

## 3.0 POLICIES

Note: Where the policies in this Management Plan refer to the term "Council" this means the Parks Manager and/or the Parks Division as the nominated representative of the Invercargill City Council, unless otherwise stated.

### 3.1 GENERAL USE

Reserves are a major source of open space in the City and are provided for the benefit, enjoyment and use of the public. "Use" policies guide the response of Council to applications to use the reserves. The scope of "uses" that may be proposed is wide and includes sport, passive recreation, art and cultural events, commercial promotions and festival activities.

Council reserves the right to decline a proposal for use of a reserve, or take action as it sees fit against a user, or stop a use, if the use is likely to cause any adverse effects to the reserve, reserve users or reserve neighbours.

Council occasionally receives applications for the use of reserves for temporary or long-term commercial activities. Commercial activities are an acceptable part of the range of activities within the reserves of the City provided they are consistent with the primary purpose of the reserves as classified under the Reserves Act 1977. The activities should not adversely impact on the reserve, reserve values, reserve users or reserve neighbours.

Long-term non-commercial use of a reserve occurs predominantly through lease arrangements and generally relates to non-commercial activities carried out from sports fields, clubhouses, halls and other indoor facilities and community group buildings. This generally means long-term enclosure of reserve space for the use by a particular group that then obtains a greater benefit than that received by the general public.

Objective:

- *To allow and encourage public use that is compatible with the purpose of the reserve.*

Policies:

- 3.1.1 The utilisation of Queens Park shall be in compliance with its classification as a Recreation Reserve and Local Purpose Reserve (Museum) and the policies set out in this Management Plan.
- 3.1.2 Access to Queens Park will be free of charge to the general public except as provided for in Policy 3.1.4 or where exclusive use has been granted.
- 3.1.3 All events in Queens Park must be booked in advance with the Parks Division and users must comply with the "Terms and Conditions" for use of the Park. These terms and conditions are reviewed and updated from time to time.

- 3.1.4 Council may charge a fee for use of Queens Park where the user gains a special benefit that is not available to other reserve users, or where there are costs associated with the activity or event.
- 3.1.5 Queens Park sports field, facility and park fees and charges are adopted by Council annually and are identified in Council's Annual Plan.
- 3.1.6 Where necessary, Council will consider temporary closure of a reserve, or part of a reserve, in conjunction with statutory requirements for the protection and well-being of Queens Park and for the protection and control of the public using it.
- 3.2.7 Council may grant a permit for commercial activities to temporarily occupy part of Queens Park for a period of up to six consecutive days (Section 54(1)(d) and Section 56(1)(b) Reserves Act 1977), if it is necessary to enable the public to obtain the benefit and enjoyment of the reserve or for the convenience of those using the reserve.
- 3.1.8 Council may grant a long-term lease or licence for a recreation or commercial activity to occupy part of Queens Park where the activity complies with the Reserves Act 1977.

## 3.2 BOUNDARIES AND FENCES

Queens Park is largely bounded by schools, road line or another reserve. However at the North West corner of the Park, there are five private properties that directly border on to Queens Park.

While Council will meet its Fencing Act 1978 obligations, it is important that ratepayers are not burdened with paying for boundary fencing that exceeds the standard of fence beyond that which is considered a minimum requirement.

Council sets a maximum contribution towards half the materials based on a cost per lineal metre for an appropriate standard fence style which is reviewed annually. If a boundary fence is considered necessary, a contribution from Council may be made subject to an application being received in writing. Once it is determined that a new fence is required or the current fence should be replaced, the applicant is advised.

All applications for a fence will be assessed on its design in terms of visual permeability and its contribution to the attractiveness of the reserve.

Fences and barriers may be required within reserves to prevent vehicular access to sports grounds and, where it is desirable, to enclose service areas or the premises of exclusive sporting users.

### Objectives:

- *To meet boundary/fencing obligations under the Fencing Act 1978 where required.*
- *To limit the number of fences or barriers on reserves to those which will protect reserve values, reduce the adverse effects on reserve neighbours, or which ensure the reserve can be used safely.*

- *To protect reserve values and encourage freedom of public movement into and through reserves.*

Policies:

- 3.2.1 Council will assess requests for contribution towards construction of Queens Park boundary fences only when it is deemed necessary and where it is to be established on the correct legal boundary.
- 3.2.2 Council will meet its boundary fencing obligations under the Fencing Act 1978 where there is a justifiable need. Council shall contribute on a per metre basis up to a maximum amount based on the current rate at the time of application as approved by Council resolution annually. Council shall in each case assess the type of fence appropriate to the character, use and environs of the reserve.
- 3.2.3 Where a Queens Park occupier requests the enclosure of its facilities, the cost of erecting and maintaining appropriate fences to the satisfaction of Council shall be borne by the reserve occupier and requires written approval from the Parks Manager for colour and design prior to construction.
- 3.2.4 Enclosure of an activity or feature within Queens Park with a fence or barrier will only be permitted if there is a justifiable need, e.g. protecting other reserve users from the effects of the activity and protecting reserve values.

