

PART FOUR ■ Vision, Objectives and Policies

VISION:

To enhance the reserve as a Botanic Garden through improved plant collections and provide learning and passive recreation opportunities.

4.1 Plant Collections Objective

To develop and maintain collections of plants which have conservation, amenity, and education value.

POLICY 1 ▶ Landscape Development Plans

New and existing gardens will be developed and maintained consistent with their landscape development plan (LDP).

Discussion 1 ▶ Plant collections are a principle purpose of a botanic garden. All plant collections need to be selected for their ability to thrive in local conditions, represent the Pacific Rim and have amenity, conservation and education value. Replacement planting, new planting, landscape design should be included in the Landscape Development Plan (LDP) for each garden. The LDP should also consider interpretive themes for each garden. It should consider the highlights for each garden, consistent with principle garden themes such as amenity collections, conservation, garden styles, demonstration gardens, and plant uses. Flax for weaving, plants for medicinal purposes, food sources – flowers, bees, honey etc.)

The LDP will also define what themes will be demonstrated and through which interpretation tool (i.e. brochures, storyboards, interpretive panels, live plant use such as weaving etc.). How the gardens are set up for interpretation is important to provide learning opportunities and enhance public knowledge of the plant kingdom.

POLICY 2 ▶ New Gardens

Develop new gardens to provide further opportunity to display a variety of plant collections and landscape designs.

Council engaged a landscape designer to create a concept for the Botanical Gardens (see Appendix 5 – Concept Plan). One new garden is proposed:

- ▶ Riparian Garden.

The Riparian Garden will use the existing riverbank planting, but will slowly succeed these plantings with plantings selected for their riparian management properties. This garden will be developed from west of the playground to east of the Australian Garden.

POLICY 3 ▶ Existing Gardens

Existing Gardens will be maintained consistent with their Landscape Development Plans. Significant donated sculptures relating to one of the three Sister City Gardens or other existing gardens should be accommodated where possible.

Discussion 3 ▶ The existing gardens are: the Japanese Garden, the Australian Garden, the Palm Desert Garden (and Cacti collection), the New Zealand Bush Garden, and the Riverside Garden.

These Garden's Landscape Development Plans will include the following:

- ▶ Australian Garden - Replacement planting, pathway network, signage and storyboards, view shafts from and access to Roebuck Road
- ▶ Japanese Garden - Replacement planting, pathway network, signage and storyboards, view shafts from Aberdeen Road, access to car-parking bays.
- ▶ Palm Desert Garden – Improve/replace the existing glass house to provide cover for the cacti collection. New plants should be representative of cacti found on the west coast of North America.
- ▶ NZ Bush Garden – New planting and replacement planting, signage, information on traditional use, historical information, and clearing work as required.
- ▶ Riverside/Riparian planting: New planting, riparian management information and interpretive panels recognising the reserves relationship with the Taruheru River and its cultural, historical and environmental importance).

Flowerbeds will not require LDP, but should be maintained to provide colour and diversity.

POLICY 4 ▶ Replacement Planting

Existing gardens will require replacement planting and further upgrades consistent with their Landscape Development Plan.

Discussion 4 ▶ The Japanese Garden, Australian Garden and Palm Desert Garden were developed 10 years ago. The NZ Bush Garden contains native forest plants, some many years old. In some areas replacement planting and/or new planting is required to re-vigour these gardens. Replacements will be made consistent with the Landscape Development Plan (see policy and discussion 1 for LDP details).

POLICY 5 ▶ Succession Tree Planting Programme

A succession tree planting programme should be prepared to ensure the mature framework of trees is sustained. Succession planting will include a mix of indigenous and exotic specimens.

Discussion 5 ▶ The parkland atmosphere at the Botanical Gardens is established by the framework of mature trees throughout the park. These trees also provide heritage value. Succession planting is necessary to ensure a framework of mature trees in the future.

Existing trees will remain unless they become unhealthy or unsafe. The Succession Tree Planting programme will take in to account the existing gardens, proposed gardens, facilities and infrastructure.

POLICY 6 ▶ Plant and Tree Inventory

The tree and plant inventory will be regularly updated to ensure the inventory is current and reliable.

Discussion 6 ▶ Providing a reliable and current inventory of plants and trees at the Gardens is an important function of a Botanic Garden Inventories and the tree and plant plan will assist the public to increase their knowledge of the plant kingdom and add to the park experience. This provides an important education role as well as the potential to network and assist other botanic gardens.

The curator will update plant collection inventories on a monthly basis, Council will make updated inventories available to the public annually, preferably before the summer holidays when visitor numbers peak.

4.2 Education Objective

To enhance people's awareness and appreciation of plants and the environment

POLICY 1 ▶ Label specimen trees and plants

To label key specimen trees throughout the Gardens, including the NZ Bush Garden, and to label key plants in the proposed Riparian Garden.

Discussion 1 ▶ Labelling key trees and plants provide information and learning opportunities, fulfilling an important function of a Botanic Garden. The intention of this garden is to provide examples of which plants work well in riparian areas.

POLICY 2 ▶ Public Information

To make the tree and plant inventory available on site and at Tourism Eastland and council's website.

Discussion 2 ▶ This will enhance learning opportunities and enjoyment of the reserve. Keeping up to date inventories of plant and tree collections is an important function of a botanic garden.

POLICY 3 & 4 ▶ Signage

- 3. Interpretive information will be consistent with each garden's Landscape Development Plan (see policy 3.1. policy 1)**
- 4. Develop a design/style to be used on signage to distinguish the reserve from other Council reserves. Signs will only be used as necessary (electoral hoardings may need to be considered by the Reserves Supervisor consistent with Council policy).**

Discussion 3 & 4 ▶ For Interpretation to be successful, it needs to be interesting, easily understood and tell a logical story or series of story around a site. Interpretive information will be considered in the development of a Landscape Development Plan for each plant collection. The LDS will identify appropriate interpretive themes, set out techniques to be used and show where on-site interpretation is to be located.

