



DONOVAN PARK

RESERVE MANAGEMENT PLAN

2025



Reserves Act 1977

Section 41

The Reserve Management Plan for Donovan Park was approved by the Invercargill City Council by resolution passed at its meeting held on 29 April 2025. All submissions, objections and suggestions relating to the Reserve Management Plan had been disposed of and suggestions allowed.

The Reserve Management Plan shall come into operation from 29 April 2025 and shall remain operative for a period of ten years.

Dated at INVERCARGILL this 13th day of May 2025.

Michael Day
CHIEF EXECUTIVE

Reserve Management Plan

DONOVAN PARK

April 2025-April 2035

Preface

Donovan Park Reserve Management Plan has been prepared in compliance with Section 41 of the Reserves Act 1977.

The purpose of this Reserve Management Plan is to provide for and ensure the use, enjoyment, maintenance, protection and preservation as the case may require and, to the extent that the administrating body’s resources permit, the development of the reserve for the purposes for which it is classified; and shall incorporate and ensure compliance with the principles set out in the appropriate section of the Act.

This plan shall be held under regular review to ensure that it remains relevant to changing circumstances and demands.



Caroline Rain
PARKS AND RECREATION MANAGER
29 April 2025

Contents

WĀHANGA TUATAHI – KUPU WHAKATAKI ME TE WHAKAMĀRAMA	7
PART ONE – INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND	7
1.0	Kupu whakataki /Introduction 7
1.1	Te hono ki te mahere matua / Relationship with the Masterplan 8
1.2	Pēhea te whakawhanake i tēnei mahere / How this plan was developed 8
1.3	Te aronga me te hōkaitanga o te mahere / Purpose and scope of the plan 9
1.4	He aha kei te korahi o tēnei mahere / What is in scope of this plan 9
1.5	History/Background 9
2.0	Te mōhio ki te papa rēhia / Understanding the park 12
2.1	Location 12
2.2	Access 12
2.3	Adjoining land use 12
2.4	General Use 12
2.4.1	Management Approach 13
3.0	Horopaki ā-ture, ā-kaupapa here hoki / Statutory and policy context 14
3.1	Tirohanga Whānui / Overview 14
3.2	Classification and Land Description 15
3.2.1	Reserve Classification 15
3.2.2	Area and Land Titles 15
3.2.3	Lease Holders at Donovan Park 16
4.0	Te Ao Māori i roto whakahaerenga papa rēhia ā-rohe / Te Ao Māori in local park management 18
4.1	Ngā kawenga kaitiaki a ngā mana whenua / Mana whenua’s kaitiaki role 18
4.2	Whakaaetanga ki ngā uara Māori / Recognition of Māori values 18
WĀHANGA TUARUA – NGĀ TIROHANGA WHĀNUI I ĀRAHI I NGĀ MĀTĀPONO, NGĀ WHĀINGA ME NGĀ KAUPAPA HERE	19
PART TWO – VISION, GUIDING PRINCIPLES, OBJECTIVES AND POLICIES	19
5.0	Aronga whānui /Vision for Donovan Park 19
6.0	Mātāpono ārahi / Guiding Principles..... 19
6.1	Celebrating Unique Natural Character..... 19
6.2	Promoting Open Space Network..... 19
6.3	Rationalising Land Use..... 20
7.0	Te kōkiritanga / Delivering the vision..... 21
8.0	Ngā whāinga me ngā kaupapa here / Objectives and policies..... 23
8.1	Celebrating Unique Natural Character..... 23
8.2	Promoting Open Space Network..... 23
8.3	Rationalising Land Use..... 23
8.3.3	Future Development..... 24



**Wāhanga Tuatahi – Kupu
Whakataki me te
Whakamārama**

**Part One – Introduction
and Background**

**1.0 Kupu whakataki /
Introduction**

Donovan Park forms part of the north-south pattern of the open space fabric that was originally determined by J T Thomson when he first laid out the City.

Covering over 79 hectares of land, the reserve contributes to the green space network of the City. The large size of Donovan Park provides a strong presence of open space reserve land in north Invercargill and is enhanced by the continuation of the vista, with Anderson Park and the backdrop of the mountains and hills of Southland further north.

Visitors to the reserve can experience its unique rural characteristics. It is used formally by sports and recreation clubs and informally by City residents for walking and dog walking, running, cycling and casual sport and recreation.

In April 2024 a Masterplan for Donovan Park was completed. The Donovan Park Masterplan (Masterplan) outlines intentions for development at the reserve at a conceptual level.

Reserve Management Plans (RMPs) provide a framework for how the unique aspects of reserves will be managed. This RMP for Donovan Park reflects the needs, values and aspirations of the community. The RMP has been prepared in consultation with mana whenua, key partners and stakeholders and the community.

General policies for all reserves, including Donovan Park, are detailed in the document “General Policies Reserves Management Plan 2023 (General Policies RMP)” which must also be reviewed when considering ongoing management and should be read in conjunction with this RMP.

