

It's Our Place

Ashburton Domain Development Plan

Our Place : Our Domain

Ashburton District Council is developing the Ashburton Domain Development Plan to future-proof the Ashburton Domain for the next 30 years. This booklet includes a summary of the proposed projects and a submission form for your feedback.

We are accepting feedback until 5 pm, Sunday 5 April 2020.

Introduction

What are we consulting on?

The Ashburton Domain is an important and much loved space for both residents and visitors to our area.

It is for this reason that we have worked with industry experts to develop a plan for the Domain to ensure it continues to be, and is further enhanced, as the 'jewel in the crown' of our district.

We have developed a plan for the Domain that covers what improvements we think should happen over the next 30 years, with the proposed projects aiming to:

- celebrate the waterway;
- create a cohesive play environment;
- increase access from the town; and
- establish a Central Hub at the heart of the Domain.

We want to know if you agree with our proposed plan - this is your chance to get your ideas included and help to shape what the Domain will look like in 30 years. This document describes each individual project, and **pages 20 - 21** show the timeline along with high level estimates of the costs.

Supporting documents

Ashburton Domain and Gardens Reserve Management Plan 2013

Draft Ashburton Domain Development Plan 2020

Ashburton District Long-Term Plan (2018-28)

Ashburton District Plan

Open Spaces Strategy 2016

Biodiversity Action Plan 2017

Climate Change Policy 2019

Come along to our Open Day and talk to us about our proposed plan.

OPEN DAY: Saturday 7 March, 11am - 4pm

LOCATION: ADC marquee next to the playground by the main carpark in the Domain.



***We want
to hear
from YOU!***

Background

In December 2013, following discussions with the community, Council adopted the ***Ashburton Domain and Gardens Reserve Management Plan*** which provides guidance on the day-to-day operation of the Domain. However, while developing this first plan, it became evident that we needed another plan for how the Domain is to develop over the next few decades.

Therefore, in 2018 Council agreed to commission Canopy Landscape Architects to develop this long-term plan, the Ashburton Domain Development Plan, with the sole purpose of considering how the Domain will be developed and enhanced over the next 30 years to best fit our community's needs.

This plan has been designed to provide the strategic direction for the Domain and to ensure future expenditure takes a coordinated approach. It provides suggestions for features which need updating, or could be better utilised, and recommends projects (along with estimated costs and timelines) to maximise the value of the Domain for our community. It aims to capture our community's thoughts, wishes and ideas about the future direction of the Domain.



Our Domain

The Ashburton Domain is used and loved by many in our community. It is home to local sports clubs – tennis, hockey, soccer, cricket, lawn bowls, croquet, and athletics, and has hosted various community events over the years, including Christmas in the Park. The Domain contains a playground and a paddling pool for children, and has many great spots for picnics on warmer days. There are also many impressive and notable trees of both botanical and commemorative importance growing within the Domain; the gardens also provide stunning displays across the seasons.

The Domain plays an important role in making our district a great place to live and it's important this continues into the future.

A full version of the Ashburton Domain Development Plan is available from ashburtondc.govt.nz/haveyoursay



Our Domain:

Proposed projects

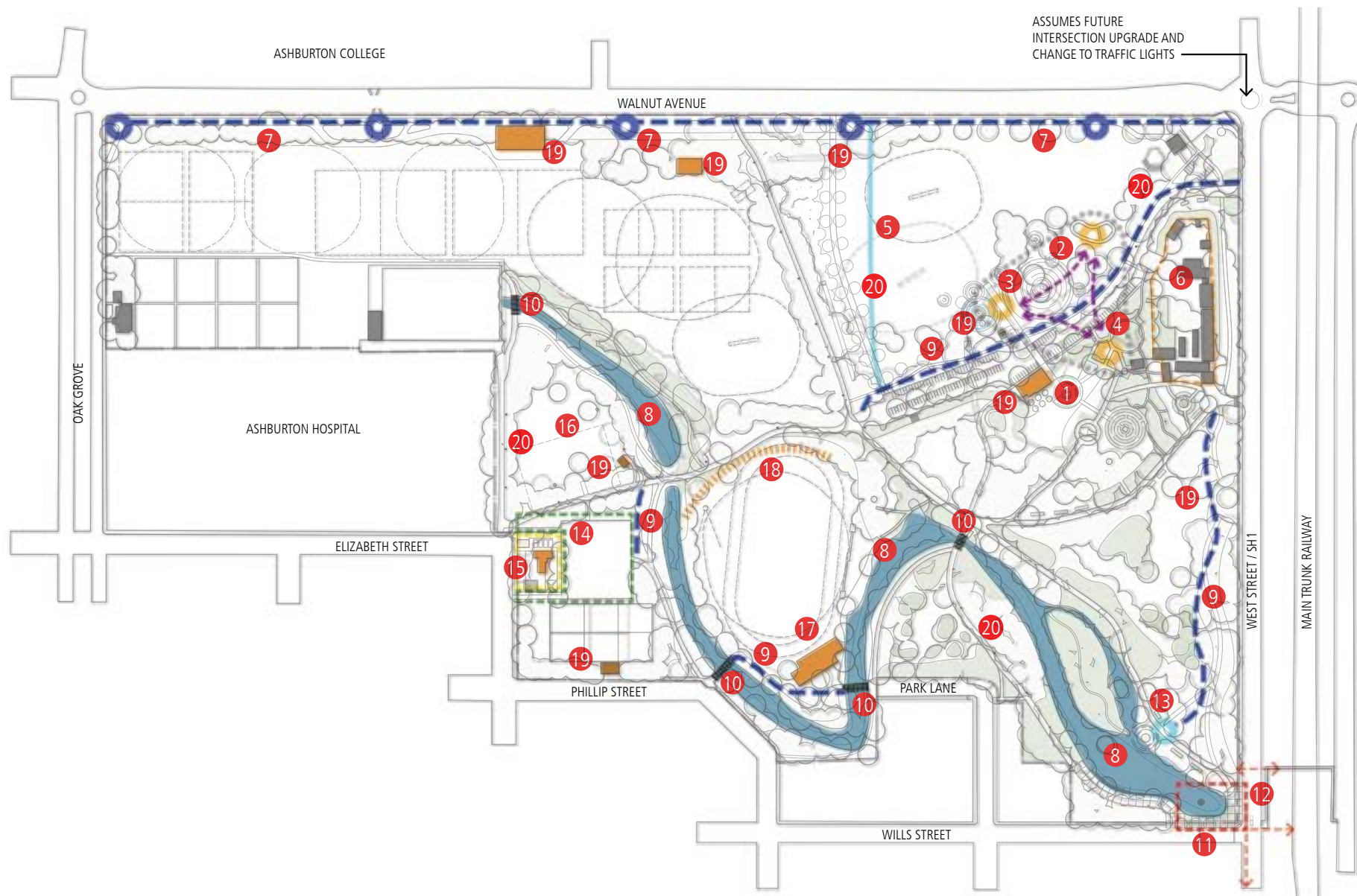
A range of projects are proposed over the 30 year timeframe of the plan.