### **3.3 TREES AND VEGETATION**

Trees and vegetation contribute to the amenity, historical, environmental, cultural and landscape values of a reserve. Vegetation plays a significant role in the attractiveness of Queens Park and plays a large part in the Park's popularity. Large trees in Queens Park also play an important role in providing shelter to the Park, protecting vegetation from the effects of salt laden winds and allowing species more suited to warmer climates to be grown.

It is important to actively manage and maintain vegetation on reserves where possible. However, from time to time vegetation can become a nuisance or danger to reserve users and reserve neighbours and can affect the use or enjoyment of the reserve or adjoining properties. Council will consider remedial action where appropriate to resolve these problems.

People regularly approach the Parks Division requesting permission to collect firewood, cones and pine needles from fallen or cut trees on reserves. Firewood permits are generally only given to non-profit community groups or individuals for personal use only.

Objectives:

- *To display a variety of trees and shrubs in Queens Park.*
- *To develop and maintain the vegetation on Queens Park as a significant function contributing to the Park's attractiveness and popularity.*
- *To maximise the benefits of vegetation on reserves while avoiding, minimising or mitigating the adverse effects on reserve neighbours.*

- *To control the unauthorised removal of vegetation from reserves.*
- *To ensure the integrity of shelter is maintained into the future.*

Policies:

- 3.3.1 Planting and maintenance of vegetation in Queens Park shall be planned strategically and designed to enhance and protect the qualities of Queens Park.
- 3.3.2 Planting and management of vegetation in Queens Park will take into account:
- (a) Management objectives and policies for the reserve;
  - (b) Any landscape plans for the reserve;
  - (c) The effect the vegetation will have on adjacent properties at the time of planting and in the future;
  - (d) The effect the vegetation will have on underground and network utility infrastructure; and/or
  - (e) Horticultural, landscape and ecological considerations;
  - (f) Educational and horticultural feature displays.
- 3.3.3 Maintenance or removal of vegetation will only be undertaken by Council, or Council approved contractors.
- 3.3.4 Before making any decision on complaints received about trees on reserves, Council will firstly consider and assess the effect of the alleged nuisance by:
- (a) Considering the potential danger to life and property;
  - (b) Consider the interests of the public and reserve users;
  - (c) Consider the value and protection of the tree.

It may also be necessary to discuss further any concerns the affected person/group may have.

- 3.3.5 Firewood permits may be granted to groups and individuals for a fee for the removal of firewood from felled or fallen trees, or from pruning operations upon application.

All individuals or groups given permission to collect or remove firewood from a reserve shall follow the current Invercargill City Council Parks Division Chainsaw Safety Standard. No live or standing trees or vegetation are to be removed or damaged during firewood removal operations.

### **3.4 BUILDINGS AND STRUCTURES**

Reserves are created principally for the provision of open space and natural areas. Some buildings and structures such as changing rooms, toilets and clubrooms are considered necessary for the enjoyment and full utilisation of the Reserves and are allowed for in the Reserves Act 1977.

Objective:

- *To provide and maintain well designed and appropriately located buildings and structures on the reserve to improve utilisation and add to the enjoyment of the reserve by its users.*
- *To ensure that all reserve facilities are maintained to an appropriate standard that enhances amenity values of the reserve.*

Policies:

