a leash.
10. Council will monitor informal tracks and may close off those that have significant adverse effects on reserve values.

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11. Further bush or wooded land should not be developed as sportsfield or open space.
12. Special events, which are compatible with the site and purpose of the reserve, are considered an appropriate use of a multi purpose recreation site like the Town Belt. Written applications and bookings for events are required.
13. When buildings on the Town Belt are no longer required by the occupier, or their use is no longer viably sustainable, and an appropriate outdoor sports club can not be found to take over the lease of the land (and ownership of the building), or Council has an alternative use for the site (including open space), the building will be removed, and the ground area will revert back to open space, or be re-vegetated, as appropriate to the site.
14. Prior to new buildings and facilities being developed, consideration will be given to the effects on reserve values, particularly ecological and open space values. Council's intention is to minimise removal of bush for development of sports fields or clubrooms/buildings and to, where possible, have new buildings located in areas where other buildings exist rather than using new open space areas.
15. Clubs wishing to extend or build new facilities are required to prove sustainability within the overall context of the sport. Consideration of the wider strategic direction for the sporting code, the sustainability of other clubs, and the financial position and membership base of the club is important when assessing applications for developments on reserves.

3.5 Pest Plant and Animal Control

Aim

1. The effects of pest plants and animals are minimised and controlled.

Comments

A variety of weed and animal pest species exist on the reserves to varying degrees. Control of undesirable plants and animals is essential to ensure the protection of desirable reserve vegetation and biota. Management options for these issues are discussed in this document.

A weed or pest plant is an undesirable species growing in a location where it detrimentally impacts on the values of the desirable indigenous or other vegetation, or values of the reserve. A pest animal is an undesirable species in a reserve capable of damaging the reserve's native flora and fauna or other values of the reserve. The Council has obligations for pest animal and plant control under legislation such as the Biosecurity Act

1993, Biodiversity Strategy, and the Regional Pest Management Strategy. The Council has programmes and contracts in place for monitoring and controlling pest species. The Reserves Act 1977 also requires the extermination, as far as possible, of exotic species in Scenic Reserves, unless the Minister of Conservation determines otherwise.

Wilding seedlings of woody tree species such as sycamore may spread within reserves either from a seed source within the reserve or on adjacent properties. Sycamore spread in some reserves has the potential to result in sycamore replacing the native canopy. Control efforts will be put into preventing spread into new areas where sycamore have not established.

Introduced native species such as *Coprosma grandifolia*, *Coprosma robusta* and *Brachyglottis repanda* may smother other significant native species. Where some species restrict the proper growth of native species, therefore compromising the preservation of the bush, appropriate permission from the Minister of Conservation will be sought to allow its removal. Section 42 of the Reserves Act 1977 allows trees or bush to be destroyed or cut where it is necessary for the management and preservation of other trees and bush.

Objectives

1. To control undesirable/invasive exotic and native plants and animal pests on the reserves where they adversely impact on the ecological or intrinsic values of the Town Belt.
2. Existing desirable native and exotic vegetation will be enhanced through the control and removal of noxious plants and invasive weeds.
3. In the case of the Scenic Reserve exotic flora and fauna will, as far as possible, be exterminated for the purpose of preservation of indigenous flora and fauna, unless the Minister of Conservation determines otherwise.

Policies

1. The Dunedin City Council will use the Ecological Assessment Report 2006 as a guide towards pest animal and plant control. A works programme will be prepared based on findings and recommendations in this report.
2. As far as possible, undesirable pest plants are to be eliminated. Where elimination is not desirable or feasible, undesirable pest plants are to be restricted to levels specified in relevant legislation. In the case of Scenic Reserves, exotic flora will be exterminated unless the Minister of Conservation determines otherwise.
3. Major changes in weed populations will be recorded and compared to base line data in Ecological Assessments to indicate changing

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patterns over time and identify further weed control required.

4. The Minister of Conservation's permission will be sought for the removal of introduced native species that restrict the proper growth and functioning of significant native areas. This will be done when appropriate environmental advice has been received.
5. Council will actively control animal pests in the Town Belt and reduce their numbers to a point where they have minimal detrimental effect on the native flora and fauna.
6. Council will liaise with the Otago Regional Council in the development of a programme of noxious plant and animal control for all parts of the Town Belt in order to meet its legal obligations. The Ecological Assessment will be used during the preparation of this report.

3.6 Public Vehicle and Pedestrian Routes

Aim

1. The effects of public vehicle and pedestrian routes through the Town Belt are minimised and action is taken to protect reserve values adjoining these.

Comment

The Town Belt's location, between the City Centre and the suburbs, means that important transport links and pedestrian tracks cross the Town Belt. Section 53(1)(h)(i) of the Reserves Act 1977 allows the administering body to set apart and develop parts of a reserve for footpaths or driveways for public recreation or enjoyment, and amenities necessary for the public using the reserve.

A majority of the vehicle routes through the Town Belt are not on legal road and are actually still reserve, and are considered as such. Major vehicle routes such as Stuart Street could be considered for legalisation at some stage in the future, however other minor vehicle routes are unlikely to be considered for legalisation.

Public vehicle routes affect the values of the Town Belt by reducing the continuity of vegetation, and fragmenting the reserve. This adversely affects the landscape value of the site, and increases the area of bush edges thereby increasing the likelihood of disturbance to the Town Belt's fauna and flora. In particular, it increases the habitat for species that prefer light and disturbance, and act as corridors for the spread of noxious plants. This may lead to significant adverse effects on the ecological values of the reserve and can directly contribute to increased maintenance costs. Other adverse effects result from rubbish dumping, vandalism and drying winds. Footpaths have similar effects, although the scale of these effects is smaller.

The presence of public vehicle routes has also directly led to the development of private accessways across the reserve. In particular, neighbours adjacent to the Town Belt often develop private accessways across the Town Belt from Queens Drive or other similar public vehicle routes, in preference to access from their legal street frontage. Generally these private accessways have been developed for convenience, however in some cases Council has approved private accessways because the access is essential. These private accessways without formal agreements are encroachments.

The increased provision of student accommodation in areas adjacent to the Town Belt, increased number of students with cars, changes to transportation requirements and provision of services in the central city, and the number of people wanting free all day parking, have resulted in increased pressure for parking through the Town Belt. This spread of parking into areas that have generally not been used is resulting in damage to the reserve, impacts on pedestrians, and causing unsafe situations for other motorists, pedestrians and cyclists, due to narrowed streets and inappropriate parking.

Objectives

1. To ensure that the adverse effects of existing public vehicle routes and footpaths are remedied or mitigated.
2. To ensure that new public vehicle and pedestrian routes are only developed if they are consistent with the purpose and objectives of the reserve and their adverse effects are avoided, remedied or mitigated.

Policies

1. The 'Easement', 'Occupation Agreements', and 'Encroachments' sections of the *Reserves Management Plan – General Policies* apply in conjunction with this management plan.
2. Where necessary, Council will take measures to protect grass areas from parking, through the use of physical barriers and appropriate definition of grass areas.
3. Where necessary, Council will enhance definition of areas between tarsealed areas and grass to allow pedestrian access and prevent parking.
4. Council will ensure that the placement of signs, streetlights and other street furniture meets road safety needs while not affecting the values of the reserve. Vegetation affecting lighting associated with vehicle or pedestrian access routes will be trimmed.
5. Council will ensure that the maintenance of public vehicle and pedestrian routes through the reserve will not adversely affect the reserve.

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In particular:

- Trees will be pruned on minor public vehicle routes to a level that allows cars, pedestrians and cyclists only, not to allow trucks and buses to pass.
 - Maintenance of tree-induced damage to public vehicle routes crossing the Town Belt will take into account the need to protect trees on reserves. Tree removal or damage to the root system should only be considered as a last resort.
6. Appropriate plants to reduce the adverse effects of edges will be planted in verges and other 'edge' locations. Appropriateness will be based on traffic safety, fire and health hazard considerations as well as reserve values.
 7. Non-chemical methods for maintaining public vehicle and pedestrian routes and associated facilities (e.g. watercourses) will be encouraged where feasible and financially possible.
 8. Council may oppose applications to subdivide or develop properties adjoining the Town Belt unless it can be shown that vehicle access will not be required over the Town Belt at that time for demolition or development, or in the foreseeable future. Where there will be a significant increase in the use of existing, non-legal accessways, resulting from development, applications may also be opposed.
 9. Parking (in areas set aside for parking) for reserve activities and use of reserve facilities will be permitted in accordance with the Reserves Act 1977 and the *Reserve Management Plan – General Policies*.
 10. Unformed legal roads may be closed and amalgamated with the Town Belt where there is no reasonably foreseeable demand for them to be formed.
 11. Where appropriate, Council may consider legalisation of major vehicle routes through the Town Belt.

3.7 Community Involvement and Reserve Management Partnerships

Aims

1. The Dunedin community is proud to be involved in the continuing development of a key natural, historic, and recreational asset for Dunedin City.
2. Council has fostered active relationships with interested parties in order to achieve part or all of the aims of this management plan.

Comment

A number of community groups and schools are involved with weed control and revegetation projects in the Town Belt. There are many opportunities for groups to assist with the enhancement of the Town Belt, in an area that they have a particular interest in. These efforts are co-ordinated by Council to contribute to the overall enhancement and development of the Town Belt. Individuals may also seek Council permission to maintain or enhance a small area of reserve adjoining their property boundary. This can be in the form of mowing grass, weed control or planting appropriate species, as approved by Council.

Community involvement in management and development of the Town Belt increases the sense of guardianship, protection of this public asset, and can also assist with educating people about the values and ecological processes occurring within the Town Belt. Enjoyment and appreciation of the values of the Town Belt is also increased both through involvement in projects, and use of the reserves for recreation and leisure activities.

In 2005 the Council formed a partnership with the Dunedin Amenities Society for the purpose of preserving, protecting, and developing the Town Belt for the benefit and enjoyment of current and future citizens. Council and the Society are working together to fulfil the aims of the management plan, develop an implementation plan, encourage community involvement, and promote the Town Belt as an important resource.

A partnership has also been formed with the Historic Cemeteries Conservation Trust of NZ (HCCTNZ) to assist with the historic conservation management and restoration of the Southern and Northern Cemeteries. The Trust has developed the *Southern and Northern Cemeteries Conservation Management Plan*, which provides the guiding principles for work in the cemeteries.

Objectives

1. To encourage wider public involvement in the management and revegetation of the Town Belt.
2. Development partners work in co-operation with each other (where appropriate) and the Dunedin City Council towards an agreed outcome and within the objectives and policies of this management plan.

Policies

1. Liaison and co-operation with, and between, organisations, groups, and individuals interested in the Town Belt shall be encouraged and maintained.

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2. The Dunedin City Council will allow members of the public to be involved with maintenance of areas of the Town Belt subject to:
 - the written approval of Council of all proposals including areas and methods;
 - ongoing monitoring of works by Council staff; and
 - the work being consistent with the aims, objectives and policies of the *Town Belt Management Plan*.
3. The Dunedin City Council may work with one or more partners to achieve the aims and objectives for the Town Belt described in this management plan.
4. Partners working with the Dunedin City Council may be involved with public consultation, promotion, and projects for the management, conservation, and redevelopment of the Town Belt.

3.8 Occupation Agreements

Aim

1. The Council has occupation agreements with all organisations or individuals occupying areas of the Town Belt.

Comment

Any occupation of the Town Belt on a permanent or temporary basis needs to be controlled by way of an agreement between Council as landowner and the occupier. Broad statements about use and occupation agreements are contained in the *Reserves Management Plan—General Policies*. Specific occupation agreements for the Town Belt are identified in Appendix 6.2.

Section 48A of the Reserves Act 1977 allows consideration of the granting of licences for communication facilities. A licence gives non exclusive interest in the land such as is for facilities/structures that do not physically occupy reserve land above ground, i.e. cables. Council's preference is for network operator facilities/structures not to be located on reserves, as in most cases, they can be located on private land. Council does not anticipate any areas of the Town Belt being used for this purpose, however, applications will be considered under the Reserves Act 1977.

A number of main water or sewer lines traverse the Town Belt. Residents of properties adjoining the reserve often seek Council approval to connect to these existing main pipes. Where the distance between the property boundary and the main pipeline is short, and installation of the connection will not adversely impact on reserve values, use, or potential future use, Council may consider granting such applications.

Objectives

1. To confirm the occupation of reserves for approved uses and facilities by granting of occupation agreements.

Policies

1. The 'Occupation Agreements', and 'Network Utility Operators' sections of the *Reserves Management Plan—General Policies* apply in conjunction with this management plan.
2. The leases/licences in Appendix 6.2 will be allowed on the reserve in accordance with the appropriate section of the Reserves Act 1977.
3. Applications for pipeline connections to main sewer or water lines in the Town Belt may be granted by Council (landowner permission required from Community and Recreation Services) if they are short and will not adversely impact on reserve values, use, or potential future use.
4. Where occupational agreements are not specified in this plan, public notification is required under the Reserves Act 1977.
5. Formal agreements may be lodged with the District Land Registrar and registered on the property title.

3.9 Encroachments

Aim

1. Council has identified encroachments on the Town Belt and is actively managing their removal or formalisation.

Comment

On some reserves in the Town Belt, neighbours occupy or use reserves for access to their property or as an extension of their property. The *Reserves Management Plan—General Policies* outlines Council's view on management of existing and new encroachments. In addition to these policies, Council will actively research the location and nature of existing encroachments and will actively seek formalisation or removal of encroachments. This will be particularly essential prior to the sale of properties with encroachments, and as Council progressively works through areas of the Town Belt undertaking redevelopment and revegetation work.

Objectives

1. To allow no new encroachments on the Town Belt.
2. To proactively monitor and manage the removal or formalisation of existing encroachments.

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Policies

1. The 'Encroachments' and 'Occupation Agreements' section of the *Reserves Management Plan – General Policies* apply in conjunction with this management plan.
2. Council will assess existing encroachments in the Town Belt and actively seek the formalisation or removal of encroachments, and undertake ongoing monitoring of the situation.
3. The illegal establishment of encroachments in the past do not give any existing use rights to encroachers, even where these are being used as the primary vehicle access to the private property. Council may seek removal of the encroachment and re-establishment of the boundaries and reserve.
4. Once assessments have been undertaken and monitoring is underway, Council will require outstanding encroachment issues to be resolved prior to sale of properties or in conjunction with redevelopment and revegetation programmes on that area of the Town Belt.

3.10 Special Events

Aim

1. Large scale events are permitted in designated areas of the Town Belt where they comply with appropriate legislation and policy.

Comments

The use of reserves for large-scale events is a legitimate and popular form of use. Events may, however, have adverse effects on reserve values, reserve users, and on reserve neighbours. Council needs to consider these effects when making decisions about the use of reserves for events.

Over the last 15 years Woodhaugh Gardens has hosted occasional events which have attracted over 10,000 people. During that time, concern has been expressed about the appropriateness of having such events at Woodhaugh Gardens. The large number of people using the reserve can lead to compaction of the reserve with adverse effects on the vegetation. This adverse effect needs to be balanced against the beneficial effects of events. These include recreation, social and community benefits. One large event will continue to be permitted per year at Woodhaugh Gardens.

The Gardens Ground is also occasionally used for events, and has in the past been used for fundraising events by various groups.

The Council has set aside an area at the Oval as the site for circuses, side-shows, gypsy fairs, or parking of vehicles for a certain period, and other similar events. The site has been prepared to be quick draining to

prevent it becoming muddy, thereby reducing damage occurring as a result of vehicle or tent use. This site is the only area where permission will be granted for these types of shows, displays or vehicle parking. This area can be booked through the Council booking system at the time permission is granted.

Objectives

1. To mitigate or remedy the adverse effects of events on Woodhaugh Gardens.
2. To allow the use of the Oval for circuses, side-shows, gypsy fairs, parking and similar uses, subject to policies in this management plan and the *Reserves Management Plan – General Policies*.

Policies

1. The policies on 'Special Events' and 'Circus and Side-Show Operators' in the *Reserves Management Plan – General Policies* applies in conjunction with this management plan.
2. Use of Woodhaugh Gardens is limited primarily to small-scale, picnic-style events. An upper limit of 150 people will be allowed for picnic-style and other events at Woodhaugh Gardens. Exemptions are possible upon Council approval.
3. One major event per year will be allowed at Woodhaugh Gardens per year, subject to the adverse effects of the event being remedied or mitigated. The event must be booked and Council have received written application at least 4 months in advance for first time events and two months in advance for repeat events.
4. The area set aside at the Oval for circuses, gypsy fairs, and other similar events, is the only area permitted for such activities.

3.11 Specific Management for Moana Pool

Aim

1. Moana Pool is managed as Dunedin's premier aquatic facility within the aims and objectives of this management plan.

Comment

Moana Pool, located on the Town Belt between Stuart Street and Littlebourne Road, was constructed between 1961 and 1964. Originally the pool was managed as an integral part of the reserve. Over time, management change has meant that the pool is managed separately from the reserve. The exterior of the pool, including the grounds and carparks, need to be managed in a way that is consistent with the Reserves Act 1977, management plans, and complementary to the surrounding reserve land.

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Swimming pools are legitimate facilities to be located on Recreation Reserves as they enhance public enjoyment of the reserve. As such they enhance the recreational value of the reserve. They may also, however, have adverse effects on reserve values other than recreation through their size and ancillary facility needs. Any redevelopment of Moana Pool may have adverse effects on the landscape and ecological values of the reserve. These negative effects need to be mitigated or remedied during all phases of the pool development. Development will also have positive effects on the recreation value of the reserve and there may be the need of a trade-off between the positive and negative effects.

Objectives

1. To allow the continued operation of Moana Pool within the Town Belt.
2. To allow the redevelopment of Moana Pool subject to any adverse effects being remedied or mitigated.