Further explanation of these projects is provided on the following pages.

PROJECTS

- | | |
|---------------------------|--|
| 1 CENTRAL HUB SPACE | 14 WEST ENTRY & CARPARK UPGRADE |
| 2 PLAYGROUND | 15 CURATOR'S HOUSE & GARDEN |
| 3 WATER PLAY | 16 POTENTIAL BOWLING CLUB |
| 4 AVIARY | 17 CRICKET PAVILLION UPGRADE |
| 5 NEW ENTRY & ACCESS ROAD | 18 FENCING ■■■■ |
| 6 PARKS DEPOT | 19 BUILDINGS - DESIGN GUIDE |
| 7 WALNUT AVENUE PROMENADE | 20 LIGHTING UPGRADE (SITE WIDE) |
| 8 WATERWAY ENHANCEMENTS | 21 SCULPTURE TRAIL (NOT SHOWN ON PLAN) |
| 9 NEW PATHWAYS ■■■■ | 22 HERITAGE TRAIL (NOT SHOWN ON PLAN) |
| 10 BRIDGES ■■■■ | 23 BOTANICAL TRAIL (NOT SHOWN ON PLAN) |
| 11 SOUTHERN CORNER PLAZA | 24 EDUCATION (NOT SHOWN ON PLAN) |
| 12 SH1 CROSSING | |
| 13 BAND ROTUNDA / KIOSK | |

Our Domain **Proposed projects**



Northeast corner of the Domain



Central Hub

Currently, our Domain has no obvious central focus or starting point when you first arrive. Therefore, we are proposing the eastern corner, next to the main car park becomes the ‘heart of the domain’ (Project 1).

This would be where you start your visit and the ‘go-to’ place for information and refreshments. It would also be a space for education and displays.

We see this space, the Central Hub, containing a café with an outdoor dining area, information on the Domain gardens, and a flexible space that could be used by all as a gallery, for meetings, or where education classes are held.

We also see a new outdoor area surrounding the building, with gardens and areas for gathering which flows into the other formal gardens and Aviary area. We would establish a new pedestrian pathway across the car park to provide a safe walkway from the Central Hub to the playground and proposed water play areas.

To enable this Central Hub space to be developed, the Ashburton Bowling Club, which is located in this central space, would need to be relocated. The club could be moved when their current lease expires in 2028 to the picnic area near to the hospital and croquet lawn, or to the area beside the EA Networks Centre. We have discussed this with the bowling club and they are aware of our plan. We will continue to keep them informed throughout this process.

If you have any feedback on this project, see [question 2](#) on our feedback form at the end of this document.





Northeast corner of the Domain

The purpose of these projects is to incorporate these features better into the garden setting and increase their access from the central hub space.

Playground

It is proposed that over time, as maintenance and natural upgrades occur, that the playground equipment is given a more natural and botanical themed appearance **(Project 2)**.

Timber based play structures are suggested, along with strategic planting within the area to help blend the playground into the garden setting and to create a more interesting play experience.

Other suggested additions include shade structures within the playground area and a family changing room next to the new toilet block.

Water play

The children's paddling pool is currently located away from the playground and we are proposing to replace this pool with a new water play and paddling pool area next to the playground **(Project 3)**. This new play area could include components such as a splash pad, bridge, waterfall, water cannons and shade structures. The area currently occupied by the paddling pool could then be converted into a simple picnic space with Domain information to encourage visitors passing through to stay for a longer period of time.



