

# *Open Spaces Strategy*

ASHBURTON DISTRICT COUNCIL | 2016 - 2026







#### **Published by**

Ashburton District Council  
PO Box 94  
Ashburton

#### **Version Status**

Adopted by Council on 30 June 2016.

This Strategy has no status under legislation and is only a guidance document for Council actions and for other documents prepared under the Local Government Act 2002, Reserves Act 1997 and Resource Management Act 1991.

#### **Acknowledgements**

This document has been prepared by Stewart Fletcher and Bert Hofmans. Ashburton District Council staff Gavin Thomas, Vincie Billante and David Askin have overseen the project with guidance provided by a working party comprising Crs Ken Cutforth, Alan Totty Donna Favel and Don Mcleod. Other staff that assisted with the project include Ian Hyde and Fleur Mulligan. Thanks are given to the representatives of the partner agencies who also contributed.





06



18



26

## Foreword

---

## The Strategy

What is open space and why is it important?

Why do we need a strategy?

What does the strategy include?

How has the strategy been prepared?

What do we have now?

What do we have to think about?

What are our guiding principles?

What do we want to achieve?

---

## Action Plan

How will the Objectives be Achieved?

Equity

Efficiency

Effectiveness

Enhancement

---

## Appendices

Related Documents

Survey Results

Current Open Spaces

Future Open Spaces

Special Projects

Glossary of Terms





Hiking out from Double Hut at  
the Foot of Taylors Range

## From The Mayor

For as long as I can remember, I have always loved walking through the Ashburton Domain. No matter the season, I find the Domain a peaceful and beautiful place to visit - somewhere I can enjoy the surroundings, relax and think.

Many of you will share my feelings about the Domain, or perhaps another open space in the Ashburton District. We are privileged to have around 442 hectares of parks, reserves, sports grounds, domains, riversides, beaches and lakes where people play, encounter nature, enjoy sports, walk the dog or even just sit at lunchtime.

Our open spaces are important because they enhance our quality of life in a variety of ways. It's important for the community to have places where they can play sport, socialise and unwind. Open spaces add character to our neighbourhoods and they make our suburbs more visually appealing. They protect our history, our ecosystem and our identity.

As a Council, it is our responsibility to maintain these open spaces so that residents and visitors can enjoy them for years to come. This strategy details how Council plans to make this vision a reality.

Some of the actions we need to take will happen within a year; others are long term goals. However, for all, we will need to work together as a community to be able to continue enjoying the space we have.

**Angus McKay**

Mayor

Ashburton District Council





---

## *Vision*

---

**Open spaces of the Ashburton District contribute towards the beauty and enjoyment of the area for residents and visitors alike.**





# *The Strategy*

PART A





---

08. **What is open space and why is it important?**

09. **Why do we need a strategy?**

08. **What does the strategy include?**

09. **How has the strategy been prepared?**

10. **What do we have now?**

12. **What challenges do we face?**

15. **What are our guiding principles?**

16. **What do we want to achieve?**



## What is open space and why is it important?

Open spaces are those areas of land or water such as parks, reserves, sports grounds, domains, riversides, beaches, and lakes where people play, encounter nature, enjoy sports, walk the dog, or sit at lunchtime. For the purpose of this strategy, open space is defined as:

**Council managed or owned areas of land or water<sup>1</sup> that offer unrestricted access to the public for the purpose of amenity, recreation or enjoyment for people in the district. This excludes buildings, swimming pools, and public conveniences that may be located in open space areas.**

These areas make a significant contribution to our quality of life by:

- providing opportunities for sport, recreation, and experiencing nature;
- adding to the amenity, character and identity of our neighbourhood;
- providing areas to meet, play and socialise with other members of our community;
- protecting our history and providing areas to celebrate our heritage and culture;
- making our suburbs and centers visually more attractive;
- maintaining and improving our ecosystems;
- providing economic benefits by encouraging people to visit or live in our towns, and;
- providing for our mental and spiritual wellbeing.

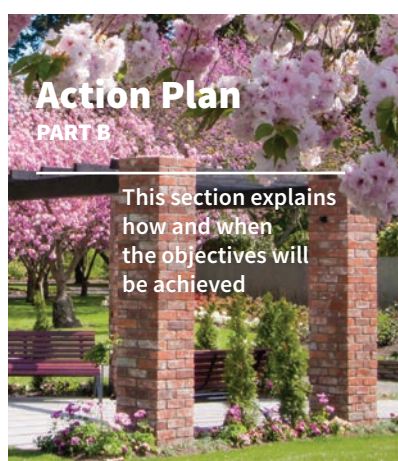
## What does this strategy include?

This strategy identifies clear principles, goals, objectives and actions that will help us to do this together as a community.

In doing so, the strategy also:

- provides information about the range of Council-managed open spaces;
- sets out standards for maintaining those areas and creating new areas;
- identifies potential areas for future open space development; and,
- identifies specific projects proposed to be undertaken in the district over the next 30 years.

**The strategy is designed to guide Council decision making<sup>2</sup> in relation to the District's open spaces and is structured as follows:**



<sup>1</sup>The Ashburton District Council owns and manages most of these open spaces. However, many other open space areas are managed by other agencies and organisations such as the Department of Conservation, Environment Canterbury and the Ministry of Education. These other areas are also important for amenity and recreational values, but this strategy only focuses on open spaces owned or managed by Council.

<sup>2</sup> It is at Council's discretion as to whether or not a project will commence taking into consideration priorities and rating impacts



## Why do we need a strategy?

The purpose of the Open Spaces Strategy is to set the direction for the provision of an open space network that will meet the needs of the Ashburton District now and in the future. The strategy should ensure open spaces are provided in a way that meets the needs of the community, responds to changes in the environment, and enhances our natural environment.

It replaces Council's Neighbourhood Open Spaces Strategy which only focused on the Ashburton Township.

## How has this Strategy been prepared?

The strategy has been prepared by the Community Relations and Open Spaces Departments of the Ashburton District Council and was overseen by a working group consisting of Councillors and Council staff.

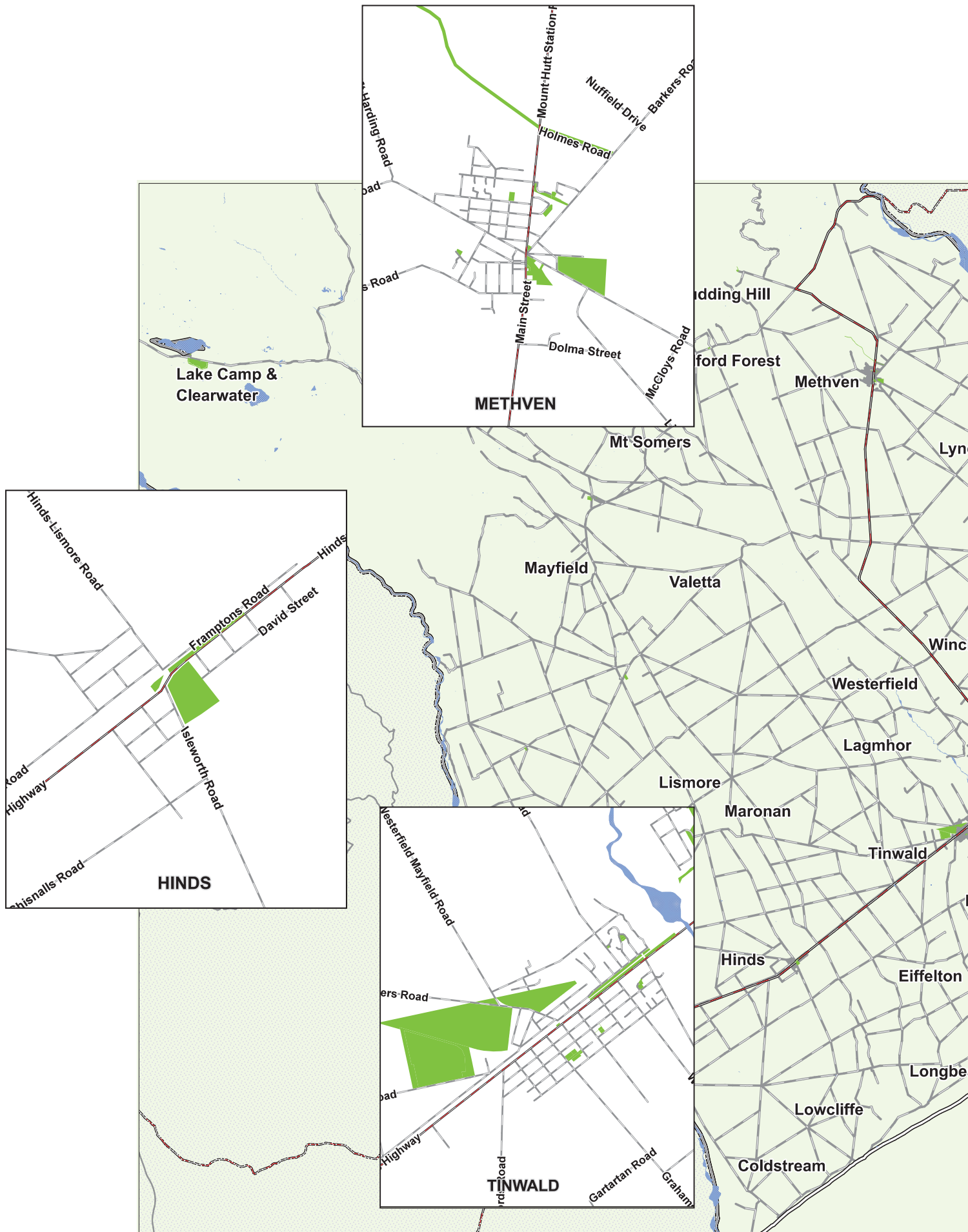
It has been informed by:

