

# POLLARD PARK MANAGEMENT PLAN



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DISTRICT COUNCIL**

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The Pollard Park Management Plan was adopted by the Assets & Services Committee on 25 November 2014 (refer to Minute No. P.14/15.216).

# 1. Introduction

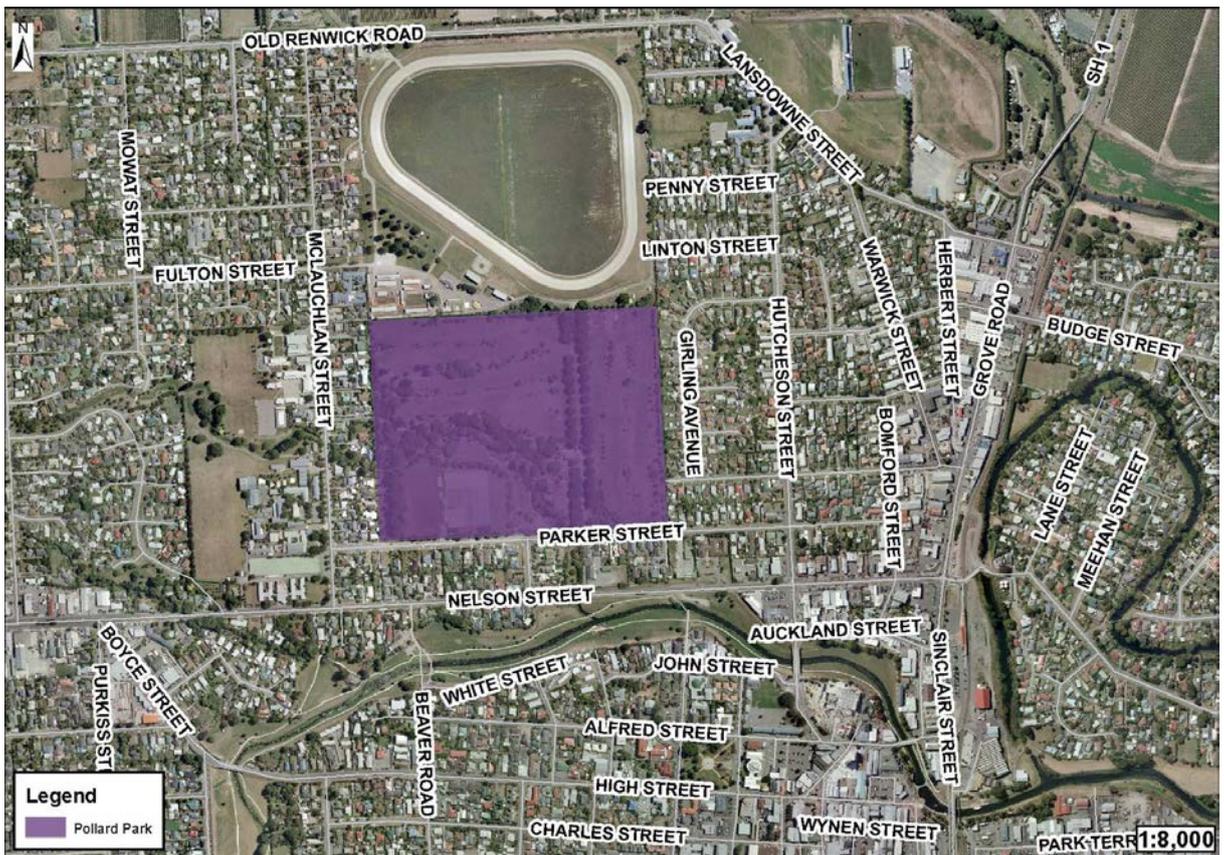
## 1.1 Purpose of the Plan

In accordance with the Reserves Act 1977, the Marlborough District Council, as the administering body, is required to prepare a management plan for Pollard Park. The Act also requires the Marlborough District Council to keep the Pollard Park Management Plan under continuous review. The existing Pollard Park Management Plan was prepared in 1997 and is therefore due for review.

The nature of Pollard Park, as one of Blenheim's premiere parks, has meant that the levels of use and the variety of activities that take place in the park are constantly increasing. The Pollard Park Management Plan aims to identify objectives and policies that allow for a variety of use for the Park in the best way possible and ensures that maintenance and management of the park follows this direction.