Policies

1. The continued operation of Moana Pool is allowed on the reserve.
2. Redevelopment of Moana Pool will be allowed on the present site subject to the adverse effects of the development being remedied or mitigated.

3.12 Specific Management for the Northern and Southern Cemeteries

Aim

1. The values of the cemeteries within the Town Belt have been protected and enhanced.

Comment

The Northern and Southern Cemeteries are both closed cemeteries. No new burials are possible in either of the cemeteries, although burials can be made within family plots. As the cemeteries are closed, their use for burials is no longer the main objective for these sites. Instead the protection of cultural heritage values takes precedence.

The Northern and Southern Cemeteries have significant cultural and heritage values, as well as specifically identified historic structures. A partnership has been formed with the Historic Cemeteries Conservation Trust of NZ (HCCTNZ) and the trust has been working with Council to develop the *Southern and Northern Cemeteries Conservation Management Plan*. This document provides the guiding principles for work in the Southern and Northern Cemeteries to assist with the historic conservation management and restoration.

The reserves contain a number of historic structures and features associated with Dunedin's early history. Known archaeological sites and historic structures include: The Northern Cemetery on Lovelock Ave contains a number of historic or archaeological sites/structures including Larnachs Tomb, the former Sextons cottage and a midden.

Objective

1. To recognise and protect the cultural heritage values of the Northern and Southern Cemeteries, while ensuring their management is consistent with the objectives of the rest of the Town Belt.

Policies

1. Areas of the Northern and Southern Cemeteries not managed for burials will be managed in a similar fashion to the nearest adjacent portions of the Town Belt.
2. Where the Northern and Southern Cemeteries contain monumental masonry that the Council considers to have significant cultural value, it may accept the maintenance of this masonry as a "public monument".
3. Vehicle access to the Northern and Southern Cemeteries will be restricted to the hours of daylight only. Vehicle use is also restricted to the formed driveways.
4. Where appropriate, Council may limit pedestrian access to the Northern and Southern Cemeteries at night for security and historic preservation reasons.
5. Vegetation maintenance within the Northern and Southern Cemeteries will take account of the cultural heritage values of these sites.
6. Commercial recreational use of the Northern and Southern Cemeteries is allowed where the purpose of the use is the interpretation of the cultural heritage value of the site.
7. Tenancies of buildings in the Southern and Northern Cemeteries may be allowed subject to the cultural heritage values of the cemeteries being maintained or enhanced by appropriate use.
8. Council will follow the principles of the *Southern and Northern Cemeteries Conservation Management Plan* prepared by the Historic Cemeteries Conservation Trust of NZ to guide the heritage management and restoration of these cemeteries.
9. Council may investigate alternative management options, such as vesting the management of the Northern and Southern Cemeteries in an appropriate Trust, in order to facilitate appropriate management of these reserves as historic cemeteries.

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3.13 Specific Management for Woodhaugh Scenic Reserve

These policies apply to Woodhaugh Scenic Reserve only (not Woodhaugh Recreation Reserve).

Aim

1. The ecological and historical values of the reserve have been preserved and enhanced for use by the Dunedin community.

Comments

The mature podocarps at Woodhaugh are the only indication of the more widespread forest community that once covered part of the North Dunedin flat as well as the Leith Valley and the hills beyond. They are also the only specimens which can confidently be identified as original cover on the Town Belt, and thus have considerable ecological and historical value. Although the forest environment at Woodhaugh has been considerably modified, it nevertheless should be preserved for those values. A return to the original swamp conditions, long removed by drainage and the re-routing of the Leith, is not practical in this urban setting, but retention of healthy forest cover will require that no further drainage is undertaken.

The Council recognises that the main path through Woodhaugh is an important pedestrian route, and that it should continue to remain so. The grass and soft-surface tracks through the Reserve offer opportunity for recreation and for the public to appreciate the forest character.

Because of the limited extent of the reserve, it cannot accommodate buildings without some detriment to its natural features. There is provision in the Reserves Act 1977 for leasing of Scenic Reserve land for recreational uses or trading occupations necessary for public enjoyment of the reserve. Although operators such as fast-food concessionaires could bring an added attraction to the reserve, the concentrated use generated by their operations would have a detrimental impact on the natural features that the reserve protects.

Objectives

1. To retain and develop the remnant lowland forest on the Woodhaugh Scenic Reserve.
2. To permit pedestrian access to the reserve, subject to the need to protect native vegetation.
3. To prohibit the construction of buildings within the Woodhaugh Scenic Reserve.
4. To prohibit leasing or other tenancies within the Woodhaugh Scenic Reserve.

Policies

1. The Council shall take such steps as necessary to ensure that the water table in the Reserve is not further lowered.
2. Replenishment of vegetation shall, where possible, use stock from the reserve's indigenous vegetation.
3. Non-indigenous vegetation (including natives other than local provenance) shall be phased out by removal of aggressive colonisers and seedlings, and non-replacement of existing tree specimens.
4. The Council will promote the enhancement of riparian areas in the Reserve.
5. No buildings will be allowed on Woodhaugh Scenic Reserve.
6. No part of the Woodhaugh Scenic Reserve will be leased.



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4 GENERAL INFORMATION

This section contains general information about the Town Belt and issues associated with it.

4.1 Town Belt History

Survey and Settlement

The concept of a town belt separating the city from its suburbs arose out of the increased attention given to urban conditions as the effects of the agrarian and industrial revolutions became apparent. Its application to Dunedin can be traced to the influence of Edward Gibbon Wakefield. Wakefield, who had been the driving force behind the South Australia Company's settlement at Adelaide, was a director of the New Zealand Company. Both companies brought together social idealists concerned with the socio-economic composition of colonies and the design and layout of cities.

The 1837 plan for Adelaide provided for a belt of park lands up to half a mile wide surrounding and separating two urban areas. Wellington, surveyed in 1840, differed from Adelaide in its seaside position and hilly setting. Again, however, a broad belt of park land was surveyed between town and country.

The surveyor of Dunedin, Charles Kettle, was an assistant to Charles Mein who surveyed Wellington. Kettle's instructions provided broadly for:

in laying out the chief town, due provision to be made for public purposes, as fortifications, sites for places of public worship and instruction, baths, wharves, quays, cemeteries, squares, a park, and other places for health and recreation . . .

No specific instruction to lay out a belt is recorded, however, it seems logical in a site similar to Wellington to adopt such a feature. Generally, the land set aside as reserve was unsuitable for urban development.

The Belt was little affected by the early years of settlement, apart from its occasional use by squatters, and the 1849 establishment of a cricket ground at Montecillo. The New Zealand Company, which administered the settlement until surrender of its charter in 1850, was too financially straitened to do more than basic road construction. The Company's property then reverted to the Crown, and colonial administration to the Wellington-based Province of New Munster.

The passage of the New Zealand Constitution Act in 1852, and consequent establishment of Provinces with directly-elected councils, re-established local responsibility for many public works, including reserves. A Board of Commissioners to manage the city reserves was set up under the *Dunedin Public Lands Ordinance*

1854. In its reference to the Town Belt, the ordinance gives an indication of the philosophy which was to frame future developments:

In leases of... the Town Belt, stipulations shall be made for preserving the trees and shrubs thereon, or such part of them as it may be desirable to preserve, with a view to the ornament and amenity of the ground, and also for draining and improving it, and ultimately laying it down in grass, with walks and carriage drives, as a public park or place of public recreation. Provided that no buildings or other erections, other than the necessary fencing, shall be erected on said lands.

The Colonial Government, however, disputed the legality of the Ordinance, and effectively repealed most of its provisions by the subsequent passage of the *Public Reserves Act 1854*. Under that Act, the Crown ownership of reserves was confirmed, and the grant of such lands to Superintendents of Provinces, in trust for specified purposes, was provided for.

Establishment of Municipal Government

The Dunedin Town Board, constituted by Provincial Ordinance in 1855, was primarily concerned with application of its meagre funds to the pressing need for roading, jetties and drainage, and paid little attention to the Belt and reserves. Yet during the Board's term of office, Dunedin's population was to swell dramatically as a result of immigration and the 1861 discovery of gold. The population rose from 890 in 1857 to 15,790 seven years later. The Belt became both a home for squatters and a source of firewood and timber, and part (Arthur Street) was appropriated in 1858 by the Provincial Council for a cemetery.

By 1862, concern was mounting amongst the public and the Provincial Council at the despoliation of the Belt. The *Otago Daily Times* of 15 September 1862 contended that:

The beauty of the Town Belt is being gradually but surely destroyed by the indiscriminate felling of the timber that forms its chief ornament... if the Town Belt is really a reserve for public recreation it is imperatively necessary that the Town Board should take steps to preserve it, and vigorously prosecute all persons defacing it... Apparently because Dunedin has natural ornamental plantations of surpassing beauty, the authorities appear to regard them with indifference, and to look upon their preservation as a matter of no moment.

In the same year, the Provincial Government passed a Dunedin Improvement Ordinance which, for the first time, clearly stated the Board's responsibility for the Belt. The Board responded in July 1863 with a request that the Superintendent take the necessary steps

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to have the Town Belt and all City reserves vested in himself by Crown grant, so that in turn they could be placed under the Board's control, to be an asset as well as a liability. But this was not to occur in the Board's time. Crisis-ridden, the Board was dissolved in April 1865.

The Crown Grant of the Town Belt to the Superintendent was secured in November 1865, and the following year, by the *Dunedin Reserves Management Ordinance 1865*, management of the Belt was vested in the newly established City Council in trust for recreation purposes. The Provincial Government, however, retained the power to set aside roads on the Belt.

The Council's Reserves Ranger, appointed in June 1866, reported in August that there were 75 squatters on the Town Belt, however, greater public concern was to be roused by the Council's own decision to lease portions of the Belt for grazing. The 'Times' of 19 December 1866 echoed public condemnation:

... it is not in a mere utilitarian or monetary aspect that such a procedure should be considered and the ideal questions to be considered are, for what purpose the land was reserved, and whether the corporation have or have not acted with due regard to their office as guardians of the rights of the Citizens... It has evidently been the intention of reserving the Belt and recreation grounds, that they should remain unenclosed, unbuilt upon—places free from the contamination of the everyday, bustling, active life of man...

The 'Times' compared Dunedin's bounty of open space with the crowded industrial cities of Britain, where land was now being purchased for public reserves, and declared that "were any encroachment made upon these reserves in Great Britain, scarcely anything would restrain the indignation of the people; and such a measure would at once arouse everyone concerned to resistance."

The citizens of Dunedin were suitably aroused to form a Belt Preservation Committee and, with opposition also expressed by the Provincial Council, the Council eventually resolved in 1872 to discontinue leases, although some leasing was to continue for at least thirty years. In the same year the pressing need for further cemetery land led to the setting apart of the Northern Cemetery on the Belt, though again not without public opposition. Meanwhile, in 1869, an area of the Belt previously occupied by the Acclimatisation Society, became the new site for the Dunedin Botanical Gardens.

The 'Daily Times' moved from indignation to scorn when the next proposal for the Belt, the laying out of

part in building sections for sale, was brought before the Council in 1874 by Councillor C S Reeves. The motion was lost, and in its place the Council resolved "... *that the alienation of any portion of the Town Belt for building purposes would be a gross breach of trust on the part of the Council.*"

It is notable, however, that a third of the Councillors supported the motion: the urge to utilise the 'wasted' asset of the Belt was shared by others on the Council and in the community. There was further public protest, and formation of a new Belt Defence Committee, in 1875, when a fever hospital was erected on the Belt during an epidemic of scarlet fever.

The Council finally addressed the improvement of the Belt in 1872, when the City Surveyor, S H Mirams, was directed to draw up plans. Their main feature, the scenic Queens Drive, was completed in 1876, and work on the laying out of gardens at Woodhaugh and a sportsground at the Oval was begun. Further development occurred at "Tomlinson's Paddock" (Jubilee Park) in 1887 when Queen Victoria's Jubilee was celebrated by the planting of trees of the British Empire. The interest aroused in Belt development was to lead to the creation, under Alexander Bathgate's leadership, of the Dunedin and Suburban Reserves Conservation Society (later the Amenities Society) as a watchdog of the City's reserves and their development.

In 1884 the Council had reassumed the mantle of Botanical Domain Board, and protested loudly to the central Government at the expense of keeping both Town Belt and Botanic Garden. The result was the *Dunedin Cattle-market Reserve Leasing Act 1885*, whereby the Council was empowered to lease the reserve at the top of Serpentine Avenue, never used for its intended purpose, for residential purposes, and to apply the income in upkeep of the Belt and Garden.

As the area grazed diminished, the slow process of natural revegetation was enhanced by plantings carried out on Arbour Day and by the Amenities Society and Council. In the 1880s and 1890s, much work was done by the Town Belt rangers, school children, Benevolent Institution inmates and unemployment relief workers on the control of the more aggressive exotic species among the colonisers: gorse, broom and elderberry. Another problem plant entered the Belt; as a desired species in 1888 the Chief Gardener recommended the planting of sycamore in vacant areas.

The vegetation changes were at the expense of many native species, as the naturalist George Thomson remarked in the 'Times' of 8 July 1901:

Since I first became acquainted with our Town Belt, 30 years ago, great changes have taken place and are still in active progress. In that circumscribed

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area there are still growing about 208 species of indigenous plants, 45 species which formerly grew in the Belt have either disappeared or become so rare that I do not know where to lay my hands on a specimen. Of the 53 species of ferns which formerly grew within the Belt, only about 14 now survive.

As well as an increasing network of roads and paths linking the suburbs with the City centre, the first cable car route (Roslyn) was laid in 1881, to a terminus in the Belt. The introduction of shorter working hours, together with an increasing emphasis on leisure and sport, meant that the Council was pressed to satisfy regular requests for sporting areas. The Belt was called upon to perform a two-fold duty, since the creation of its many sportsfields was to provide the City with a succession of rubbish tip sites until the 1960s.

The grazing of horses on the Belt ceased in 1918, but the following year the Council appointed a shepherd and undertook a programme of sheep grazing to keep down grass on the Belt and other reserves. The financial returns were not great however, and like the potato cropping begun during the war, the grazing scheme was eventually discontinued.

As Dunedin matured, there was an increased concern as to the extent of encroachment of private properties and driveways onto the Belt, and reports were called for in 1940 and again in 1960. The extension of Stuart Street (1948) and the construction of Moana Pool (1964) were more emphatic, however, in their effect on the appearance of the Belt, and roading encroached to a lesser extent in the development of motorways to the north (1959) and south (1985). The essential contribution of the Belt to Dunedin's scenery and character was recognised in a 1969 report to the Dunedin Metropolitan Regional Planning Authority, which pointed especially to the dangers posed to the Belt's beauty by weed growth, unplanned recreational developments and mediocre design. Similarly, the Belt is recognised as one of Dunedin's main landscape features in the District Plan.

The 1980s and 1990s have seen few major changes to the Town Belt. Work has continued on the development of sportsfields, however, this has been limited to improving existing fields. The major issue has been community concern about noxious plants. Concern about the presence of private driveways has continued. On a more positive note, Council has purchased several areas to add to the Town Belt as well as starting to manage, as Town Belt, adjacent reserves.

4.2 Landscape

From many city viewpoints, the Town Belt appears as a band of open space running across the slopes above central Dunedin. It forms a distinctive backdrop to

the downtown area and visually segregates the urban development of the inner city from that of the suburbs. A strong visual relationship exists between the open space of the Town Belt and that of the hill backdrop against which the city as a whole is viewed. Both expanses of open space provide a clear visual definition to the edge of urban development. The visual qualities of both the urban areas and the open space are accentuated and enhanced as a result of this sharp contrast.

From within the inner city area, the steep slopes of the Town Belt limit views to the suburbs beyond. The inner city obtains a distinct visual identity from this containment and a pleasing sense of enclosure is experienced. From more distant low-level viewpoints the steep Town Belt slopes limit views to most of the residential areas that lie above them, but the rural backdrop of hills beyond the city remains visible.

The Town Belt topography is highly varied being dissected by numerous minor ridges and gullies. The significant changes in slope, aspect and elevation mean that some areas are much more highly visible than others. In general, the sections of the belt that combine steep slopes and high elevations achieve the greatest visual prominence. Tree cover over the Town Belt is virtually continuous, particularly when it is viewed from a distance. This continuity is disrupted only in limited areas primarily where sportsfields have been developed. As these are located on flatter areas, they are generally not visible from a distance. One or two large grassed areas do however, extend down steeper slopes and disrupt the pleasant continuity of the tree cover.

While the Town Belt is an important landscape feature city-wide and when viewed from a distance, it plays an equally important role close-up and when experienced at a more personal level it forms an integral part of the outlook from many Dunedin properties; it provides a cool, green, enclosed and peaceful environment for the many residents who use it on a regular basis, in addition to providing a superb setting for the scenic drive that traverses the hills above the central city area. The Town Belt as a landscape feature therefore has a considerable value at a local neighbourhood level as well as to the city as a whole.

4.3 Ecological Values

Surveys of vegetation, birds, and terrestrial invertebrates were undertaken in the Dunedin Town Belt during March–June 2006 by Wildland Consultants as part of the *Ecological Assessment of the Dunedin Town Belt 2006*. 23 management units were identified as part of this process, and information has been recorded for these sites. The information summarised below has been sourced from this document.

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There are a significant number of moth species found in the Town Belt and Woodhaugh Gardens and these will be monitored as part of future ecological assessments to ensure the number of species remain active within the existing habitat.

Flora

The predominant vegetation cover of the Town Belt are kanuka forest, moist broadleaved forest, exotic coniferous-deciduous forest, and mown grassland, but alluvial forest, dry broadleaved forest, swamp forest, cliff vegetation, rough grassland, and heathland vegetation occur locally. Stuart Street marks a major change in the overall composition and structure of the Town Belt, with native-dominant forest the predominant cover north of Stuart Street, and exotic-dominant forest and mown grassland the main vegetation south of Stuart Street. This change is also reflected in understorey composition, with several native trees, shrubs, lianes, and monocot herbs being more common in the north of the Town Belt, while native dicot herbs are more common in the southern part.