4.3 Recreation Objective

To encourage recreation at the Gardens by providing quality gardens, facilities, open spaces, play equipment, information, and bird aviary and the potential to connect with the riverside walkway/cycleway

POLICY 1 & 2 ▶ Pathways and Linkages

1. To provide wide, safe, cohesive pathway network suitable for all abilities.

2. To provide access to the Botanical Gardens and connectivity linkages with the surrounding road network, pedestrian networks and the riverside walkway/cycleway.

Discussion 1 & 2 ▶ Some existing pathways will require upgrading. A consistent style of pathways should be used throughout the Gardens to establish a cohesive and logical network of pathways. The CBD Riverside walkway network is programmed to connect with the Botanical Gardens (Walking and Cycling Strategy, 2005) to provide for walkers and cyclists. There may be potential in the future, should external funding be available, for the walkway/cycleway to connect through the gardens.



The Botanical Gardens provide an important and well used link between communities and the CBD, between the River and residential zones, and a destination for recreation, play and appreciation of the plant world.

POLICY 3 ▶ Furniture

Any new furniture and replacements will be made of good materials and consistent style.

Discussion 3 ▶ New furniture includes seating, tables, bins, lighting, and fencing. Some tables should be large enough to allow for more than six people at a time to provide for larger family groups.

POLICY 4 ▶ Play equipment

To replace the existing play equipment with new equipment suitable for children from pre-school through to primary school age.

Discussion 4

This playground is considered one of two 'destination' playgrounds in the district. It should be developed and maintained to provide for high use and by a range of age groups. Ideally, the equipment will reflect its Botanical Garden location through references to the Turanganui River or plant life through design or landscaping.



POLICY ▶ 5 & 6 Bird collection and aviary:

- 5. To improve bird habitat through providing further shelter and replace aged wiring with black coloured wiring to improve viewing opportunities.**
- 6. To define and develop a collection of birds selected for their ability to thrive in an outdoor aviary, education potential and colourings.**

Discussion 5 & 6

The existing aviary is strongly supported by the community. 78% of submitters requested a bird aviary remain at the Gardens. This aviary is one of the few remaining in New Zealand. There was a time when many Botanic Gardens had a bird aviary. The continuation of this one is due largely to the skill and care of the Gardens' care-taker. A clear definition of species to be collected needs to be developed and implemented. All existing species that do not comply with the proposed collection should either be found new homes, or cared for the remainder of their natural lives. Birds will not be accepted if they are sick, dying or diseased. Birds outside of the defined collection type will not be accepted. A quarantine area and policy should be investigated. The Bird Club has offered their assistance and a relationship with them should be fostered.

4.4 Management Objective

To manage the reserve as a 'Botanic Garden' consistent with its classification under the Reserves Act

POLICY 1 ▶ Manage consistent with the Reserves Act 1977

To manage the reserve consistent with its purpose under the Reserves Act 1977, as a Local Purpose Reserve (Botanical Garden).

Discussion 1 ▶ Council has the authority to maintain and develop the reserve consistent with its purpose as a Botanical Garden. Council is the leasing authority for the reserve. The purpose of a Botanical Garden is explained in Discussion 2 below.

POLICY 2 ▶ Manage the reserve as a Botanic Garden

To manage the reserve as a 'Botanic Garden', where living plant collections are created providing for scientific research, education, conservation and display purposes.

Discussion 2 ▶ This plan advocates for the reserve to be developed and recognised as a botanic garden. The Botanic Gardens Conservation International describe botanic gardens as "institutions holding documented collections of living plants for the purposes of scientific research, conservation, display and education."

In order to meet some of these criteria Council will be enhancing its plant collections, developing new collections, developing and maintaining inventories of plants (and birds), creating storyboards to facilitate interpretation of the gardens.

POLICY 3 ▶ Open Space

Development of the Botanical Gardens will be consistent with the Concept Plan, which advocates for a balance between gardens and retaining areas of open space.

Discussion 3 ▶ The development of the existing three Sister- City Gardens has added aesthetic, botanic, and educational value to the Botanical Gardens. Sister City relationships continue to grow and remain popular with our community for a number of reasons.

Since the development of the three existing sister city gardens, three more relationships have been formed, with more to be established in the future. The reserves function as a Botanical Garden has been highlighted in the preparation of this management plan. Providing areas for plant collections while retaining areas of open space is an important management issue. In order to retain areas of open space only those areas shown on the concept plan should be developed. Therefore, unless new sister city gardens are developed to replace existing sister city gardens, no new gardens should be developed.

POLICY 4 ▶ Fencing

Bollard fencing will be used on the Carnarvon Street and Aberdeen Road corner and at other locations necessary to secure the reserve from vehicles.

Discussion 4

Bollard fencing will be used only where necessary to secure the reserve from vehicle access and vandalism. Bollards will be used to secure the Aberdeen Road and Carnarvon Street corner from vehicles.

POLICY 5 ▶ Access

To provide safe and logical access to the reserve for pedestrians, and provide off-road car-parking.

Discussion 5 ▶ There will be a number of access points to the reserve for pedestrians. These will be provided at logical entrance points (opposite parking bays, aligned with the footpath from Thompson Street, road ends and networks).

Currently a car park exists at the end of Carnarvon Street, opposite the playground. The concept plan supports the development of off-road car parking bays along Aberdeen Road and Carnarvon Street. Plenty of roadside parking is currently available; however car parking bays will provide safer access, especially for visitors with young children.