## 1.2 Location

Map 1: Pollard Park Location



## 1.3 History

The Mayor of Blenheim Mr Corry initiated Pollard Park's development in 1914. The first report for developing the park was made by the superintendent of parks, Mr J E Oliver in 1919 and initially included a rose, rock, and water garden in the proposal. He designed Pollard Park mainly around the picturesque or Arcadian landscape style of which Lancelot 'Capability' Brown was an advocate and developer of. This landscape style was prevalent in the values that many early settlers brought to New Zealand. It was based on the re-organisation of nature into more ordered

forms that were an ideal representation of the environment within which man was a part of. Typical characteristics of this style were open fields or grasslands backed or enclosed by shrub species moving into trees and bodies of water or creeks fronting the field. Such plantings or landscapes would often frame views or create vistas around specific features.



### 1.3.1 Chronological Order of History

1914	Discussion begins to buy and establish a recreational area for the public of Blenheim. These talks faltered, but William Pollard, of the Delta Sheep Station donated £4,000 enabling Council to purchase and improve a part of the Waterlea Farm. Mr R McCallum donates £500 worth of water rights on the property. Mr J R Rothwell foregoes his pre-emption to the frontage of the land and gives a chain strip of access. Mr F Stephenson Smith surveyed the land for free.
1915	Council proposes to loan the Marlborough Acclimatisation Society five acres of Waterlea Park for a Zoological Garden and fish hatchery. A tender of 3/6 per chain was accepted for fencing Waterlea Park.
1916	Council agrees to purchase (with Government assistance), the balance of Waterlea estate. The total park area then becomes 137 acres.
1919	The first development plan was drawn for the Waterlea property. The Marlborough Racing club asks Council for certain concessions over Waterlea Park. The Riverlands racecourse is auctioned and the Racing club buys 77 acres of the Waterlea farm.
1920	The Defence Department awards Council the following war trophies: 12 machine guns, 2 field guns, 1 howitzer and 1 siege gun. These were placed in Waterlea Park.
1921	Walk of Remembrance for soldiers fallen in World War I planted in Churchill Glade.
1926	On his death Mr Pollard bequests a further £3,000 for Waterlea Park. In his memory the area is renamed Pollard Park.

1933	Blenheim Golf Club builds a clubhouse.
1936	The Celtic and Albion Cricket Club are granted grounds at Pollard Park.
1937	Council plants coronation acorns in Pollard Park. They came from the Royal Park at Windsor, England.
1942	Council gives the war trophies from the 1914-1918 war to the Returned Service Association to scrap for new weapons.
1949	Blenheim Rotary provides new play equipment. Council converts Waterlea House (the McCallum homestead) in Pollard Park into two flats.
1954	Marlborough Lawn Tennis starts full use of new grass courts having shifted from Kinross Street (now the site of the Swimming Pool).
1955	Ladies Croquet moved to the park.
1958	The first roses are planted in new Centennial Rose Gardens by the Mayor, Mr Meachen and the Chairman of Reserves. 50 standard roses were donated by the Rose Society.
1962	The Mayor, Mr Meachen, names Baden Powell Corner after the founder of Scouting, Lord Baden Powell.
1963	13 February, Queen Elizabeth II and the Duke of Edinburgh visits Blenheim. They were given a great welcome in Pollard Park by 12,000 people.
1965	Development of the native rockery started.
1968	Waterlea House is demolished.
1975	Development Plan for Pollard Park adopted. New Tennis pavilion built Camellia gardens increased. New pictorial flower display built.
1981	New fitness trail developed. Compost heap re-sited. Zonta donates money for the children's paddling pool.
1982	In January Council announces its intention to prepare a Management Plan and in December the final draft of Management Plan is approved by Council. First set of new asphaltic tennis courts opened. Fire destroys golf clubhouse. Replacement building erected.
1983	Flood retention dam built within Pollard Park "Cobham Field". 6 Grass courts are replaced with 6 plexipave hard courts at Marlborough Tennis Centre.
1987-88	Twenty-Five Rhododendrons and Sixty-five Azaleas were donated by the Tome's family from the former Glennie property (Glenrose) for the development of a Rhododendron Dell.
1987	The Governor General, Sir Paul Reeves, planted a <i>Nyssa sylvatica</i> in the northern part of the Centennial Rose Garden to mark his three day visit to Blenheim. New entrance to park opened. New Croquet building opened. Major layout changes for gardens.