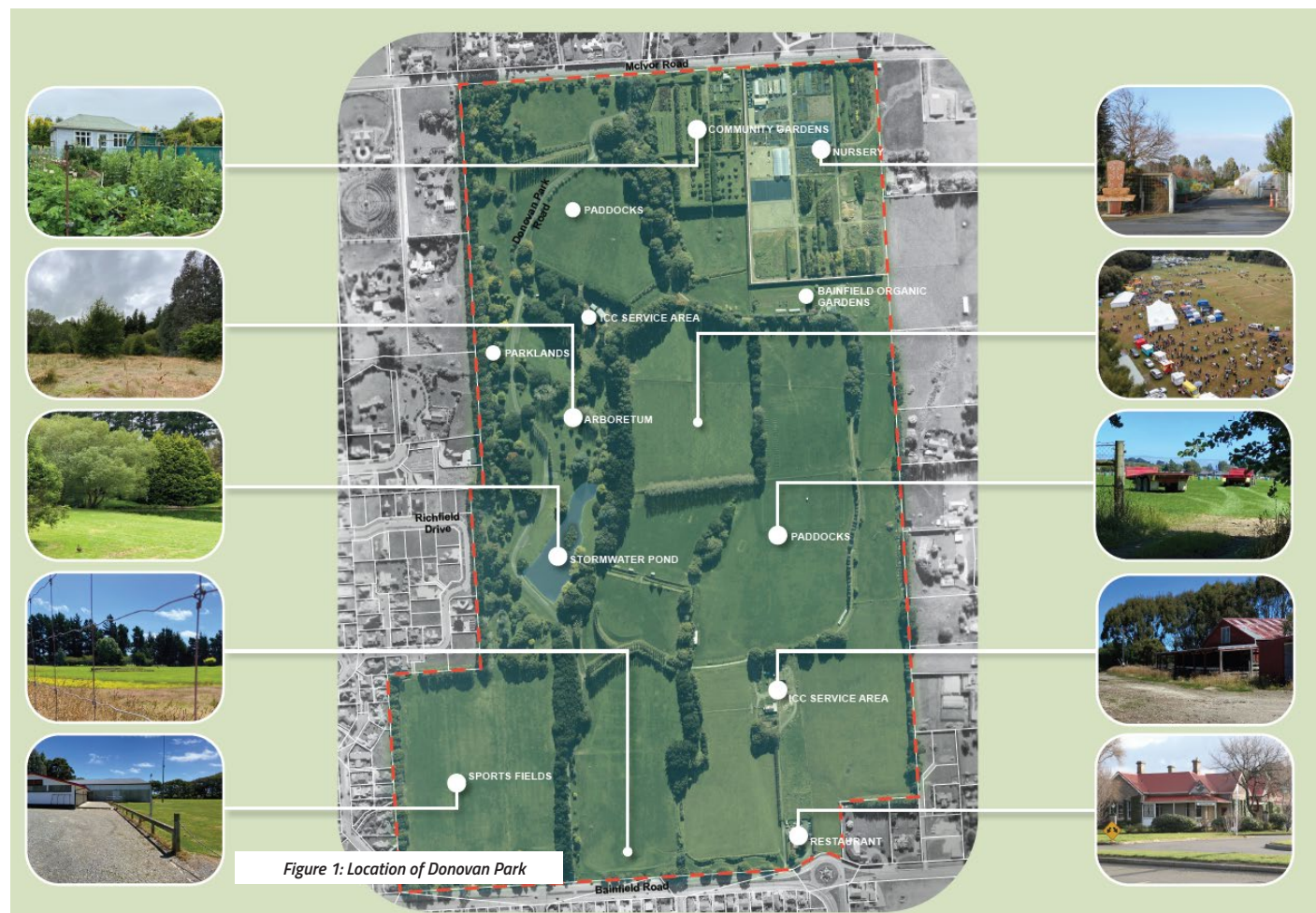


Figure 1: Location of Donovan Park

1.1 Te hono ki te mahere matua / Relationship with the Masterplan

The Masterplan guides priorities for development of the reserve (with a 30 year time horizon) and supports implementation of the RMP. The Masterplan is not formally required as part of this RMP but is consistent with the vision, guiding principles, objectives and policies. Council sought feedback on the Masterplan whilst formally consulting on this plan to ensure that both plans remain aligned. The RMP refers to the Masterplan and the objectives and policies in the RMP support development that is consistent with the Masterplan. The Masterplan sets out Council's intentions for developing the reserve.

1.2 Pēhea te whakawhanake i tēnei mahere / How this plan was developed

This plan has been prepared in consultation with mana whenua, key stakeholders and the public using the process set out in Section 41 of the Reserves Act 1977 (Act).

Classification

The Recreation and Local Purpose Reserve classifications of all land within Donovan Park have been reviewed as part of the process of developing this RMP, in accordance with Section 16 of the Act to ensure land is classified according to its primary purpose.

Mana whenua

Te Rūnanga o Wāhōpai are mana whenua for the rohe contained within Donovan Park.

In giving effect to the principles of Te Tiriti o Waitangi / the Treaty of Waitangi and other legislation, such as the Act, Council has involved mana whenua in the development of this RMP and the Masterplan from preliminary stages. The development and strengthening of mutually beneficial working relationships between Council and mana whenua will enable mana whenua to strengthen their connection to taonga within Donovan Park and ensure their tikanga (customs), kawa (ceremony or protocol) and mātauranga Māori (Māori knowledge) are able to be passed on to future generations.

Accurately identifying mana whenua values is important and enables mana whenua to work with Council to preserve and

nurture the physical and spiritual aspects of these values in ways which may practically express kaitiakitanga.

Community

The community provided feedback from 3 August – 4 September 2024 during the first stage of public notification, and again on the draft RMP from 4 December 2024 – 14 February 2025. Hearings were held on 18 March 2025. Feedback informed development of the RMP, the vision for Donovan Park and the guiding principles of this plan set out in Sections 5.0 and 6.0.

1.3 Te aronga me te hōkaitanga o te mahere / Purpose and scope of the plan

The purpose of this RMP is to provide certainty for the function, management and development of Donovan Park and to ensure management decisions are consistent with the Act.

In accordance with Section 41(3) of the Act this RMP shall:

"Provide for and ensure the use, enjoyment, maintenance, protection, and preservation, as the case may require, and, to the extent that the administering body's resources permit, the development, as appropriate, of the reserve for the purposes for which it is classified."

To achieve this purpose, the RMP:

- Speeds up decision making by providing a common understanding in the community of how the reserve will be managed.
- Simplifies administration by providing clear policy statements with regard to the reserve, which will achieve consistency in decision making.
- Ensures that these decisions will take into account the broad public interest, rather than being made on an ad hoc basis.
- Is clear about general intentions and attitudes while retaining the flexibility to deal with matters of detail on their individual merits within the general framework.
- Identifies the natural, spiritual, and cultural qualities of the reserve and ensures their protection.
- Provides the means of resolving or minimising conflicts between users of the reserve.
- Provides for protection of iwi heritage values from ongoing demands.

The RMP enables Invercargill City Council to establish the desired mix of use, development and protection for

the reserve and sets out policies to guide day to day management.

It is a high-level policy document rather than a detailed operational plan.

The objectives, policies and actions in this RMP will be implemented through:

- Collaboration with mana whenua, stakeholders, the community and other agencies.
- Council's Activity Management Plan, Long Term Plan and Annual Plan processes.
- The operational work plan.
- The programme of projects adopted by Council.

Management policies in the RMP have been revised to only include policies that are specific to the reserve. Policies not listed in the RMP are covered through the General Policies RMP to avoid repetition. Policies reflect the needs of current and future users and are consistent with current 'best practice' management procedures.

1.4 He aha kei te korahi o tēnei mahere? / What is in scope of this plan?

The RMP applies to land within Donovan Park for which Council has decision-making responsibility. Council is required under the Act to prepare RMP's on the reserves it manages. RMP's contain policies on the long-term maintenance and development of the reserves. Land owned or vested by Council is included in this RMP, as shown by the boundaries on the plan.

1.5 History/Background

In 1964 Invercargill City Council purchased the land for reserve purposes and commemorated the Donovan Family name by calling the reserve Donovan Park.

The land could have dissipated under the suburban spread of Invercargill through this change of ownership. However, Invercargill City Council Parks Division (Parks Division) (as it was then known) management of the reserve has retained its rural character. Although there have been many proposed landscape developments and modifications, some of which were partially adopted, most were rejected to preserve the reserve land environment.

At the time of purchase, the Southland County Council voiced concerns on the grounds that productive farmland was being alienated and that the County Council was loath

to see further expansion of the City’s boundaries. However, the County Council eventually assented that no more than a maximum of 12.5 hectares would immediately be developed as reserve land and the balance be retained in farming until at least 1980.

Accordingly, in 1968, part of the land fronting Bainfield Road was developed for sports fields and the balance of the area was leased for farming. Shelterbelt trees were planted along the western boundary in the same year.

The Board of Education approached the City Council in August 1970 regarding the possible purchase of a portion of Donovan Park for the purpose of establishing an intermediate or secondary school for north Invercargill. It was felt that it would fit in well with the proposed extension of the City boundary. However, as a large amount of Donovan Park was within the Southland County Council boundary, that Council stipulated conditions that prevented the utilisation of the area for uses other than sport and farming until at least 1980. As a loan was raised for the purchase of this property as a recreation area, the proposal was declined.