**You have until 5pm on
Sunday 5 April 2020
to get your feedback in!**

The aviary and wildlife garden

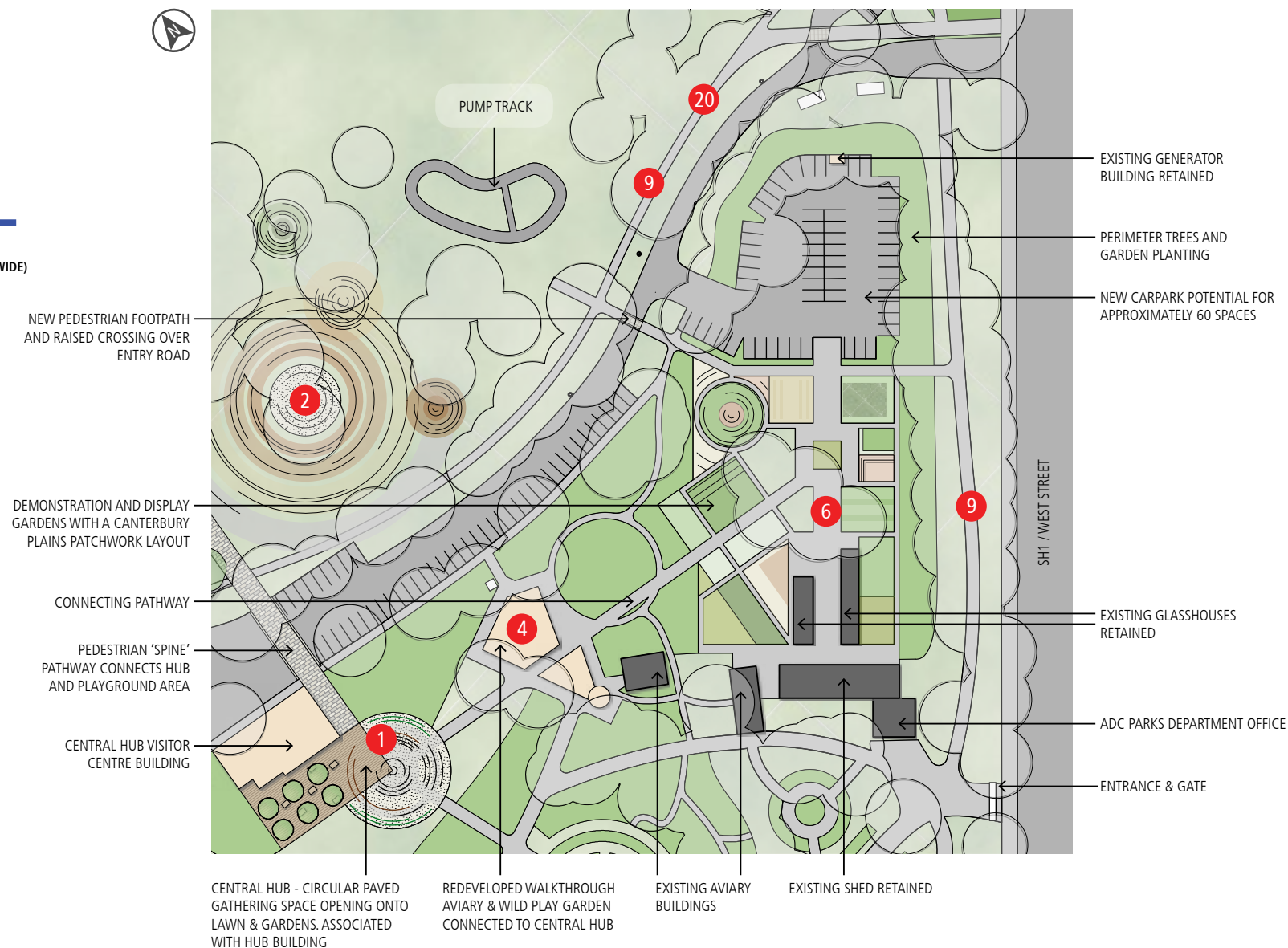
The aviary and wildlife gardens would also be enhanced to increase linkages with the central hub and playground areas, and to increase the opportunities for interaction **(Project 4)**. This could be achieved through incorporating informal 'nature play' elements, technology and interactive design features, the addition of a walk through to the aviary, and birdlife that can 'free range' through the picnic area without cages.



Northeast corner of the Domain

PROJECTS

- 1** CENTRAL HUB SPACE
- 2** PLAYGROUND
- 4** AVIARY
- 6** PARKS DEPOT
- 9** NEW PATHWAYS
- 20** LIGHTING UPGRADE (SITE WIDE)



Parks Depot

The Parks Depot is currently situated next to the proposed central hub space. It is the base of operations for the Open Spaces Team, who service both the Domain and the other green spaces in the district, alongside stockwater, cemetery, and biodiversity operations.

Over time, it is envisaged that the bulk of the Parks Depot will move out of the Domain, with only the equipment and staff required to operate and maintain the Domain remaining (**Project 6**).

This will allow some of the existing buildings to be removed, with this space becoming part of the gardens precinct within the Domain. Demonstration and display gardens could be established to illustrate the story of our district, its botanical history, culture and development.

This new garden would support the nearby Central Hub and sit next to the enhanced aviaries and proposed wildlife gardens, with paths connecting the areas. The area at the north end of the Parks Depot could become additional car parking, with pedestrian pathways linking to the playground and sports fields.

To find out more, visit us in the Domain on Saturday **7 March, 11am - 4pm**. Look out for the marquee next to the playground by the main carpark.

DEMONSTRATION GARDEN - BENCHMARK EXAMPLE



Northern side of the Domain

Walnut Avenue promenade

A broad, shared pathway for both pedestrians and cyclists is proposed along the length of Walnut Avenue on the park edge (**Project 7**).