1989	Official opening of the new footbridge. The bridge was constructed at Woodbourne Airbase and presented to the people of Blenheim and Marlborough at the 50th anniversary of RNZAF Woodbourne. Official opening of the Glennie Rhododendron Dell.
1991	New electric barbecues are installed. Pathway connecting McLauchlan Street entrance to carpark developed. Toilets upgraded.
1992	Myrtle Currie bequests \$10,000 for development of a scented garden.
1993	New playgrounds built. Trustbank Canterbury Community Trust donated \$10,000 towards new play equipment.
1994	Covering structure built over electric barbecue. Initiation of development plan.
1995	Marlborough Lawn Tennis Club was given permission to change existing lawn tennis courts into all-weather hard surface courts.
1996	Marlborough Lawn Tennis Club was given permission to install night lighting on two courts. A potager garden was created in the Waterlea Gardens area for the 1996 Garden Marlborough.
1997	A path between McLauchlan Street entrance and the Golf Clubhouse car park was created. Wheel chair access from Baden Powell Corner to the Waterlea garden was developed. New Hydrangea Bed was developed.
2000	Sealing of the paths began. Summer house/ Gazebo completed within pond area of park.
2003	Marlborough Lines install show lighting in and around park that runs for the summer period.
2004	Herb Alpine Rockery garden areas removed and land contoured to bring lawn closer to creek.
2005	New senior and junior playground fixtures installed with funding assistance from Garden Marlborough. Entrance wall constructed near the McLauchlan Street entrance to Pollard by Barry Sligh and Garden Marlborough.
2006	New toilets and smoko room completed.
2008	New information and directional signs are installed in gardens and entrance ways to the park.
2010	A new potager is constructed beside the Myrtle curry scented garden. This replaces the potager constructed for Garden Marlborough. New fitness trail replacing the old wooden structure. Internal toilet upgrade.
2011	Toddler play area developed.
2012	Irrigation installed on golf course fairways.



## **1.4 Legislative Framework**

### **1.4.1 Reserves Act 1977**

The Reserves Act 1977 (Reserves Act) is designed to protect public land, identify and protect natural and cultural values and ensure, as far as possible, the preservation of access for the public.

Under the Reserves Act there are a number of processes governing the way in which Council, as administrator, is required to manage Pollard Park. The main responsibilities under the Reserves Act are to classify the land for its primary purpose and to manage it accordingly, to prepare a management plan and keep it under continuous review, and to put in place formal agreements for leases and licenses.

The classification of reserve land for its primary purpose is the means for determining the management focus and subsequently relevant objectives and policies (Section 17 Reserves Act).

Pollard Park is classified as a Recreation Reserve under the Reserves Act, these are:

“for the purpose of providing areas for the recreation and sporting activities and the physical welfare and enjoyment of the public, and for the protection of the natural environment and beauty of the countryside, with emphasis on the retention of open spaces and on outdoor recreational activities, including recreational tracks in the countryside.”

### 1.4.2 Resource Management Act 1991

The Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA) addresses issues relating to the management of the natural and physical resources of the region and therefore has a number of implications on the day to day management of Pollard Park.

The key purpose of the RMA is to promote the sustainable management of New Zealand's natural and physical resources.

Natural and physical resources include land, water, air, soil, minerals, energy all forms of plants and animals, and all structures.

Under the RMA the Council has prepared the Marlborough Regional Policy Statement, the Wairau/ Awatere Resource Management Plan and other resource management documents that guide resource use.

Under the Wairau/Awatere Resource Management Plan Pollard Park is zoned District Recreation Zone.

**Map 2: Pollard Park Zoning**



### 1.4.3 Bylaws

Marlborough District Council has a number of Bylaws prepared under the Local Government Act 2002. The Bylaws relevant for Pollard Park include:

- Marlborough District Council (MDC) Bylaw 2010- Chapter 2- Public Places.
- Marlborough District Council (MDC) Bylaw 2010- Chapter 4- Dog Control.
- Marlborough District Council Liquor Ban Bylaw 2011.