- 3.4.1 The number of buildings and structures on Queens Park will be limited to a level which facilitates the safe and appropriate use of the Park. The following buildings are considered important components of Queens Park for enhancing recreational use or assisting in the day to day management of the Park.
- (a) The Queens Park Office.
  - (b) The Tea Kiosk.
  - (c) The Ranger's accommodation.
  - (d) Public Toilet Facilities.
  - (e) Utility buildings located in the Yard.
- 3.4.2 The open space and natural amenity values of Queens Park will be protected and managed by only allowing those buildings and structures which complement the Park.
- 3.4.3 Applications for new buildings or changes to existing buildings on Queens Park requires Council approval and shall meet the Objectives and Policies of 4.1 - Requests for Development on Reserves with particular emphasis on Policy 4.1.9 which identifies the requirements of any development plan.
- 3.4.4 Applications for extensions to existing buildings shall only be granted where the extension is seen as enhancing the enjoyment and full utilisation of the reserve.
- 3.4.5 No application for extensions will be granted to those buildings on Queens Park that are classified as non-conforming buildings.
- 3.4.6 The design of any building or structure on Queens Park shall be subject to Council approval and shall be in keeping with the surroundings to enhance and complement the landscape.
- 3.4.7 Buildings and structures on Queens Park shall be designed to a high standard and where practical, be designed to limit the opportunity for vandalism.
- 3.4.8 Buildings and structures on Queens Park will be designed or upgraded, where practical and feasible, to meet the current national standard and design criteria for access for people with limited mobility.
- 3.4.9 Clubs and associations shall be responsible for maintenance of their buildings and facilities on Queens Park to an appropriate standard as determined by Council.
- 3.4.10 Clubs and associations shall be responsible for the full cost of removal of any building and associated facilities when no longer required.

- 3.4.11 Exterior colour schemes of buildings and structures on Queens Park shall be approved by Council. The painting and creation of murals (not advertising) on buildings and structures may be considered on submission of a copy of the design and proposed colour scheme to Council.
- 3.4.12 Wherever possible, buildings on Queens Park shall be shared with other recreation users of the Park and when not required for sporting activities, made available for other non commercial community use. Preference will be given to activities of a recreation nature.
- 3.4.13 The establishment, design and maintenance of public toilets in Queens Park shall take into account current New Zealand Standards.
- 3.4.14 The number and location of public toilets on Queens Park shall be kept under constant review.

### 3.5 OUTDOOR FURNITURE

Providing outdoor furniture on reserves that are appropriately designed and blend in with the surrounding landscape can add to the user's enjoyment of a reserve. Outdoor furniture such as seating, picnic tables, rubbish bins and cycle racks need to be maintained so that they remain an attractive asset to the reserve and do not become a safety hazard.

Objective:

- *To provide outdoor furniture which enhances the experience of the reserve user.*

Policies:

- 3.5.1 Outdoor furniture on Queens Park shall be designed to a high standard.
- 3.5.2 Outdoor furniture shall be provided in Queens Park where an identified need has been established. The number, design and placement of outdoor furniture shall be in keeping with the purpose and levels of use of the Park and appropriate to the setting.

### 3.6 NON CONFORMING USE

Generally buildings are only permitted on recreation reserves when they are associated with, and necessary for, the use of the reserve for outdoor recreation. If buildings have no direct relationship with the purpose of the reserve or with outdoor recreation, then they are non conforming. It is important to consider the overall intent of the classification (protecting the open space and recreational values) when considering any further building construction or extensions.

Objective:

- *To identify those buildings which are deemed not essential to the operation of Queens Park or to enhance public recreation and enjoyment.*

Policies:

- 3.6.1 The Royal New Zealand Foundation of the Blind building is not considered essential for the management of the Park, for the recreational use of the Park, or for the enhancement of the public's enjoyment of Queens Park. No applications for extensions will be granted. Permission will not be granted for replacement if the building was destroyed by fire or other natural disaster.
- 3.6.2 The Civil Defence activity is not considered essential for the management of the Park, for the recreational use of the Park, or for the enhancement of the public's enjoyment of Queens Park.

### **3.7 ACCESS INTO AND THROUGH RESERVES**

The level and standard of access provided into Queens Park needs to be appropriate to the reserve values and the anticipated level of public utilisation of the reserve. Queens Park, as the premium park in Invercargill, requires maximum accessibility for reserve users.

At various times Council may close the reserve or parts of the reserve for issues of safety, maintenance, development and wildlife protection. Some events may also require temporary closure of part of the Park. Some occupation agreements may allow restricted access by the general public into areas of the reserve by the use of fences, e.g. bowling greens.

Motorised and non-motorised vehicles on reserves can be a source of danger to other reserve users and may have the potential to cause damage to reserves. Tracks and footpaths are often integral to the ease of use and enjoyment of a reserve by users, providing recreational opportunities and links between areas.

Council is committed to working towards the removal of barriers to the participation of the elderly or people with limited mobility in leisure and recreational activities on reserves. Improved access to parks and reserves can increase the use of a park by enhancing comfort and convenience for a range of users and provide significant safety benefits. It will not always be feasible or desirable to make all facilities fully accessible. Different degrees of accessibility will be achievable at different sites.

Wherever possible, the design or upgrade of a facility shall incorporate features that allow easy access for the elderly or people with limited mobility.