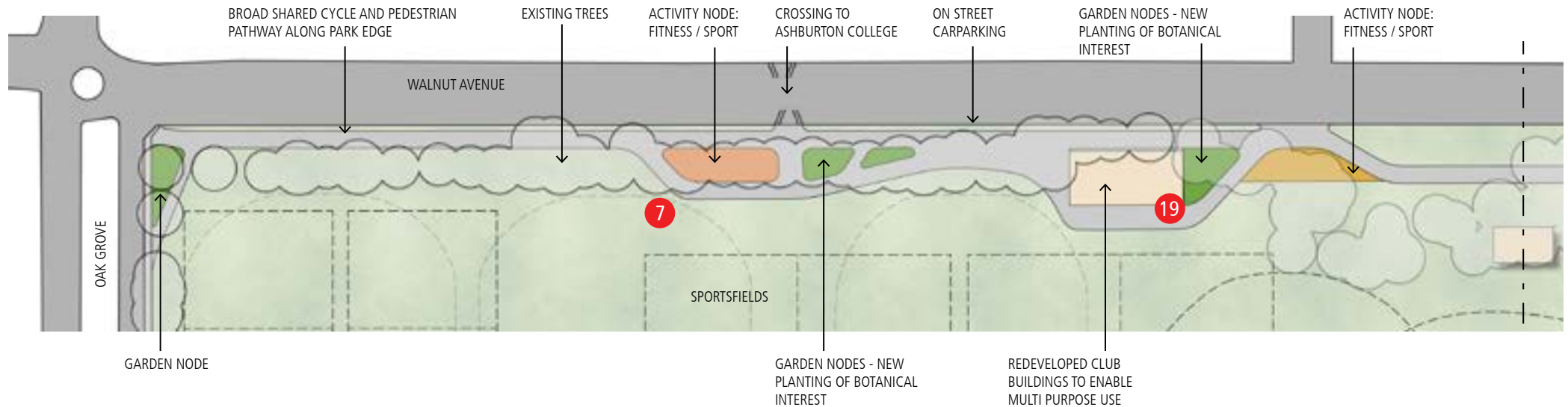
The existing sports pavilion and fitness trail would be incorporated into the promenade, making 'nodes' of activity and interest along it. Other proposed nodes include new sports areas such as petanque, table tennis and fitness stations, public art and sculptures, garden plantings, and performance space.

PROJECTS

- 5** NEW ENTRY & ACCESS ROAD
- 7** WALNUT AVENUE PROMENADE
- 19** BUILDINGS - DESIGN GUIDE



WALNUT AVENUE PROMENADE - BENCHMARK EXAMPLE



Northern side of the Domain

New entry and access road

The NZ Transport Agency is investigating changing the current roundabout at West Street (SH1) and Walnut Avenue into traffic lights.

If this occurs, vehicles would be unable to turn right into the Domain while travelling south on SH1, and vehicles leaving the Domain will only be able to turn left – a ‘left in, left out’ scenario.

If this intersection upgrade is undertaken, we are proposing an alternative access way off Walnut

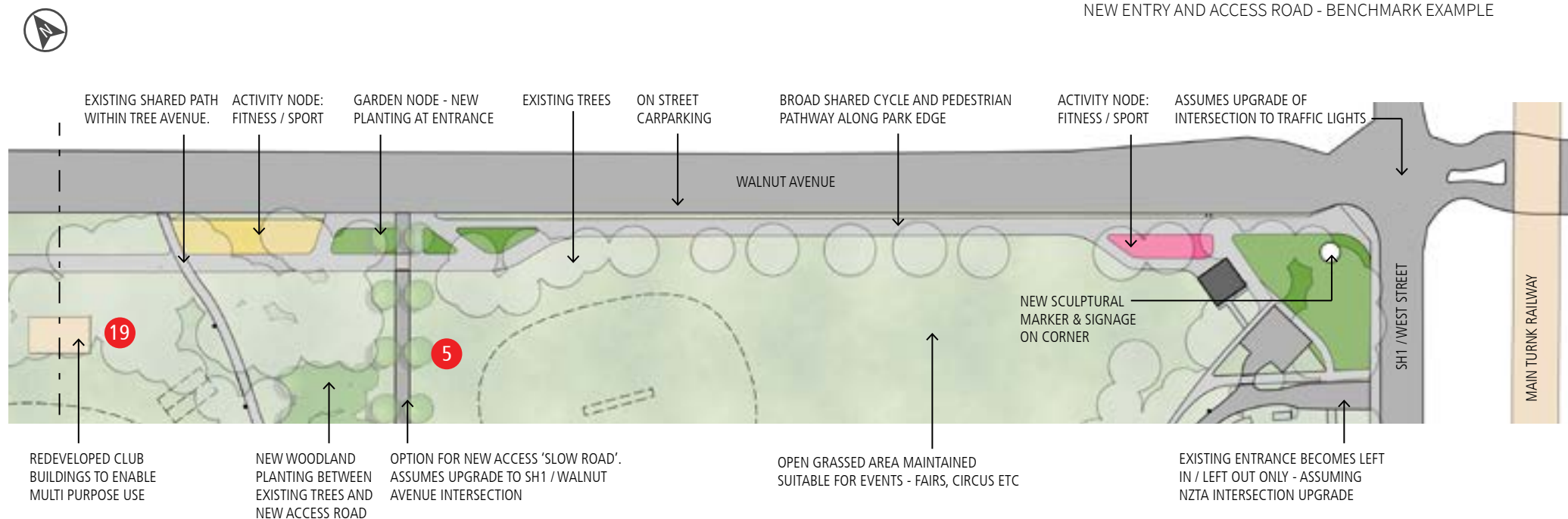
Avenue through to the main carpark **(Project 5)**.

The road would be narrow to encourage slow driving, contain lighting, and be lined with trees to incorporate the new road into the park landscape. Limited access would still be available from the existing West Street entrance.