- Freedom Camping Bylaw 2012.

#### **1.4.4 Overview of Land Status and Classification**

##### **1.4.4.1 Legal Description**

- Lot 1 DP 577
- Pt Sec 51 Omaka DIST
- Pt Lot 1 DP 629
- Lot 2 DP 1299
- Lot 62 DP 2000

##### **1.4.4.2 Total Land Area**

24.512 hectares

##### **1.4.4.3 Ownership**

Marlborough District Council.

## 2. Objectives and Policies

Pollard Park is one of Marlborough's premiere parks and a popular park for both visitors and Marlborough residents. The gardens, play area, BBQs and open spaces make it a popular venue for events, gatherings and family and school outings.

Overall, through objectives and policies, the plan seeks to continue to develop and maintain Pollard Park in the Lancelot 'Capability' Brown and the English woodland theme that it was originally designed in. It provides for future development of Pollard Park to cater to families while also providing for larger gatherings and events. The plan recognises the importance of events to the Marlborough region and seeks to cater for these without impacting on the passive users of the Park.

### 2.1 Character

Pollard Park was designed in the early 1900s by Mr Oliver, an Englishman and superintendent of parks for the Blenheim Borough Council. He designed the park in the 18<sup>th</sup> century landscape style of Lancelot 'Capability' Brown. This landscape style was based on the simple ingredients of vast areas of grassland studded with large and small groupings of trees often framing views of 'borrowed' neighbouring countryside. These principles are evident in the character of Pollard Park today.

Pollard Park today still remains a large open area, although the majority of the Park is occupied by the Golf Club. The Golf Club's activities currently complement the Park well. The open space that was designed in the 1900s remains with large trees scattered around the Park, providing both shade and beautifying the space.

#### 2.1.1 Objectives

To provide and promote the unique and exciting features of the Park that attracts both visitors and local residents.

To reflect the Lancelot 'Capability' Brown and English Woodland theme in Pollard Park.

#### 2.1.2 Policies

Promote the Park as a district reserve and one of Blenheim's premiere Parks.

Promote the story of Pollard Park through interpretation.

Preserve the natural qualities of the waterway and its surrounding area.

Retain the English woodland and Lancelot 'Capability' Brown style of vast areas with large and small groupings of trees.



## 2.2 Education and Community

The Park has a strong education and community focus. Staff provide demonstrations to a number of community and school groups on vegetation growing and maintenance. These are very popular and a great way to promote the work that is done in the Park. There are opportunities to increase education in the Park by developing resources such as information maps and signs.

### 2.2.1 Objectives

To promote and facilitate learning in Pollard Park.

To provide opportunities for collaboration between Council and the public.

### 2.2.2 Policies

Facilitate opportunities for learning through public demonstrations and tours.

Provide signage, plaques and brochures that educate the public on the Park.

Support individuals, groups and agencies where their intended actions are in line with the objectives and policies of this plan.

## 2.3 Gardens

The gardens are a major attraction in Pollard Park. The garden features are diverse and include beautiful annual displays, native gardens and rockery and a potager garden. The gardens are a popular setting for events and photos are a location for many weddings and photos. The garden types and layout are similar to those first planted and no major changes are anticipated.

### 2.3.1 Objective

To continue to provide gardens that are attractive, engaging and educational.

### 2.3.2 Policies

Provide diverse plant displays to appeal to a wide range of people.

Plant to ensure generous quantities of massed colour.



## 2.4 Trees

When Pollard Park was designed in the Lancelot 'Capability' Brown style, trees gave character to the open space. Amongst the trees currently in Pollard Park are two *Sequoiadendron giganteum* (Giant Redwoods) which are 100 years old. These are the oldest trees in Pollard Park. Planting on the Race Course and around the compost area are remnants of the original Homestead plantings.

### 2.4.1 Objective

To recognise the importance of trees in the Pollard Park landscape.

### 2.4.2 Policies

Implement a tree replacement and regeneration programme for the Park.