Objectives:

- *To ensure the public has freedom of entry, access and use of the reserve subject to any necessary conditions, restrictions, or limitations of use from time to time.*
- *To ensure pedestrian safety by restricting vehicle access on the reserve.*
- *To allow tracks, cycle ways and footpaths over the reserve.*
- *To improve access to the reserve where practical and feasible to ensure everyone is able to enjoy it.*

Policies:

- 3.7.1 Queens Park will be open for public access 24 hours per day except where restrictions and limitations are necessary for the reserve's protection and management, exclusive activities or public safety.
- 3.7.2 The Aviary, Animal Reserve, Steans Centennial Winter Gardens and any other feature displays and gardens may be closed to the public in the evenings and on some public holidays. Signs advertising opening hours will be located at the entrance to these displays.
- 3.7.3 The Yard will have limited access and will be open during office hours only.
- 3.7.4 All motorised vehicles (except emergency and authorised maintenance vehicles) must keep to designated roads and car parks in Queens Park.
- 3.7.5 Vehicle access for special events may be granted for specific purposes and then terminated at the completion of the event.
- 3.7.6 Limited vehicle access will be provided to the public on Wednesdays between 1pm and 4pm through the Feldwick Gates.
- 3.7.7 Where car parking areas are provided for clubs and organisations, all costs relating to the formation and maintenance of the car park shall be borne by the club or organisation concerned.
- 3.7.8 Council shall use current New Zealand Standards as a guide to developing and maintaining walking tracks on the Park.
- 3.7.9 Where practicable, paths and tracks on Queens Park shall be developed to a standard that allows unrestricted use by pushchairs, wheelchairs and mobility scooters.
- 3.7.10 Queens Park paths, where practical, shall be multi use unless specifically signposted as prohibited (including but not limited to playgrounds, Aviary, Animal Reserve and around the pond). Pedestrians have right of way over non-motorised vehicles.
- 3.7.11 Queens Park facilities and landscaping will be designed and upgraded, where practical and feasible, to meet the current national standard.

### **3.8 OCCUPATION AGREEMENTS**

The term "occupation agreement" refers to any lease, license, easement or other agreement granted between Council and a person, organisation or company that is occupying part of a reserve.

Objectives:

- *To permit the occupation of the reserve for approved individuals, groups, users or facilities by the granting of occupation agreements.*

- *To balance the retention of open space with appropriate use and occupation of the reserve.*
- *To ensure public accountability of reserve management.*
- *To ensure that all costs associated with the development and implementation of occupation agreements are the responsibility of the applicant.*

Policies:

- 3.8.1 All organisations with buildings or facilities on Queens Park shall be required to hold an occupation agreement as provided for by the Reserves Act 1977.
- 3.8.2 Application for any new occupation agreement in Queens Park will be in writing providing detailed information about the type of occupation. Applications for occupation agreements shall meet the Objectives and Policies of 4.1 - Requests for Development on Reserves with particular emphasis on Policy 4.1.9 which identifies the requirements of any development plan.
- 3.8.3 The approved occupier of any area of Queens Park shall not sublet, assign, transfer, mortgage or part with possession of any part of the land or building without the prior written consent of Council.
- 3.8.4 Easements shall be subject to Sections 48 and 48A of the Reserves Act 1977.
- 3.8.5 All costs associated with occupation agreements shall be the responsibility of the applicant.
- 3.8.6 Occupation agreements shall include provision for the removal of facilities or buildings no longer required by an occupier.

### **3.9 FEATURE GARDENS AND ANIMAL DISPLAYS**

The presence of feature displays of gardens, animals and birds within Queens Park help create an interesting and inviting park. In many cases, visitors to the Park come specifically to view or experience one or more of these displays. The ongoing maintenance of existing displays and the development of new displays is important to ensure the Park keeps abreast of changing fashions, trends and technological developments. Displays help to provide education or recreation opportunities for visitors to Queens Park.

Notable feature displays currently in Queens Park include the Steans Centennial Winter Gardens, Japanese Garden, Rose Gardens, Sub-Antarctic Islands Garden, New Zealand Native Garden, Aviary and Animal Reserve.

Objective:

- *To provide feature displays to add to the interest and education opportunities of the Park.*

Policies:

- 3.9.1 Council will continue to display a range of gardens, animals and birds in Queens Park to provide interest and educational opportunities to visitors to the Park.
- 3.9.2 Council will consider new opportunities for feature displays in Queens Park where resources permit and where they are compatible with the purpose of the reserve.

### 3.10 EDUCATION

Queens Park has considerable potential as an educational resource for the general public, special interest groups and schools.