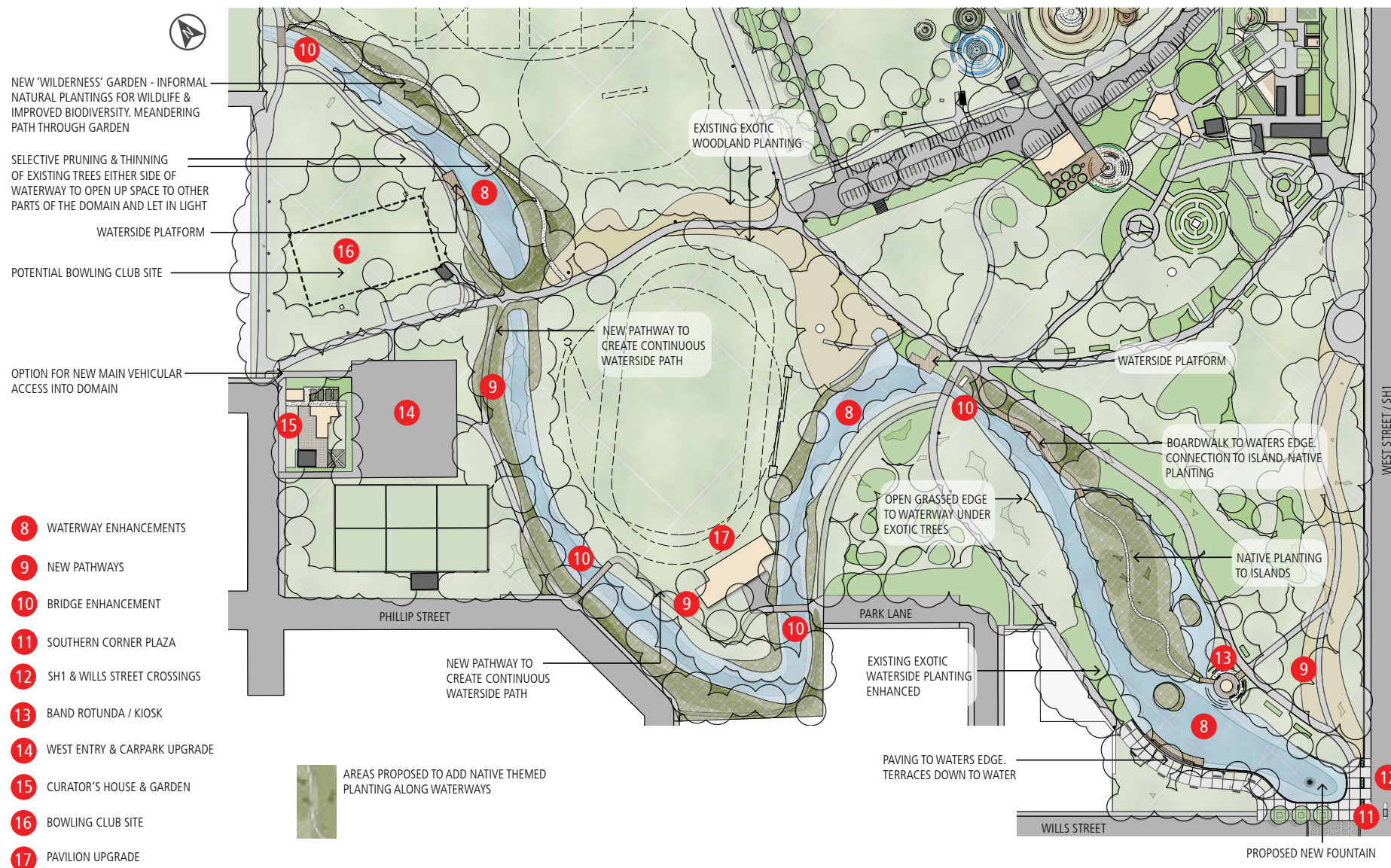
See map on page 6 for further information on location of this new entry road.



NEW ENTRY AND ACCESS ROAD - BENCHMARK EXAMPLE



Southern corner of the Domain



Southern corner of the Domain

Waterway enhancements

To enhance the appeal of the waterways for visitors, a series of actions are proposed **(Project 8)** including:

- addition of a network of pathways around the waterway;
- a water's edge boardwalk between the island and waterwheel;
- addition of a fountain within the pond at the southeast entrance to the Domain;
- repair and strengthening work to pond edges where they are worn out; and
- new planting along the length of the waterway and in the existing 'wilderness' area to the east of the old bathing pond with both native and exotic plants.

New pathways and bridge enhancements

New pathways are proposed to increase circulation around the Domain and to provide paths where pedestrians currently walk **(Project 9)**.

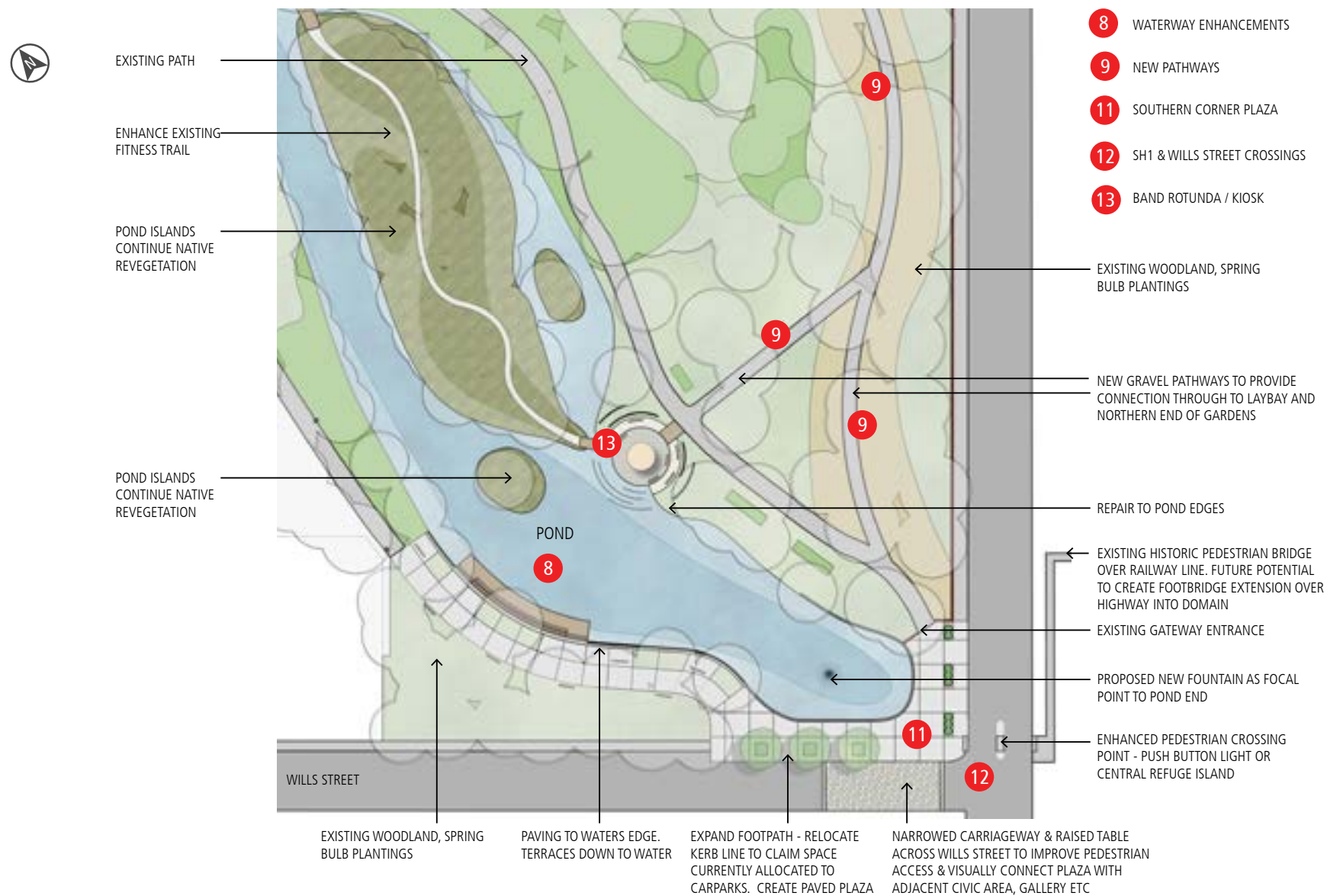
These include the following gravel chip pathways:

