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A development plan for the crown jewel of Queenstown.

“The Queenstown Gardens are sited on a small peninsular on the shoreline of Lake Wakatipu. It is considered one of the finest locations imaginable for a public garden.”

Queenstown Gardens Reserves Management Plan 2011

Quick Statistics:
• Total Area - 14.75ha
• 7 Scheduled trees
• January 1867 declared a reserve for public purposes - 150 years old 2017
• 100,000 visits every month and increasing

Strategic Objectives:
• Create a development plan to manage change
• Outline a costed staged capital investment
• Increase accessibility
• Manage conflicts with different uses
• Preserve heritage
• Rationalize layout & facilities
** CONTEXT HISTORY **

**1860** Devoid if any trees with a small swamp on its crest.

**1867** The Government declared the peninsular a reserve for public purposes after the Council application.

**1867** Main avenue and circular walk laid out September 1867.

**1867** The Government declared the peninsular a reserve for public purposes after the Council application.

**1875** A Provincial Order confirmed the vesting of the reserve ‘for public purposes and recreation’.

**1886** Council records list a large number of European trees purchased to plant in the gardens (including poplars, willows, sycamores, blue gums & others), & public were given permission to plant trees.

**1900’s** Original band rotunda built complete with gas lamps for evening performances.

**1900’s** Department of Tourism & Publicity manage gardens.

**1904** Bowling green was completed, a second green was opened in 1937.

**1913** Scott Memorial unveiled.

**1913** Tea Kiosk above bowling green popular.

**1922** The War Memorial Arch was erected at northern end of Esplanade and the beach.

**1930’s** Croquet lawn was formed and tennis ground resurfaced.

**1948** Outdoor ice rink, pavilion and snack shop were opened.

**1966** Rose garden containing 850 bushes completed.

**1968** Rees Memorial erected.

**1978** Rose garden containing 850 bushes completed.

**1980’s** King George V fell and subsequently removed.

**1986** Rhododendrons planted.

**1990** Gardens vested to QLDC.

**1999** Replica band rotunda was erected on the same site as the original structure.

**2000** Gardens in a run down state. Little capital development.

**2005** Council adopted a upgrade plan - pathway upgrades, tree removal, re establishment of annual bedding displays & rose garden refurbishment.

**2008** Skate park constructed.


**2017** Queenstown Gardens 150 Years Anniversary.

**2019** GARDENS DRAFT DEVELOPMENT PLAN.
The Queenstown Gardens are integral to the history of Queenstown.

Having been established in 1887 by members of the town’s first Borough Council, it is considered one of the finest locations imaginable for a public garden. Due to the proximity to the busy commercial centre of Queenstown, the Gardens have become a focal point for locals and visitors who value the opportunity to relax in peaceful surroundings and enjoy the magnificent lake and mountain views.
02 CONTEXT
BENCHMARKS

BOTANICAL GARDENS (NEW ZEALAND)
Associated with a national family of urban parks

Common Elements:
- Entry gates
- Formal rose gardens and flower bed displays
- Feature gardens (i.e., Rhododendron’s, Orchids, Daffodil lawns, fragrant gardens, fernery, woodland gardens, herbaceous borders, winter gardens)
- Trellis arbors and pergolas
- Band Rotunda’s
- Specimen tree collections
- Constructed ponds and fountains including mirror ponds
- Bowling and Croquet lawns
- Memorials and monuments
- Infrastructure (i.e., toilets, maintenance depot and nursery area)

Hagley Park, Christchurch

PUBLIC GARDENS (INTERNATIONAL)
Renewed interest in large botanic gardens / 95 iconic destinations

Common Elements:
- Walking & cycling promenades
- Both destinations and landmarks
- Open grass areas for passive recreation
- Seasonal plantings
- Tree framework
- Public amenities (toilets, food, shade, water etc)
- Variety of spaces & activities
- Multiple path networks and connections
- Engaging sensory environment

Floral displays - Lincoln Trial, CA
Artwork - Royal Botanical Gardens, Wisconsin

Demonstration gardens - The Royal Botanic Gardens, Sydney
Education - Longwood Gardens, Pennsylvania
Events - Gardens by the Bay, Singapore
02 CONTEXT MANAGEMENT PLANS

QUEENSTOWN BAY FORESHORE RESERVES MANAGEMENT PLAN 2016

This Management Plan seeks to provide appropriate objectives and policies to strike a balance between preserving the area for future recreation use by residents and visitors and allowing a low level of innovative commercial activity that is characteristic of the Queenstown environment. The vision for Queenstown Bay Foreshore Reserves Management Plan is to manage and maintain the Queenstown Bay Foreshore Reserves to:

- Encourage their use for recreation,
- Enhance amenity values of foreshore park areas,
- Preserve the natural character of the transition between the reserve areas and the lake,
- Advocate that surrounding activities and land use do not adversely affect the amenity and values of the reserves or the lake.