"Self educational" facilities including plant labelling, brochures, signage and interpretation material at specialised feature gardens and animal displays all offer opportunities as educational resources. Other opportunities include guided tours and demonstrations.

Objective:

- *To enhance the educational opportunities on Queens Park.*

Policies:

- 3.10.1 Council will identify the various interest groups and highlight the level of information required for each group. For example, school groups will require information which is linked to the school curriculum, while adults interested in horticulture may require a different level of information.
- 3.10.2 Council will investigate and develop a range of "stories" to tell which provide educational value to Park users.
- 3.10.3 Council will explore different means of telling the "stories" using proven methods as well as the use of new technology available.

### 3.11 NETWORK UTILITY INFRASTRUCTURE

Utility infrastructure can impact on reserve values, neighbours and users by restricting the current use of a reserve and the potential development of the reserve for future enjoyment. It is not desirable to have network utility infrastructure on reserves and reserves should not be regarded as infrastructure corridors.

Objectives:

- *To allow network utility conditional access to the reserve for the purpose of inspection, maintenance, ongoing operation and upgrading of existing utility infrastructure.*
- *To ensure adverse effects of network utility infrastructure on the reserve values, users and neighbours are able to be avoided, remedied, compensated or mitigated.*

- *To permit network utility infrastructure only where it is deemed essential for the reserve.*

Policies:

- 3.11.1 No new network utility infrastructure will be permitted on Queens Park unless a definite benefit to Queens Park can be established. Any new network utility infrastructure deemed essential for a reserve shall be laid underground.
- 3.11.2 Council will permit network utility operators conditional access to reserve land to inspect, maintain, operate or upgrade existing works, subject to the provisions of the relevant empowering Acts, the Reserves Act 1977 and conditions of Council.
- 3.11.3 The utility provider is responsible for all costs associated with temporary closures of the reserve and the costs of reinstatement in the event of damage to the reserve from the network utility infrastructure.
- 3.11.4 Network utility operators must supply a useable and up-to-date "as built" infrastructure plan in a form and detail agreed with Council officers, including information regarding their location on the reserve as a condition of any occupation agreement.

### **3.12 AIRPORT HEIGHT RESTRICTIONS**

Queens Park falls within the take off and approach zone of the Invercargill Airport and a height restriction is placed on trees and structures within this zone.

Objective:

- *To control the height of obstacles within the Invercargill Airport Take Off and Approach zones.*

Policy

- 3.12.1 Council will meet its obligations under the District Plan to ensure the height of any obstacles within Queens Park, including any trees, are kept within the maximum height requirements.

### **3.13 SIGNS**

Signs inform the public of their responsibilities as users of the reserve and advise users of the management and maintenance responsibilities of the reserve and its facilities. Signs are also used as a way of educating and informing the public on features of the Park and should make it easier for park users to find their way around the Park and locate areas of interest.

Objectives:

- *To provide signs that assist in user orientation and park legibility.*
- *To use signs as a way to enhance educational opportunities in Queens Park.*

- *To minimise the adverse visual effects of signs while maximising useful information to reserve users.*
- *To ensure consistent sign information, styles and types on the reserve.*

Policies:

- 3.13.1 Council shall use current New Zealand Standards as a guide when providing and maintaining signs on Queens Park.
- 3.13.2 Signs on the reserve shall be for the purpose of proper management, administration and control of the reserve. Education and interpretation facilities shall be provided in key areas of Queens Park.
- 3.13.3 Permanent signs for trade advertising may be permitted with the approval of Council only when the sign is to be located within an enclosed sports area and only where the sign will not be visible from outside the sports area. In all other situations permanent advertising signs are not permitted on Queens Park.
- 3.13.4 Temporary advertising intended to alert or inform the public about a forthcoming event or attractions on the reserve may be permitted at the discretion of Council. The position of all temporary advertising shall be approved by Council, all costs shall be the responsibility of the applicant and temporary signs shall remain in place for a maximum of 14 days.
- 3.13.5 Reserve occupiers must apply to Council to place signage on their buildings. The size, style and scale of signage will be taken into consideration and in particular, the effect or visual impact the sign will have on reserve users and reserve neighbours. All signs on buildings shall be limited to the name of the club or organisation and shall be within the dimensions of 3m long by 1.2m deep and to a maximum area of 1.5m<sup>2</sup>. Any requests for signage outside these dimensions must be approved by way of Council resolution.

### **3.14 LIGHTING**

Council recognises that some reserve user groups wish to operate at night and some members of the public wish to walk through the Park at night. Sufficient lighting in high use areas is important so that people can see and be seen. The aim with lighting is to enhance the real and perceived safety of the environment.