- along the east side of the garden from the Southern Plaza through to the layby on Walnut Avenue;
- from the bridge at the end of Park Lane through to the Phillip Street boundary;
- along the western side of the waterway from the old netball courts through to the northern end of the waterway; and
- an asphalt pathway along the edge of the sports fields running from the hockey turf through to Oak Grove.

No new bridges are currently proposed, rather where renewal is required in the future, replacement bridges should be developed with artistic intent **(Project 10)**.



Southern corner of the Domain – West Street / Wills Street corner



Southern corner of the Domain – West Street / Wills Street corner

Southern corner

The southern corner of the Domain is the closest to the civic and retail heart of Ashburton.

To improve the connectivity between the town and the Domain, it is proposed that either a push button crossing is installed across SH1 at the bottom of the footbridge over the railway line, or, at a minimum, a pedestrian refuge is created in the central median of the highway (**Project 12**). It is also proposed that the distance between kerbs is reduced across Wills Street and a raised speed table installed to slow vehicle traffic.

We also propose to push out the kerb line on the road corner of West Street (SH1) and Wills Street, and

reduce the size of the existing flower beds to provide more space for pedestrians around the pond edge and improve the ability for people to get close to the water (**Project 11**). New seating, cycle parking, and planting is also proposed for this area.

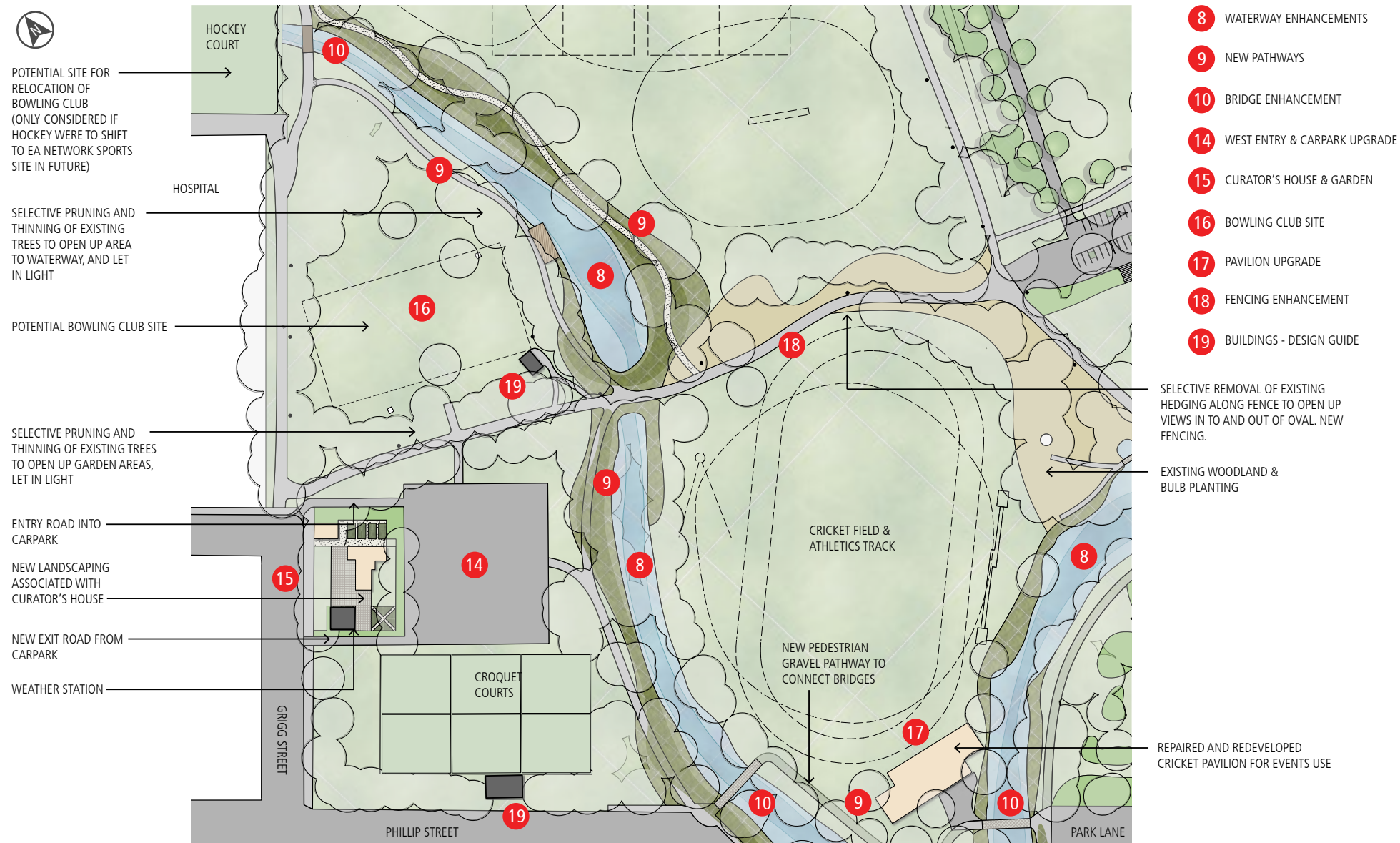
To further enhance the appeal of this southern corner, we are proposing the establishment of a band rotunda or kiosk on the edge of the water (**Project 13**). The rotunda would provide sheltered seating and allow people to get close to the water, and contain information about the Domain and gardens. The rotunda could also double as a coffee kiosk.