- A desktop review of the relevant and related documents (Appendix 1)
- Targeted consultation with other land management agencies;
- Wider public consultation through an online public survey (Appendix 2);

The relationship of this strategy with other Council documents was also considered. The table below illustrates this relationship while background information on the documents is provided in Appendix 1.

<div>LEGISLATIVE FRAMEWORK</div> <div>Local Government Act 2002</div> <div>Resource Management Act 1991</div> <div>Reserves Act 1977</div>	STRATEGIES							
	Open Spaces Strategy 2016 - 2026		Ashburton District Visitor Strategy 2009 - 2019		Sport and Recreation Strategy 2010 - 2020			
	BYLAWS							
	Parks and Public Gardens			Public Places				
	Long Term Plan		PLANS		District Plan			
	Activity Management Plans		Biodiversity Action Plan		Domain Development Plans		Reserve Management Plans	
	COMMUNITY STRATEGIC PLANS							







## What do we have now?

The Ashburton District covers around 6,175 square kilometres, with approximately 442 hectares of Council owned and managed open spaces. The map summarises the extent of these areas in relation to each other and the surrounding smaller maps provide a closer reference to each individual area.



ces 31/03/2016

0 25 50 m

### Disclaimer Note:

29/03/2016

Cadastral data sourced from Land Information New Zealand  
CRS Cadastral Database. Crown Copyright Reserved Digital Licence No. 133563-01

Any Colour Aerial Photography sourced from Air Logistics New Zealand Ltd.

Due to difference in data registration techniques, any aerial photography in the map, relative to cadastral boundaries should be considered as indicative only and MUST not be used for legal purposes.

The information supplied in this image is sourced from information held by the Ashburton District Council. It is supplied in good faith but its accuracy or completeness is not guaranteed.



## What do we need to think about?

### Tangata Whenua Values

Tangata Whenua Values - Maori were the first humans to travel through Ashburton District and to rely on its natural resources. The district was an important seasonal food gathering area, with food and material gathered and hunted from a variety of areas including the foothill forests, inland rivers, lakes and wetlands, coastal estuaries, as well as vast swamplands across the Plains.

There are also many places of spiritual and cultural importance to Tangata Whenua including waterways, waahi tapu (sacred places) and waahi taoka (treasured resources)<sup>3</sup>. The importance of this relationship is reflected in law, with the Resource Management Act identifying the relationship of Maori and their culture and traditions with their land ancestral lands, water, sites, waahi tapu and other taonga as a matter of national importance.

The Act also states the principles of the Treaty of Waitangi must be taken into account when managing the use, development and protection of natural and physical resources. As this includes open spaces, it is important to ensure the principles are taken into account in the management and provision of open spaces. This also recognises that open spaces can play a significant role in the protection and promotion of Maori values, particularly kaitiakitanga – guardianship and conservation of the environment.

<sup>3</sup>Ashburton District Plan 7 August 2014







Bellbird in a tree at Staveley

## Biodiversity

Native biodiversity is the variety of indigenous biodiversity plant and animal species that belong in New Zealand. The State of New Zealand's Environment 1997 report asserts that declining biodiversity values are our most pervasive environmental issue.

The Ashburton District has unique braided river systems that are an integral part of our natural identity and contain a variety of native fish, birds, and vegetation – some of which are rare and threatened. This strategy can play a significant role in the restoration and protection of indigenous flora and fauna through the careful planning of open spaces and integrating biodiversity principles into policy and practice (Ashburton District Biodiversity Action Plan Objective 4).



## Climate Change

While climate change challenges are more long term in nature, this does not mean they are less important or less urgent. Climate change will affect our open spaces to some extent depending on their sensitivity and ability to adapt to climate change. In Canterbury, temperatures are likely to increase  $0.9^{\circ}\text{C}$  by 2040 and be  $2.0^{\circ}\text{C}$  warmer by 2090, compared to 1990. It is expected to become wetter in the west and drier in the east with less rainfall on the plains, which raises the importance of sustainable water management for the district. Very heavy rainfall events are expected to become more frequent<sup>4</sup>.



## Urban Growth

Large areas of land in Ashburton have been rezoned for residential purposes. The challenge is to ensure the opportunities to develop new open spaces within these residential zones are optimised.

The District Plan also allows for increases in density in inner urban areas which will result in smaller residential sections and reduced access to private space. This will place more pressure on public open spaces.

## Demographics and Community Needs

Ashburton District has an estimated population of 33,200 as of 2015 Census projections. It is the 5th fastest growing district in the country and continues to be one of the fastest growing rural districts in New Zealand. This population growth is being largely driven by newcomers and migrant workers, and their families, joining the agricultural and manufacturing sectors.

Historically, the district has been aging at a rate comparable with New Zealand as a whole, however if current trends continue, the district is likely to have the lowest median age in Canterbury by 2043. It is important to monitor changes in the demographics of the district regularly to ensure Council is able to meet open space requirements that reflect the needs of the communities.



Sculptures on  
East Street

<sup>4</sup>[www.climatechange.govt.nz](http://www.climatechange.govt.nz)





## What are our guiding principles?

The following four principles guide the management and provision of open space in the district:

1. Open spaces are **equitably** distributed and funded. This means:

- Knowing what we have;
- Identifying and addressing shortfalls;
- Responding to changes in demographics and development;
- Funding these equitably throughout the district; and,
- Ensuring Council receives compensation for use of open space.



2. Open spaces are provided and managed **efficiently** throughout the district. This means:

- Building partnerships with others;
- Making the most of what we have; and,
- Reducing maintenance costs through smart design.



3. Open spaces are **effective** in meeting community needs. This means Council:

- Optimises the use of open space;
- Understands the community's needs;
- Increases public awareness and use of open space;
- Encourages events in public open spaces; and,
- Evaluates what we do.



4. Open spaces **enhance** the district and environment by providing an attractive community environment and improving recreational opportunities through:

- Connecting with our coast, waterways and green corridors;
- Increasing the accessibility of our open spaces;
- Conserving and promoting our heritage;
- Implementing special projects;
- Celebrating who we are;
- Improving our biodiversity and protecting open space.