While lighting can be considered an essential component of night use in a reserve area, it is appropriate that the cost should fall to those who attract users of the facility at night. It is also important that the effects of lighting on reserve neighbours are taken into consideration.

Key pedestrian paths should be well lit however, consideration should be given to lighting other areas of the Park.

Objectives:

- *To allow sports field, car park and access way lighting where appropriate.*
- *To enhance the real and perceived safety of the Park through the provision of lighting along key pedestrian paths.*

Policies:

- 3.14.1 Council will only consider the provision of lighting on Queens Park where there is a clear public benefit or for amenity, security and safety reasons.
- 3.14.2 The Queens Park occupier is responsible for the provision and maintenance of lighting associated with their activity, with the approval of Council.
- 3.14.3 Council shall consider current best practise and lighting engineering standards, energy efficiency and appropriate design for the location when establishing new lighting fixtures on Queens Park.
- 3.14.4 The light spill generated from any activity on Queens Park shall not exceed 5 lux at any residential boundary between the hours of sunset and sunrise.

### **3.15 DISPOSAL OF RUBBISH**

Council is committed to reducing the amount of rubbish that is deposited on Council land. The dumping of rubbish on reserves or the inappropriate use of existing rubbish disposal facilities can detract from the reserve values and the proper functioning of reserves.

Council is also concerned about the impact garden escapees can have on areas of environmental importance. Garden escapees, or weeds, often come from garden waste being dumped onto neighbouring reserve land. While Queens Park is not an environmental reserve, there is still a cost in cleaning up and removing dumped garden waste.

Queens Park is considered a high use/high profile area and rubbish containers are provided in some areas of the Park. In other areas, members of the public are responsible for removing their own rubbish from the Park.

Objectives:

- *To preserve reserve values through appropriate disposal and collection of rubbish and garden waste.*
- *To encourage reserve users to act responsibly by requiring them to take home their rubbish.*

Policies:

- 3.15.1 No person shall deposit any domestic refuse, trade waste, garden refuse, rubble or other debris on Queens Park without approval of Council.
- 3.15.2 Reserve user groups are responsible for ensuring the area of their responsibility is kept clear of rubbish.
- 3.15.3 Event organisers are responsible for collection and disposal of rubbish when the reserve is booked for and events.
- 3.15.4 Council will consider opportunities for trialling recycling in Queens Park.

### 3.16 FIRES ON RESERVES

Fires on reserves have the potential to cause significant damage to habitat, buildings and structures on reserves and to adjacent property.

Objective:

- *To protect natural habitat, buildings and structures on the reserve from damage and destruction of uncontrolled fires.*

Policy:

- 3.16.1 The lighting of fires on Queens Park outside of a contained gas barbeque is not permitted without the prior written authorisation from Council.

### 3.17 FIREWORKS DISPLAYS

Groups occasionally wish to use reserves for fireworks displays. These displays are controlled by legislation other than the Reserves Act 1977 but require permission from Council when the activity is to occur on a reserve.

Objective:

- *To allow fireworks displays on the reserve if adverse effects on reserve values, reserve users and reserve neighbours can be avoided, remedied or mitigated.*

Policies:

- 3.17.1 Fireworks displays by organised groups may be allowed on Queens Park with prior written authorisation from Council.
- 3.17.2 Applicants wishing to use Queens Park for fireworks displays must provide evidence they have met the requirements of relevant legislation, regulations, codes and permits and provide an acceptable Risk Management Plan before final permission will be granted.
- 3.17.3 Proof of adequate public liability insurance is required for permission to be granted for fireworks displays on Queens Park.

### 3.18 LIQUOR CONSUMPTION AND SALE

The selling of liquor is seen as one means of reserve occupiers raising funds for their activity. Reserve users can also request consent for special or one off events where liquor is sold or supplied incidental to the principal purpose of the occasion or event being held.

Objective:

- *To allow the consumption and sale of liquor on the reserve where the effects on the reserve, reserve values, reserve users and reserve neighbours can be*

*avoided, remedied or mitigated and the relevant statutory and Bylaw requirements are met.*

Policy:

- 3.18.1 Council will not oppose the granting of liquor licences for premises located on Queens Park or special licenses in defined areas for one off types of events where:
- (a) The granting of permission is consistent with the purpose of the reserve; and
  - (b) The effects on the reserve, reserve values, reserve users and reserve neighbours can be avoided, remedied or mitigated; and
  - (c) Applicants can provide evidence they have met the requirements of relevant legislation, regulations, codes and permits.