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SOUTHERN CORNER, SH1 & WILLS STREET CROSSINGS
AND BAND ROTUNDA / KIOSK - BENCHMARK EXAMPLES

West corner of the Domain



West corner of the Domain

Entry and events areas

A second entrance is proposed at the corner of Grigg and Elizabeth Streets just south of the hospital complex and beside the Curator's House (Project 14).

This entrance would provide access to the disused netball courts which could be used as a car parking area.

The car park would be available for general visitors, but also for the croquet club, visitors to the Curator's House, picnic area users, event attendees, and also users of the hockey turf. The entry and exit would be one way, with the entry driveway to the north of the Curator's House and the exit driveway to the south.

To find out more, visit us in the Domain on Saturday **7 March, 11am - 4pm**. Look out for the marquee next to the playground by the main carpark.

The entry driveway will also provide a connection to the open picnic area to the north, which will be available for overflow parking when events are being held.

New planting and fencing will need to occur, and formal gates are proposed at the entrance.



WEST ENTRY UPGRADE - BENCHMARK EXAMPLES

Other proposed projects in the Domain

- A specific plan to be developed for the enhancement of the Curator's House and surrounding gardens **(Project 15)**.
- Selective removal of trees from the picnic area (set aside in the plan for the lawn bowling club should the Central Hub project go ahead), to improve the visual appeal and improve the connectivity with the surrounding gardens and waterway **(Project 16)**.
- Remodelling of the cricket pavilion to increase the attractiveness of the building **(Project 17)**.
- Replace the fence beside the cricket oval and selectively remove some of the dense plantings to open up the view from the adjacent walking track **(Project 18)**.
- Progressively update all buildings in the Domain to a more attractive appearance so that they are an added feature to an area and their purpose maximised **(Project 19)**.
- A site-wide lighting upgrade with a consistent pole and light fitting style progressively rolled out **(Project 20)**.
- Develop a sculpture trail through the Domain to encourage people to visit more than just a single area **(Project 21)**.
- Develop a heritage trail across the Domain utilising signage and digital mapping technology, making the most of elements already present such as commemoration stones, entranceways and remnants of previous structures **(Project 22)**.
- Develop a series of botanical trails to highlight key species of interest and their connection to the historical development of the Domain **(Project 23)**.
- Generally improve education opportunities within the Domain. Educational resources will be combined with other projects.
- Utilise technology where possible, such as through an Ashburton Domain Facebook page, development of an App which contains information for Domain visitors, free WiFi in a specific area of the Domain to get people to visit, and in the longer term, digital signage and information services.

Overall design principles

We also intend that all buildings established, extended or remodelled in the future will be done so, so that they are an attractive feature to the Domain. The aim is for the buildings to fit with the surrounding landscape and add to our Domain's character and identity in a cohesive way.

A full version of the Ashburton Domain Development Plan is available from ashburtondc.govt.nz/haveyoursay

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A photograph of a park scene. In the center-right, a person is sitting on a wooden picnic table with black metal legs. The table is on a light-colored rectangular mat on the grass. The person is wearing a dark tank top and shorts. In the background, there are many large, leafy green trees. The sky is not clearly visible. The text 'Have your say on Our Domain' is overlaid on the left side of the image. 'Have your' and 'say on' are in white, and 'Our Domain' is in a bright green color.