## What do we want to Achieve?

To achieve these goals, a number of objectives have been identified. They are set out in the following table.

**Part B of the strategy, the 'Action Plan' contains the actions designed to achieve these objectives.**

Our Vision:			
Open spaces of the Ashburton District contribute towards the beauty and enjoyment of the area for residents and visitors alike			
Goals			
<p>1. Open spaces are <b>equitably</b> distributed and funded.</p> 	<p>2. Open spaces are provided and managed <b>efficiently</b> throughout the district.</p> 	<p>3. Open spaces are <b>effective</b> in meeting community needs.</p> 	<p>4. Open spaces <b>enhance</b> the district and environment by providing an attractive community environment and improving recreational opportunities.</p> 
Objectives			
<p>1.1 Ensure Council has an accurate and thorough record of the District's open space.</p> <p>1.2 Shortfalls in open space across the District are identified and remedied, where practicable.</p> <p>1.3 The management and provision of open space is responsive to significant changes in the District's demographics, new growth areas, and changes in inner urban areas, such as increases in residential density.</p> <p>1.4 Development contributions and other funding or acquisition mechanisms used to provide and manage open space (parks, waterways and street amenity) are set at the appropriate level to meet the communities open space needs and expectations.</p>	<p>2.1 Council builds partnerships with community groups and organisations and other land management agencies to create efficiencies in the provision and management of open space.</p> <p>2.2 New facilities, or the enhancement of existing facilities, are designed to cater for multiple uses of the facility by both community organisations and the public.</p> <p>2.3 The most efficient approach to the provision of open space areas is utilised.</p> <p>2.4 Critically assess the value of potential land vestments to meeting the Council's Open Spaces Strategy vision.</p>	<p>3.1 Council builds partnerships and collaborates with other land management agencies to maximise the use of open space.</p> <p>3.2 The use of the open space network for events are encouraged where appropriate.</p> <p>3.3 Public awareness of open space opportunities is improved so that they are seen as a resource for the community to utilise for a range of opportunities.</p> <p>3.4 The management and provision of open space and facilities, meet community needs.</p> <p>3.5 Technology is utilised to encourage the use of open space.</p>	<p>4.1 Each area of open space is managed and developed in a coordinated and consistent manner.</p> <p>4.2 Coastal, waterway and green corridors provide for pedestrian movement and enhance the visual amenity of these areas in the urban environment.</p> <p>4.3 Land used for purposes other than open space make an important contribution to meeting recreation and open space needs e.g. rest areas beside rivers.</p> <p>4.4 Open spaces with scenic, heritage natural and cultural values are made as accessible as possible without comprising their biodiversity values -especially those areas along District waterways, the coast, and lakes.</p>





1.5 Council is adequately compensated for the use of its open spaces for infrastructure and utilities.

3.6 The outcomes of the strategy are monitored and reviewed to ensure it is achieving its goals.

4.5 Heritage values, including places of cultural significance to Ngāi Tahu, notable trees, and heritage buildings, places and objects, are protected and retained through the provision and management of public open space.

4.6 Open space reinforces a local sense of place and identity through the placement and incorporation of public art and interpretative signage, and the recognition and promotion of heritage values.

4.7 Open spaces play a significant role in promoting our indigenous biodiversity through native plantings, and by providing habitat areas and ecological corridors.

4.8 Open spaces are protected and preserved for the use and enjoyment of current and future generations.

4.9 Open space experiences across the District are enhanced through the investigation and implementation of special projects identified in Appendix 5.





# *The Action Plan*

PART B





20. **How will the Objectives be Achieved?**

21. **Equity**

22. **Efficiency**

23. **Effectiveness**

24. **Enhancement**





## How will the Objectives be Achieved?

In order to achieve the objectives of the strategy, a series of actions are required. The proposed actions range from undertaking investigations, building partnerships, to monitoring data. The implementation of the actions are prioritised on the following levels:

**High** – to be implemented within 1 year

**Medium** – to be implemented within 2-5 years

**Long Term**- to be implemented within 10 years

**Ongoing** - normal part of the Council's work programme



## Action Plan Priorities



### Equity

Objectives	Actions	Priority
1.1 Ensure Council has an accurate and thorough record of the District's open space.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Review current information regarding the location, nature, and use of current open space provided by Council and other agencies.</li> <li>The database is maintained on a regular basis.</li> <li>Regular meetings are held with other land management agencies, e.g. Ministry of Education, to keep abreast of changes to their open spaces.</li> </ul>	High  Ongoing Annually
1.2 Shortfalls and surpluses in open space across the District are identified and remedied, where practicable.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Map residential areas greater than 400m away from open space areas.</li> <li>Mapping is undertaken which identifies any other shortfalls in the provision of open space. The standards in Appendix 4 will be used to define and identify shortfalls.</li> <li>Assess opportunities to remedy any open space shortfalls, taking into consideration spaces provided by other agencies, such as school sport fields.</li> <li>Develop a 20 year program that identifies future land requirements, including priority areas. This will replace the list included in Appendix 4.</li> </ul>	High  Medium  Medium  Medium
1.3 The management and provision of open space is responsive to significant changes in the Districts demographics, new growth areas, and changes in inner urban areas, such as increases in residential density.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Monitor significant changes in either zoning provisions or proposed developments that may place additional demands on open space.</li> <li>The Open Spaces Team are involved early in the stages of development to ensure appropriate open space is provided.</li> <li>Open Spaces Team regularly monitor the district's demographics.</li> </ul>	Ongoing  Ongoing  Ongoing
1.4 Development contributions and other funding or acquisition mechanisms used to provide and manage open space (parks, waterways and street amenity) are set at the appropriate level to meet the communities open space needs and expectations.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Review the adequacy of current funding mechanisms, in particular, whether they are adequately support the demands on open space.</li> <li>Investigate the necessity and implementation of a development contribution scheme for the development in the rural environment. This could be similar in nature to contribution systems in urban areas.</li> <li>Allow land, not currently required for the purpose of open space, to be leased on a short term basis with subsequent funds used solely for the maintenance and enhancement of open space areas.</li> </ul>	Medium  Long term  Ongoing
1.5 Council is adequately compensated for the use of its open spaces for infrastructure and utilities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Where possible, require compensation for the use of open space by infrastructure and utility providers.</li> </ul>	Ongoing





## Efficiency

Objectives	Actions	Priority
2.1 Council builds partnerships with community groups and organisations and other land management agencies to create efficiencies in the provision and management of open space.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Facilitate regular meetings with Domain Board representatives (as a group) to encourage communication, provide support, and identify potential cost saving opportunities through combined purchasing.</li> <li>Meet regularly with the other open space providers such as the Ministry of Education (and school representatives), Department of Conservation, and Environment Canterbury to understand each other's work and development programmes with a view to coordinating complementary projects and avoiding unnecessary duplication.</li> </ul>	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing</p>
2.2 New facilities, or the enhancement of existing facilities, are designed to cater for multiple uses of the facility by both community organisations and the public.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Where practicable, allow for maximum usage of open space facilities.</li> <li>Opportunities to enhance facilities for public usage will be undertaken where possible.</li> <li>Allow structures to be established on open spaces provided there is a demonstrated need for the facility and its use can be maximised through multiple use.</li> <li>Policies are implemented through Reserve Management Plans which require that any new structure or facility is designed to cater for multiple uses.</li> </ul>	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing</p>
2.3 The most efficient approach to the provision of open space areas is utilised.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A review of all playground and sports surfaces across the district is undertaken to determine both the standard of the surfaces, its adequacy, and potential efficiencies in their maintenance and provision.</li> <li>Identify opportunities for multiple use of open space and other Council land when addressing shortfalls in open space.</li> <li>Build relationships with other land management agencies to work collaboratively when addressing shortfalls in open space.</li> </ul>	<p>Medium</p> <p>Medium</p> <p>Medium</p>
2.4 Critically assess the value of potential land vestments to meeting the Council's Open Spaces Strategy vision.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Establish an assessment criteria framework incorporating all of the Strategy's goals when discussing land vestments to Council from other land owners.</li> </ul>	<p>Medium</p>