### **3.19 PEST PLANTS AND ANIMALS**

Pest plants and animals are a threat to the health of the environment. Some pest species contribute significant detrimental effects on native plants, animals and ecological processes, or impose an adverse visual impact on the landscape.

Effective control of weeds is undertaken to comply with the Regional Pest Management Strategy for Southland.

Objective:

- *To minimise the impact of pest plants and animals on reserve values, reserve users and reserve neighbours.*

Policies:

- 3.19.1 Pest plants and animals on Queens Park shall be controlled in accordance with the "Regional Pest Management Strategy - May 2007" or any subsequent reviews of this Strategy.
- 3.19.2 Council will endeavour to remove invasive weed and pest animal species from Queens Park by approved control methods.
- 3.19.3 Animals and birds deliberately abandoned in Queens Park may be considered a pest and destroyed.

### **3.20 CAMPING**

Camping is only permitted on reserves administered under the Reserves Act 1977 in the Invercargill District in camping grounds specific to that purpose. Potential problems resulting from campers on reserves include toilet waste disposal, rubbish and damage to parks.

Registered camping grounds on reserves in Bluff and at Sandy Point, in conjunction with other private facilities, provide adequate camping grounds for visitors to the City.

Objectives:

- *To conserve the public health, well being and safety of the public while on the reserve.*
- *To ensure the public have equity of use over reserves under the Council's control.*
- *To prohibit camping in the reserve.*

Policies:

- 3.20.1 Camping is not permitted on Queens Park.
- 3.20.2 In special circumstances, camping on Queens Park for one off events may be approved by Council resolution.

**3.21 DOGS ON RESERVES**

Council adopted the Dog Control Policy for Parks and Reserves in May 2005. This policy refers only to dogs on the parks, reserves and open spaces managed and controlled by the Parks Division.

The control of dogs on Queens Park has been an issue from time to time and while there is signage and controls placed on the Park, it is difficult to enforce these rules but better education of dog owners has helped.

Dog faeces can carry disease which can affect humans and other dogs. When a dog fouls in public, the person controlling the dog is responsible for the immediate removal of the faeces.

Objectives:

- *To provide environments within the reserve where dogs and people can happily co-exist.*
- *To allow dogs and their owners reasonable access to the reserve, at the same time protecting the safety and comfort of all users.*
- *To minimise danger and/or nuisance caused by dogs to the public or to wildlife and natural habitats on the reserve.*
- *To provide appropriate signage and public notification to dog owners (or those people exercising their dogs) informing them of their responsibilities while using the reserve.*
- *To keep the reserve free of dog faeces.*

Policies:

- 3.21.1 Access of dogs onto Queens Park shall be subject to the provisions of the current Dog Control Policy for Reserves and the Invercargill City Council Dog By-Law.

- 3.21.2 Queens Park is a "Dogs on Lead Area" as defined by the Dog Control Policy. This means that dogs must be on a lead and under control at all times.
- 3.21.3 Dogs are prohibited from within ten metres of any children's playground and are prohibited from the designated playing areas of all marked sports fields in Queens Park with the exception of guide dogs for the blind, hearing dogs, police dogs, dogs being used by security guards or dogs confined within a vehicle. From time to time, dogs may be prohibited from other areas of Queens Park to allow better protection of reserve values or user experiences.
- 3.21.4 The person controlling a dog in Queens Park is responsible for immediate removal and disposal of any dog faeces.
- 3.21.5 Council will provide information to the public on dog control in Queens Park through signage, brochures and other forms of media.

### **3.22 DOMESTIC ANIMAL CONTROL**

Uncontrolled domestic animals can cause damage to plants and soil structure of reserves and may endanger other reserve users.

Objective:

- *To protect the vegetation and soil structure of the reserve and to provide a safe and attractive reserve for all users.*

Policy:

- 3.22.1 Uncontrolled animals are not permitted on Queens Park unless otherwise provided for through with written permission of Council.

### **3.23 PLAYGROUNDS AND PLAY EQUIPMENT**

The provision of a variety of well-maintained and safe play equipment is important for the development of children. Play equipment complements the areas of open space available to children for informal play.

There are three playgrounds in Queens Park - the Queens Park Playground (by the Tea Kiosk), the Wonderland Castle and the Coldstream Playground. Of the three play areas in Queens Park, the Queens Park Playground has always been a highlight for park users. This playground is classified as a Destination Playgrounds (a playground that people will go out of their way to travel to).