In 1974 the City Council required a five meter strip of land for street widening purposes along Bainfield Road fronting Donovan Park. The separation of this land was carried out in 1982, leaving the reserve with 79.4163 hectares of land.

An easement for the first Branhholme water pipeline was registered against the Donovan family on 27 October 1964, before Donovan Park was purchased by the City Council. In August 1976 a further easement was granted to the City Engineers Department for the purpose of laying the duplication of the Branhholme water pipeline to the City. The first easement is located more or less centrally through the park. The second easement follows the western boundary from Mclvor Road. The second line was laid in 1979. There are now three main Branhholme Pipes running through the park: The first easement is centrally through the park and will be decommissioned when the new line is commissioned mid-2024. The second easement follows the western boundary from Mclvor Road. The recent installation of the new Branhholme Pipe in 2023 will ensure our community continues to enjoy clean, safe drinking water in the years to come. This is a critical piece of infrastructure for Invercargill and Bluff, and the new pipeline is designed to last over a century.

The proposal to develop a propagating department and nursery within Donovan Park emerged in 1978, and in 1981 an area of 6.4669 hectares was surveyed off in the north-east corner of the reserve for the development of a nursery.

During the mid-1980s subsidised labour schemes such as Workskills Projects, PEP, TAPS, and ACCESS were co-ordinated by the City Council and based at Donovan Park. Young unemployed people gained practical skills in planting

and other landscaping work through assisting with the construction of the lake, bridges and access ways, as well as fencing within the farmland, and the burning and clearing of gorse hedges. The work carried out and the overall development achieved enhanced Donovan Park significantly.

The proposed conversion of the original Donovan family home to a restaurant was presented in 1981. A C and R A Neilson proposed to convert the run-down building into a restaurant with the capacity to seat 55 people at one time. The proposal was accepted in 1982 and a lease signed to include the original family home, outbuildings and grounds measuring 2,648m², for a period of 14 years. Renovation of the building and grounds was carried out, and in 1984 the restaurant became a licensed premises.

In the 1980s the nursery was shifted from Queens Park to Donovan Park.

In the mid to late 1990s Crops for Southland approached the Invercargill City Council regarding the possibility of modifying and utilising a portion of the Donovan Park farm for crop research. In 1997 a lease agreement was signed, bonding Crops for Southland to a five year lease with the Parks Division, and development of the new Crops Centre to the west of the Municipal Nursery began.

Research and work at the Crops Centre was carried out in the interest of benefiting the economy and general public of Invercargill and Southland. After many months of little active use for crops purposes and with the closure of the lease, the Parks Division has since reoccupied the site.

During 1997, the YMCA approached the Parks Division with a proposal to utilise part of the park for their Learning Experiences outside the Classroom (LEOTC) programme. They requested the use of the shearing shed and surrounding yard, the authenticity being very appealing, and the prefab for the operation of ‘Classroom in the Paddock’ that was part of the LEOTC programme. The buildings and yard were used to teach school pupils about farming activities but in 2000 the programme was discontinued due to a reduction in funding.

In May 2000, the Parks Division was approached by the Otatara Community Church Mental Health Outreach group regarding the use of a section of the park for growing vegetables as part of its client rehabilitation programme. This section was named Bainfield Garden. In 2002 a lease was signed between Council and the Otatara Community Church. In 2007 the Otatara Community Church Outreach gifted Bainfield Garden to the Christian Centre Charitable Trust to carry on with the client rehabilitation programme. That same year a lease was signed between Council and the Christian Centre Charitable Trust.

Auckland Island Pigs were relocated to Donovan Park for

quarantine in 2001 and were removed in 2009.

In November 2002 crowds of people flocked to Donovan Park for its first Rural Heritage Day to celebrate Southland’s rural traditions. The day had been aimed at giving the public an idea of what life was like in rural Southland during the 1920s and 1930s.

Rural Heritage Day has featured all manner of displays relating to the province’s heritage, including teams of working horses, sheep shearing, vintage machinery in action, traditional games, rural craft and domestic activities, and heirloom breed displays. This event continued on through to 2009.

2005 was the grand opening of the Donovan Park Junior Golf Training Area. Steve Williams, former caddy of Tiger Woods, was present to officially open the facility. The Steve Williams Foundation contributed \$3,000 towards the Donovan Park project, while the Invercargill Licensing Trust Sports Foundation contributed \$15,000 and Community Trust of Southland gave \$6,600. The Invercargill City Council made the ground available. The area, located beside the Waikiwi rugby grounds, included a big undulating putting green, four tee areas and five target greens and Southland Golf has since stepped away from leasing this area.

Council received a business grant towards a reciprocating grate boiler for the Nursery as part of the Wood Energy Grant Scheme from the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Authority in 2010. Achieving the grant enabled local manufacturer Fogarty Industries to develop and construct a boiler that could burn the wide range of wood fuels that Council produces.

This project has achieved its two objectives, with the Parks Division receiving an environmental innovator award in 2011:

- Decreasing the use of fossil fuels, thereby reducing the Council’s carbon footprint as well as reducing other emissions to the atmosphere.
- Reducing costs by burning lower-cost fuels.

In 2011 was the establishment of the Oak / Quercus Arboretum.

Donovan Park currently remains as rural reserve land, as it was intended when purchased by the City. The reserve land and sports grounds are provided for the benefit and enjoyment of the public, and all other activities undertaken within its confines are in compliance with its status as Recreation Reserve and Local Purpose (Municipal Nursery) Reserve as prescribed by the Act and this RMP.

1.5.1 Flora

Donovan Park has been intensely farmed for many years and consequently no trace of any indigenous vegetation remains.

Donovan Park is identified as High Value Soils via the National Policy Statement for Highly Productive Land 2022 (Waikiwi). The site appears subject to possible amplification (soft soils), high liquefaction susceptibility, as well as high value soils as per the Operative Invercargill City District Plan 2019. There has been no record found regarding any sites of cultural and spiritual significance to Māori.

The entire area has been cultivated and sown with pasture plants so that these, together with the normal flora of farmlands, comprise the dominant vegetative cover.

In addition, some landscape planting has been carried out within the reserve land areas for the purpose of reducing maintenance and to extend the habitat area of fauna found within the reserve, and to encourage greater fauna numbers. Group planting of trees has also been carried out to enhance the environment.

On first impression Donovan Park appears relatively flat, but in actuality it is pleasantly contoured, undulating country. Donovan Park’s rolling character offers great scope for landscaping.

It is a valued expanse of land that fills the transition from the organised cityscape to the informal rural aspect outside the city boundary. In this respect it helps to soften the adjoining suburban area.

Shelterbelts and other plantings give the landscape a mature, rural quality. Within its plantings and undulations private reserve settings can be found.

1.5.2 Fauna

The land area of Donovan Park provides a habitat for a number of species of birds and in its state of development they form a dominant feature of the reserve land. This wildlife has been encouraged into the reserve with the development of the artificial lake and its connecting waterways and ditches, which provide a reasonably extensive habitat for waterfowl in particular.

Ducks, pied stilts, black-back gulls, and the black-billed seagull are just some of the birds that can be viewed here. As the reserve is developed further, every effort should be made to retain existing and potential bird habitats and, where possible, to extend them or develop new ones.