In total, 394 vascular plants were recorded in the Town Belt, of which two thirds were exotic or non-local native species. Three of the native species are classified as nationally threatened, uncommon, or data deficient. Fifty-six additional native species are uncommon in the Town Belt, but are not necessarily rare or uncommon in the wider Dunedin area.

Mown grassland vegetation is dominated by exotic grasses and herbs, but where partial shade exists, or soil fertility is low, native grasses and herbs can often be found, and in rare cases, may dominate small sites. There is often a band of rough grassland between mown grassland and forest vegetation. In many sites, small areas of mown or rough grassland are being restored to native vegetation by plantings of native trees and shrubs. In the south of the Town Belt, small patches of mown heathland vegetation occur, presumably where soil fertility is very low. These areas have a distinctive flora of both exotic and native species.

Alluvial forest had the greatest richness of native species, the greatest density of native tree saplings, the greatest basal area of native trees, and the greatest frequency of non-woody species in subplots. It is clearly a forest type of high value in the Town Belt. *Coprosma grandifolia* reached its greatest tree density and basal area in broadleaved forest, but had greater sapling density in exotic forest. Its lowest tree density and basal area was in dry forest. These features indicate that moist habitats are most at risk from *Coprosma grandifolia* invasion, which is of concern given the predominance of moist forest habitat in the vicinity of Dunedin. The ability of *Coprosma grandifolia* to reach very high densities in the forest understorey and subcanopy of

broadleaved forest is probably responsible for the low frequency of native ground cover herbs and ferns in this forest type. *Coprosma grandifolia* will reach similar densities in alluvial forest if not controlled.

Compared with similar forests in a nearby Valley, native plant diversity is relatively low in Town Belt forests and this is consistent across all plant types. This is true for all plant types, but especially so for herbs, ferns, and divaricate understorey shrubs. The main difference between the two sites is that the Town Belt forests are much more fragmented and disturbed. The Town Belt also exists in close proximity to residential housing, a factor which is known to be associated with high levels of weed invasion (Timmins & Williams 1991; Lee, Williams & Cameron 2000; Sullivan, Timmins & Williams 2005). Competition with weeds such as *Coprosma grandifolia*, rangiora, sycamore, wandering jew, ivy, and aluminium plant is likely to be a major factor reducing the diversity and frequency of locally native understorey and ground cover plants.

Rare and uncommon species

Three plant species recorded at the site are classified as nationally threatened, uncommon, or data deficient (de Lange, Norton, Heenan, Courtney, Molloy, Ogle, Rance, Johnson & Hitchmough 2004). The tree *Raukaua edgerleyi*, listed as 'Gradual Decline', was recorded at the Alhambra and Wallace sites. Only three individuals were seen, all mature trees. Another small tree, fierce lancewood (*Pseudopanax ferox*), which is listed as 'Sparse', was seen at the Prospect site. A single subadult tree was seen here. The sedge *Carex raoulii*, listed as 'Data Deficient', was seen on steep slopes at the Prospect site, where at least 20 plants were present. Fifty six additional native species present in the Town Belt occur naturally at six or fewer sites. Seventeen of these were recorded from only one site.

North of Stuart Street, on average 7.4 rare or uncommon plants were found per site, compared with 4.8 per site south of Stuart Street. All occurrences of the rare and uncommon trees, shrubs, and sedges, and the majority of occurrences of other monocots, grasses, ferns, and climbers, were recorded north of Stuart Street, in contrast to uncommon dicot herbs which were mostly recorded south of Stuart Street. Dicot herbs and ferns were numerically dominant among the rare and uncommon plant species found in the Town Belt, followed by trees and shrubs, monocot herbs and grasses, and climbers. Compared to the total number of species from each life form, dicot herbs and grasses were proportionally more likely to be rare or uncommon, with around three quarters of each of these life forms classed as uncommon in the Town Belt. Just under half of the ferns, monocot herbs, and climbers present at the site were uncommon, while only a fifth of the trees and shrubs were uncommon.

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Most of the uncommon tree species are typically found as emergents in podocarp/broadleaved forest. These include kahikatea, pokaka, totara, and Hall's totara. Other podocarps such as rimu, matai, and miro, were not recorded in the Town Belt except as planted individuals. Most of these species would have been removed by logging from the Town Belt in previous eras. Non-timber trees of fertile alluvial forest such as ribbonwood and narrow-leaved lacebark are also uncommon, reflecting the scarcity of this habitat within the Town Belt. Similarly, species of open streamsides such as toetoe and tree tutu are restricted by the general lack of open streams within the Town Belt. Other species, such as fierce lancewood, *Helichrysum lanceolatum*, *Haloragis erecta*, plume grass (*Dichelachne crinita*), button fern (*Pellaea rotundifolia*), *Poa colensoi*, *Asplenium flabellifolium*, *A. obtusatum*, *Blechnum vulcanicum*, *Microlaena polynoda*, and *Pseudognaphalium luteo-album*, are species of dry sites, rock outcrops, or coastal vegetation, and were mostly found at Town Belt sites that have cliffs. These species would have been more or less restricted to these cliff locations when forest covered the Dunedin hills, prior to anthropogenic forest clearance.

Fauna

Avifauna

Twenty-two bird species were recorded during the survey, which were evenly divided between native and exotic species.

Silvereye (*Zosterops lateralis*), blackbird (*Turdus merula*), redpoll (*Carduelis flammea*), bellbird (*Anthornis melanura*), and grey warbler (*Gerygone igata*) were recorded at all 23 sampling locations and were the five most abundant species, in that order. House sparrow (*Passer domesticus*), dunnoek (*Prunella modularis*), fantail (*Rhipidura fuliginosa*), song thrush (*Turdus philomelos*), kereru (*Hemiphaga novaeseelandiae*), greenfinch (*Carduelis chloris*), and chaffinch (*Fringilla coelebs*) were moderately common, while the remaining species were recorded only infrequently. Of the remaining native species, tomtit (*Petroica macrocephala*) and little shag (*Phalacrocorax melanoleucos*) were recorded at only one site each, while brown creeper (*Mohoua novaeseelandiae*) was recorded at three.

The birds that were recorded are typical species of rural terrestrial habitats on the east coast of the South Island. The Town Belt provides moderately important habitat for native birds, in part due to the presence of exotic species that provide a seasonal food resource when other sources of food are less abundant. Important food plants for birds can be used in restoration and amenity plantings to enhance native bird populations.

If counting had taken place during the breeding season then both song thrush and dunnoek would have been

likely to be more widespread, whereas fantail could be expected to occur at fewer sites as many of the birds observed in this survey were juveniles and these are known to disperse beyond their natal areas. Kereru were recorded in 14 of the 23 sites during the survey but were present at every site when overflying birds and those recorded outside the count times are added. Brown creeper, tui, and welcome swallow were regularly recorded only at a few sites. Brown creeper were seen mostly in the more extensive stands of native bush around the suburb of Maori Hill. Tui were predominantly found in Maori Hill and around the Botanic Garden, and welcome swallow mostly near the Leith Stream where they nest under the bridges. Rosellas were recorded only near the Northern Cemetery and although they are occasionally seen elsewhere, this is in accord with anecdotal evidence which indicates a distribution centred on the Woodhaugh and Botanic Gardens.

The diversity of native birds was greatest at the Woodhaugh pool site, where eight native species were recorded during the survey, followed by the Northern Cemetery and Botanic Garden herb garden sites where seven native species were recorded, and six native species at the Lovelock, Tolcarne, and Wallace south sites. Most of the remaining sites recorded four or five native birds, but only three were recorded at the Botanic Garden South African garden and Maori south sites.

The density of native birds at each site was strongly influenced by silvereye density, but was greatest at sites with predominantly native forest cover, and least at sites dominated by amenity or exotic vegetation. Thus the Tolcarne, Wallace, Maori north, Lovelock, Dundas, Lachlan, and Woodhaugh pool sites had the greatest density of native birds (13-22 individuals), while fewer than ten individuals were recorded at the Botanic Garden, Maori south, Jubilee north, Montecillo, and Southern Cemetery sites, and the remaining sites were intermediate.

Starlings (*Sturnus vulgaris*) and blackbirds were the only birds that were regularly seen on areas of mown grass, although red-billed gulls were common at the Botanic Gardens site. Blackbirds and song thrushes were more common at the Eglinton site where longer, damper mown grass provided better feeding conditions. Large numbers of red-billed gulls, pied oystercatchers (*Haematopus ostralegus*), and variable oystercatchers (*Haematopus unicolor*), are known to roost and feed on Town Belt playing fields, particularly during wet or stormy weather.

Invertebrates

A total of 1,227 invertebrate individuals were recovered from the 60 pitfall traps established at 15 sites in four representative Town Belt forest types. Springtails and amphipods were numerically dominant, with a

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total diversity of 19 invertebrate orders represented. Invertebrate abundance and diversity at order, family, and morphotaxon level was consistently highest in dry forest, which appears to be an important invertebrate habitat in the Town Belt. Broadleaved forest had the lowest number of invertebrate individuals caught, although diversity at the order level was greater than in alluvial or exotic forest. Carabid beetles and large spiders were relatively abundant, indicating intact invertebrate food chains and generally habitat wellness.

Dry forest had both the greatest average invertebrate trap catch and the greatest number of invertebrate orders represented in the catch. Exotic forest had the second highest average trap catch, followed by alluvial forest and broadleaved forest. The higher trap catches in dry forest and exotic forest were largely due to abundant springtail activity at these sites. Although the invertebrate catch in broadleaved forest was half as much as in dry forest, the number of invertebrate orders represented was not much lower. On average, every pitfall trap in dry forest sites caught one beetle, which was twice as many as in alluvial forest, and almost four times as many as in broadleaved or exotic forest. Amphipods, isopods, and harvestmen were more abundant in the three native-dominated forest types than in exotic forest, while the reverse was true for millipedes. Amphipods and flies were more abundant in alluvial and dry forest than the other two forest types, possibly because these forest types are less modified by weed invasion. Worms and snails were more abundant in broadleaved forest.

Carabid beetles were more abundant than individuals from any other beetle family, which is an indicator of habitat wellness as these beetles occupy the top of the invertebrate food chain. Large spiders in family Clubionidae were also relatively abundant, again suggesting that invertebrate food chains are functional. Dry forest had greatest invertebrate activity and consistently high diversity at order, family, and morphotaxon level, indicating that this forest type provides valuable habitat for Town Belt invertebrates. This may be due in part to generally lower densities of ground cover and canopy weeds in this forest type. Exotic forest had large numbers of springtails, and the highest trap catch of millipedes, but generally low numbers of other invertebrate taxa were caught. Relatively few invertebrates were caught in broadleaved forest, but they were from a moderately diverse range of taxa. A moderate number of invertebrates were trapped in alluvial forest, but diversity was relatively low. Some invertebrate taxa were trapped only in one or two forest types, but the pattern was inconsistent between different invertebrate groups.

4.4 Cultural Heritage Values

The Town Belt has significant European heritage val-

ues. Monuments on the Town Belt include the South African War Memorial (Boer War, The Oval), Admiral Byrd Memorial Lookout (25th Anniversary of Jaycees and 1928 Byrd expedition to Antarctica, Unity Park), Jubilee Memorial (Queen Victoria's Jubilee, Jubilee Park) and the Memorial Obelisk (site of Arthur Street Cemetery).

Both the Southern and Northern Cemeteries contain Otago Pakeha history. Johnny Jones, Thomas Burns and William Cargill are all buried in the Southern Cemetery, while William Larnach and Thomas Bracken are buried at the Northern Cemetery. Littlebourne has been the site for a cemetery, military barracks and a lunatic asylum before its present use as a school and sportsfield. Conservation Management Plans exist for both the Southern and Northern Cemeteries.

The Northern Cemetery on Lovelock Ave contains a number of historic or archaeological sites/structures including Larnachs Tomb, the former Sextons cottage and a midden. These are recorded in the Dunedin City District Plan.

4.5 Educational Values

The Town Belt has a rich historical geography. The historical, ecological, recreational, economic and landscape values of the Town Belt, enhance the quality of life for the people of Dunedin. These values need to be promoted through the education of the general public to develop an awareness and appreciation of the natural and scenic qualities the Town Belt provides. Through community involvement in the research, promotion, and education of reserve values, a knowledge of the resource can be developed which will improve future management planning of the Town Belt and ensure its appropriate use. Interpretive information like signs, monuments, memorials, plaques and visitor information, helps to promote and educate people about the Town Belt and its significance to the City of Dunedin.

A number of schools use the Town Belt for ongoing educational purposes and may be involved with bush regeneration work close to the school. Having children develop a sense of pride in, and guardianship of, bush areas helps reduce vandalism in the area and will increase their appreciation of natural areas.

A variety of community groups also assist with weed-ing and revegetation projects in the Town Belt.

4.6 Use of the Town Belt

Access

Pedestrian access to the Town Belt is available from many points, either, through roadside access, and from the network of paths throughout the Town Belt. Vehicle access is facilitated through the Town Belt by

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the network of legal and public access routes (non-legal roads) that has been developed on the reserves. The public vehicle routes (non legal roads) and legal roads facilitate access to suburbs on either side of the Town Belt, such as Stuart St, roads primarily for a scenic drive, and other smaller public access routes that provide access to residential areas adjoining the Town Belt and clubs within the Town Belt.

Recreational Use

The size and location of the Town Belt make it one of Dunedin's main recreation areas for both formal and informal use. A wide variety of facilities and activities located on the Town Belt, provide many recreational opportunities for Dunedin residents and visitors to the city.

There are a total of 22 sportsfields on the Town Belt, which provides a significant contribution to the City's sportsfields systems. These are located at The Oval, Montecillo Ground, Unity Park, Mornington Park, Jubilee Park, Robin Hood Park, Roberts park, Littlebourne Ground, Prospect Park, the Gardens Ground and Opoho Park. Sporting codes using these fields include rugby union, rugby league, soccer, and cricket. Golf, bowls, croquet and tennis clubs are all domiciled on the reserve, with each of these codes supplying their own facilities. Walking and running through the Town Belt are popular, with use by orienteers, walking groups and individuals. A skateboarding bowl is located at Mornington Park and a mountain-bike course at Jubilee Park. The Jubilee track is used for children's MTB events and training programmes. Dunedin's main swimming venue, Moana Pool, is located on the Town Belt, and this is used for a variety of aquatic sports.

The need for these types of family friendly MTB tracks is becoming more important to the community as interest in mountain biking is ever increasing, and a wide range of the community is interested in easy to use tracks. Increasing opportunities for both walking and mountain biking through the Town Belt is possible through improvements in the existing network and possible development of a track traversing the Town Belt.

11 playgrounds are located at various points on the Town Belt. These range from simple swing and slide local playgrounds through to community playgrounds. A paddling pool and picnic facilities are located at Woodhaugh Gardens. The Oval is the main site in the City for circuses and is used for festival events. Woodhaugh Gardens has played host to the food and wine festival. Lookouts are located at several points in the Town Belt and, together with Queens Drive, make it a popular site for scenic appreciation.

4.7 Issues

Maintenance Issues

The Dunedin Town Belt fulfils an important amenity role within Dunedin: it is a significant landscape feature, provides areas for recreation and is an important horticultural and botanical resource. As a high profile public reserve, its management and maintenance is important to the Dunedin community (especially for those who neighbour or regularly use the reserve).

Weeds and pests

A surveys of vegetation was undertaken in the Dunedin Town Belt during March-June 2006 by Wildland Consultants as part of the *Ecological Assessment of the Dunedin Town Belt 2006*. The information outlined below has been summarised from this document.

The Town Belt vegetation includes 44 problem weeds and weed control is the management issue of prime importance. The most widespread and serious weeds are sycamore, *Coprosma grandifolia*, rangiora, ivy, and male fern. Most of the weed species recorded in 2006 occupy an increased number of sites compared with previous surveys in 1982 and 1996. *Coprosma grandifolia* has increased in abundance at many sites, particularly where mature sycamore trees have been felled or poisoned. The weed burden is very high over most of the Town Belt. Serious adverse competitive effects on native understorey and ground cover plants are evident, and regeneration of native canopy trees is being inhibited. Collapse of the native canopy and completed domination of wide areas of the Town Belt by exotic and non-local native plants will be the inevitable outcome in the absence of effective weed control.

Sign of pest animals (generally possum – *Trichosurus vulpecula*) was commonly seen in Town Belt vegetation and are having local effects on palatable trees, and in some cases defoliating these to such an extent that tree mortality occurs.

Weed control is the management issue of prime importance if the ecological values of the Town Belt are to be sustained. Regeneration of locally-native canopy tree species is being inhibited across wide areas of the Town Belt. Without effective weed control, the medium to long term outcome will be collapse of the native forest canopy. This will have the additional effect of removing potential seed sources by which locally-native species could regenerate in the absence of heavy weed infestations. The result will be complete domination of the Town Belt forests by exotic and non-local plants.

Alienation of Land /Encroachments

Since the Town Belt was established, encroachments on to the reserve have existed. The number of en-

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encroachments is continually increasing, especially with increased development of residential properties adjacent to the Town Belt.

Encroachment activities include gardening, small or significant boundary extensions, digging up reserves for driveways, house extensions onto the reserve, location of garden sheds, and filling in reserves to create extensive lawn and garden areas. The primary type of encroachment is access ways across the reserve to private properties. Accessways can adversely affect the recreation and landscape values of the Town Belt, as can the use of the Town Belt for utilities (power, water and telephone). Access ways in particular, but also other forms of encroachments, can result in areas of reserves being isolated or separated from other areas, i.e. encroachments provide a physical barrier. This can have impacts on the use of the site by the public and impact on ecological values. Encroachments also take public land and privatise it, thereby excluding the public or giving the appearance of private ownership.