## Effectiveness

Objectives	Actions	Priority
3.1 Council builds partnerships and collaborates with other land management agencies to maximise the use of open space.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop a plan with the Ministry of Education and school representatives that identifies opportunities to complement each other's open space activities and avoid unnecessary duplication.</li> <li>Consult with the Ministry of Education and school representatives to discuss potential cycleway and walkway linkages.</li> <li>Work with the Department of Conservation and Environment Canterbury to maximise the connections between areas of open space, and to ensure open space activities are coordinated and not unnecessarily duplicated.</li> </ul>	Medium  High  Ongoing
3.2 The use of the open space network for events are encouraged where appropriate.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Promote and encourage the use and availability of open spaces in areas across the district for specific events. e.g. the Council's website is amended to create a 'one stop shop' for promoting the use of open spaces for events and for booking facilities. This includes providing information on the Council's website and the distribution of information to organisations such as Experience Mid Canterbury.</li> </ul>	Medium
3.3 Public awareness of open space opportunities is improved so that they are seen as a resource for the community to utilise for a range of uses.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Review open space signage to determine possible improvements that would raise awareness of open space opportunities. This review includes consultation with community organisations to understand signage and promotion requirements that would, among other things, raise awareness of open spaces and facilities.</li> <li>Undertake a comprehensive public awareness programme to promote the open space network, new open space opportunities, and the linkages within this network. The programme could include –               <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>producing information that demonstrates the close proximity of open space to various residential areas;</li> <li>developing an open spaces network fun map; or,</li> <li>utilising, where appropriate, technological applications and similar technologies to promote the availability of areas of open space.</li> </ol> </li> <li>Initiatives focused on providing youth sport and recreation opportunities are supported.</li> </ul>	Long Term  Long Term  Ongoing
3.4 The management and provision of open space and facilities, meet community needs.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Foster relationships with various parties, including sports clubs and community organisations, to understand their long term open space needs.</li> <li>Survey community needs and perceptions of the open space network. This includes consideration of accessibility, quality, quantity, protection and function and where improvements can be made.</li> <li>Undertake an analysis that identifies recreational activities not adequately provided for within the district. The analysis should identify the potential development(s) of a destination recreational park and potential suitable locations based upon existing open space resources (refer to Appendix 5 - Special Projects).</li> </ul>	Ongoing  Medium  Long Term
3.5 Technology is utilised to encourage the use of open space.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Explore the use of technological opportunities, such as geocaching, in open space areas to provide recreational opportunities and information on the area.</li> </ul>	Long Term
3.6 The outcomes of the strategy are monitored and reviewed to ensure it is achieving its goals.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Review all open spaces to determine if the strategy's objectives are being achieved.</li> </ul>	Long Term





## Enhancement

Objectives	Actions	
4.1 Each area of open space is managed and developed in a coordinated and consistent manner.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ensure all parks and open space areas have current management and implementation plans.</li> <li>The enhancement of the Ashburton Domain and Gardens is undertaken in accordance with a development plan (refer to Appendix 5 - Special Projects).</li> </ul>	<p>Long Term</p> <p>Long Term</p>
4.2 Coastal, waterway and green corridors provide for pedestrian movement and enhance the visual amenity of these areas in the urban environment.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop a programme which, each year, identifies a corridor for enhancement. This programme shall have the effect of ensuring one corridor area each year is enhanced. The programme will be developed in consultation with other land management agencies, such as Environment Canterbury and Department of Conservation.</li> </ul>	Long Term
4.3 Land used for purposes other than open space make an important contribution to meeting recreation and open space needs e.g. rest areas beside rivers.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A review is undertaken to assess opportunities to improve connections and relationships between waterways and neighbouring towns and villages (refer to Appendix 5 - Special Projects).</li> <li>Opportunities to enhance and expand the Mill Creek walkway are promoted and encouraged (refer to Appendix 5 - Special Projects).</li> <li>These areas are considered during any potential cycleway studies/ investigations (refer to Appendix 5 - Special Projects).</li> <li>Develop a plan that provides for the enhancement of connections with waterways and conservation land. This plan should align with the strategy proposed cycleway objectives and the objectives regarding improving the relationship between urban areas and waterways (refer to Appendix 5 - Special Projects).</li> <li>Undertake consultation with other organisations, such as the Department of Conservation and Environment Canterbury, to determine if linkages could be established to enhance amenity and recreational opportunities.</li> <li>Opportunities to enhance open space availability in close proximity to the proposed Ashburton Second Urban River Bridge shall be undertaken (refer to Appendix 5 - Special Projects).</li> </ul>	<p>Long Term</p> <p>Ongoing</p> <p>Long Term</p> <p>Medium</p> <p>Medium</p> <p>Long Term</p>
4.4 Open spaces with scenic, heritage natural and cultural values are made as accessible as possible without comprising their biodiversity values - especially those areas along District waterways, the coast, and lakes.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identify further opportunities to improve access to open space areas.</li> <li>Undertake consultation with other organisations, including the Department of Conservation and Environment Canterbury, to enhance access to those areas of specific interest.</li> <li>Opportunities to enhance and expand the Mill Creek walkway will be promoted and encouraged (refer to Appendix 5 - Special Projects).</li> <li>Opportunities to assist in the enhancement of the Lake Hood area shall be encouraged (refer to Appendix 5 - Special Projects).</li> </ul>	<p>Long Term</p> <p>Long Term</p> <p>Ongoing</p> <p>Medium</p>
4.5 Heritage values, including places of cultural significance to Ngāi Tahu, notable trees, and heritage buildings, places and objects, are protected and retained through the provision and management of public open space.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identify existing and potential heritage features in open space areas.</li> <li>Determine how existing and potential heritage features can be managed and enhanced to promote both open space and heritage values.</li> <li>Develop a heritage places network that identifies known heritage and cultural features, including cemeteries and historic sites, within open spaces. The heritage network will be updated through routine</li> </ul>	<p>Medium</p> <p>Long Term</p> <p>Long Term</p>



	<p>investigations of open space areas to determine if they contain heritage features worthy of recognition. The network can also refer to heritage places not located with open spaces.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consult with local iwi to identify areas of open space where there is a direct affiliation of cultural linkage;</li> <li>• Involve and partner with iwi regarding the management of areas of open space;</li> <li>• Consult with local iwi when considering the acquisition of an area of open space.</li> <li>• An emphasis is placed on areas that have recognised heritage values, when considering the acquisition of open space.</li> <li>• Investigate the potential suitability of the Chinese Settlement on Allens Road as an area of open space (refer to Appendix 5 - Special Projects).</li> </ul>	<p>Medium</p> <p>Medium</p> <p>Ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing</p> <p>Medium</p>
4.6 Open space reinforces a local sense of place and identity through the placement and incorporation of public art and interpretative signage, and the recognition and promotion of heritage values.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review interpretive open space signage to identify potential improvements to promote a local sense of place and heritage values.</li> <li>• Establish a community group, including representation from Council, for the purpose of establishing art in open spaces across the district. This includes the further introduction of sculptural elements, particularly on a larger scale in rural landscapes.</li> </ul>	<p>Long Term</p> <p>Long Term</p>
4.7 Open spaces play a significant role in promoting our indigenous biodiversity through native plantings, and by providing habitat areas and ecological corridors.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review all open spaces to identify opportunities available to establish further plantings.</li> <li>• Native plantings and other plantings will be encouraged in the development and management of open spaces, particularly those that are locally sourced.</li> </ul>	<p>Long Term</p> <p>Long Term</p>
4.8 Open spaces are protected and preserved for the use and enjoyment of current and future generations.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Where resource consent is required for the development of services, infrastructure, and network utilities on open space areas, full consideration of the impact on open space values will be considered.</li> <li>• Review the zoning of all land in the open space network to ensure it reflects the purpose of the land.</li> <li>• Ensure all public land in the open space network is zoned appropriately in the Ashburton District Plan, by either undertaking a plan change or by advocating for changes in the next District Plan review.</li> <li>• Ensure land used for public open space is correctly classified either as a reserve under the Reserves Act 1977 or as a park under the Local Government Act 2002.</li> </ul>	<p>Medium</p> <p>Long term</p> <p>Long term</p> <p>Ongoing</p>
4.9 Open space experiences across the district are enhanced through the investigation and implementation of special projects identified in Appendix 5.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Investigations are undertaken to assist in the enhancement of cycling opportunities within the district, including the establishment of a series of cycleways (refer to Appendix 5 - Special Projects).</li> <li>• Opportunities to enhance open space availability in close proximity to the proposed Second Urban Ashburton River Bridge shall be undertaken (refer to Appendix 5 - Special Projects).</li> <li>• Opportunities to assist in the enhancement of the Lake Hood area shall be encouraged (refer to Appendix 5 - Special Projects).</li> <li>• The enhancement of the Tinwald Domain in accordance with the Domain Development Plan is promoted and encouraged (refer to Appendix 5 - Special Projects).</li> <li>• Continue to investigate the development of land adjacent to the EA Networks Centre for sports fields (refer to Appendix 5 - Special Projects).</li> </ul>	<p>Ongoing</p>