Bird Species observed in Donovan Park:

▪ Mallard x Grey Duck	▪ Spur – winged Plover
▪ Black – back Gull	▪ Silver Eye/Wax Eye
▪ Black – billed Gull	▪ Gold Finch

- Skylark

▪ Song Thrush

▪ Blackbird

▪ Black Swan

▪ Geese

▪ Heron

▪ House Sparrow

▪ Starling

▪ Pied Stilt

▪ Wood Pigeon/Kererū

▪ Morepork

2.0 Te mōhio ki te papa rēhia / Understanding the park

Donovan Park comprises two land parcels, with a total area of approximately 79 hectares. The entire reserve has been classified as Recreation Reserve and Local Purpose (Municipal Nursery) Reserve in accordance with the Act.

The entire reserve is under the control and management of the Invercargill City Council Parks and Recreation Division, who are responsible for the development, maintenance and general management of Donovan Park.

2.1 Location

Donovan Park (including the Mclvor Road Municipal Nursery) is situated in north Invercargill. It extends from Bainfield Road to Mclvor Road and lies between North Road (to the west) and Retreat Road (to the east). It provides a link between Queens Park and Thomsons Bush to the south and Anderson Park immediately to the North.

2.2 Access

Public access to Donovan Park can be gained from Bainfield and Mclvor Roads. Additional pedestrian access is off Richfield Drive. Access to the Municipal Nursery can be gained off Mclvor Road via State Highway 6. Both the nursery and parts of the reserve have general public access restrictions.

The internal Donovan Park Road provides a link between Bainfield and Mclvor Roads during daylight hours for visitors who are cycling, walking and driving through the reserve.

The Waikiwi sports grounds can be accessed by vehicle to the car park off Bainfield Road and there is additional pedestrian access from Northwood Avenue.

The gates are locked from dusk until dawn for security purposes.

2.3 Adjoining land use

Donovan Park is situated in a predominantly semi-rural area. Land surrounding the reserve is used for farming and lifestyle blocks.

2.4 General Use

The primary purpose of Donovan Park is to provide the public with areas for active and passive recreation. The sports grounds and the open spaces of the reserve land area currently fulfil these functions.

Visitors can follow informal grass trails through a combination of reserve land and farmland and see some animals grazing in the paddocks.

Informal use of Donovan Park by visitors includes casual walking and dog walking, running and cycling. Invercargill schools and clubs occasionally use Donovan Park for cross country events.

The summer months are popular for organised family activities, Christmas parties and work functions in the reserve. It has also been used as a venue historically for Young Farmers and Electrical expos and is currently used for organised events such as equestrian and Southland A+P Shows.



Figure 2: Location of Donovan Park

2.4.1 Management Approach

The management approach for Donovan Park is centred around three key themes:

1. Celebrating Unique Natural Character
2. Promoting Open Space Network
3. Rationalising Land Use

Effective management of Donovan Park will:

- Ensure the unique natural and heritage character of the reserve is preserved and celebrated.
- Ensure connectivity to the wider open space network within Invercargill.
- Provide justification for different land use activities within the reserve.

2.4.1.1 Management Areas

Donovan Park has been divided into different management areas (refer to figures 3 and 4, and table 1). This approach ensures that reserve usage is maximised and that the reserve is managed effectively and efficiently.

Table 1: Management areas and their purpose

MANAGEMENT AREA	PURPOSE
Sports and Recreation / Community Hub	To maintain a multi-use space for activation.
Cultivation	For food security and resilience, native planting and propagation.
Water and Nature	To maximise recreation while providing effective storm water management.
Events	The ideal location within an open space network to provide for large scale events.
Agriculture	An education and advocacy tool with the potential to promote modern and sustainable farming practices.



Figure 3: Donovan Park site use

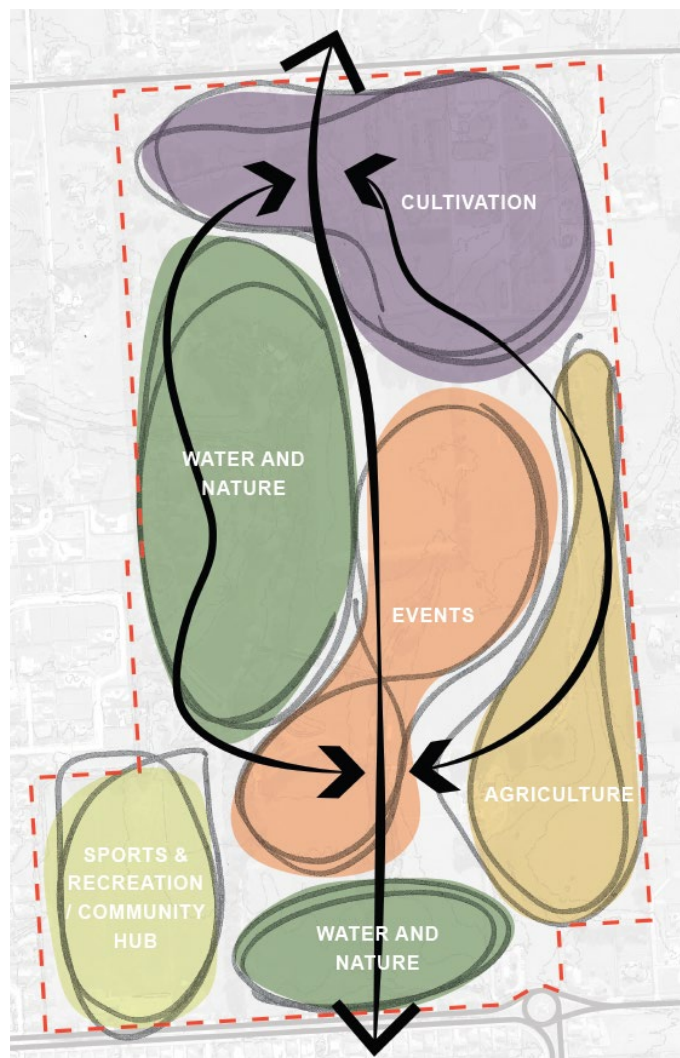


Figure 4: Donovan Park management areas

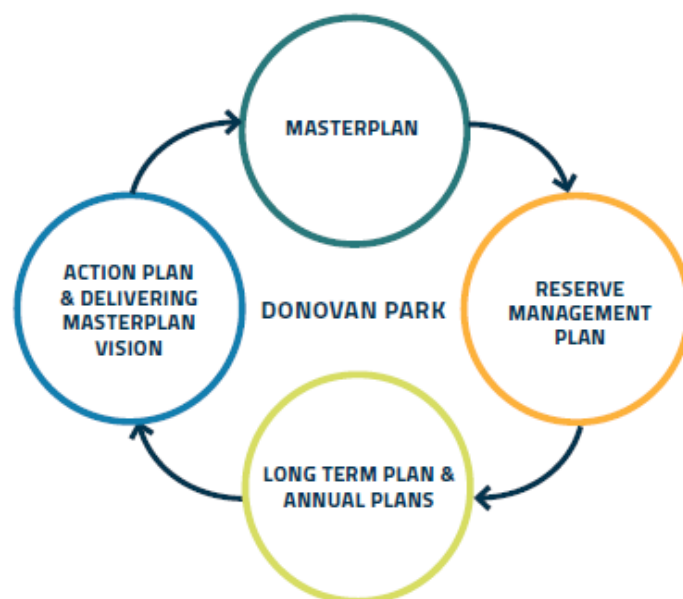


Figure 5: Strategic Framework, illustrating the relationship between the RMP and other plans

3.0 Horopaki ā-ture, ā-kaupapa here hoki / Statutory and policy context

3.1 Tirohanga Whānui / Overview

A RMP is a statutory document created under Section 41 of the Act. It is developed in consultation with iwi and the community and becomes a guiding document for the future management of the reserve.