Good maintenance standards and weed removal around boundaries and planting of appropriate species may help reduce some of the reasons people encroach, by showing that the reserves are well looked after. Clearer boundary definition and fencing may also be required.

Council intends taking a proactive approach to establish the extent and impacts of encroachments, and implement an appropriate course of action to formalise or remove encroachments.

Issues with public vehicle routes

Many of the public vehicle routes within the Dunedin Town Belt are not located on legal road reserve. These have been created to allow for easier access across the Town Belt, to specific areas or facilities, and to provide scenic routes for locals and visitors alike. It is important that a balance be maintained between access to, and through the reserve, and the other values of the Town Belt. In some cases it is only small sections of these public vehicle routes that are within the reserve, whereas, in other cases it is extensive stretches, or the entire length of a vehicle route that is within the Town Belt.

Generally, people do not realise that while these are being used as public roads they are not located on legal road reserve, and the underlying status of the land below the tar seal is still reserve.

Issues primarily arise with people wanting access from these public vehicle routes to access residential properties, particularly where the boundary between these public vehicle routes and private properties may not be clear. Issues may also relate to development and resource consents and whether certain provisions do or do not apply, e.g. frontage rules.

These public vehicle routes also act to dissect areas of the Town Belt, which can impact on the integrity and quality of vegetation areas, increase weed spread, and impact on the soil and vegetation stability. The increased access provided by these public vehicle routes allows increased opportunities for dumping of garden rubbish, household litter, and larger unwanted items, that people can't be bothered disposing of appropriately. This is particularly a problem at the end of the year when student flats within the Town Belt are vacated and rubbish is left behind or dumped.

Many of the public vehicle routes through the Town Belt are used for all day parking. This has impacts on the reserve, as damage is done to the grass and vegetation adjacent to the public vehicle routes. This in turn makes it difficult for pedestrians who are forced to walk on the road to avoid the muddy, ripped up grass verge. In places, the parked vehicles also restrict the usable area of the narrow streets therefore impacting on other motorists, cyclists and pedestrian. The nature of the public vehicle routes through the Town Belt also results in hoons speeding through some areas, again putting other users at risk.

Roads, vehicle routes, and paths

Most parts of the Town Belt receive considerable recreational use and a large number of well-established and informal tracks pass through it. The Town Belt is also cut by legal roads and public vehicle routes (non-legal roads), particularly the lengthy section between the Prospect and Eglinton sites. These public vehicle routes and tracks can be associated with undesirable ecological effects on the Town Belt, including dumping of rubbish and enhancing dispersal of animal pests and weeds. The effects of paths, vehicle routes, and roads as corridors for weed dispersal through the Town Belt depends partly on whether or not there is a closed forest canopy above, since many weeds favour forest edges. However shade tolerant weed such as rangiora are often found along trackside banks below a forest canopy. In these cases, the banks provide bare ground which is ideal for weed seed germination, and sites where competition from existing vegetation is less intense.

Rubbish Dumping

A considerable amount of rubbish has accumulated in the Town Belt. The nature of this rubbish is related to adjacent land use. Where the Town Belt shares borders with suburban gardens, dumped garden and household waste is often present. Below carparks and lookout sites, takeaway food containers comprise most of the rubbish. Roadside sites are associated with most kinds of rubbish dumping. Dumping of garden waste in the Town Belt should be strongly discouraged because of its association with weed invasion. Other kinds of rubbish do not have a great ecological effect

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but are unsightly and are likely to reduce community pride in the Town Belt.

Several of the problem weeds present in the Town Belt have clearly arrived in garden waste that has been illegally dumped in the Town Belt. Ground cover weeds such as aluminium plant and wandering jew appear to have invaded the Town Belt primarily through this route.

Streams

Many of the small streams passing through the Town Belt have become deeply incised into the soil, are subject to bank erosion, and support only sparse riparian vegetation. These streams would normally have low flows and run over cobbles and boulders, or between stable banks covered by dense ground fern vegetation. One factor that may be responsible for their current state is increased flow variability due to runoff from roads and other sealed surfaces being quickly channelled into stream courses. This would result in greatly increased flood flows during rainfall events, which would remove cobbles and small boulders, thus leaving stream beds unprotected and vulnerable to erosion by gullyng and bank slumping. Incision of these streams has also resulted in loss of wet riparian margins which would have provided habitat for small herbs. Some of the streams passing through the Town Belt give off an unpleasant odour and the water quality of these could be improved. Examples of these streams are those passing through the Tolcarne and Scarba sites. The Woodhaugh site contains many flood channels, most of which have been dewatered or no longer carry flood flows. Re-establishing water flows through these flood channels would enhance the ecological processes that are typical of alluvial forests.

Development Issues

Increased development is resulting in additional pressure on the Town Belt, particularly where properties are subdivided and vehicle access to both sections is not physically possible from the existing property frontage. People have the expectation that they should be allowed to establish access over the Town Belt for their additional allotments created, or to provide easier access to residential properties. Access and parking are also an issue where properties are developed to create multiple numbers of flats on a property. Where properties have existing access, a change in the scale and intensity of the activity on the site could have an impact on whether any previous permission for access is still valid, or if such an application would be considered as a new application. Increased development also results in increased parking requirements, either on or off site, which again impact on the reserve either directly or once again through the desire for access to provide off street parking.

There are a number of allegedly contaminated sites within the Town Belt that were previously used for landfills. Council has no plans for any development of these sites that would require excavation work to be undertaken at this time. If this changes and excavation work is identified at any of the sites, these will be tested first and consultation will be carried out with the Otago Regional Council in accordance with the Regional Plan: Waste rule 5.6.1.

Watercourses

There are a number of watercourses through the Town Belt that are severely impacting on the stability of the soil and vegetation around them, thereby affecting the quality of the ecosystem around the watercourse.

Primarily this is becoming more of an issue as properties around the Town Belt are developed and storm water is drained into the reserve and run off from hard surfaces on private properties increased. Councils preference is for private storm water not to be drained into water courses in reserves, however this is sometimes done illegally without Councils knowledge, or may be the only option, and Council permission may be granted.

Pipelines and cables

Pipelines and cables are put through reserves either to facilitate discharge to natural water courses or linking to mains lines from residential properties or the construction of pipes or cables by network operators to facilitate their activity.

All facilities being placed across Council reserves require easements. A formal process under the Reserves Act 1977 as well as Council policies are followed for the granting of easements.

This process ensures Council is aware of the location and ownership of pipes or cables through reserves and this is essential for the management and development of reserves. It also ensures that the applicant considers alternatives, and that organisations or individuals receiving private gain from the use of reserves is paying for that privilege.

Parking

Properties adjoining reserves often request permission to provide parking on reserve land. The Reserves Act 1977 only permits parking on reserves for reserve activities or facilities provided on the reserve. Olveston Historic House currently sits on non-reserve land adjacent to the Town Belt. In this situation parking for Olveston visitors is not permitted on the reserve. If, in the future, the land on which Olveston is located is classified as a reserve, parking on the Town Belt would be permitted under the Reserves Act.

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5 INDIVIDUAL RESERVE SECTIONS

5.1 Arthur Street Cemetery

Location

At the intersection of Arthur St, City Road and Rattray Streets, is the Arthur Street Local Purpose (Cemetery) Reserve.

History

The Arthur Street (or York Place) cemetery was set aside for that purpose in the original survey of Dunedin, and the first burial (1846) was of one of the surveyors' labourers. It remained Dunedin's only cemetery until 1858, when the Southern Cemetery was opened and the old site, of which only an area of 1500m² in the south-west corner had been used for burials, was closed. Subsequently, both the reserve and the adjacent portion of the Town Belt were used during the early 1860's as a camp for soldiers brought in to police the heady days of the gold rush. An adjacent portion, where Otago Boys' High School now stands, was used in 1863 as the site of a 'temporary' lunatic asylum, which remained until 1884.

The former graveyard lay neglected. The control of the land was to pass to the City in 1875 under the University of Otago Site Exchange Act, by virtue of which the site of the former Botanic Gardens was to pass from the Council back to Government control, and management of the cemetery reserve was to vest in the Council for recreation purposes. As a result of oversight by the Superintendent, and then by Council and central government, the status of the land remained, however, as 'closed cemetery reserve'. Its area was slightly over 15.25 acres. The process of the transfer was not accurately completed and the reserve was not actually transferred to Council. The land however, has been managed on the assumption that the transfer occurred and the land was under the management of the Council.

Soon after the transfer was thought to be complete, acquisition by the Crown for education purposes was sought. Three successive takings of land provided the sites of the (now) Arthur Street School (two acres by the Dunedin School Reserve Act 1877, 15 perches by proclamation in 1879) and the Otago Boys' High School (five acres 20 perches by Gazette notice, 1879).

The condition of the graveyard was finally addressed in 1880, when the gravestones were cleared away and the Council erected in their place a single obelisk bearing the names of those known to be buried there.

A quarry was opened on the reserve, uphill from Queens Drive, around 1860, and was used as a source of road metal.

In 1911 an area alongside Arthur Street School was allocated to the school as a cottage garden.

The portion of the reserve incorporating the former graveyard was redeveloped by the Council in 1945-46, with the removal of unsightly trees and improvement of the existing playground.

The need for easy vehicular access to the Arthur Street School, first raised by the school in 1945, was met in 1956 by the construction of a driveway across the Reserve from Arthur Street. The school has continued to use the access and over recent years has sought the use of additional land for parking. Permission for formal parking has not been granted.

Physical Character

The area of reserve primarily thought of as Arthur Street Reserve is the area adjacent to Arthur Street School.

The reserve slopes moderately to the east, and its dissection by two roads (City Road and Queens Drive) is heightened by the batters and cuttings alongside those roads. The Robin Hood Ground is physically distinct from the park adjoining the school, and the former quarry site forms a further distinct setting for the tennis courts. City Road is also one of the more 'European' entrances to the Town Belt; the trees in the reserve are dominated by exotic trees.

Buildings and Structures

Memorial obelisk
Children's playground

Access

There is no car-parking on the reserve, and although City Road, Ross Street and Arthur Street offer parking space, City Road in particular is not ideal for parking because of its alignment and considerable traffic volume.

Present Use

Playground
Open Space

Adjacent Land Use

The Arthur Street School obtains access across the reserve, and this roadway has been gradually extended to include a parking area on the reserve, without apparent Council sanction. The boundary is fenced but on the western side, there is no distinct boundary where the reserve adjoins the Town Belt. To the east, the area across City Road and Arthur Street is largely residential.

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5.2 Belleknoves

Location

Between Lawson Street, Ross Street and Queens Drive, Belleknoves.

History

The open ground at Belleknoves was for many years leased for grazing, and was gradually converted to exotic turf with the eradication of gorse and other weeds. The first record of its development is that of the Amenities Society's sowing of two bushels of acorns at Belleknoves; further planting of exotic trees took place alongside Queens Drive.

In 1911, the Punga Croquet Club established its two lawns alongside Ross Street. Further lawns were laid down, and clubrooms erected, in 1924.

The development of the Belleknoves Golf Course also began in 1923, when a group of citizens approached the Council seeking permission to establish a nine-hole course on the site. The Council agreed only to a six-hole course being laid out, and this was carried out jointly, the Club bearing the cost of green formation while the Council attended to the clearance of gorse and rough grass. In late 1923, permission was granted to extend the course to ten holes by allocation of an area adjoining Queens Drive, alongside Robin Hood Park. The course was placed under the control of the Club, and a pavilion completed in 1928.

A further proposal (1968) for extension southwards alongside Harcourt Street and across Preston Crescent was approved by the Council in principle, but abandoned by the Club in the following year. More recently the Golf Club has been engaged in further additions to its pavilion and, in co-operation with the Council, the beautification of the course.

Physical Character

The Town Belt rises to its highest point here (167 metres asl), and the Golf Course affords panoramic views over the southern part of the Town Belt and Dunedin's southern suburbs. The main part of the course is undulating with the steeper hillsides below being hidden by mixed exotic/native forest which presents an attractive background to the course. Specimen trees line the Lawson Street and Ross Street boundaries, and also surround the smaller section of the course alongside Queens Drive. The Croquet Club's enclosed premises are situated in the northern most corner of the area.

The Golf Course is inevitably restricted by its site, both in the length of fairways and in their siting. No real improvement could be made in this regard without destruction of bush.

Buildings

Golf Club pavilion – garage
Croquet Club pavilion and shelters

Access

The topography and local roads provide the Golf Club with some unavoidable nuisances: such as the need to cross and re-cross Braid Road to play the lower three holes, and the nearest parking spaces to the Clubrooms being on Lawson Street and Ross Street. Footpaths from these streets lead to both club pavilions, although their use by the public is discouraged.

Present Use

Punga Croquet Club
Belleknoves Golf Club

The length of the golf course appeals to those who appreciate a shorter game, and the course is well patronised.

Leases

- *Punga Croquet Club* (for pavilion and lawns)
- *Belleknoves Golf Club* (for pavilion and course)

Leases granted under Section 54(1)(b), Reserves Act 1977.



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5.3 Cosy Dell

Location

Kyle Street, off Cosy Dell Road, North Dunedin.

History

The allocation of the site for courts for the Cosy Dell Tennis Club was approved in 1911, and the Club proceeded with its development, laying down three courts and, in the following year, a pavilion. The pavilion was extended in 1959.

In 1983 the Club sought approval for replacement of its existing pavilion, with the new building sited at the southern end of the courts. This met with objection from local residents, and the Council eventually required that rebuilding take place on the existing site. The new pavilion was completed in November of that year, and a paved carpark, jointly funded by the Council and the Tennis Club, was completed in 1984.

In 2005, the Tennis Club proposed expansion of its facilities, with the development of an additional tennis court. The Club is undertaking investigations to assist with their application to Council to undertake this project.

Physical Character

The courts have a south-westerly aspect over the city, and a very restricted site between the Town Belt's eastern boundary and the steeply rising woodland to their north-west. Some problems have been experienced with drainage and surface slumping.

Buildings and Structures

Pavilion, shed and concrete block volley board

Access

The courts are fenced and pedestrian access is only available from Queen Street via Kyle Street. A narrow sealed road (not legal, but also confusingly known as 'Kyle Street') provides vehicular and pedestrian access from Cosy Dell Road. 'Kyle Street' also provides rear property access to a number of Queen Street properties. Car parking space is available beside the pavilion, or at some greater walking distance along Queen Street.

Adjacent Land Use

Residential to the east and Town Belt to the west.

Lease

- *Cosy Dell Tennis Club* (pavilion and courts)

Lease granted subject to Section 54(1)(b), Reserves Act 1977.

5.4 Gardens Ground

Location

Great King Street, Bank Street and Pine Hill Road, Dalmore

History

The Dunedin Botanic Garden, re-sited on the Town Belt in 1869, was in 1876 constituted a Domain, extending from the Opoho ridge to the Pine Hill Road. Development of the 'Gardens Ground' by the Domain Board was limited, apparently to casual use for picnics. The Domain Board's powers passed to the City Council in 1884, and in 1888, at the request of the newly formed Northern Amateur Football Club, development of the ground for sports was begun. Its use for cricket is recorded from 1893, and in 1905 the St Martin's Cricket Club erected its pavilion in the eastern corner. An athletics track was laid down in 1910, and the ground further levelled in 1911.

The North East Valley Cricket Club is recorded as a user since 1920. In 1934, the Dalmore Croquet Club was formed, and two lawns were prepared alongside the Pine Hill Road. The Club was short-lived, and the premises were removed in 1942.

In 1952 the North East Valley Cricket Club approached the Council with plans for a new pavilion which, it was eventually decided, would be jointly built with the North End Football Club (the product of merger between the Northern and Maori Hill Clubs). The new pavilion was built in 1954, and the old building subsequently removed.

In 1964, the Council approved a proposal from the cricket club for development of a gymnasium and indoor cricket facility as an extension to the existing pavilion. The proposal was not realised, and a 1974 joint application from the clubs to extend the pavilion for social rooms, although initially approved by the Recreation Committee, also lapsed amidst legal confusion. With a 1985 Deed establishing the joint ownership of the pavilion, the clubs again made application for its extension, and the work was completed in that year.

Roading developments have affected the ground on two sides: the 1957 construction of the motorway required the construction of a batter onto the ground, and in 1968 a portion of the eastern corner was taken for roading.

Physical Character

The ground is somewhat restricted by the surrounding roads which, together with the nearby channel of the Water of Leith, have dissected the Town Belt to the extent that its 'enclosing' character has been much diminished. An avenue of mature trees lines the Great

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King Street boundary and recent plantings along the highway and Bank Street will help to redefine the extent of the ground, as well as providing shelter.

Buildings and Structures

Cricket nets (North Eastern Valley Cricket Club)
Pavilion (North Eastern Valley Cricket Club /North End Football Club)

A part of the pavilion now houses equipment associated with a local television translator. The aerial for the transmitter is borne on one of two floodlights erected on the south-west side of the ground by the soccer club.

Access

Pedestrian access is only available to the park with no space available on the ground for car parking. The adjacent streets (which also provide parking for nearby shops) are used for car parking.

Present Use

North Eastern Valley Cricket Club
North End Football Club
Schools

The Gardens ground is a home ground for the North Eastern Valley Cricket Club, a soccer ground, the Junior Football Association and a practice ground for the North End Football Club.

Adjacent Land Use

The Gardens Ground is surrounded by roads. The adjacent land use most affecting the ground are the Gardens Shopping Centre and Botanic Garden nearby, whose customers and visitors vie with sports players for parking space along busy streets.