# *Appendices*

PART C



Reflection on Lake Camp





---

**28. Related Documents**

**31. Survey Results**

**34. Current Open Space**

**36. Future Open Space**

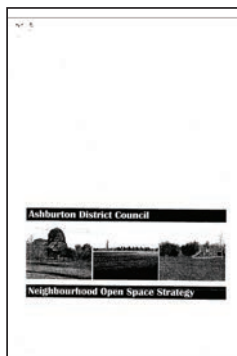
**40. Special Projects**

**45. Glossary of Terms**



## Appendix 1- Related Documents

### Neighbourhood Open Spaces Strategy 2002

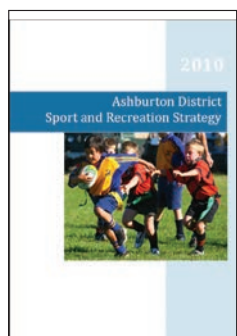


This 2002 strategy is the precursor of this Open Space Strategy. The strategy only applied to Ashburton township and its relevance has been subsequently undermined by a series of residential re-zonings over the 14 years since it was adopted.

The objectives in the strategy were to meet future community leisure and recreational needs, provide an attractive community environment, an equitable distribution of neighbourhood open space, creek and stream corridors for pedestrian movement, and to identify a series of conceptual linkages for walkways between areas of neighbourhood open space.

A schedule included in the strategy lists the neighbourhood open spaces, their size and what play equipment and furniture was located on each reserve at the time. Also included is a list of what were the conceptual areas for future neighbourhood open space and a series of eight different areas which were identified as potential linkages for walkways. The purpose of identifying the various areas of land was to direct prospective acquisitions as opportunities arose. All of these need to be updated to be relevant for current land use zonings and the growth in the district's population.

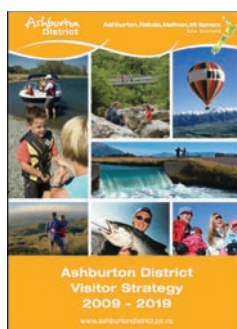
### Sport and Recreation Strategy 2010



The Sport and Recreation Strategy was developed in 2010 as a joint initiative with the community, key service providers and Ashburton District Council. It provides a 'road-map' of where the Council would like sport and recreation to be in the district in ten years' time and how to get there. Action points from the strategy include:

- The district has a quality aquatic centre and indoor stadium.
- The district has a range of quality outdoor playing surfaces.
- The district has networks of urban walkways and cycle ways in Ashburton, Methven and Rakaia.
- Community pools throughout the district are well supported.
- Plans are developed to improve the quality of our river environments so they are safe for swimming and recreation.
- Sports clubs and organisations form strong links with secondary schools to ensure pathways are developed for students on leaving school.

### Visitor Strategy 2009-2019



This strategy was developed by the Ashburton District Tourism Development Board (now the Council Controlled Organisation known as Experience Mid Canterbury). The strategy examines the bigger picture for tourism and the challenges it faces in the future. It sets out objectives and actions needed to deliver four key goals:

- Visitors are provided with a memorable and unique experience.
- The tourism sector is prosperous and attracts investment.
- The visitor industry and community work together for mutual benefit.
- Open spaces and the environment are shared with visitors in sustainable ways.
- The strategy identifies the importance of recreation tourism for the district and also seeks that the district is a year round destination for tourism.



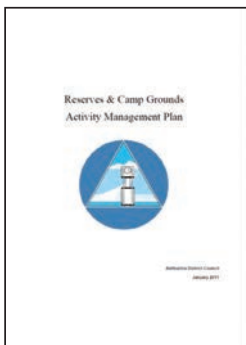
## Activity Management Plans

### Parks and Recreation



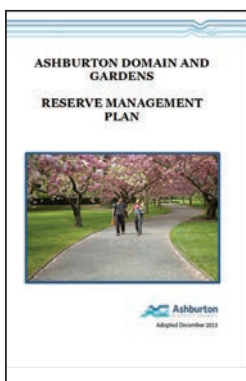
The objective of the Parks and Recreation Activity Management Plan is to explain the Council's strategic and management approach for parks and recreation assets and services and is linked directly to the Long Term Plan (LTP). The Activity Management Plan provides the support material for the LTP, and is intended as a full record which will be continuously updated through the various appendices – there is a separate appendix for every key strategic and management aspect.

### Reserves and Campground



The plan outlines and summarises Councils' strategic and long term approach for the provision, administration, and maintenance of Council provided reserves and campgrounds in Ashburton District.

## Reserve Management Plans



Reserve management plans have been developed for the following areas:

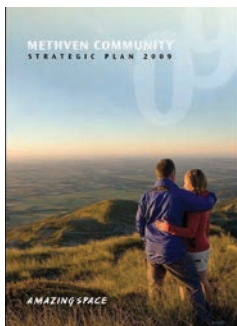
- Ashburton Domain and Gardens
- Rakaia Domain
- Methven Domain
- Mayfield Domain
- Hinds Domain
- Mount Somers
- Tinwald Domain

The reserve management plans provide detail as to the formation and history of each Domain and also policies for their day to day management. Included is also some guidance as to the future development of the Ashburton Domain.





## Strategic Plans



Strategic Plans have been developed for the following villages:

- Mayfield
- Methven
- Rakaia
- Mt Somers

The purpose of the strategic plans is to provide a guide for progress of a village over a period of ten years. The strategic plans include a series of principles and actions to be undertaken by the communities in partnership with Council.

## Ashburton District Plan

The Ashburton District Plan became fully operational in August 2014 and sets a framework for development and the management of resources in the district. It establishes objectives and policies for managing the environmental effects of development in accordance with the Resource Management Act. It defines the various zones (residential, rural, business, open space, etc), and the rules for what activities are permitted to occur in each zone.

In this way the District Plan has a very strong influence over all activities that occur in the district. It is also the mechanism which allows Council to require either land or reserves contribution from additional residential development.


## Other Relevant Resources

Other resources that were considered in the development of this strategy include:

- Ashburton District Development Plan
- Tinwald Domain Development Plan
- Biodiversity Action Plan
- Parks and Public Gardens Bylaw
- The Yardstick parks benchmarking system

“Existing open space  
be protected, building  
not be permitted on  
zoned as Public Open  
as buildings shut out  
public, and it is no lo  
open space.”





“Leave Argyle Park alone - with a rapidly growing population it must be retained as is – it’s a real jewel.”