Objectives:

- *To develop and maintain areas of the reserve for children's play.*
- *To ensure a healthy and safe environment is provided for playground users.*
- *To create playgrounds that are creative, stimulating and fun, and to encourage children to engage in social interaction and physical activity.*

Policies:

- 3.23.1 The main Queens Park Playground shall be maintained and upgraded as required to provide quality play equipment and high play value.
- 3.23.2 All new or upgraded play equipment shall comply with the relevant New Zealand Safety Standards.
- 3.23.3 All playgrounds and play equipment shall be given a monthly maintenance inspection and a six monthly safety inspection to ensure all pieces of equipment are maintained to a safe standard.
- 3.23.4 Informal play opportunities shall be encouraged through the design of open spaces within Queens Park using the natural landforms and existing features.

**3.24 HEALTHY AND ACTIVE PARKS**

Council has a role to play in providing public spaces that offer healthy and active opportunities for the public. One of the key outcomes of the "Our Way Invercargill"<sup>9</sup> strategy plan is "Health and Wellbeing - We are healthy people". This aligns with the "Healthy Eating - Healthy Action (HEHA)" strategy developed by the Ministry of Health as an approach to improving nutrition, increasing physical activity and achieving healthy weight for all New Zealanders. In addition to this, "Push Play" is a nationwide Sport and Recreation New Zealand (SPARC) campaign to get more New Zealanders more active, more often.

Some of the ways Council can contribute to the "Health and Wellbeing" outcome is through providing opportunities in our parks which include:

- Encouraging Healthy Lifestyles:
  - promoting a 'smoke free' environment;
  - promoting healthy eating.
- Encouraging Active Lifestyles:
  - providing activity friendly environments;
  - promoting active use of the Park;
  - providing equity of provision in terms of culture and ability.

Objective:

- *To encourage healthy and active lifestyles for Invercargill residents through use of the Park.*

Policies:

- 3.24.1 Groups booking events in Queens Park will be encouraged to provide healthy food alternatives at their event.
- 3.24.2 Council will consider the cultural needs and physical abilities of potential users when designing environments in Queens Park to ensure the Park is welcoming and functional for all.

<sup>9</sup> 'Our Way Invercargill' Long Term Council Community Plan (LTCCP) 2006 – 2016, Invercargill City Council

### 3.25 SMOKE FREE PARKS AND RESERVES

Objectives:

- *To encourage healthy and active lifestyles for Invercargill residents through use of parks and reserves as Smoke Free areas.*
- *That this be promoted in all Invercargill City Council Parks and in particular, within 20 metres of play equipment; entrances to the Queens Park Aviary and Queens Park Animal Reserve; and all marked sports fields.*
- *That the public be encouraged through signage and publicity to maintain a clean, healthy environment in these areas.*
- *That this become a policy in each of the Reserve Management Plans upon their drafting or review.*

Policies:

- 3.25.1 By designating and promoting all Invercargill City Council owned children's playgrounds, the Queens Park Aviary, Queens Park Animal Reserve, and areas designated as sports fields as Smoke free areas.
- 3.25.2 That this be promoted in all Council Parks and in particular within 20 metres of play equipment, entrances to the Queens Park Aviary and Queens Park Animal Reserve, and allocated sports fields.
- 3.25.3 That the public be encouraged through signage and publicity to maintain a clean, healthy environment in these areas.
- 3.25.4 That groups booking events on Invercargill City Council Parks will be encouraged to actively promote their event as Smoke Free.

### 3.26 ADMINISTRATION

Queens Park is a reserve vested in Council for Recreation and Local Purposes Reserve – Recreational and Cultural Building and Associated Activities Purpose.

Objective:

- *To comply with the Reserves Act 1977 requirements for administration and management.*

Policy:

- 3.26.1 The Invercargill City Council, through the Parks Manager, shall carry out the day to day administration and management of the Queens Park, using Parks Division Assets and Operations Unit staff and contractors.

### 3.27 PLAN AMENDMENT AND REVIEW

The Reserves Act 1977 sets out clear requirements for the preparation, amendment and review of Reserve Management Plans.

Objective:

- *To ensure the Queens Park Management Plan is kept under review to reflect the needs of current and future users and to be consistent with current best practice management procedures.*

Policies:

- 3.27.1 Any change or amendment, not involving a comprehensive review of the Queens Park Management Plan, shall be made by adopting the procedures specified in Section 41(9) of the Reserves Act 1977.
- 3.27.2 The Queens Park Management Plan shall be kept under continuous review as laid down in Section 41(4) of the Reserves Act 1977, with a general review at the end of the first five years. This review will be made available for public comment.
- 3.27.3 The Queens Park Management Plan shall be operative from 1 January 2011 for a period of ten years, at which time it will be completely reviewed.