Leases

- *North East Valley Cricket Club/North End United AFC* (jointly) (pavilion)
Lease being prepared subject to Section 54(1)(b), Reserves Act 1977.
- *North East Valley Cricket Club* (cricket nets)
Lease/licence to be prepared subject to Section 54(1)(b), Reserves Act 1977.
- *Broadcasting Corporation of New Zealand* (television translator) Permit granted subject to Section 48A Reserves Act 1977. Term seven years from 1 November 1986. Renewal being negotiated.

5.5 Jubilee Park

Location

Between Maori Road and Serpentine Avenue, City Rise.

History

One of the Council's first and most controversial decisions as administrator of the Town Belt (November 1866), was to lease it out for grazing. Notwithstanding disputes with the Provincial Government as to the legality of the measure, it appears that the successful lessee of the area adjoining the Cattlemarket Reserve, a Mr T Tomlinson, retained that land for the full term of his 14 year lease. On its expiry, a Mr Hastie took up the tenancy on an annual basis. The Cattlemarket Reserve, it soon became apparent, would never be used for its intended purpose, and it too was offered for lease in 1876.

The Committee set up to co-ordinate Dunedin's celebration of Queen Victoria's jubilee in 1887 needing a suitable site for a commemorative planting and found a most appropriate one when Mr Hastie offered to give up his lease of 'Tomlinson's Paddock'. The Committee took over management and, with a generous supply of plants and seed from the Botanic Garden, set to creating a garden representing the flora of the Empire.

An Oak was planted by the Mayor as part of the Jubilee celebrations, and further plantings were carried out, and for a time Victoria Park (now Jubilee Park) vied with the Botanic Garden as a pleasure garden. Although the evidence of that is long gone now, the public involvement in the park's creation was of greater benefit to the City, leading to the establishment in 1888 of the Dunedin and Suburban Reserves Conservation Society (now the Dunedin Amenities Society).

Under the provisions of the Dunedin Cattle-Market Reserve Leasing Act 1885, the Council was empowered to grant building leases on that reserve, putting the income towards the improvement of the Town Belt and other recreation reserves. Three allotments, at the junction of Serpentine Avenue and Maori Road, were purchased by the Kaituna Bowling and Lawn Tennis Club, and initially developed at the southernmost end. The Club's facilities were extended in 1903, with spoil being dumped in the Town Belt nearby. In 1909 the Kaituna Tennis Club application to extend its premises onto the Town Belt, so as to lay down three courts and erect a pavilion, was granted by the Council on the condition that free public access be retained.

The park's present name was adopted in 1912, and funds from the first Garden Fete were applied in the levelling and top-dressing of part to form two women's hockey grounds. In the following year shelter belt planting around the grounds was carried out.

The idea of a mountain bike track at Jubilee Park was initially mooted by Trevor Gerrish in 1998. The aim

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of the track was, and is, to provide an accessible area for youngsters and families to ride off road safely and develop skills. After a lot of consultation and work, the track was officially opened in April 2000. With the death of Trevor Gerrish in 2001, the mountain biking community are now proposing this track be renamed “The Trevor Gerrish Memorial MTB Track” or “Trev’s Track”

Physical Character

The original park occupied the floor and north-facing slopes of a gully draining to the east—a sheltered, if shady spot where the Town Belt is near its widest. The knoll to the south of this gully has been flattened and broadened by tipping, and is roughly rectangular in shape. Its forested hillslopes fall steeply to the south, east and north. The pond on the valley floor is no more, but a large clearing in the woodland, drained by a small stream and surrounded by towering remnants of commemorative plantings, and boundary hedges define the perimeter of the Bowling Club.

Buildings and Structures

Sports Pavilion
Kaituna Bowling Club pavilion, sheds, and green
Jubilee Memorial

Access

The driveway off Maori Road provides the main pedestrian and vehicular access to both the sportsfields and the bowling green. A car park is sited near the entrance; the Bowling Club has also (on occasions when large attendances are expected) been granted parking rights over the playing field. The valley floor is accessible via a main pedestrian track from Serpentine Avenue to Maori Road, with less-well-defined tracks providing access within the woodlands. The access afforded to motorcyclists by these tracks unfortunately leads to both vandalism and danger to pedestrians.

Present Use

Otago Football Association
Otago Junior Football Association
Kaituna Bowling Club
Dunedin Orienteering Club

A family friendly mountain bike track has been developed to provide youngsters and families with an accessible area to ride off road safely and develop skills.

Two properties (the remainder of the Kaituna Club’s premises and a private residence), situated on the former Cattlemarket Reserve, adjoin the park on its southern side. Otherwise, no non-reserve land adjoins.

Leases

- *Kaituna Bowling Club* (for pavilion, green and yards)

Lease granted under Section 54(1)(b), Reserves Act 1977.

5.6 Littlebourne Ground

Location

Immediately south of Stuart Street, adjoining Otago Boys’ High School at the intersection of City Road and Queens Drive, Roslyn.

History

The history of Littlebourne has, from the start, been closely linked with the development and use of the adjacent land: as cemetery reserve (1846), military barracks (1861-63), Lunatic Asylum (1863-84) and high school (1885). Both barracks and asylum encroached considerably onto the Town Belt, and it was the inmates of the asylum who excavated the hillside and by 1875 had created a level playing ground. The first recorded users were the Pirates Football Club in the late 1870’s, and in 1882 the Albert Cricket Club, who had been forming a pitch on the ground, were granted use. The Asylum Ground was host to a succession of football and cricket clubs, but the 1887 permission granted to the Boys High School to level and drain the ground was an early indication of the school’s growing demand for its use. In 1912 the newly-designated Littlebourne Ground was allocated jointly to the Boys’ High School Soccer Club and the Football Association, and in the following year the Roslyn-Wakari Football Club, a user since 1897, was permitted to build a pavilion.

In 1920, the High School was granted sole use during school hours, and in 1926 was permitted to erect temporary classrooms on the ground. Initially there for five years, the classrooms were allowed to stay on for a further six, pending the opening of a second Boys’ High School and the easing of Otago Boys’ rolls. Various relief works were carried out in the 1930’s—the extension of the ground in 1936 to form a running track for the school, and terracing of the bank behind the ground in 1939. The school made several approaches to the Council seeking either sale or lease of the ground, but these were declined, the Council being unwilling to alienate the ground from public use.

Tennis courts for the high school were constructed in 1948. The use of Littlebourne Ground for temporary classrooms was again permitted in 1951, and the tennis courts gave way to further temporary buildings in 1977 and 1978. These buildings were eventually removed on completion of rebuilding at the school in 1982. The ground also lost some area to the north

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in 1948 with the extension of Stuart Street across the Town Belt.

A new grandstand, sited astride the Town Belt/high school boundary, was approved by Council in 1959, and was completed as the school's centennial memorial in 1963. The school also constructed a footpath alongside the ground to the Stuart Street boundary.

Extensive upgrading and drainage of the ground was carried out in 1965, with the superintendent of Reserves citing the heavy use of the ground by the school as the main cause for its poor condition.

Following removal of the temporary classrooms in 1982, the redevelopment of the ground, including demolition of the pavilion, was undertaken by the Council. In 1984, the high school erected cricket nets, for school and code use, at the southern end of the ground.

Physical Character

The ground, another product of cutting and filling, nestles into the hillside of the Town Belt, with the battens of Stuart Street to the north. Its enclosure is literally heightened by the treed slopes to the west, and buildings of the high school to the south. Its physical situation has meant an ongoing drainage problem, with one instance of slipping on the bank behind.

Buildings and Structures

Grandstand (Otago Boys High School) straddles the southern boundary of the Belt. The cricket nets are also school property.

Access

Pedestrian access is available from Queens Drive, which circles the ground at the western and eastern ends of the ground, as well as via a path from the high school. Car parking is available, though limited, along Queens Drive.

Present Use

Otago Boys' High School: cricket, rugby, and athletics.

Although the school has, since 1920, enjoyed virtually sole use of the ground, and has contributed largely to its development and facilities, the Council's delegation of management has not been extended as far as full lease of the ground.

Adjacent Land Use

The expansion of facilities on the high school site has led to both temporary and permanent incursions onto Littlebourne Ground, as described above. The ground also represents the school's only immediate playing area. The school rectory adjoins at the far eastern end.

Leases

- *Otago Boys High School Board of Trustees* (for cricket nets): 14 years from 1 December 1984
- *Otago Boys High School Board of Trustees* (for grandstand (part))
Leases granted subject to Section 54(1)(b) of the Reserves Act 1977.

5.7 Moana Pool

Location

Stuart Street/Littlebourne Road, Roslyn.

History

The Moana Tennis Club approached the Council in 1911, seeking as a site for their courts, a filled area covered partly in gorse and broom below Queens Drive and adjacent to the Kaikorai cable-car line. Their three courts were laid down and a pavilion erected in the following year, and the Council later established a children's playground nearby.

The Stuart Street extension, carried out in 1950, entailed demolition of the club's premises, and it was relocated at Robin Hood Park. The former tennis site was considered for development of a sportsfield, but it had also been identified in 1949 as one of the possible sites for construction of a new municipal pool.

The Moray Place baths, opened in 1914, were now becoming dilapidated, and the Council also sought to have Olympic-size swimming facilities. The flat sites already in Council ownership (the Oval, the Market Reserve, and the Caledonian Ground) were deemed unsuitable on the grounds of unstable foundations, and a variety of inner city sites proved to be restrictive and expensive. The Moana site was supported by the Recreation Committee, and won Council approval in May 1950. Plans for the pool were drawn up in consultation with the local branch of the New Zealand Amateur Swimming Association, but were deferred in 1952 because of loan financing difficulties. The proposed sportsfield on the site was instead developed nearby at Roberts Park (1957), the site of the former Littlebourne House.

In view of the poor condition of the Moray Place Baths, the Council renewed its interest in the Moana project in 1956. After much revision of plans to trim costs, the Council approved plans for the development in 1959. A public appeal held by the Jaycees enabled provision to be made for a diving pool. The construction contract was let in 1961, and the main pool building opened for public use in November 1964. Further developments were undertaken in 1965-67: the car park, sun terrace, learners' pool (opened February 1966), hydro slide (a 50th jubilee gift from

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the Returned Servicemen's Association) and paddling pool and fountain (funded by a centenary gift from A and T Burt Ltd). The pool recorded its millionth patron in January 1966, and as the venue of national events soon gained a countrywide reputation for the quality of its facilities.

In 1970 the heating system was altered by the installation of a heat exchanger for each pool, rather than recirculation of all water through the boilers. The boilers were in turn replaced in 1975 when coal tar from the City's Gas Department replaced oil as the main fuel.

Facilities

The Moana Pool site (approximately 1.2 hectares) was well utilised in the basic design of the pool, with windows on the west providing pool users a backdrop view of the wooded slopes of the Town Belt.

Access

Access to all facilities is via the main entrance, and the pool entry fee is payable in addition to charges for use of ancillary facilities. Car parking for approximately 140 cars is available nearby off Littlebourne Road.

Adjacent Land Use

The Moana Pool site is basically defined by surrounding landform and roads: the steep, bush-covered hill face to the west, and the roads (Stuart Street and Littlebourne Road) on the remaining sides. Topography, and the narrow extent of the Town Belt at this point, also limit the possible extension of car-parking facilities for the pool without either land purchase or destruction of bush. Roberts Park, adjoining the Town Belt immediately above the bush alongside Moana Pool.

Residential properties, some of which obtain informal access across the Moana Pool Number Two carpark, adjoin the Town Belt to the south-east.

5.8 Montecillo Ground

Location

Eglinton Road, adjoining the Southern Cemetery, Maryhill.

History

Montecillo Ground holds a number of 'firsts' in Dunedin sports. It was the venue of the first anniversary games, held in March 1849, which were followed by the first horse race held in Otago. In the same year, Dunedin's first cricket pitch was prepared on the site. The elevated and relatively level site required little work to provide an acceptable sporting surface, and until the opening of Forbury Park (1871) it continued to be used occasionally for races.

A number of cricket and football clubs used the ground, the Excelsior Cricket Club and Montecillo Football Club applying to the Council in 1884 to build a jointly-owned pavilion (the application was declined). The Richmond Rugby Club's use is recorded from 1885, and in 1890 the combined Zingari-Richmond Club began its occupation of the ground. For some years the ground continued to be allocated to both rugby and soccer, and around 1900 its use by the Dunedin Hibernian Hurling Club is recorded.

The Zingari-Richmond Club undertook various improvements to the ground, and in 1900 were granted permission to erect dressing rooms, which were added to in 1912 and again in 1917.

The Montecillo Croquet Club was one of several established in a flurry of activity in the late 1920's, its first lawns (1929) being laid out using relief labour. A pavilion was built in 1932, and a further lawn laid out in 1934. The Club closed and the building was removed in 2003.

The Zingari-Richmond Club erected a new pavilion in 1953. In the same year the Council began tipping to fill the gully below the ground, an operation which continued until 1962, after which a further sportsfield was established on the tip site. The Montecillo Croquet Club also extended its premises, adding another lawn on the eastern side.

The sportsfields were first floodlit in 1960. A super room was added to the rugby pavilion in 1965, and further extensions proposed in 1971. The general improvement of the area was achieved by car park development and landscape works undertaken in 1974-75, but a Club proposal (1976) for squash courts at Montecillo, although initially approved by the Recreation Committee, was eventually dropped because of neighbourhood concern. A covered practice area for the Club was erected in 1982-84.

An artificial surface cricket wicket was prepared in 1985.

The rugby pavilion was gutted by fire in May 1986, and subsequently replaced by premises and opened in 1988, incorporating Council-owned changing rooms.

Physical Character

The ground is near the ridgeline along its Eglinton Road boundary, and is largely open and exposed. Tipping on the north-west side has created a large flat expanse, from which the ground falls away steeply to the bush-covered slopes above the Southern Cemetery and Maitland Street.

In common with much of that portion of the Town Belt adjoining Eglinton Road, and in contrast with

Dunedin Town Belt management plan

the remainder, a broad swathe of open space (including the sportsground) cuts across the Town Belt and breaks its bush cover into discontinuous pockets.

Buildings and Structures

Zingari-Richmond Football Club pavilion and training shed, floodlights.

Reservoir adjacent to Football Club car park.

Play equipment near Steep Street.

Access

The sportsfields' boundary with Eglinton Road has a post and rail fence. A paved footpath along the line of Steep Street links the neighbourhood to Maitland Street.

A sealed car park adjoins the rugby pavilion, otherwise Eglinton Road and other streets nearby provide car parking.

Present Use

Otago Cricket Association competition.

Zingari-Richmond Football Club.

Dunedin Orienteering Club

Montecillo is the home ground of the Zingari-Richmond Rugby Football Club who use the ground for competition, practice and training. The pavilion is also a popular venue for social functions.

The sportsground has been used for Festival events, including motorcycle sports.

Adjacent Land Use

The Southern Cemetery adjoins to the south. Properties across Eglinton Road are all residential, and the large attendance at social events, and related impacts from carparking in adjacent streets, has been a cause for complaint by residents.

Leases

- *Zingari-Richmond Rugby Football Club* (for pavilion and training shed).

Lease granted under Section 54(1)(b), Reserves Act 1977:

5.9 Mornington Park

Location

Between Eglinton Road and Meadow Street, Mornington.

History

Mornington Park was the home of Dunedin's, and reputedly New Zealand's, first golf course, maintained from 1872-76 by the Dunedin Golf Club. (The Club then went into recess, to re-emerge in 1895 as the Otago Golf Club, with its course at Balmacewen).

As was the case in many parts of the Town Belt, the formation of sportsfields was initially carried out by amateur clubs. The Council had given permission to a local cricket club to form a ground in 1876, and in 1883-84 the formation of a football ground was undertaken under the supervision of the City Surveyor. A number of cricket clubs were permitted in subsequent years to establish wickets on the ground, and the Mornington AFC (established 1888) made the ground its home.

The erection of a pavilion by the Mornington Cricket Club (1906) was followed by redevelopment of the playing field by the Council (1909-11). A children's playground was finished in 1929, and terraces constructed around the playing field in 1933.

The Mornington Tennis Club was formed in 1938, and granted premises on the park which, in spite of a slip occurring during construction, were open for play the following year. A 1940 Council proposal for a children's swimming pool at Mornington Park was eventually abandoned, as the local Ratepayers' Association was prepared to support only a full-size pool. In 1960 the Mornington Tennis Club built its pavilion replacing a shed which had previously served the purpose.

A 1969 proposal from Mornington residents for the construction of a civic centre on the park, for use of sports clubs, schools and other community groups was the first of a series of proposals for redevelopment of the park. No agreement was reached between prospective users as to the scope or use of the proposed facilities, and by 1971 groups such as the local Harrier Club were pursuing individual plans for the area. The effect of these proposals on the attractive open space character of the park, and the congestion which local streets would endure, particularly in the likelihood of social uses becoming predominant, were factors in Council's unwillingness to support the proposal. A 1972 proposal for siting of a play-centre on the reserve was also declined.

The playground was re-equipped in 1975. The Council widened its traditional range of play equipment in 1979 with the construction of a skateboard track (extended 1981). The need for redevelopment of the football pavilion, and for better public toilets than those existing in the Cable Car Building, prompted the 1983 construction of a new sports pavilion and a (separate) toilet block on the park.

Physical Character

The park has a moderate slope, apart from steep banks beside Queens Drive. One playing field (one of a few on the Town Belt not built up by tipping) has the perimeter planted with specimen trees, and a north-easterly out look over the city centre which lends the park a spacious character.

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Access

Pedestrian access to the sportsfield is easiest from the Eglinton Road and Parkhill Terrace boundaries. The tennis courts are entered from Meadow Street with a public footpath from Eglinton Road to High Street which cuts directly across the south-eastern corner of the park providing entry to the skateboard track.

No user car parking is provided on the park, so Eglinton Road and Meadow Street are used by sportsfield users and tennis players respectively.