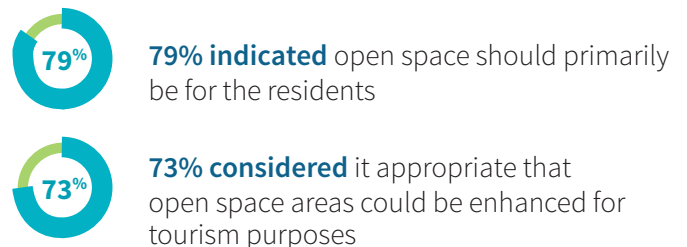
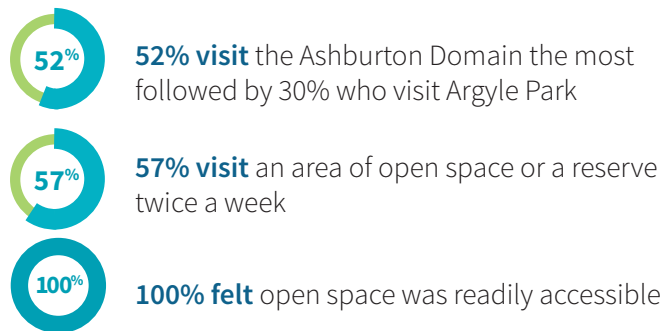
“Please consider a local community veggie garden full of edibles that would belong to everyone. This garden would be bigger and much better managed than the small existing garden behind the church on Thomson Street. We have a huge amount of clubs and groups who would help with this and businesses to support this. Teach, Feed, Inspire and Grow”

## Appendix 2 - Survey Results


An open spaces survey was undertaken from 20 February to 6 April. It was available online on Council website and paper copies at Council reception and Ashburton Public Library. It was also promoted through various channels including ADC Facebook page, media releases, the Mayor’s fortnightly newspaper column, at community meetings, and in Council’s District Diary.

A total of 67 responses were received, which accounts for 0.002% of the district’s population. As such, this means the responses are not significant nor can the results be taken as representative of the wider community’s view.

The results of the survey show out of those who responded:



needs to  
gs should  
land  
n Space,  
the  
nger



“Safe fenced-in dog parks where dogs can run loose with shelter trees and seats. No more land should be taken from Smallbone Drive Dog Park. Fences that have been removed should be replaced.”



“Ashton Beach , Lowes Cutting, the Camp and Clearwater Lakes area and Wakanui Beach have potential and could be enhanced to make them special places to visit”

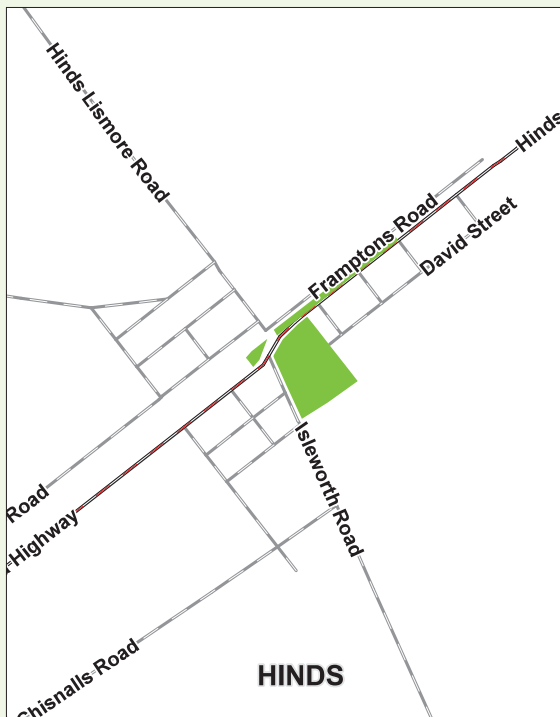
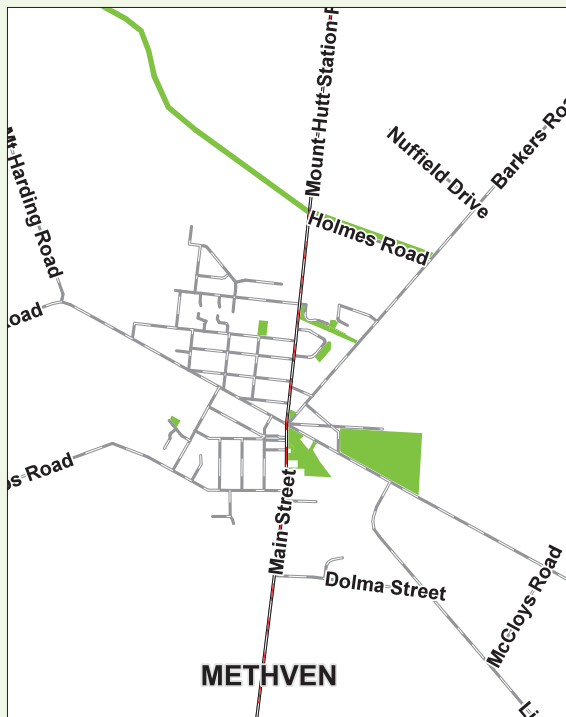


# Appendix 3 - Current Open Space

The following maps identify all areas of Open Space as defined by this Strategy.







**Disclaimer Note:**

29/03/2016

Cadastral data sourced from Land Information New Zealand  
CRS Cadastral Database. Crown Copyright Reserved Digital Licence No. 133563-01  
Any Colour Aerial Photography sourced from Air Logistics New Zealand Ltd.  
Due to difference in data registration techniques, any aerial photography in the map, relative to cadastral  
boundaries should be considered as indicative only and MUST not be used for legal purposes.  
The information supplied in this image is sourced from information held by the Ashburton District Council.  
This is not a legal document and should not be used for legal purposes.





Ashburton Round-a-bout  
joining West Street and  
Walnut Avenue

## Appendix 4 - Future Open Space

### Design guidelines

The following of design guidelines are of particular relevance when determining where there are open space shortfalls and/or surpluses. This is also the case when considering the acquisition of an area of open space, such as through the vesting of land in Council as part of a residential subdivision. These guidelines identify what standards need to be met in the provision of such land.

Please note that there are other documents, including Reserve Management Plans, which specify other relevant standards and policies which are applicable for specific reserves. These standards include the maintenance of play equipment, temporary events and grass length. Accordingly this strategy does not include such details.