The RMP sets out objectives and policies that support the recreation reserve classification of Donovan Park.

The RMP addresses:

- use and enjoyment
- maintenance
- protection and preservation
- development

The development and management of the reserve and the implementation of this RMP is also affected by a range of legislation, statutory and non-statutory policies and council plans and strategic documents.

Direction signalled in this plan does not avoid the need for activities and development on reserves to comply with other relevant legislation. Applications for a proposed activity may require separate regulatory approvals and consents, such as under the Resource Management Act 1991, Building Act 2004 and Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga Act 2014.

The RMP is closely associated with the Masterplan which guides and informs this RMP and future RMPs for the next 10-30 years. The Masterplan is especially relevant to development work.

The RMP and Masterplan contribute to planning for funding through Council's asset/activity management planning, the Long Term Plan and Annual Plan processes, as well as external funding sources (figure 5).

3.1.1 Te Tiriti o Waitangi / The Treaty of Waitangi

The principles of Te Tiriti o Waitangi are likely to be most relevant in making decisions on the management of reserves are:

- Partnership – the mutual duties to act towards each other reasonably and in good faith are at the core of the Treaty partnership.
- Informed decision making – being well-informed of mana whenua interests and views. Early consultation leads to more informed decision-making.

- Active protection – this involves the active protection of Māori interests retained under Te Tiriti o Waitangi. It includes the promise to protect te tino rangatiratanga (sovereignty and self-determination) and taonga. Mana whenua continue to maintain a presence and relationship with their ancestral sites and landscapes of significance. This relationship also extends to the taonga, and sites where historic events occurred, often within the boundaries of reserves.

One way to give practical effect to the principles of Te Tiriti o Waitangi is to enable iwi and hapū to participate in planning and decision making and to provide opportunities to reconnect to ancestral lands.

3.1.2 Ture Whenua Rāhui 1977/ Reserves Act 1977

The role of Council under the Act as an administering body is the duty of administering, managing, and controlling the reserves under its control and management in accordance with the appropriate provisions of the Act so as to ensure the use, enjoyment, development, maintenance, protection, and preservation of reserves for the purpose for which they are classified.

The Act is one of the Acts in the First Schedule to the Conservation Act 1987. Section 4 of the Conservation Act 1987 contains an obligation to give effect to the principles of Te Tiriti o Waitangi.

The Local Government Act 2002 (LGA) also contains obligations to Māori, including to facilitate Māori participation in council decision making processes.

Engagement with Te Ao Mārama Inc. on behalf of Waihōpai Rūnaka has been ongoing with regards to Donovan Park and future opportunities with management of the reserve. Additional engagement may be required further should mana whenua positions change.

3.2 Classification and Land Description

3.2.1 Reserve Classification

In 1971, Section 64 Block IV Invercargill Hundred, known as Donovan Park, was declared a Public Reserve for Recreation Purposes.

In 1983 Donovan Park was re-gazetted as Sections 68 and 69 – Section 68 being classified as a Local Purpose Reserve (Municipal Nursery), and Section 69 as a Public Reserve for Recreation Purposes.

Donovan Park is classified as follows:

- Recreation Reserve pursuant to Section 17 of the Reserves Act 1977; and

- Local Purpose Reserve (Municipal Nursery) pursuant to Section 23 of the Reserves Act 1977;

and shall be managed in accordance with these classifications.

3.2.2 Area and Land Titles

The total area of Donovan Park is 79.4163 hectares. The land description is made up of two parcels of land as follows:

- **Certificate of Title: 534709**
Legal Description: Section 69, Block IV, Invercargill Hundred
Area: 72.9494 ha
Classification: Recreation Reserve
Subject to: Right (in gross) to water rights created by transfer 201174
Lease 8312615.1 of Lot 1 DP 422069 contained in CT 484591
- **Certificate of Title: 534710**
Legal Description: Section 68, Block IV, Invercargill Hundred
Area: 6.4669 ha
Classification: Local Purpose (Municipal Nursery) Reserve

All of the above certificates of title are subject to various encumbrances or agreements which are shown on the various titles.

Reserves are categorised under the [Recreation Aotearoa Parks Categories Framework](#) according to their dominant characteristics, these assist Council with setting management objectives and assessing funding requirements for each reserve.

Donovan Park has been assigned to a management category based on its main purpose: Outdoor Adventure Park. The main functions of Outdoor Adventure Parks include open spaces that cater for activities that require large areas of land and/or separation from residential areas. Although primarily Outdoor Adventure, there are still significant environmental elements that make up the reserve, with a key management objective being to have areas of native ecosystems to ensure ongoing biodiversity and protection of flora and fauna, while educating users.

3.2.3 Lease Holders at Donovan Park Te Tapu o Tāne



The Municipal Nursery (~6.4ha) is leased by Te Tapu o Tāne for the purposes of propagating and growing plants for supply to local and regional organisations, ecological restoration consulting and delivery and Mahinga kai enhanced / protection training.

Christian Centre Charitable Trust



A portion of Donovan Park Recreation Reserve is leased to the Christian Centre Charitable Trust for the purpose of growing vegetables as part of their client rehabilitation.

Glenrae Parks Limited



The building (owned by Glenrae Parks Limited) and grounds (owned by the Council) that were once the Donovan family residence were restored and modified in the early 1980s and since then have been leased for use as a restaurant by Glenrae Parks Limited. The conditions of the lease are compatible with the Act and this RMP.

Spirit Army Charitable Trust



Structures located on the community garden east of the Municipal Nursery, in conjunction with a memorandum of understanding for use of the land, is utilised by the Spirit Army for community garden and nursery use.

Waikiwi Rugby Football Club



A portion of the recreation reserve is set aside for the purpose of providing space for active and organised recreation. This area is located in the southwest corner of the reserve and comprises sports fields (owned by Council) and clubrooms (owned by the Club) that are on land (828m²) leased by the Waikiwi Rugby Football Club..

Southland Agricultural and Pastoral (A&P) Association



19.5ha of recreation reserve is leased by the Southland A&P Association for the purpose of A&P Show and Display activities and storage facilities.