Present Use

Mornington School
Mornington Cricket Club
Skateboarding and Children's Playground
Mornington-Roslyn Tennis Club
Mornington Amateur Football Club
Mornington Junior Football Association
Dunedin Orienteering Club

The park is the home ground of the Mornington Amateur Football Club, and is used by both the Football Association and the Junior Football Association for competitive soccer.

Adjacent Land Use

Eglinton Road, at the south-west corner of the park, leads to the retail centre of Mornington along Mailer Street, and is one of the 'distributor' roads of the Dunedin road network. The development of any further facilities at Mornington Park would need to take into account the likely complication of existing traffic and parking problems.

The park adjoins pedestrian properties to the north, where the Tennis Club premises are on the Town Belt boundary. Parkhill Terrace, on the park's western side, is also largely residential.

Leases

- *Mornington-Roslyn Tennis Club* (for pavilion and courts)
Lease granted under Section 54(1)(b) of the Reserves Act 1977.

5.10 Northern Cemetery

Location

Located at the Northern end of the Town Belt adjacent to the Botanic Garden and Lovelock Avenue.

History

Planning of a new 'Northern Cemetery' drew considerable opposition and debate out of concerns for the preservation of the Town Belt, and subsequently, a Bill introduced to the General Assembly supporting the cemetery development in 1868 was thrown out. As

the need for a new burial ground grew more urgent the Northern Cemetery Act of 1872 was introduced and passed setting aside 20 acres of the Town Belt for a cemetery.

The Northern Cemetery was opened in 1872 with the first recorded burial being Ada Massey the infant daughter of the Town Clerk on December 2nd and closed to burials in 1937. Family plots may still be used for burials providing space is still available in the plot however such occasions are now relatively rare. The cemetery contains 17,758 burials representing many different religious denominations.

In 2006 the NZ Historic Places Trust classified the Northern Cemetery as Category I in the Historic Places Register.

Physical Character

The cemetery comprises of moderately contouring slopes falling to the South East on the end of a ridge overlooking Logan Park. The site is bisected by a relatively steep gully and water course through the centre.

Access

Visitor and service vehicle access can only be gained from the entrance off Lovelock Avenue during daylight hours only, while pedestrian access can be gained at any time from several points around the boundary.

Informal access through the cemetery exists as a direct route (short cut) between the residential area of Opoho and Logan Park High School and Sports Fields and the tertiary education institutions.

Dogs are prohibited at all times.

Present Use

Dunedin Orienteering Club

As an old cemetery it is now considered to have a significant local, regional and national heritage value with many of Dunedin's outstanding citizens buried there. With such unique period iron and stone work many make use of the special character and atmosphere for passive recreation purposes such as guided tours while others conduct genealogical research. It also provides inspiration for artists sketching, painting and photography.

In 1974 public notification was given requesting all who had a claim for burial at this cemetery to register their interest so now only those people who made application at this time are entitled to be buried there.

Adjacent Land Use

The Northern Cemetery is enclosed along its entire boundary by the Town Belt. On the Southern bound-

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ary there is Bracken's View an open recreation area accessed by both vehicles and pedestrians on the North Western boundary by the Botanic Garden and North Eastern boundary by Opoho Sports fields.

Buildings and Structures

The Sextons Cottage built around 1872 is protected as a heritage building in the District Plan. All works and repairs are undertaken with consultation and guidance from the New Zealand Historic Places Trust.

Larnachs Tomb is currently listed on the New Zealand Historic Places Trust Register as a Category I item, however a full conservation or restoration development is required to bring it back into a more sustainable condition.

All other structures are associated to burial rights of the individuals and families buried here. These typically include a large range of differing styles of headstones and grave surrounds. All burial structures and surrounds are the responsibility of family of the deceased to maintain.

Leases

An occupation agreement exists with the Southern Heritage Trust in exchange for their making the Cottage accessible to the public, further more by supporting and promoting the social, cultural, historic and aesthetic values of the Cemetery, acting as a point of contact for visitors who may require assistance in locating grave sites, and to guide enquires surrounding the activities of the cemetery to appropriate Council officers.

5.11 Opoho Park

Location

Opoho Road, east of Lovelock Avenue, Opoho.

History

The City Council approved the development of 'The Town Belt at Opoho' by the Waverley Cricket Club in 1878. Seven years later the Alhambra Rugby Club began use, and by 1887 had been chided, and then given assent by the Council, for its work in extending the ground by the clearing of surrounding scrub.

The Opoho Cricket Club's use is recorded from 1890, and in 1893 the club, together with the rugby club, was permitted to fence the playing area.

In 1896 the cricket club built a pavilion, which was added to by the Rugby Union in 1904, and to which the Council added changing rooms in 1924. Development of the ground was boosted by funding from the Garden Fete, which in 1913 enabled construction of a hockey ground. The rugby club first set up overhead lighting in 1914, and in 1915 the Council planted the shelter

belt of pines on the south-west side of the ground. Around 1920 the cricket club ceased its activities.

The establishment of the Opoho Tennis Club, with two courts laid down in 1922, was the first step towards the Council's goal of multiple use of Opoho Park. A children's playground was equipped in 1925-26 and a croquet lawn laid down south of the shelter belt in 1929. Unemployment relief work achieved the establishment of further croquet lawns in 1930, and the extension and levelling of the sportsground (1931-34). At the same time, the Council's nursery had been extended alongside the south-eastern side of the ground to supply increasing forestry works. The Opoho Bowling Club was established in 1934 on the reserve (managed as part of the Botanic garden) adjacent to the Opoho reserve, and its green laid down by the Council. A pavilion was built in 1936.

In 1941, the Croquet Club ceased activity, and its lawns were closed. To the east, the former nursery grounds were used from 1949 until 1963 as a refuse tip, subsequently providing a further level playing area.

The old pavilion was burnt down in 1961, and in 1963 a new pavilion was constructed by the Alhambra club, on the site of the former playground. A new pavilion was also constructed by the Tennis Club in 1966. Floodlights for rugby practice were erected in 1969 and in 1972, Opoho residents sought, and partly funded, the provision of a new children's playground and 'tot lot'.

There have been a number of alterations and additions to the premises of each club on the park in recent years; the development of most impact being the 1987 redevelopment of the Alhambra pavilion, following merger of the club with the Union Rugby Football Club, as a training and changing facility only.

Physical Character

The main sportsfields occupy a (levelled) ridgeline site, with the eastern portion on filled land being at a lower level. The high level of the fields above Lovelock Avenue, and the clutter of buildings and structures alongside Opoho Road, mean that the considerable extent of this open space is not readily discernible to the passer-by. The shelter belt of pines along the south-west side is of obvious value in this exposed position (about 85 metres). Further ornamental plantings have been made along the Lovelock Avenue boundary.

Buildings and Structures

Rugby pavilion and floodlights
Tennis pavilion and courts (3)
Scout hall and shed
Playground

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Access

Pedestrian access to the sportsground and nearby buildings is mostly off Opoho Road.

There is limited carparking along Lovelock Avenue and Opoho Road and in metalled carparks adjacent to the tennis courts and rugby pavilion. A sealed carpark (which also serves the Upper Botanic Garden) is just south of the shelter belt.

Present Use

Opoho Rugby Football Union
Alhambra-Union Rugby Football Club
Logan Park High School
Otago Cricket Association
Opoho Tennis Club
Scouts Association
Dunedin Orienteering Club

Adjacent Land Use

Properties facing the park across Opoho Road are all residential. To the west, the Botanic Garden begins beyond Lovelock Avenue; to the east, the land is bush covered and slopes down to the valley of the Opoho Creek. The Botanic Garden Visitor Centre stands alongside Lovelock Avenue, between the Opoho Park sports ground and the bowling green.

One of the Town Belt's best stands of kanuka/mixed broadleaf bush, managed as part of the Botanic Garden for its botanical value, lies immediately south of the Bowling Club's premises.

Leases

- *Alhambra-Union RFC* (pavilion):
- *Opoho Tennis Club* (pavilion and courts)
- *Opoho Scout Group/Scout Association of New Zealand* (Scout Hall)

Leases being prepared subject to Section 54 (1)(b), Reserves Act 1977



5.12 Prospect Park

Location

Lachlan Avenue/Queens Drive, Maori Hill.

History

Queen's Drive, as designed by S H Mirams in 1872, had a northern terminus which was both logical and dramatic in the hilltop known as 'The Clear'. The space enclosed by the new road was first sought for sports use in 1881, when the Maori Hill Cricket Club was granted permission to level the ground and form a pitch. The Pioneer Football Club sought permission to practise on the ground in 1884, and in the following year developed it further for football.

The ground was filled, levelled and extended in 1911-12, and renamed 'Maori Hill Ground'. In the same year, the Maori Hill AFC constructed its pavilion.

The playground was equipped, and the line of Queen's Drive amended to enlarge the ground, in 1923. In 1925 the present name was adopted.

In 1958, the Old Boys Cricket Club, together with the Maori Hill soccer club, advised of their plans to replace the pavilion. Those clubs, together with local residents, formed the Maori Hill Sports Amenities Association which, with Council assistance, completed the new pavilion in 1965. Queen's Drive was further relocated at its western end during 1961-62 to allow for extension of the playing area. In 1968 a lookout at the north-eastern corner of the park was constructed by the Dunedin Lions Club. Floodlights for night-time soccer practice were erected, and were augmented in 1970 and again in 1975. Modification of these was required in 1986 because of the hazard to traffic on Lachlan Avenue. Barriers were erected along Queen's Drive in 1982 to prevent vehicular access to the park.

The Council was notified in 1982 that the Sports Association, long existing in name only, had been formally disbanded, and ownership of the pavilion had passed to the member clubs: the Grange-High School Old Boys Cricket Club and the North End United Soccer club. Following its merger with the University Club, Grange notified in 1988 that it no longer had any interest in the Prospect Park premises.

The soccer club, meanwhile, took renewed interest, and in 1983 applied for permission to add a hall and gymnasium to the existing pavilion. The proposal, greeted with some misgivings by the Council, was not pursued.

Physical Character

Prospect Park is considered one of Dunedin's most scenic sportsfield, with open views across Woodhaugh and North Dunedin to the city and hills beyond. The

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playing field is restricted by the roadway, and has a peculiar problem in the tendency for soccer balls to be lost over the cliff to the north. Use of temporary barriers along that side of the field during play has been suggested as the most environmentally acceptable means of control. A degree of shelter is provided by the rising, bush-covered land on the Town Belt to the south-west.

The Douglas firs, some unhealthy, lining the north-western perimeter of the ground appear anachronistic in this landscape, and should not be replaced with similar species.

Buildings and Structures

Soccer pavilion

Lookout

Children's play equipment (across the road on Prospect Bank, not really on the reserve as such)

Access

As noted above, vehicular access to the ground from the surrounding roads has had to be restricted by fencing. The Queen's Drive verges provide car parking space for both sports players and tourists.

The playground is situated on rising ground to the south-west, across the intersection of Lachlan Avenue and Queen's Drive.

Present Use

North End Football Club

Dunedin Orienteering Club

The Queens Drive Terminus is used as a lookout with its impressive surroundings.

Adjacent Land Use

The nearest properties (across Stonelaw Terrace) are residential.

Lease

- North End United AFC (pavilion)

Lease to be negotiated subject to Section 54(1)(b), Reserves Act 1977.

5.13 Roberts Park

Location

Between Littlebourne Road and Stuart Street, Roslyn

History

The park's name commemorates Sir John Roberts, prominent Dunedin businessman, Mayor and Provincial Councillor, who acquired the property in 1881, and built his residence, Littlebourne House, in 1890. On his death in 1934, the Roberts family offered the house and grounds to the City for vice-regal residence or, failing that, for such other civic or public purpose as the Council may decide.

On transfer to the Council under terms of a Trust Deed (for details see below), the house came under the Superintendent of Reserves' management, and was used from 1938 for student accommodation, then from 1942 was occupied by the Army for the duration of World War II. In 1946 it was used for five months as an administrative headquarters during the resettlement of Dutch refugees from what is now Indonesia (a bonus for the City was the Netherland Government's gift, as token of its appreciation, of 18,000 flower bulbs, received in 1948). The house was then used until 1949 as a boarding residence for married ex-service students, but no long term use could be decided on by the Council. Its fate was expedited by the decision in 1946 to carry out the extension of Albert (now Stuart) Street through the Town Belt to join Kaikorai Valley Road, and in 1949 the house was demolished, providing bricks for a number of Reserves buildings, principally the departmental offices at the Botanic Garden. The flagstaff was re-erected at the Otago Yacht Club's rooms. Of the buildings on the site, the garage and sheds were retained, and in 1957 the Roberts Park sportsfield was developed.

A 1965 proposal for allocation of the Park to the YMCA for redevelopment of their Moray Place site was agreed on by the Council and Association in 1969, but was not pursued. The playing field was then renovated in 1972-73.

Physical Character

Roberts Park is situated high on the eastern slopes of the Roslyn ridge, at about 100 metres above sea level. Levelling has rendered the site virtually flat, apart from banks grading up to the roadside and northern boundaries. Mature tree specimens (English beech) with a native shrub understorey are located on the north side of the ground.

Buildings and Structures

The Community and Recreation Services Department use the old depot building on the reserve for storage. The condition of the building is continually decreas-

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ing and will require significant action to ensure undue safety risks do not occur.

Access

Service access to the depot is via a driveway from Littlebourne Road at the northernmost corner of the park. Car parking is limited to the adjacent streets (Littlebourne Road and Stuart Street), and pedestrian access is generally unhindered.

Present Use

Dunedin Orienteering Club

The park is used mainly during the winter for junior soccer and in summer for softball. There are no changing facilities, only a building used by Council for storage.

Adjacent Land Use

The park functions as an extension to the open space of the Town Belt, which forms its eastern boundary in the bush covered slope behind Moana Pool. The southern and western boundaries are defined by roads; beyond these and adjacent to the park on its northeast boundary, the neighbourhood is predominantly residential. Otago Boys High School is situated approximately 400 metres from the park, and its tennis courts are immediately opposite the park's Stuart Street boundary.

Trust Deed

The legal status of the park is fee simple but the land is, however, subject to a Trust Deed (deposited at the Land Registry Office as No. 4426 but not registered against the title). The Deed provides that the land may not be sold, mortgaged or let for residential purposes and for the Council, or permit others, to use it as a health or recreation reserve.

5.14 Robin Hood Park

Location

Robin Hood Park is located on the corner of Ross Street and City Road and includes an area of land that is part of the Arthur Street Reserve title.

History

The park along with the adjacent portion of the Town Belt were used during the early 1860's as a camp for soldiers brought in to police the heady days of the gold rush.

The first development of the reserve for sports was in 1881, when the Roslyn Cricket Club were permitted to clear an area near the Roslyn tramline above City Road for a cricket ground. The 'Tramsheds Ground', occasionally titled the Imperial Ground after an early football club, was used by footballers in 1884, and by a large number of now forgotten clubs. The old quarry

was used for pistol practice in 1900, and as a rifle range in 1910-12.

Considerable planting of specimen trees was undertaken by the Amenities Society during 1913, and by the Council in 1927.

Robin Hood Park was developed with the conversion of the former quarry to a playing field. In 1960, the Council reached agreement with the Catholic School authorities whereby the schools were assured access to Robin Hood Ground, in return funding the extension and development of the ground to rugby size, completed in 1962.

A site in the upper portion of the reserve was chosen in 1862 for the construction of a geological survey office and meteorological observatory, subsequently relocated in 1864 to a more open site near Sligo Terrace, and since removed.

In 1915 the Astronomical Society, newly affiliated to the Otago Institute, and having lost its former observatory site at Tanna Hill to University expansion, sought assistance from the Council. A site near the Botanic Garden was approved but action was delayed by the war and when construction was undertaken in 1920 a site on the Arthur Street Reserve was instead chosen. The observatory, furnished with telescopes provided by J C Begg and Arthur Beverly, was opened in 1922. In 2001, the Dunedin Astronomical Society became an Incorporated Society and are no longer part of the Otago Institute.

The Moana Tennis Club, whose premises were taken for the 1949 extension of Albert (Stuart) Street and subsequent construction of Moana pool, was re-established on the lower Robin Hood ground in 1950.

The tennis pavilion was extended in 1968, following amalgamation of the Moana and Kaituna Clubs. The problem of vandalism to the Club's premises led firstly to the erection of a chain barrier along City Road in 1972, then to building alterations in 1981 to make the premises more vandal-proof.

The Royal visit in 1954 was commemorated by the construction by the Amenities Society of a lookout, designated 'Queen's View', to the east of the tennis courts. The observatory building was extended in 1958, and a new path laid in 1961.

Physical Character

The reserve slopes moderately to the east, and its dissection by two roads (City Road and Queens Drive) is heightened by the batters and cuttings alongside those roads. The Robin Hood Ground is physically distinct from the park adjoining the school, and the former quarry site forms a further distinct setting for

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the tennis courts. City Road is also one of the more 'European' entrances to the Town Belt; the woodlands around Robin Hood are dominated by exotic trees. The former cable-car route is a distinctive line along the southern boundary of the reserve.

Buildings and Structures

Tennis pavilion and courts
Plane table ('Queen's View')
Beverly-Begg Observatory
Cricket nets

Access

Pedestrian access to the sportsground is from Ross Street or City Road, to the Observatory and Tennis Club via paths from City Road.

Present Use

Rugby (schoolboys')
Kavanagh College rugby
Moana-Kaituna Tennis Club
Dunedin Orienteering Club

The observatory, which is now administered by the Otago Branch of the Royal Society of New Zealand, is open to the public for viewing on application.

Leases

- *Moana-Kaituna Tennis Club* (for courts and pavilion)
- *The Dunedin Astronomical Society Incorporated* (for the Beverly-Begg Observatory)

Lease granted subject to Sections 54(1)(b) and (c) of the Reserves Act 1977

Note:

Amongst the conditions of the agreement assuring access of the Catholic Schools to Robin Hood ground, it was recognised as the School's home ground and their right to erect a pavilion on the ground in the future was secured.