## Design guidelines

Design Guideline	Desired Outcome
<b>1. Urban Density – Neighbourhood Parks</b> A minimum of 4,000m <sup>2</sup> of open space per 1,000 people shall be provided within urban built up areas.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Within urban areas, adequate open space is available to balance urban development with green space.</li> <li>• Open space is readily available for community use.</li> <li>• Active and passive recreational opportunities are easily accessible to the public.</li> </ul>
<b>2. Density - Sports Parks</b> A minimum of 3.5 hectares per 1,000 people shall be provided across the district for the purpose of sports parks.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sport parks are available and provide for a range of sports.</li> <li>• Playing fields are freely available in all seasons.</li> <li>• An adequate area and number of playing fields are available to encourage people to be involved with sports activities.</li> </ul>
<b>3. Density – Regional Parks</b> A minimum of 25 hectares per 1,000 people shall be provided for the purpose of regional parks including land covenanted for public open space purposes with public access.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Parks are provided across the district including for those in rural areas.</li> <li>• A range of activities are available to be carried out across the district.</li> <li>• Opportunities are provided for people to experience a difference in amenity provided outside of urban areas.</li> </ul>
<b>4. Proximity to Open Space</b> The maximum distance from a dwelling within an urban area and an area of open space shall be 400 metres.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Open space is provided within close proximity i.e walking distance, to residential dwellings in urban areas.</li> </ul>
<b>5. Street Frontage</b> New neighbourhood parks shall have not less than a 30% street frontage.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Open visibility into a neighbourhood park is readily available.</li> <li>• The amenity provided by open space is able to positively impact the surrounding environment.</li> <li>• Safe recreational opportunities are provided.</li> </ul>
<b>6. Safety</b> All neighbourhood parks shall, where practicable, conform to crime prevention through environmental design (CPTED) principles.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Measures are incorporated into existing and proposed open spaces to ensure public safety and the perception of safety.</li> <li>• The National Guidelines for Crime Prevention through Environmental Design in New Zealand are applied to all open spaces where practicable.</li> </ul>
<b>7. Location</b> Neighbourhood parks shall be located so as to provide greening of surrounding areas as well as green spaces and corridors.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Open spaces are positioned to maximise the impact of an open green area.</li> <li>• Amenity plantings are established in locations where visible from adjoining roads.</li> </ul>
<b>8. Design</b> New neighbourhood parks shall be designed to complement the current and anticipated needs of the local community, such as play equipment for young families and planting/seating for the elderly.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In determining the design of new open space, consideration should be given to data available to understand the characteristics of the area such as census information, local surveys and other planning related documents.</li> <li>• In plantings, consideration will be given to species that reflect the character and amenity of the open space, including the use of native species where appropriate.</li> </ul>
<b>9. Connections</b> Opportunities shall be taken to improve pedestrian and cycleway linkages to existing and proposed open spaces.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Open spaces shall be designed to encourage visits by foot or cycle including ensuring logical linkages are established between open spaces and those areas that people are likely to come from.</li> </ul>
<b>10. Minimisation of Environmental Impact</b> The enhancement of an existing or establishment of a new open space shall include measures to minimise the environmental impact of the use of the site.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Environmental saving measures shall be incorporated into the design of a new or redevelopment of an existing facility where possible.</li> <li>• Infrastructure requirements, such as stormwater disposal, shall be undertaken using techniques to minimise environmental impact and set a standard for the community.</li> <li>• Where appropriate recycling facilities for litter disposal shall be established and/or persons will be encouraged to take their litter home.</li> <li>• Plantings on open spaces shall avoid the use of pest or wilding planting species.</li> </ul>





Native Plantings  
at the Ashburton  
Business Estate





## Potential open space locations

It may be necessary to acquire land for open space purposes in order to enhance an existing area or to address a shortfall in open space in a particular area. Actions in this strategy recognise that Council needs to identify current shortfalls in open space and identify where land could be acquired to address these shortfalls. This is set as a high priority but will not be available immediately.


In the meantime, those areas identified as “Conceptual Areas of Future Neighbourhood Open Space” in the previous Neighbourhood Open Space Strategy will be referenced until they are updated. Most of these areas have been acquired and successfully incorporated into

the Open Spaces network, however, a number still need to be acquired. These are shown in Tables 1 and 2 below and are cross referenced to the original map from the Neighbourhood Open Spaces Strategy which is replicated in the map below.

In considering the acquisition of further land, careful consideration also needs to be given to what existing land resources are held by Council. Until the actions in Objectives 1.1 and 1.2 are completed it is considered prudent to retain all areas of land currently in the ownership of Council, unless exceptional circumstances apply or a significant benefit can be obtained through the disposal of land.







**Ashburton District Council**

**Existing and Conceptual Locations of Neighbourhood Open Space**

1/4/2016

**Scale 1 : 24,860**  
at A3

500 0 500 1000 1500 2000 m

**Legend**

- Existing Neighbourhood Open Space
- Conceptual Areas of Future Neighbourhood Open Space
- Conceptual Linkages For Walkways

**Disclaimer Note:**

Cadastral data sourced from Land Information New Zealand  
GNS Cadastral Database. Crown Copyright Reserved Digital Licence No. 133953-01  
Any Colour Aerial Photography sourced from Aerial Logistics New Zealand Ltd.  
Due to difference in data registration techniques, any aerial photography in the map, relative to cadastral boundaries should be considered as indicative only and MUST NOT be used for legal purposes.  
The information supplied in this image is sourced from information held by the Ashburton District Council.  
It is supplied in good faith but its accuracy or completeness is not guaranteed.

31/03/2016



**Table 1 – Conceptual Areas of Future Neighbourhood Open Space**

Map Reference	Location of Potential Open Space Areas	Area	Description
F2	Nixon Street - Part Lot 16 DP1494, Tarbottons Road, Tinwald	3000-5000 sqm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Desirable street frontage. Native and woodland plantings. Furniture (seating, rubbish bins). Children's playground - adventure fort.</li> </ul>
F4A or F4B	Ashburton Intermediate or 12 Mclean Street	4000 sqm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Acquire at either one or other. Native and woodland plantings. Furniture (seating, rubbish bins). Children's playground - adventure fort.</li> </ul>
F8	Between Argyle Park & Allens Road	As required	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Green strip along south side of Wakanui Creek (Mill Creek) joining existing stream corridor. To provide beautification and visual amenity.</li> </ul>

**Table 2 – Conceptual Linkages for Walkways (Short Term)**

Map Reference	Conceptual Linkages for Walkways – Short Term	Area	Description
LW3	Private Land and Tinwald Club	As required	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Walkway linkage from open space through Private Land and Tinwald Club land to join onto Melcombe Street.</li> <li>Requirements - Partnership agreement or easement between Private Landowners/ADC and Tinwald Club/ADC.</li> </ul>
LW8	Netherby - Between Tuarangi Road & Albert Street	As required	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Green strip along the two creeks running through F5 area. Native and woodland plantings. These are to be linked to F5 open space to provide for beautification, walkway, visual amenity and access onto Albert Street.</li> </ul>



## Appendix 5 – Special Projects

In addition to the ongoing management of open spaces, consideration should also be given to special projects that could significantly enhance the district's open space experiences and generate significant benefits for the community. These projects are therefore worthy of further investigation. This does not mean that they will necessarily be led by Council, but it is recognised that the district's open spaces could play an important role in their development.

### Cycleways

Cycleways are of a growing trend and popularity, particularly since the Central Otago Rail Trail was established and Central Government has the NZ Cycle Trail. Recently in our district, cycleways have been established between Tinwald and Lake Hood (Braided Waters/Lake Hood Trail) and between Ashburton and Hakatere (Ashburton Hakatere River Trail).

Cycleways can vary from long range recreational rides to short linkages within developed areas. They provide recreational opportunities and but can also provide transportation connections through an urban area.

These urban connections are particularly important in the context of higher density urban living being allowed through the District Plan.

The current planned Ashburton District Cycleway route has been designed to maximise infrastructure (canals & stop

banks; quiet backcountry roads), tourism assets, scenic values, heritage values and development opportunities while encompassing 145km of trail designed to cater for a 3-4 day riding experience within the district. Two sections of the proposed route are already open for cycling. These consist of an 8.4km section at the Lake Hood end of the trail and a 3km section at the Rakaia end of the 145km proposed route.

Developing these cycleways through this strategy aligns with the following principles in the Ashburton District Sport and Recreation Strategy:

- Our district has networks of urban walkways and cycle ways in our main towns of Ashburton, Methven and Rakaia.
- Our district boasts a district cycleway which meets national standards.

Cycling in Mid Canterbury







Irrigation Channel  
in Mid Canterbury

## Waterways

Historically, waterways in this district have been primarily perceived and managed from a hazard management perspective. This has resulted in the physical separation of the rivers from neighbouring townships through flood management works such as stopbanks. Land use activities less susceptible to damage from flooding, such as industrial and rural activities, typically end up being the interface between the town and adjoining water bodies. Consequently, reviews of the various towns and villages across the district show a that the community has turned its back on the waterways.

Waterways are an important asset for the amenity and recreational opportunities they provide. They are an attractive feature with the potential for further enhancements through appropriate riparian plantings and weed management. In more recent times, waterways have also increased in popularity for recreational opportunities such as walking and cycling.

Greater connectivity between areas of open space adjacent to waterways is one of the objectives in this

strategy. Through linking these objectives with the Ashburton Walking and Cycling Strategy, connections to the district's waterways through walking and cycling tracks will help achieve the objectives of both strategies and enhance people's enjoyment of these open spaces. For example, long distance cycleways could utilise the wide flat pathways which exist along the various floodbank systems.