ZONE 4: HORNE CREEK TO HEAD OF QUEENSTOWN GARDENS

Primary Objectives:
- Promote use of area for passive recreation
- Enhance the ecological values of the area
- Phase out inappropriate planting species / ecological restoration

QUEENSTOWN GARDENS RESERVE MANAGEMENT PLAN 2011

- The management plan was prepared to enable the Council to establish the desired mix of uses for the Queenstown Gardens and set in place policy to guide future day to day management of the Gardens.
- Focus on management policies and general maintenance/up-keep of Gardens
- The management plan is not a development plan
- Classified as a recreation reserve?
- Can be updated every 10 years
- Valued as a tranquil garden adjacent to a busier town centre
- Facilitate use for active & passive recreation, and events that do not compromise the use
- Provide a diverse range of recreation, education & leisure activities
KEY ISSUES

- Discontinuous pedestrian access
- Poor layout of planting
- Parking and non-public facilities
- Separate areas
- Conflict with different users
03
ANALYSIS - OPPORTUNITIES

KEY POSITIVES
- Long foreshore edge
- Established tree shelter
- Central flat area
- Strong links to town centre
- Quiet green environment
04 PLANNING PRINCIPLES

IMPROVING CONNECTIVITY BETWEEN THE GARDENS AND THE TOWN CENTRE, AND CIRCULATION WITHIN THE GARDENS

Big Moves
• Re-create a series of looped pathways
• Connect network of paths across peninsular
• Additional crossings of Horne Creek
• Separate cycleway along Park St
• Wide well formed aggregate paths
04 PLANNING PRINCIPLES

IMPROVING PUBLIC SAFETY AND WAY FINDING (INCLUDING LIGHTING, ACCESS ROAD, STANDARD OF PATHS)

Big Moves:
- Comprehensive lighting plan implemented
- Realign access road
- System of directional signage
- Legible zones & theme gardens

Map with sections:
- Events
- Lawns
- Garden collections
- Woodland
- Strolling
- Play
- Ecological

Images of Queentown Gardens with signage and lighting.
EFFICIENT USE FOR ALL USERS - ACCOMMODATE A VARIETY OF ACTIVITIES, FACILITIES AND EVENTS THAT CATER FOR AND ARE COMPATIBLE WITH THE PARKS PASSIVE AND RECREATION USE TOGETHER WITH ITS COMMUNITY FOCUS AS A PREMIER PARK

Big Moves
- Destination playground
- Enhance native garden with Iwi
- Engage with foreshore
- Add kiosk / toilet and info centre
- Create spaces for gatherings
04 PLANNING PRINCIPLES

RECOGNISING THE UNIQUE HERITAGE AND SUPPORTING EXISTING FEATURES AND USES – INCLUDING EDUCATION, ACCESS AND LEASES

Bin Moves
- Interpretive signage
- Educational facility
- Supporting existing leases
- Protect heritage structures
04 PLANNING PRINCIPLES

ENHANCING THE ECOLOGY, PLANNING FOR VEGETATION AND TREE SUCCESION

Big Moves
• Create succession plan for trees
• Maintain woodland shelter belt
• Structure planting framework
• Series of theme gardens & areas
• Reduce high maintenance flower beds
• Introduce productive gardens
KEY MOVES
- Start of native planting, removal of selected existing trees & tree succession
- Memorial Arbor
- Pedestrianization of exiting central access lane
- New Site / Public Toilets / Plaza
- Service lane / access to bowls & overflow parking
- New seating and steps down to lakeside pathway

QUEENSTOWN GARDENS
DRAFT DEVELOPMENT PLAN

01
- Existing Memorials & New Memorial Arbor
- Reconfigured Rose Gardens
- Lakeside Pathway - mainly existing with some upgrades to western sections
- Existing Lookout Points
- Sound Shell Structure

02
- Woodland (Start of Successional Planting to remove Douglas Fir)
- Native Succession Planting & Gardens
- Tennis Courts
- Bowls & Overflow Parking
- Bowling & Tennis Clubrooms
- Bowling Greens

03
- New display gardens - eastern side of pond
- Upgraded play space - under way
- Cycle Link
- Relocation of car park entrance
- New entry arch and entry feature
- Removal of tall Douglas Fir between Novotel & Park St, with native planting & Iwi installation

04
- Existing Band Rotunda
- Pedestrian Entrance & Gate
- Main Entrance via Bridge from Marine Parade

05
- New Pedestrian Entry Arch & Rotunda
- Public Car Park (67 spaces)
- Skate Park
- Boat Sheds
- Removal of large Douglas Fir
- Native Planting & Iwi Installation

06
- Gardens Maintenance Depot
- Ice Arena
- Info / Public Toilets / Cafe
- Plaza Space & Seating
- Display Gardens
- New Steps / Access
- Feature Ponds & Bridge
- Roos Memorial
- Annual Bedding Displays
- Existing Band Rotunda
- Pedestrian Entrance & Gate
- Main Entrance via Bridge from Marine Parade
- Upgraded / New Playground

07
- New Steps / Access
- Feature Ponds & Bridge
- Roos Memorial
- Annual Bedding Displays
- Existing Band Rotunda
- Pedestrian Entrance & Gate
- Main Entrance via Bridge from Marine Parade
- Upgraded / New Playground

08
- Roos Memorial
- Annual Bedding Displays
- Existing Band Rotunda
- Pedestrian Entrance & Gate
- Main Entrance via Bridge from Marine Parade
- Upgraded / New Playground
05
DRAFT DEVELOPMENT PLAN

PERSPECTIVE 1
05
DRAFT DEVELOPMENT PLAN
PERSPECTIVE 3