5.15 Southern Cemetery

Location

Location between Main South Road and Eglinton Road

History

Concerns for the provision of new burial grounds in 1857 led to the recommendation by the Dunedin Town Board that a site at "Little Paisley" in the southern end of Town Belt be put aside for this purpose. Soon after on 1ST April 1858 the Southern Cemetery was opened with the burial of David McGibbon aged 6 years 4 months. The cemetery contains 22,639 burials and was divided into 5 different sections based on the main religious denominations of the time including Anglican, Jewish, Catholic, Presbyterian and Chinese.

In 2006 the NZ Historic Places Trust classified the Southern Cemetery as Category I in the Historic Places Register.

Physical Character

The cemetery comprises of a steep slope at the North West corner falling away to more gradual slopes to the South East with a small undulating gully to the South between Eglinton Road and South Road.

Access

Vehicle and pedestrian access can be gained from both Eglinton Road and South Road. However during the hours of darkness vehicle access is prevented when the gates at both entrances are locked.

Dogs are prohibited at all times.

Present Use

The cemetery was closed to burials in 1972. Family plots may still be used providing space is still available in the plot however such occasions are now relatively rare.

As an old cemetery it is now considered to have a significant local, regional and national heritage value with many of Dunedin's outstanding citizens buried there. With such unique period iron and stone work many make use of the unique character and atmosphere for passive recreation purposes included guided tours, others conduct genealogical research and it also provides an inspiration for sketching, painting and photography.

In 1974 public notification was given requesting all who had a claim for burial at this cemetery to register their interest so now only those people who made application at this time are entitled to be buried there.

Adjacent Land Use

Several private residential properties lie to the South on the Cemetery boundary and the Town Belt Reserve to the North.

Buildings and Structures

The Morgue built in 1903 is now protected as a heritage building on the District Plan. It is currently used for equipment storage purposes until a more appropriate use supporting or aligning with the social, cultural, historic and aesthetic values of the Cemetery can be found and developed.

All other structures are associated to burial rights of the individuals and families buried here. These typically include a large range of differing styles of headstones and grave surrounds. All burial structures and surrounds are the responsibility of family of the deceased to maintain.

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5.16 The Oval

Location

That portion of the Town Belt between Princes Street, Andersons Bay Road and the Southern Motorway, Kensington.

History

The early history of the Oval is closely allied to that of cricket in Dunedin. It was the newly-formed Dunedin Cricket Club which, in 1860, sought development of the site, reminding the Provincial Government of the purpose for which the Town Belt was set aside. With considerable financial support from entrepreneur Shadrach Jones, the club was able to quickly capitalise on the works carried out by the Government, and by 1863 had erected fences, a pavilion and grandstand (these were promptly removed, by order of the Provincial Council, in 1864 to allow for improvement of the ground). The Southern Recreation Ground was dedicated to cricket use, at the request of the Cricket Association, and other uses were barred by a City Council by-law of 1888. From the 1870's through to 1904 a pavilion at the ground was occupied by the Club's caretaker, and the Club at various times managed the pastures outside the cricket field. Although from the 1880's on the Council was engaged in the dumping of spoil and refuse to raise the outer portions of the reserve, the Oval by which it became known was for many years a distinctive feature, and was fenced and improved as part of the Council's up-grading of the Town Belt in 1873.

The Oval has borne a number of pavilions and other structures, the history of some being unclear. Records state that a rotunda was removed from the Oval in 1894, to be re-erected at the Botanic Garden, but do not state when the rotunda was originally built. The caretaker's cottage and former pavilion was destroyed by fire in 1904.

The original Oval disappeared in 1899, as reclamation brought the remainder of the reserve to a suitable standard, and recreational use widened to include football (1905), women's softball (1907) and a circus (1910). Permanent improvements to the ground included the South African War Memorial (1906) at its northern end, holly hedges on all boundaries (from 1906), a children's playground (1913) and two pavilions, erected 1919 (Princes Street) and 1925 (Andersons Bay Road). The last of reclamation works were carried out in 1921.

Siege guns and howitzers captured during World War I were placed beside the War Memorial in 1921, and occupied the site until 1948 when the grounds were generally opened up, with removal of the holly hedge along Princes Street. Street trees were planted along-

side the Oval on its Princes Street and Park Terrace (Ardmore Drive) boundaries in 1920. The reserve was now seen as fully developed for its busy sporting use, and the only additions of note in subsequent decades were the first aid posts provided by the Jaycees in 1962

The route of the proposed urban section of the Southern Motorway was notified in 1961, and subsequent advice that up to a quarter of the Oval's playing surface would be taken was received with concern by the Council. In further negotiations with the Ministry of Works it became clear that the Ministry was unable to provide suitable land within the City in compensation for that lost. Consent of the Minister of Lands to the taking of up to 1770 square metres from the Town Belt for the motorway was given in 1978, and in 1981 the Council and Ministry of Works agreed that in compensation for the land taken (1544m²), an area of land taken for motorway purposes at the Western end of Ardmore Drive, comprising 1052m², be transferred to the City as reserve. The urban section of the motorway was opened in 1980, and the taking of land from the Oval finally formalised by 'Gazette' notice in 1988 (p 4232). Transfer to the Council of the land in compensation is proceeding (January 1989).

Initial impact of the motorway development included the closure of Ardmore Drive for most of its length, and the loss of the remaining hedge along the Andersons Bay Road boundary of the Oval. The development also threatened to require demolition of the Andersons Bay Road pavilion, and the Council proposed to replace both existing structures with a new pavilion at the corner of the Oval adjacent to Ardmore Drive, where a private property was bought in 1978 to provide carparking space. The threat to the pavilion, however, was not realised in the revised plans for the motorway, and the distant siting of the proposed pavilion received little support from sporting groups. The proposal was deferred in 1981, and instead redevelopment of the existing pavilion was undertaken in 1985.

Recent years have seen increased use of the Oval as a circus venue, as the size and requirements of the ventures outgrew their traditional site at the Market Reserve. Considerable surface damage was sustained as a result of use in 1985, and required renovation of approximately a third of the playing surface. This area has now been developed and designated as the official site for circus, side show, gypsy fair, type of events. The site has been prepared to be quick draining to prevent it become muddy, thereby reducing damage occurring as a result of vehicle or tent use. This site is the only area where permission will be granted for these types of shows, displays or vehicle parking. This area can be booked through the Council booking system.

Dunedin Town Belt management plan

Physical Character

The Oval is cut off from the remainder of the Town Belt by traffic routes, and its flat, open character emphasises its separateness. As an open space at the south end of the City it provides an important introduction for travellers from the south and visual relief for nearby residents, as well as a playing venue that allows for a flexible sportsground arrangement.

Mature deciduous trees along the western boundary have in recent years been supplemented by specimen plantings along other boundaries and the planting of a privet hedge along the Andersons Bay Road boundary.

Play equipment previously located near the Tavern has been moved to Market Reserve as part of the playground redevelopment in this community.

Artificial wickets were installed on the reserve in 2002, when drainage in the reserve was also improved.

Buildings and Structures

Pavilion and first aid rooms, Princes Street
Pavilion, Andersons Bay Road
South African War Memorial

Access

Pedestrian access from Princes and King Edward Streets is unlimited, and the hedge along Andersons Bay Road has been designed to allow occasional pedestrian entry. The motorway now blocks access from the south east.

Vehicular access is available only via Ardmore Drive, where a public car park serves ground users.

Present use

Otago Cricket Association
Otago Football Association
Otago Rugby Association
Circus, side-shows, gypsy fairs, tent shows and similar operators
The Oval's open space and central location have also made it a favoured spot for other activities: it has become an accepted landing spot for aircraft involved in various public events, and is a popular assembly point for Festival Week and other civic events.

Adjacent land use

No other property directly abuts the Oval. The close arrangement of sportsfields has however given rise to ball damage to premises across Princes Street, and rearrangement of field use by seniors and juniors was undertaken in an endeavour to solve the problem.

5.17 Unity Park

Location

At the junction of Stafford Street and Eglinton Road, City Rise.

History

The earliest reference to recreational use of the site appears to be one from 1873, when the St Paul's Church YMCA were permitted to level a portion of the Town Belt 'below Mr Rattray's house' for a cricket ground.

A number of rugby, soccer and cricket clubs are recorded as having played on 'the Town Belt at Eglinton', and it was the Unity Soccer Club, active in Mornington around 1902-05, for which the park was named in 1904.

Some levelling was carried out from 1914-16, and a rubbish tip operated on the site during the late 1920's. The ground was then laid out for football and cricket.

In 1962 the Dunedin Jaycees constructed a lookout at Unity Park to mark their 25th Anniversary. The Council subsequently developed the car park and plantings around the lookout. In 1967 this was complemented by a memorial, donated by the (American) National Geographic Society, to Rear-Admiral Richard Byrd, whose 1928 expedition to Antarctica was launched from Dunedin. Viewing binoculars, provided by Dunedin Rotary in 1976, had to be removed three years later because of recurring vandalism. The field was renovated in 1980-81.

Physical Character

High on the Eglinton Ridge, the park offers a strategic, if bracing, lookout over the City although the view to the south is now partially obscured by the adjacent trees. The rather harsh contours of a former tip site are slowly being softened by further planting.

Structures

Lookout wall, seats and direction finder.
Byrd Memorial.

Access

A sealed road and car park serve the Lookout. The ground is open to pedestrian access from Eglinton Road.

Present Use

Junior Football Association
Junior Cricket Association
Dunedin Orienteering Club
Winter use is by the Junior Football Association, and summer use is by the Junior Cricket Association.

Dunedin Town Belt management plan

5.18 Woodhaugh Gardens (Including Woodhaugh Scenic Reserve)

Location

Adjoining the Water of Leith, between Duke and George Streets and Pine Hill Road, Woodhaugh.

History

At the time of European settlement, the Leith Valley was heavily wooded, and this, combined with the relatively easy access to a fast-flowing water supply, resulted in its early development for industry.

The name 'Woodhaugh' is reputed to have been given by W H Valpy, the wealthy entrepreneur who in 1850 established a sawmill (and later a flour mill also) upstream of the Town Belt. The forest had already been worked over for ships' fuel and spars, and it is likely that the millers who followed Valpy in establishing businesses alongside the Leith made use of timber from the Town Belt. The tailrace from Valpy's (later McGlashan's) mill crossed Duke Street to enter the Town Belt near the western corner of Woodhaugh Gardens, and a mill dam was formed within the Town Belt with a pipe feeding to Stevens and Love's flour mill (on the present Wilson's Distillery site). It is also recorded that two members of the McGlashan family were buried in a private cemetery on the Town Belt 'almost opposite the mill'.

The Woodhaugh section of the Town Belt was already popular for picnics in the 1860's, but its development for the purpose was not planned until 1873, when S H Mirams prescribed in his proposals for the Town Belt that 'this part could, if required, be best treated as a garden. The Water of Leith winds through it, and by opening suitable channels one or two ornamental islands might be formed, connected with the main by rustic bridges'. The Woodhaugh development was eventually held back by lack of funding until 1895, when the Council secured unemployed labour to carry out the structural work. Walks through the bush were in place by 1896, and in 1899 the road frontage along Duke Street was laid out with beds of flowering shrubs interspersed with lawn.

The vegetation of Woodhaugh Gardens was by now considerably altered from that originally present. Gorse and elderberry were especially rampant, and stumping of these weeds a major task. They were replaced by native plants, but the Council records are silent on any aspect of these plantings other than the quantities.

In 1902 the channel of the Water of Leith, which formerly took a circuitous course, touching Queen Street and then bounding private properties on its way to George Street, was straightened. The former channel and adjacent low land were taken, not without local

protest, for a municipal tip which operated until 1905. Planting of the tip site was undertaken in 1906-10: along with the Plagianthus still standing today, an avenue of chestnuts was set out.

The Water of Leith in the vicinity provided a number of favourite swimming holes, but several fatalities led to Council expenditure in 1902, and again in 1908, on development of a safe bathing basin.

The larger question of the direction of Woodhaugh's future development came into public attention in 1911, when the Council received a deputation in favour of the establishment of a sportsfield, and another opposing that proposal and seeking the completion of works already in progress in order to make Woodhaugh 'the most magnificent scenic park' in any New Zealand city. The latter proposal was supported by the Amenities Society, and the next year saw the planting of native conifers, trees and shrubs under the shelter of the existing bush and of the tree ferns near the pond, as well as the erection of a shelter and children's playground. In 1913-15 these amenities were joined by a sand pit, basketball court, running track, and a picnic enclosure with gas rings for water heating.

Construction of an improved swimming pool in the mill dam was undertaken, jointly with George Street School, in 1920. The pavilion erected the previous year in the Octagon for the visit of the Prince of Wales was re-erected in Woodhaugh as a shelter.

The formation of greens for the Leith Bowling and Croquet Club was undertaken, and a small pavilion erected in 1924. In 1926 the Club acquired and erected, at the opposite (Duke Street) end of its premises, a stand from the 1925-26 Exhibition. The Exhibition also provided play equipment, erected in 1927.

A new bowls pavilion was erected in 1932, and an additional croquet lawn formed in 1934. In 1938 another pool was formed, at the request of the Model Engineering Society, for the sailing of model boats, and a swimming pool 126' x 42' formed. Dressing rooms for pool users were built in 1939 and by 1952 the pool closed.

The regular flooding of the Water of Leith appears to have caused little damage to Woodhaugh, however it was necessary after the severe floods of 1923 and 1929 to undertake flood protection works along the urban section of the Leith. Both the deepening of the channel upstream (1923) and its straightening at Willowbank (1956) would have contributed to the lowering of the water table which originally supported the Woodhaugh bush. In 1959 the section adjoining Woodhaugh was also deepened and straightened and a boulder trap constructed, requiring the felling of some vegetation.

Dunedin Town Belt management plan

A new paddling pool was constructed in 1961. More recent developments have included new play equipment (1975) an amenity building (1979) and barbecue tables (1980). The Bowling Club extended its building in 1977, and the Croquet Club added a lawn in 1982 and an additional clubroom in 1988. The Bowling Club is currently planning the redevelopment of its premises.

The area around the duck pond, from which a surrounding fence was removed, was filled and landscaped in 1978-79.

Recent years have brought a rash of proposals for development of Woodhaugh: a mock goldfields town (1970), a caravan park (1976) and a tramline (1979). All were declined by the Council.

The need to protect Woodhaugh's natural features, which had been a major consideration in the debate arising from the 1912 proposals, again arose with the coming into force of the Reserves Act 1977. It was eventually agreed that classification as a scenic reserve—which would place protection of the natural features at a higher priority than the recreational developments above—was the most appropriate measure for the bush at the Gardens' western end. The remainder was classified as recreation reserve.

New gas barbecues and picnic tables were installed on the reserve in 2004, upgrading the existing ones adjacent to the public toilets, and providing a new barbecue area in an open grass area closer to the playground equipment. These areas provide increased opportunity for use by multiple groups, with keys available from the Dunedin City Council to allow free gas use.

Physical Description

The valley of the Water of Leith, here around 25 metres wide, is constricted at this point between Pine Hill and Maori Hill, before opening out onto the broad North Dunedin flat. It is a site which affords Woodhaugh Gardens shelter from the prevailing winds and attractive surroundings in the nearby bush-clad hills, with the distant view up the valley to Flagstaff. The combination of these with flat ground and ready access from the city centre has ensured the Gardens' popularity as a recreational venue.

As noted above, the Water of Leith no longer meanders through the site, although the line of its channel is discernible near George Street. Tipping at that end and alongside Duke Street and the overall drop in the water table due to flood control works, have left the duck pond as the main water feature. Elsewhere, the former tributaries of the Leith seldom contain any surface flow.

The vegetation of Woodhaugh has been so altered since logging began that it is now not possible to determine whether many specimens (being of species indigenous to Dunedin) are of local origin or introduced. (Some 'natives', e.g. red beech, are not native to this area and have clearly been introduced).

It is recognised, however, that the kahikatea-kowhai-ribbonwood-lacebark forest type is a remnant from logging days of the area's original wetland forest. Its value is increased by its virtual eradication over most of its limited original area.

Woodhaugh offers the opportunity both to preserve the remainder and to recreate, to the extent that the present drier environment allows, the character of the former forest.

The value of Woodhaugh as a wildlife habitat is also considerable, and warrants protection of its vegetation. Only a brief resume of that vegetation can be given here: a more detailed description is given in the Ecological Assessment Report.

The largest bush area in the Gardens, although much dissected by tracks, is that in the north-west corner. It bears a canopy of broad-leaved tall shrubs (lemonwood, mahoe, fuchsia, etc.) over an understorey of saplings, milktree and Coprosma species. Kahikatea, lacebark, ribbonwood and kowhai emerge from the canopy, along with non-indigenous species including Prunus and red beech. The ground cover, apart from patches of Astelia and larger ferns, is largely wandering jew, ivy and hound's tongue fern. The bush is at its wettest underfoot in the centre, where the old pond is sited.

South of the main path, a smaller, more open area adjoining the duck pond contains exotic species and invasive weeds in addition to the species described above. These areas, together with the duck pond and adjacent lawn, comprise the Woodhaugh Scenic Reserve.

The Bowling and Croquet Club premises sit tightly in the south-east corner of the Gardens, bounded by hedges and fencing. The remainder of the Gardens towards George Street is open parkland with scattered specimens of ribbonwood, kowhai, lacebark and other species.