To achieve greater connection with district waterways it is proposed to undertake the following:

- Review waterways in close proximity to towns and villages and identify opportunities for improved connections between them.
- Establish a working party consisting of district, regional, and other relevant persons to assist with the development of a programme to improve the connection between developed areas and local waterways. This could tie in with the development and enhancement of corridors as identified in Objective 4.2 of this Strategy.

## Tinwald Domain

The Tinwald Domain provides facilities for a broad range of organisations and it is an integral part of community activities in the wider Ashburton township area.

A development plan has been established for the Domain which includes the enhancement of various facilities and the relocation of others, such as the camping ground.

Accordingly, it is considered the development plan and the various measures proposed should be supported and encouraged, including where possible, the development of achievement measures for the standards and objectives outlined in this strategy.

It is proposed to undertake the following:

- Provide expert in-house Council services to the Tinwald Reserve Board, where appropriate, such including formal advice on infrastructure development and landscape design.
- Further analysis of the proposed development plan against the various provisions of the strategy, to determine how the objectives of the strategy can be incorporated into the enhancement of the Tinwald Domain.
- Investigate the development of the area behind what is known as 'The Tarbottons Subdivision' that could complement the establishment of potential rugby fields.



View at the  
Tinwald Domain



### Mill Creek

The previous Neighbourhood Open Space Strategy identified the desire to develop a walkway adjoining Mill Creek which passes through the north-eastern half of Ashburton. This initiative was given effect to and various areas of land were acquired. The project is yet to be completed and further land will be required as opportunities present themselves.

It is proposed the following actions occur:

- An analysis of opportunities to continue and expand the Mill Creek walkway to determine the location of any potential walkway extensions, including potential linkages with other areas of open space including open spaces not owned by Council, e.g. school grounds.
- A land acquisition plan be developed to determine the land necessary to be acquired to complement the Mill Creek walkway and its potential extension.

### Ashburton Recreational Park

Large areas known as 'recreational parks' are being developed across New Zealand to cater for specific recreational activity or activities. A recent example is the proposed downhill mountain biking park in Christchurch.

The Ashburton District includes a series of domains and each of these domains caters for a wide range of recreational activities. Historically, this has meant that the development of further recreational opportunities on other areas of land has not been necessary. However, Domains have some limitations in terms of providing the type of recreational opportunities supported by recreational parks.

It is proposed to determine if the Ashburton District would benefit from the establishment of a recreational park to cater for more specific recreational opportunities. If so, the following work should be undertaken:

- Determine the land requirements for the activity(s);
- Determine whether this land could be supplied using existing areas of Council owned land or alternatively through open space owned by other organisations such as the Department of Conservation, or through a combination of both.

Examples of possible uses of a recreational park include mountain biking, vehicle racing, fishing ponds, archery, rifle ranges, orienteering and providing for radio controlled vehicles such as drones or other emerging technologies.

### Ashburton Second Urban River Bridge

Construction of a second urban bridge over the Ashburton River is proposed for 2025. Obtaining the areas of land required for the development of the bridge and associated transport corridor provides a significant opportunity to develop new areas of open space or enhance existing areas. This could include amenity plantings, new rest areas or the development of cycleway connection between rest areas.

It is therefore proposed to undertake the following:

- Review the land acquired as part of the bridge and associated infrastructure, and determine if there are opportunities to provide recreational spaces in this area.
- Establish a working party to determine potential recreational and enhancement opportunities.
- Develop a concept plan for community consultation which identifies the proposed usage of the relevant area of land.

### Chinese Settlement

The Chinese community in Allenton was first established in the 1920s. Located on Allen's Road on a 2.3 hectare block of land are a group of historical buildings and facilities which once hosted Ashburton's Chinese community. The land is still owned by a number of the descendants of the original Chinese families who lived and worked in this community. Council recognises the historic value of the buildings and structures and they are protected as a Heritage Group A item in the Ashburton District Plan.

This strategy recognises the importance of the heritage features and the role that open space can play in promoting



Chinese Settlement Huts



and protecting heritage values. It also recognises that heritage values can enrich the open space experience. On this basis, possible further work could include:

- Investigation into the feasibility of Incorporating the site into the Council's open space network
- Developing a program of works to enhance the site, including the establishment of information boards to explain and promote the important history of the site.

### EA Networks Sport Centre

The EA Networks Centre opened in 2015 with several indoor facilities including swimming pools, a stadium and a gym. The vacant adjoining land has been acquired with the intention of progressively developing sports fields in line with the concept plans to be developed for the complex.

It is proposed to continue to investigate the development of this area as a sports hub for the District. This could include the development of premier facilities which would support the existing sporting facilities and provide additional recreational and open space opportunities.

The next step will be to undertake further geotechnical investigations. This will be done as a matter of priority to determine the suitability of the land for this purpose.

### Ashburton Domain and Gardens

The Ashburton Domain has provided a central point for recreational opportunities and environmental beauty since the development of Ashburton.

Ongoing developments and enhancements of the Domain continue with a Domain Development Plan currently being drafted. This will provide clear direction for how the Domain will be enhanced in the long term.

### Lake Hood

Lake Hood is an artificial lake approximately 10 kilometres south of Ashburton Township on the southwestern side of the Ashburton River. The lake and adjoining land provide both recreational and residential opportunities. Long term plans have been developed to further enhance the lake and surroundings and provide additional recreational opportunities.

Lake Hood represents a significant recreational asset to the community and District. The recreational potential of this asset could be further realised by linking to the wider area through the construction of walkways, cycleways and the provision of new open space areas. These opportunities require further investigation.



Sunset over  
Lake Hood

### Lake Camp and Clearwater

Lake Camp (Otautari) and Lake Clearwater (Te Puna a Taka) are located in the Ashburton high country. The lakes and surrounding area are an important recreational asset, being valued by windsurfers, boaties, mountain bikers, walkers, campers and tourists. Lake Clearwater is located within the Hakatare Conservation Park.

Both lakes are very scenic and are an important part of the outstanding natural landscapes in this area. The lakes are also a nationally important habitat for many bird species including the endangered wrybill, black fronted tern, Australasian crested grebe, Australasian bittern and marsh crake. The area was known as a well-stocked natural food basket for Takata Whenua and was a part of the main greenstone trail to the West Coast<sup>1</sup>.

The area around the lakes could be enhanced through weed control, native habitat restoration, and the provision of facilities for campers and recreational uses. A landscape management plan has been commissioned by the Ashburton District Biodiversity Working Group as a first step towards investigating and addressing these issues.

<sup>1</sup> Hakatare Conservation Park, Department of Conservation May 2013



Barrhill overlooking  
the Rakaia River







# Glossary

---

## Ashburton District Council

The territorial authority charged with the management of the Ashburton District including the fulfilment of obligations under the Local Government Act 1974, Local Government Act 2002, Resource Management Act 1991 and other relevant legislation.

## Heritage Open Space Area

An area of open space which contains a heritage or protected feature such as a heritage building or heritage trees.

## Neighbourhood Park

Open space which provides for informal recreation that predominantly serves the immediate local community.

## Open Space

For the purpose of this strategy, open space is an area of land or water owned or managed by Ashburton District Council that offers unrestricted access to the public for the purpose of the amenity, recreation or enjoyment of people in the district. This excludes buildings, swimming pools, and public conveniences.

## Recreation

Any activity carried out by a person in their own free time which enhances their life experiences and enjoyment.

## Regional Park

An area of open space which services the wider community or district as a whole.

## Reserves Act 1977

The Reserves Act provides for the acquisition of land for reserves, and the classification and management of reserves (including leases and licences).

## Reserve Management Plan

A document outlining Council's management intention for a reserve prepared under the Reserves Act 1977.

## Sports Park

Open space which is used predominantly for active sport activities.

## Urban Area

Areas identified as having a residential zoning (excluding residential D) or a business/commercial zoning in the Ashburton District Plan.





**Cover Image:** Reflecting the Southern  
Alps, Hakatere Conservation Park