Item 1: Parks Update

SESSION TYPE: Briefing

PURPOSE/DESIRED OUTCOME:

The purpose of this briefing is to update the Wānaka Upper Clutha Community Board on the Parks Team work programme/minor works in the Upper Clutha. The briefing will also provide an update on a community weed control operation for Mount Iron.

DATE/START TIME:

Thursday, 5 November 2026 at 11:00am

TIME BREAKDOWN:

Presentation: 20 minutes
Questions: 40 minutes

PRESENTERS:

Dave Winterburn (Parks Manager)
Kat Banyard (Senior Parks Advisor)
Nina Rongokea (Parks Officer - Volunteer/Community)

Prepared by:



Name: Kat Banyard
Title: Senior Parks Advisor
21 October 2026

Reviewed and Authorised by:



Name: Ken Bailey
Title: General Manager, Community Services
27 October 2026

ATTACHMENTS:

A	Presentation Slides - Parks Update

Parks Update

Wānaka Upper Clutha Community Board

5 November 2026

QUEENSTOWN LAKES DISTRICT COUNCIL

Parks Projects – WUCCB 2026/27 Priorities

- Wānaka Lakefront Pathway (Stage 4 area)
  - Resource consent application lodged.
  - Procurement – November 2026.
  - Construction – March/April 2027.

- Roy's Bay Jetty Replacement
  - Procurement for design and PM underway.
  - Construction - February 2028.

- Stage 6 Wānaka Lakefront Development
  - Landscape architect confirmed.
  - Detailed Design – March 2027
  - Construction – 2027/2028 (LTP dependent)



Mount Iron Reserve/RMP

- Mount Iron tidy up of the 4WD track – Moved to early 2027
- Mount Iron track upgrade (Allenby Place to Old Racecourse Road) – 1st half of 2027
- Bike Wānaka – Applied for resource consent for Stage 1 mountain bike trails
- No other recreation groups progressing trails
- Via ferrata approval



Parks Projects – Complete/Ongoing

- Lake Hāwea Campground Reserve RMP – Early insights engagement over summer
- Kirimoko and Forest Heights Track Upgrade – Late 2026
- Gladstone Track Bridge Upgrade – Delayed to mid 2027 due to flood event redesign
- Supported planting events at Waimana Point, Mount Iron, Domini Park, Albert Town Lagoon, Waimana wetlands and Rimu Lane
- Wānaka Skatepark Lighting – Final installation timing TBC
- Snowfarm – Solar panels



Planting at Mount Iron Reserve, Wānaka

Parks Projects – Complete/Ongoing

- New playground at Peter Fraser Park, Hāwea – Detailed design December. Construction second half 2027.
- Lismore Park Toilets – Confirming reserve location. Mid-2027 installation.
- Camphill Toilet (dry vault) – Early 2027 installation.
- Eely Point Tree Succession – Aftercare for existing tree plantings. Next planting - Autumn 2027 (approx. 40 trees)



Planting at Eely Point, Wānaka
95 trees planted (30% exotic, 70% native)

IVL toilet funding

- Council direction to uplift funding for user pays toilets (Oct 26)
- Proposed Upper Clutha locations:
  - Stoney Creek (Wānaka Lakefront Stage 6)
  - Wānaka Recreation Centre
- Installation of new toilets planned for 2027/28



Other updates

- Riding for the Disabled lease
- Wānaka Golf Club – tree removals
- Lakefront licenses
- Wildfire programme for summer



Questions

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Community Mount Iron Weed Control Operation



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Mt Iron Weed Control Operation

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What the project is

- Community-led and funded by Upper Clutha Wilding Tree Group (UCWTG).
- A targeted heli-lancing operation to control **mature deciduous weed trees** on Mt Iron.
- Focused on trees in steep, rocky and difficult-to-access areas where ground-based control is challenging.
- Targets mature seed-producing trees that are driving the spread of weeds into regenerating native habitat.
- A one-off intervention that supports long-term restoration and reduces future weed control requirements.

Why we're bringing this to the Board

- The planned heli-lancing operation will require a **full reserve closure from 8am-4pm**.
- The operation will be **highly visible, noisy and disruptive** for reserve users, including commuters using the Albert Town-Mt Iron trail connection.
- We recognise some members of the community may have concerns regarding the use of herbicide and aerial operations.
- The Board is likely to receive questions from the public and community organisations.

Mt Iron Weed Control Operation

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Why this method?

- **Ecology:** Targeted treatment of mature weed trees, protecting surrounding native vegetation and supporting long-term restoration.
- **Safety:** Reduces need to manually work on bluffs and steep, hazardous terrain and lowers risk to contractors and volunteers.
- **Efficiency:** Quickly treats inaccessible seed-source trees, reducing future spread and allowing volunteers to focus on accessible follow-up work.

Why not drones?

Heli-lancing is currently the most targeted and efficient option for these sites. Drones may be considered for future lower-elevation areas with denser infestations.

Communications

- Letters to neighbouring residents and businesses
- Direct communication with community groups, stakeholders and permit holders
- QLDC website, newsletters, social media and local media updates
- FAQs prepared for elected members, Customer Services and Parks staff
- UCWTG volunteers on the ground day of operation supporting with education and awareness.