Buildings and Structures

Croquet club pavilion, clubrooms and shelters
Bowling club pavilion, sheds and shelters
Public toilets and amenity block
Barbecues
Paddling pool and play equipment

Dunedin Town Belt management plan

Access

Pedestrian access is available via entrances at George Street and Inverleith Street, and from the Duke Street boundary. Access to the Bowling and Croquet Clubs' premises is via Duke Street and Quentin Avenue. The main path through Woodhaugh provides a pedestrian and cycling link between the Leith Valley and the Gardens Shopping Centre. Other less formal tracks through the bush provide popular play opportunity, but also enable easier access to the bush itself, with the likelihood of greater plant damage and soil compaction. The situation requires monitoring, and access to the scenic reserve may be restricted if necessary. Vehicular access (under the control of the Council) is available from Inverleith Street.

Present Use

Leith Bowling Club

Leith Croquet Club

Adjacent Land Use

Residential properties adjoin the western and eastern boundaries.

Leases

- Leith Bowling Club (pavilion and greens)
- Leith Croquet Club (pavilion and lawns)

Leases granted under Section 54(2)(b), Reserves Act 1977.



Dunedin Town Belt management plan

6 APPENDICES

6.1 Reserve Status List

| Normal | Classification | Description | Further information |
|---|---------------------------------------|---|---|
| Part Original Town Belt | Recreation Reserve | Part Town Belt Town Belt of Dunedin (CT 301/115 and balance 301/114) Lot 1 DP 17475 Section 1 Town Belt Town of Dunedin | |
| | Recreation Reserve (Gaz. 1983 p 4170) | Part Town Belt Town Belt of Dunedin (pt. CT301/116) | |
| | Recreation Reserve | Part Town Belt Town Belt of Dunedin | |
| Woodhaugh Scenic Reserve | Scenic Reserve (Gaz. 1989 p 2230) | Section 1 SO 23008 being Part CT 301/116 | |
| Leisure Lodge additions | Recreation Reserve (Gaz 1981 p 3030) | Lots 4 and 5 DP 16513 | |
| Queen St additions | Fee Simple | Closed road adjoining Block XXXII, Lots 3 and 4 DP 5040 | |
| Stonelaw Terrace additions | Fee Simple | Part Lot 3 Deeds 288 | |
| Ardmore Drive additions – The Oval car park | Fee Simple | Lot 1 DP 21155 | Fee simple by Gaz 1990 p 4262 GN 768937/1 (GN revoking reserve & vesting in DCC) |
| Ardmore Drive additions – The Oval | Fee Simple | Sec 1 and 2 SO 20264 | |
| Dundas Street additions | Fee Simple | Areas C and D on SO 18986 being Part Sections 86/88 Block XXXVII, Town of Dunedin | |
| Tolcarne Avenue addition | Recreation Reserve | Lot 2 DP 19030 | Reserve on deposit of DP 19030 on 1 April 1985 under the Local Government Act 1974. |
| Newington Avenue Reserve | Recreation Reserve | Lots 20, 21, 22 and 23 DP 3857 | |
| Roberts Park | Fee Simple | Pt Lot 27 DP 308 | Fee simple by Transfer 23132 |
| Serpentine Avenue | | Lot 13, 14 and 15 DP 771 | |
| Willowbank additions | | Pt Original Bed of Water of Leith | |
| Cemeteries | | | |
| Northern Cemetery | Local Purpose (Cemetery) Reserve | Section 1 Block LXXX Town of Dunedin (SO Plan 17821) | |
| Southern Cemetery | Local Purpose (Cemetery) Reserve | Section 32 Block I Town of Dunedin (SO Plan 17946) | Reserve by Gaz 1979 p 566 GN 517125/1 (sec 6 declaration) Closed Cemetery by Gaz 1980 p 1494 |

Dunedin Town Belt management plan

| Normal | Classification | Description | Further information |
|--------------------------------------|--|--|---|
| | Local Purpose (Cemetery) Reserve | Section 33 Block I Town of Dunedin (SO Plan 17946) | Closed Cemetery by Gaz 1980 p 1494 |
| Arthur Street Cemetery | Cemetery | Sec 87 Block XIX SO 22376 Town of Dunedin | Not DCC land Vested in the Crown (DOC). Closed Cemetery by Gaz administered by Dept of Internal Affairs. |
| Arthur Street Reserve | Reserve | Sec 88, 89 and 90 Block XIX SO 22376 Town of Dunedin | Not DCC land Currently considered Reserve under Reserves Act 1977, administered by the Dept of Conservation by Statute "The Cemeteries Act 1882 – Section 50" |
| Endowments | | | |
| Adam St | Endowment | Section 27 Blk X Town of Dunedin 0.1012 ha | Endowment by Dunedin City Council Endowment Lands Act 1988 |
| Meadow Street | Endowment | Lot 1 DP 771 0.1007 ha | Endowment by Dunedin City Council Endowment Lands Act 1988 |
| Canongate/ Arthur St | Endowment | Pt Section 1 Blk X Town of Dunedin or Lot B and Part Lot A DP 2429 | Endowment by Dunedin City Council Endowment Lands Act 1988 |
| Serpentine Ave | Endowment | Lot 3 DP 21868 01518 ha | Endowment by Dunedin City Council Endowment Lands Act 1988 |
| Kaitahuna | Endowment | Lots 13, 14 & 15 DP 771 0.4905 ha | Endowment by Dunedin City Council Endowment Lands Act 1988 |
| Legal Road (unformed) | | | |
| Adjacent to Southern Cemetery | Part South Road | Legal Road | |
| Adjacent to the Oval | Part King Edward Street | Legal Road | |
| Intersecting Town Belt – Eglinton Rd | Part Steep Street | Legal Road | |
| Off Alva St | Legal Street adjoining Lot 2 DP 27740 | Legal Road | |
| Beside Mornington Park | Legal Street adjacent to Parkhill Avenue | Legal Road | |

Dunedin Town Belt management plan

6.2 List of existing leases/licence/easements on the Reserve

| Reserve | Occupier | Facility/ building on reserve? | Ownership of Facility | Purpose | Type of Agreement | Term (Years) | Expiry Date | Review Date | Leased Area (ha) | Legal Description Leased Area |
|-----------------------------|--|--------------------------------|-----------------------|--------------|-------------------|--------------|-------------|-------------|------------------|--|
| Town Belt | Court, PFS | Accessway | N/A | Right of Way | Easement | Perpetuity | None | | | See plan attached to easement |
| Town Belt | Priest, PC | Accessway | N/A | Right of Way | Easement | Perpetuity | None | | | See plan attached to easement |
| Town Belt | Phease, BC | Accessway | N/A | Right of Way | Easement | Perpetuity | None | | | See plan attached to easement |
| Town Belt | Ku, MCP | Accessway | N/A | Right of Way | Easement | Perpetuity | None | | | See plan attached to easement |
| Town Belt | Mitchell, BR | Accessway | N/A | Right of Way | Easement | Perpetuity | None | | | See plan attached to easement |
| Town Belt | Hewitt, NC | Accessway | N/A | Right of Way | Easement | Perpetuity | None | | | See plan attached to easement |
| Town Belt | Simpson, B | Accessway | N/A | Right of Way | Easement | Perpetuity | None | | | See plan attached to easement |
| Town Belt | Dennison, PJ & YE, Grant, SJ | Accessway | N/A | Right of Way | Easement | Perpetuity | None | None | | CT301/114 |
| Town Belt | Glamis Hospital Retirement Complex | Driveway | N/A | Commercial | Easement | Perpetuity | None | None | | CT 301/114 |
| Town Belt | Otago Boys High School Board of Trustees | Building | Lessee | Recreation | Lease | 14 | 30-Jun-2010 | 29-Dec-2009 | 0.0234 | Pt. CT 301/115 |
| Town Belt | Otago Boys High School Board of Trustees | Grandstand | Lessee | Recreation | Lease | 14 | 30-Jun-2010 | 29-Dec-2009 | 0.0234 | Pt. CT 301/115 |
| Town Belt | Hunter, H.I. (Mr.) | Driveway | N/A | Right of way | Unknown | N/A | None | None | N/A | Pt. CT 301/114 |
| Town Belt | Mornington Junior Soccer Club | Toilets | DCC | Recreation | Lease | 14 | 1-Jul-2010 | 30-Dec-2009 | 0.0082 | Pt Town Belt (CT 301/114) |
| Town Belt | Belleknoves Golf Club | Clubrooms | Lessee | Recreation | Lease | 14 | 30-Jun-2010 | 29-Dec-2009 | 5.2989 | Pt. CT 301/114 |
| Town Belt | Zingari Richmond Rugby Football Club | Clubrooms | Lessee | Recreation | Lease | 14 | 30-Jun-2010 | 29-Dec-2009 | 0.2328 | Pt. CT 301/114 |
| Town Belt | Cosy Dell Tennis Club | Clubrooms & Courts | Lessee | Recreation | Lease | 14 | 30-Jun-2010 | 29-Dec-2009 | 0.1960 | Pt. CT 301/115 |
| Town Belt | Mornington/Roslyn Tennis Club | Clubrooms & Courts | Lessee | Recreation | Lease | 14 | 30-Jun-2010 | 29-Dec-2009 | 0.2515 | Pt. CT 301/114 |
| Town Belt | Scout Association – Opoho Scouts | Scout Hall | Lessee | Recreation | Lease | 14 | 1-Jul-2013 | 30-Dec-2012 | 0.0225 | Pt. CT 301/116 |
| Town Belt – Robin Hood Park | Moana Tennis Club | Clubrooms & Courts | Lessee | Recreation | Lease | 14 | 1-Jun-2008 | 1-Dec-2007 | 0.2302 | Pt. CT 301/114 (Pt Sec 86 Blk XIX Town of Dunedin) |
| Town Belt | Opoho Tennis Club | Clubrooms & Courts | Lessee | Recreation | Lease | 14 | 30-Jun-2010 | 29-Dec-2009 | 0.1646 | Pt. CT 301/116 |
| Town Belt | Punga Croquet Club | Clubrooms & Greens | Lessee | Recreation | Lease | 14 | 30-Jun-2009 | 29-Dec-2008 | 0.3506 | Pt. CT 301/114 |
| Town Belt – Jubilee Park | Kaituna Bowling Club | Clubrooms & Greens | Lessee | Recreation | Lease | Year to Year | 30-Jun-2004 | 30-Dec-2003 | 0.4560 | Pt. CT 301/114 (or Pt Town Belt (Pt CT 397/181)) |

Dunedin Town Belt management plan

| Reserve | Occupier | Facility/ building on reserve? | Ownership of Facility | Purpose | Type of Agreement | Term (Years) | Expiry Date | Review Date | Leased Area (ha) | Legal Description Leased Area |
|-----------------------------|------------------------------------|---|-----------------------|-----------------|-------------------|--------------|-------------|-------------|------------------|--|
| Town Belt – Jubilee Park | Malcom & Associates | Clubrooms & Courts | Lessee | Recreation | Lease | 14 | 30-Nov-2012 | 31-May-2012 | | Pt. CT 301/114 |
| Town Belt – Prospect Park | Northern AFC | Clubrooms | Lessee | Recreation | Lease | 14 | 1-Jul-2010 | 30-Dec-2009 | 0.0103 | Pt. CT 301/116 |
| Town Belt – Prospect Park | Vodafone | Electronics cabinet, cables, communications equipment | Lessee | Network Utility | Lease and licence | | | | | |
| Town Belt – Robin Hood Park | Dunedin Astronomical Society | Observatory | Lessee | Recreation | Lease | 14 | 1-Jul-2013 | 30-Dec-2012 | 0.0074 | Part of Section 89 Block XIX Town of Dunedin |
| Town Belt – Woodhaugh | Leith Bowling Club | Clubrooms & Greens | Lessee | Recreation | Lease | Year to Year | 31-Mar-2003 | 29-Sep-2002 | 0.4909 | Pt. CT 301/116 |
| Town Belt – Woodhaugh | Leith Croquet Club Inc | Clubrooms & Greens | Lessee | Recreation | Lease | 14 | 31-Mar-2003 | 29-Sep-2002 | 0.3427 | Pt. CT 301/116 |
| Town Belt – Gardens Ground | Broadcast Communications NZ Ltd | Communications | Lessee | Network Utility | Lease | 6 | 31-Oct-2009 | 1-May-2009 | 0.0000 | Pt. CT 301/116 |
| Town Belt – Gardens Ground | Northern AFC & NEVCC | Clubrooms | Lessee | Recreation | Lease | 14 | 1-Jul-2013 | 30-Dec-2012 | 0.0103 | Pt. CT 301/116 |
| Town Belt – Opoho Park | Opoho Bowling Club | Clubrooms & Greens | Lessee | Recreation | Lease | 14 | 30-Jun-2008 | 30-Dec-2007 | 0.2613 | Section 1 Blk LXXX Pt CT 301/116 |
| Town Belt – Opoho Park | Alhambra Union Rugby Football Club | Clubrooms | Lessee | Recreation | Lease | 14 | 1-Jul-2013 | 30-Dec-2012 | 0.0558 | Pt. CT 301/116 |

Dunedin Town Belt management plan

6.3 Public vehicle routes (not located on legal road reserve) on the Town Belt

| Road Name | Locality | Park Name |
|--------------------|----------|--|
| Braid Road | Dunedin | Town Belt |
| Butts Road | Dunedin | Logan Park, New Caledonian Sports Ground, Northern Cemetery, University Oval |
| Chamberlain Street | Dunedin | Town Belt |
| Como Street | Dunedin | Town Belt |
| Cosy Dell Road | Dunedin | Town Belt |
| Drivers Road | Dunedin | Town Belt |
| Duchess Avenue | Dunedin | Town Belt |
| Duke Street | Dunedin | Town Belt |
| Harcourt Street | Dunedin | Town Belt |
| High Street | Dunedin | Town Belt |
| Kyle Street | Dunedin | Town belt |
| Lachlan Avenue | Dunedin | Town Belt |
| Littlebourne Road | Dunedin | Town Belt |
| Lonsdale Street | Dunedin | Town Belt |
| Lovelock Avenue | Dunedin | Botanic Garden |
| Maori Road | Dunedin | Town Belt |
| Meadow Street | Dunedin | Town Belt |
| Melrose Street | Dunedin | Town Belt |
| Newington Avenue | Dunedin | Town Belt |
| Opoho Road | Dunedin | Botanic Garden |
| Preston Crescent | Dunedin | Town Belt |
| Queens Drive | Dunedin | Town Belt, Littlebourne Ground |
| Scarba Street | Dunedin | Town Belt |
| Sligo Terrace | Dunedin | Town Belt |
| Stafford Street | Dunedin | Town Belt |
| Stuart Street | Dunedin | Town Belt |
| Tolcarne Avenue | Dunedin | Town Belt |
| Wallace Street | Dunedin | Town Belt |

Dunedin Town Belt management plan

6.4 Council Extract Approving Plan

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE HELD IN THE EDINBURGH ROOM, MUNICIPAL CHAMBERS ON TUESDAY 23 JANUARY 2007 COMMENCING AT 2.01PM

18 DUNEDIN TOWN BELT MANAGEMENT PLAN – FINAL APPROVAL

a) Report from the Community and Recreation Policy Team Leader

A report from the Community and Recreation Policy Team Leader (Lisa Wheeler) included the recommendations from the Hearings Committee on public submissions on the Draft *Town Belt Management Plan* and appended the final document with the recommended amendments incorporated. The report sought the Committee's final approval of the Plan.

The Committee acknowledged the work of the former Reserves Planner (Jacinda Baker) and other staff in the process.

It was moved (Walls/Brown):

- “1. That Council approves the amendments to the draft *Town Belt Management Plan* recommended by the Hearings Committee as a result of public submissions; and
2. That Council adopts the *Town Belt Management Plan*, incorporating amendments made as a result of public submissions and the Hearing Panel recommendations, subject to Minister of Conservation approval of sections relating to the scenic reserve, as required by Section 41(6e) of the Reserves Act 1977; and
3. That Council approves the reviewed Dunedin *Town Belt Management Plan* as an update and replacement of the Dunedin *Town Belt Management Plan* R110/6; and
4. That Council approves the amendments to the Leasing and Licensing table (Appendix 6.2) to update information that has changed since the production of the draft management plan.”

Motion carried

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE DUNEDIN CITY COUNCIL HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, MUNICIPAL CHAMBERS ON MONDAY 19 FEBRUARY 2007 COMMENCING AT 3.00 PM

6 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE – 23 JANUARY 2007

It was moved (Hudson/Stevenson):

“2 That the following Part B items of the minutes of the Community Development Committee meeting held on 23 January 2007 be approved:

Item 18: Dunedin *Town Belt Management Plan* – Final Approval

Motion carried

Dunedin Town Belt management plan

6.5 Consent From Minister Of Conservation

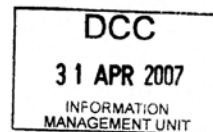


Department of Conservation
Te Papa Atawhai

File Ref: SAS-01-81

27 April 2007

Dolina Lee
Dunedin City Council
P O Box 5045
DUNEDIN 9058



Dear Dolina Lee

**TOWN BELT MANAGEMENT PLAN – MINISTER'S CONSENT IN ACCORDANCE WITH
SECTION 41 OF THE RESERVES ACT 1977**

Thank you for your letter to Bruce Hill dated 14 March 2007 requesting the approval of the Minister of Conservation for the sections of the Town Belt Management Plan relating to Scenic Reserves.

I have delegated authority from the Minister of Conservation to consent to the Plan as far as it relates to scenic reserves. I note that the Minister's consent is not required for the recreation reserves and other land covered by the Plan.

I note that the scenic reserve covered by the Plan is:

- Woodhaugh Scenic Reserve

I have considered the Plan and the process undertaken by the Council in the preparation of this Plan.

I am satisfied that it is appropriate for me, on behalf of the Minister, to consent to the Plan as far as it relates to scenic reserves.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Marian van der Goot'.

Marian van der Goot
Community Relations Manager

Otago Conservancy
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7.1 Publications

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