- | | | | |
|--|-------------------------------------|--|--|
| | Dog Off Lead Area | | Dogs Prohibited |
| | Waterfowl | | Leased Areas |
| | Picnic Areas | | Invercargill City Council Buildings / Structures |
| | Fruit and Nut Harvesting | | Privately Owned Buildings / Structures |
| | Driving Range | | Walking Tracks (Dogs Leashed) |
| | Walking and Running Routes | | Sealed Roads |
| | Cycling | | Dense Boundary Hedges |
| | Unmanned Aerial Vehicle Flying Area | | Unsealed Roads |
| | Public Toilet | | Site Boundary |
-
- | | |
|--|------------------------------------|
| 1 Spirit Army Building Lease | 4 Southland A & P Showgrounds |
| 2 Te Tapu o Tāne [Nursery] | 5 Waikiwi Rugby Football Clubhouse |
| 3 Invercargill Christian Centre at Bainfield Organic Gardens | 6 Crafty's Restaurant |

4.0 Te Ao Māori i roto whakahaerenga papa rēhia ā-rohe / Te Ao Māori in local park management

Te Tiriti o Waitangi / Treaty of Waitangi principles require active protection of Māori interests. There are several ways to give practical effect to the Treaty principles including recognising the customary relationship of mana whenua to the reserve and working with them to sustain the mauri (life force) of taonga in the reserve.

4.1 Ngā kawenga kaitiaki a ngā mana whenua / Mana whenua’s kaitiaki role

From the time of its original inhabitants, Waihōpai has become home to many people.

Mana whenua are kaitiaki (guardians) of the cultural values associated with reserves, including maunga (mountains), awa (rivers), moana (coastline), tauranga waka (canoe landing sites), pā (fortified villages), papakainga (villages), māra (cultivations), urupā (burial grounds), wāhi tapu (sites that are sacred), biodiversity and other taonga.

As kaitiaki, mana whenua have responsibilities to preserve and nurture the physical and spiritual aspects associated with any land, resource or taonga within their rohe (tribal area). Kaitiakitanga, the responsibility of guardianship of the earth, reflects a belief that we need to work towards a future not just better for our children, but for all things and all time.

The reserve provides opportunities for mana whenua to express their kaitiakitanga.

This ranges from:

- identifying mana whenua values and promoting these and tikanga (custom), kawa (traditions) and mātauranga Māori (traditional Māori knowledge).
- protecting sites of cultural significance.
- increasing engagement and joint kaitiaki projects.
- naming reserve features with traditional mana whenua names.
- mahi toi (art and craft) and planting opportunities (e.g. rongoa).
- undertaking other activities that enable reconnection to ancestral lands, including for economic benefit.

This plan refers to taonga and cultural sites as ‘mana whenua values’.

4.2 Whakaaetanga ki ngā uara Māori / Recognition of Māori values

Section 4 of the Conservation Act 1987 requires administrators of land protected under the Act to give effect to the Principles of the Treaty of Waitangi. In the context of this RMP:

- Mana whenua will be included in reserve management planning and decisions so their aspirations are recognised and promoted.
- Council will take active steps as needed to protect Māori interests as required.
- Mana whenua, iwi and hapu will be consulted and issues or concern raised will be taken into account by the Council when activities are likely to disturb access, sites, resources and activities that are important to mana whenua.



Wāhanga Tuarua – Ngā Tirohanga Whānui I Ārahi I Ngā Mātāpono, Ngā Whāinga Me Ngā Kaupapa Here

Part Two – Vision, Guiding Principles, Objectives and Policies

5.0 Aronga whānui / Vision for Donovan Park

Fostering sustainability for Invercargill’s nature and water, food resilience and sport and recreation opportunities.

6.0 Mātāpono ārahi / Guiding Principles

Guiding Principles that will be expressed through the implementation of the Masterplan and this RMP include:

6.1 Celebrating Unique, Natural Character

1. Enhancing the landscape and continuing the urban-rural integration and transition.
2. Enhancing and improving water and nature features to add more amenity and better support biodiversity outcomes, while managing stormwater control.
3. Providing green tree lined routes within the reserve and on routes to and from the reserve to encourage active transport.
4. Supporting food resilience opportunities.

6.2 Promoting Open Space Network

1. Removing barriers and fences to provide improved access for all.
2. Focus on improving safety and accessibility throughout the reserve.

- 3. Linking ecology and recreation corridors between Donovan Park and other community spaces and places, including reserves.
- 4. Enhancing connections to residential/urban areas.
- 5. Enhancing amenities and facilities to increase frequency of visitation and length of use.
- 6. Develop active transport connections both within and to/ from the reserve.

6.3 Rationalising Land Use

- 1. Ensuring the reserve has long term sustainable uses.
- 2. Activating efficient use of land.
- 3. Providing quality spaces for multi-use activities and events.
- 4. Fostering a family friendly/whānau centric place for visitors.
- 5. Considering the retention of some or all of the site for reserve purposes on the basis that, in the event of population growth, the rural character of the reserve is retained and the large area of reserve land at the suburban edge of north Invercargill performs a stormwater management function in the face of climate change.



7.0 Te kōkiritanga / Delivering the vision

Celebrating Unique Natural Character

FOCUS FOR THE NEXT THREE YEARS	WHAT WE WILL SEE IN 30 YEARS
- Establish a revegetation programme beginning with: - Expanding the arboretum. - Riparian planting around pond edges. - Planting out open ditches. - Planting shelter belts. - Creating increased visibility to allow permeability between spaces within the reserve for view shafts. - Identify and establish partnerships to support initiatives. - Actively protect and improve habitats through pest plant management	Fully established: - Wetland and open ditches. - Actively managed arboretum. - Shelter belts, tree lined avenues. - Blue/green network.
FOCUS FOR THE NEXT 10 YEARS	
- Developing constructed wetland at Bainfield Road front paddocks with boardwalk and riparian plantings. - Planting trees along avenues. - Extending the native vegetation planting programme across the reserve including arboretum and community cultivation. - Further enhance and monitor existing habitats to enable diverse wildlife.	

Promoting Open Space Network

FOCUS FOR THE NEXT THREE YEARS	WHAT WE WILL SEE IN 30 YEARS
- Create a safe environment for all reserve users. - Exploring better access provisions for pedestrians and active transport opportunities. - Develop a wayfinding and signage programme to design and install. - Introducing more furniture to the reserve to support current users. - Detailed design of internal reserve spaces. - Allocation of a dedicated event and multi-use space within the reserve.	- Donovan Park activity is accessible and used by people of all ages, abilities and communities. - Increased parking areas and better allocation of road space to support more large-scale events and better utilisation of the reserve. - Strengthen ecological and recreational connections so nearby reserves and places are thriving. - A complete suite of wayfinding and signage resources are installed and implemented. - Amenities and facilities are fully established. - Wayfinding and signage installed – acknowledging areas within, nearby and around the reserve.
FOCUS FOR THE NEXT TEN YEARS	
- Strengthen recreation and ecological connections between the onsite restaurant and the rest of the reserve. - Partial road and parking development at the south end of the reserve to enable increased active transport opportunities. - Signage / wayfinding and furniture installed as areas of the reserve are developed. - High priority accessible amenities and facilities are installed (toilets and shelters). - Walking structures (boardwalks and bridges) developed at the newly constructed wetland as this develops further.	