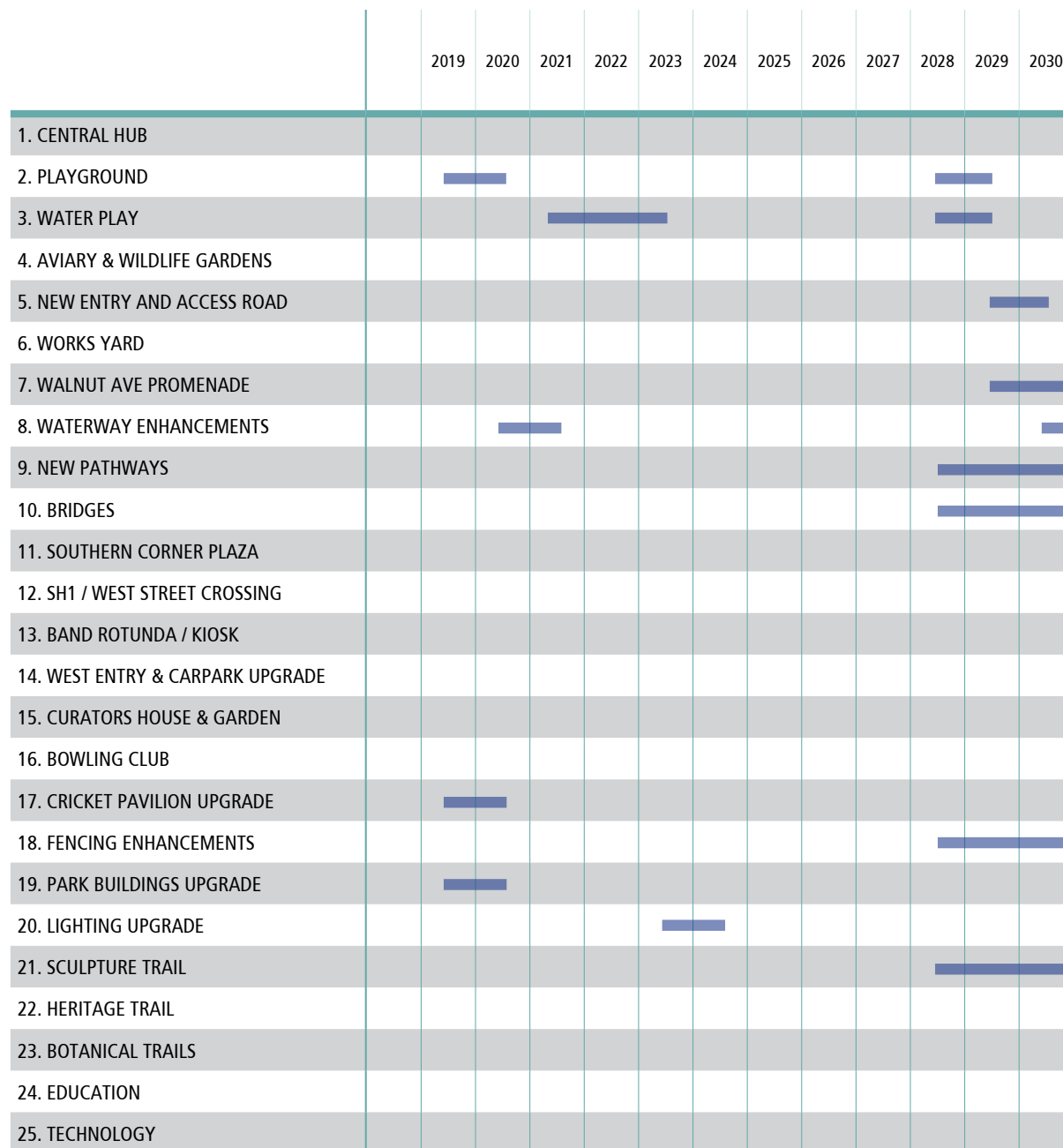
**Have your
say on
Our Domain**

Timeline

This table outlines the proposed timeline for each of the projects along with a high level estimate of the cost.

The timeline for years 2-10 matches costs already budgeted for in the Long-Term Plan 2018-28. Beyond these years, costs will need to be budgeted through future Long-Term Plan planning processes.

To find out more, visit us in the Domain on Saturday **7 March, 11am - 4pm**. Look out for the marquee next to the playground by the main carpark.



2031	2032	2033	2034	2035	2036	2037	2038	2039	2040	2041	2042	2043	2044	2045	2046	2047	2048	TOTALS
																		\$ 2,000,000
																		\$ 300,000
																		\$ 1,400,000
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																		\$ 2,500,000
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Have your
say on
Our Domain

You can submit on any or all of the questions below. You don't have to complete every question.

1. Our goal is a Domain which has easy access from the town, contains a Central Hub, celebrates the waterways and where a play environment is encouraged. Do you agree with our goal?

2. To enable the central hub area, we have suggested moving the Ashburton Bowling Club at the end of their lease to another site in the Domain. Do you agree with creating a central hub in this area of the Domain?

3. Which projects are the most important to you? Why?

4. Are there any projects you don't think are important to be undertaken? Why?

5. Do you agree with our proposed timeline for the projects (see pages 22/23 for the details)?

6. Do you have any other ideas for improving the plan?

Please note, all submissions are public documents and will be made available on Council's website with the names of submitters included.

If you are completing this submission on behalf of others, please name the group or organisation. Only one submission per group/organisation will be accepted.

If you need, please attach additional information.

Come along to our Open Day and talk to us about our proposed plan.

OPEN DAY: Saturday 7 March, 11am - 4pm

LOCATION: ADC marquee next to the playground by the main carpark in the Domain.

Ashburton District Council
PO Box 94
Ashburton 7740

FOLD HERE

*Have your
Say!*

Ashburton Domain Development Plan

Our Place: Our Domain

The easiest way to provide your feedback is to complete the form
online at ashburtondc.govt.nz/haveyoursay

Alternatively, you can provide feedback by filling in the attached
submission form and getting it back to us using one of the following
methods:



FREEPOST TO

Ashburton District Council
Our Place Our Town
Freepost 230444
PO Box 94
Ashburton 7740



IN PERSON

Dropping it off at:
Ashburton District
Council reception –
5 Baring Square West



ONLINE AT

ashburtondc.govt.nz/haveyoursay



EMAIL TO

submissions@adc.govt.nz

Your details

First name: _____ Last name: _____

Organisation (if appropriate): _____

Street number: _____ Street name: _____

Suburb / Town / RD: _____ Postcode: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Do you wish to speak in support of your submission at the hearing?

(If no boxes are ticked, it will be considered that you do not wish to be heard)

☐

Yes: Hearings are expected to be held in the Council
Chamber, 131 Havelock Street on Wednesday 29 April 2020.

☐

No: I do not wish to speak in support of my
submission and ask that the following written
submission be fully considered.

Signature: _____

Date: _____