Rationalising Land Use

FOCUS FOR THE NEXT THREE YEARS	WHAT WE WILL SEE IN 30 YEARS
▪ Promote access to healthy spaces with a focus on community gardens and improving spaces for events, sports and recreation. ▪ Enhance the accessibility of the reserve’s track network to encourage active transport throughout the reserve for all users. ▪ Exploration and allocation of nature play spaces. ▪ Gauge user demand for the reserve and assess how user activities align with the vision for Donovan Park, with the focus beginning with events and agricultural activities/areas on the reserve. ▪ Actively engage interest groups and explore partnerships in the ongoing development of Donovan Park. ▪ Explore sustainable funding avenues. ▪ Review of the agricultural area in line with the long-term plan, land provision requirements and community needs.	▪ Alternative land use has been acknowledged in line with the Act and purpose of Donovan Park. Nature play spaces are fully developed. ▪ Community hub is thriving with multi-use activities future-proofed. ▪ Sustainable income generated from the reserve to fund the vision.
FOCUS FOR THE NEXT 10 YEARS	
▪ Incorporating further nature play spaces throughout other areas of the reserve that connect with each other. ▪ Explore the opportunity of a community hub in partnership with Waikiwi Rugby Club. ▪ Understanding the need of the driving range. ▪ Transition from service area north of arboretum to outdoor classroom/nature play space, with additional play areas allocated near constructed wetland and pond. ▪ Generate sustainable funding avenues.	



8.0 Ngā whāinga me ngā kaupapa here / Objectives and policies

The Objectives and Policies in this RMP are aligned with the:

- Recreation Reserve classification in accordance with Section 17 of the Act.
- Local Purpose (Municipal Nursery) reserve classification in accordance with Section 23 of the Act.

The RMP is a management tool and the intention is for the Objectives and Policies to achieve specific actions and to provide a policy position for decision making and management. The Masterplan is a key document that supports the RMP. Development will occur to the extent possible within the resources available and in line with the Masterplan.

Where the RMP does not specifically provide for an activity then the ICC District Plan will need to be considered, under its rural zoning. Regional plans may be relevant.

Where the policies in this RMP refer to the term “Council” this means the Parks and Recreation Manager and/ or the Parks and Recreation Division as the nominated representative of the Invercargill City Council via the Invercargill City Council Delegation Register, unless otherwise stated.

Policies covered in the General Policies RMP will be implemented at Donovan Park. The following policies apply specifically to the reserve.

8.1 Celebrating Unique Natural Character

8.1.1 Te Whāinga / Objectives

1. Enhancing the landscape and continuing the urban-rural integration and transition.
2. Enhancing and improving water and nature features to add more amenity and better support biodiversity outcomes, while managing stormwater control.
3. To manage Donovan Park in perpetuity for the purpose of protecting the reserve’s open space values for recreation and play; and for protecting the natural environmental and scenic values.

8.1.2 Ngā Kaupapa Here / Policies

1. The rural qualities of Donovan Park will be protected and maintained for the benefit and enjoyment of the public.
2. The waters of Donovan Park shall be managed for their wildlife and environmental values, with benefit to the

operations and people within the reserve as a secondary consideration.

3. Council will consider recreation use of the pond in relation to the environmental values.
4. To continue to use grazing as a management tool where it does not cause inappropriate adverse effects.
5. Innovating sustainable practices to support the blue green network as noted in the Donovan Park Masterplan 2024.

8.2 Promoting Open Space Network

8.2.1 Te Whāinga / Objectives

1. To enhance ecology and recreation corridors between Donovan Park, community spaces and places and residential/urban areas.
2. To continue with the featuring of displays of animals and rural heritage activities which contribute to the educational value and enjoyment of Donovan Park.

8.2.2 Ngā Kaupapa Here / Policies

1. Facilities that support public use of the reserve will be prioritised e.g. toilets, shelters, boardwalks over wetland.
2. Council will prioritise sharing of the road use, where non-motorised pedestrians have the right of way along internal roads.
3. Council will improve car parking provision to meet the needs of recreational users.
4. Council’s preference is to provide multi-use facilities, where there is opportunity to collaborate with Waikiwi Rugby Football Club to better understand future development in this space.

8.3 Rationalising Land Use

8.3.1 Te Whāinga / Objectives

1. Ensuring the reserve has long term sustainable uses.
2. Activating efficient use of land.
3. Prioritisation of providing quality spaces for multi-use activities and events.
4. Continuing a family friendly/whānau centric place for visitors.

8.3.2 Ngā Kaupapa Here / Policies

- 1. To allow continued operation of current leases for the purposes they are assigned in their lease agreements¹.
- 2. To allow continued operation of equestrian event activity, provided these user groups respect recreational and environmental values. This will be reviewed as a result of any outcomes provided through the needs assessment in line with Donovan Park Reserve Management Plan 2025.
- 3. To allow informal activities (see list of activities and associated infrastructure allowed for Outdoor Adventure Parks in the 2023 General Policies RMP – Appendix 5, p79) with prior Council approval, provided they respect recreational and environmental values.
- 4. Play will be guided by the Play Strategy (when developed), General Policies RMP 2023 and Donovan Park Masterplan 2024 to provide scalable play experiences across the reserve.
- 5. To allow large scale events provided that any reserve land is reinstated if damaged.
- 6. Dogs off leash will continue to be an allowable activity at Donovan Park in line with the ICC Dog Bylaw and Dog Policy, provided they comply with rules relating to the required distance from the pond, marked sports fields and any play areas that may be developed.
- 7. To continue to support cultivation of land where high quality soils exist.
- 8. Commercial leases on the reserve, including hospitality, that support public use and enjoyment of the site may be permitted.



¹The Parks and Recreation Manager has delegated authority to sign off leases

8.3.3 Future Development

A RMP is developed to reflect current reserve use and reserve values. Any development not anticipated in, or meeting the policies of the current RMP, will require an amendment to the RMP.

Any future development at the reserve shall only be to the extent which is in accordance with the overall management objectives and policies and subject to meeting the requirements defined in the General Policies RMP - 6.0 Development Policies.

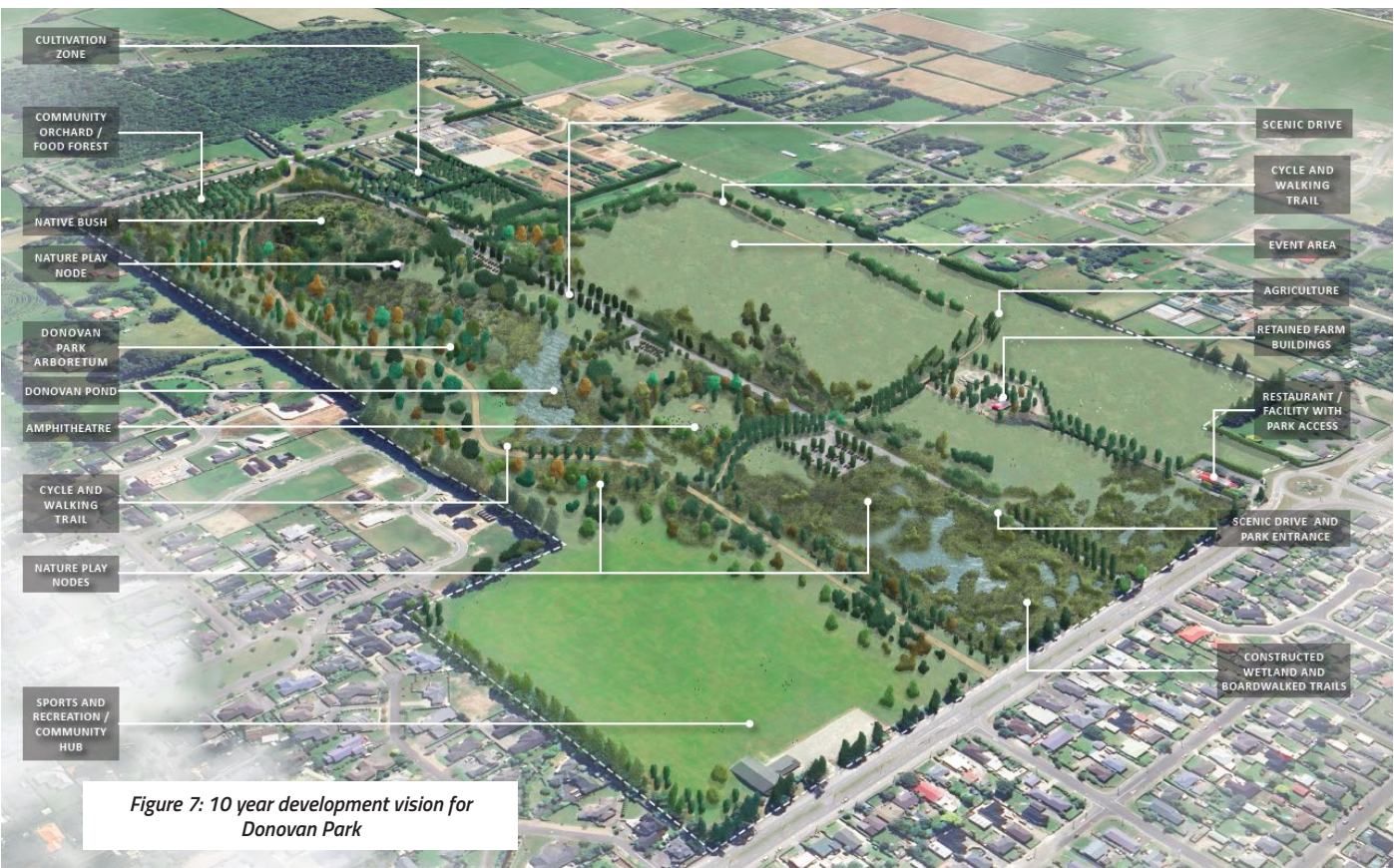
Before any development is implemented, it must be established that there is a need for such development and that what is proposed will be of benefit to the reserve and to those using it.

8.3.3.1 Te Whāinga / Objective

- 1. To deliver the intentions of the 2024 Donovan Park Masterplan.

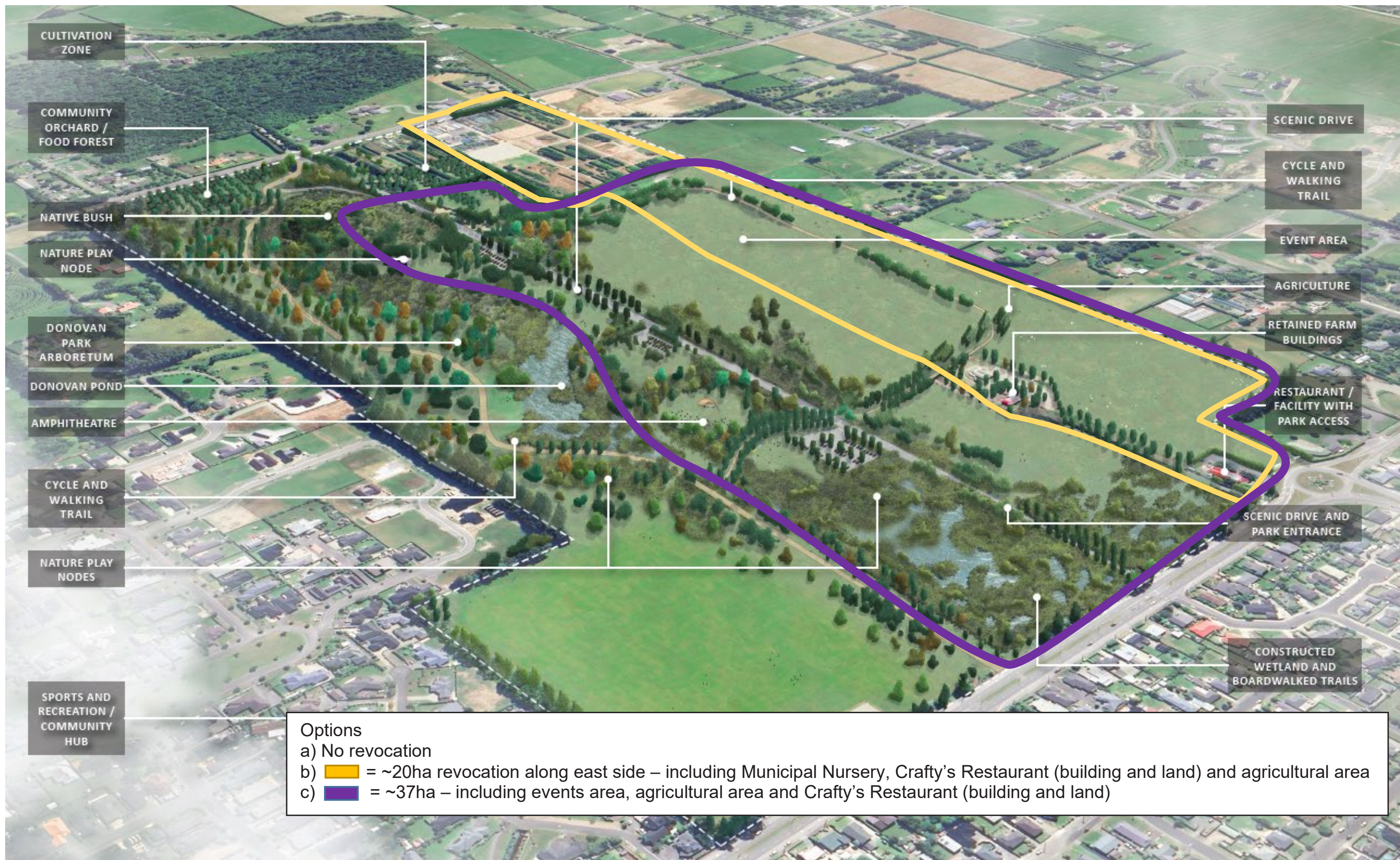
8.3.3.2 Ngā Kaupapa Here / Policies

- 1. The Masterplan outlines Council’s intentions for development at the reserve. Development that is not anticipated in the Masterplan typically requires approval from the Council.
- 2. Proposals for development that vary in a way that is more than minor compared to the current situation, or vary compared to development indicated in the Masterplan, require approval from Council. Proposals that vary significantly require approval from Elected Members.
- 3. Council will consider the retention of some or all of the site for reserve purposes on the basis that if the population was to grow, the rural character is enjoyed



by locals and the large reserve at the suburban edge of north Invercargill performs a storm water management function, provided it does not conflict with the reserve’s primary purpose as a recreation reserve.

- 4. The qualities and the values of the site that support the recreation purpose are the leading considerations and any storm water function proposals need to be considered as a secondary function.
- 5. Proposals to revoke part or all of Donovan Park will be required to be followed as a separate process under Section 24 of the Act 1977.





Parks and Recreation