Preserve open space to allow groups of trees to be fully appreciated.

Replace removed trees where possible and appropriate with trees in sympathy with the English woodland and open character of the Park.

Council staff retains the overall management of trees while consideration will be given to the Blenheim Golf Club requests.

## 2.5 Access and Connections

Access can affect how the Park is seen, how it is used and how it links to other public spaces. Pollard Park is often referred to as 'Blenheim's best kept secret'. Although the private feeling of the Park is nice, it is important that both visitors and residents are aware of this beautiful asset in Marlborough. Improving the access to the park will increase the public's awareness of its location.

### 2.5.1 Objective

To provide access, both into and through, Pollard Park that promotes its use as well as movement around the park.

To increase the public's awareness of the location of Pollard Park.

### 2.5.2 Policies

Improve the visibility of access points to Pollard Park to increase public awareness of the Park's location.

Promote Pollard Park's location and connection to the Taylor River Floodway Reserve and Blenheim Central Business District through signage.



## 2.6 Parking

Currently off-street parking is provided in a car park off Parker Street, near the playground. This car park provides for normal visitor levels, while overflow event parking is provided at Churchill Glade. When infrastructure is installed in Churchill Glade, overflow event parking will be reassessed

### 2.6.1 Objective

To improve parking to provide for increased use of Pollard Park.

### 2.6.2 Policies

Improve parking to the reserve by adding additional off-street and bus parking.

Reassess parking requirements when Churchill Glade is developed as an events area.

## 2.7 Events

Events and festivals play an important role in promoting Marlborough and provide both economic and social benefits to the region. Pollard Park's central location, large area and park setting makes it a popular location for events. Currently the majority of events are held at Baden Powell although the extension of the play area will result in this area reducing in size. Churchill Glade and Baden Powell are both available for events, catering to different size groups. The plan identifies the installation of infrastructure into Churchill Glade which will provide more facilities for events in this area.

### 2.7.1 Objective

To provide an attractive location for events.

### 2.7.2 Policies

Provide infrastructure such as toilets and power at Churchill Glade to support events.

Decisions on alcohol licences for events will be assessed by Council on a case by case basis.



## 2.8 Leases and Concessions

There are three lease areas in Pollard Park. These are the Blenheim Golf Club which occupies approximately 16 hectares, covering the northern and eastern sides of the park. Marlborough Tennis Club occupies the tennis courts and the adjoining buildings and car park area. Blenheim Croquet Club occupies the croquet green and croquet pavilion to the east of the tennis courts. These leases are well utilised and complement Pollard Park well. There are currently no concessions on the Park. Any proposal that requires a concession will be assessed by Council and weighed against the Park being a place where families can spend time without the pressure of spending money.

### 2.8.1 Objectives

To provide leases which enhance Pollard Park and promote its use.

To promote Pollard Park as a 'free use' Park.

### 2.8.2 Policies

Retain the current lease areas as identified on Map 7. See page 22.

Any lease and concession request will be brought to Council and weighed against Pollard Park being a free family experience.

## 2.9 Facilities

Pollard Park has a number of facilities which promote its use and enjoyment. BBQs are available free of charge and these are very popular. These plus toilets, seating, rubbish bins and drinking fountains all encourage passive recreation. Additional facilities will be added to the Park to enhance this passive use.

### 2.9.1 Objective

To provide facilities which enhance Pollard Park and promote its use for passive recreation.

### 2.9.2 Policies

Provide a consistent style of facilities in keeping with the English style of Pollard Park.

Add BBQs, seating and drinking fountains to Pollard Park to encourage its use.



Extend the BBQ area to provide a cleaning facility and a family area.

Encourage the use of exercise equipment as a circuit through the construction of a bridge across the waterway.

Allow for recycling in Pollard Park.

## 2.10 Signage and Park Promotion

Signage can be used to promote the reserve, provide directional information and provide historic information. Improving signage, particularly directional signage to the Park will help promote its location and increase its usage.

### 2.10.1 Objective

To provide signage that promotes and adds to the understanding of Pollard Park.

### 2.10.2 Policies

Provide directional and interpretation signage.

Provide signage to educate the public on Pollard Park.

## 2.11 Play Area

The play area at Pollard Park is a popular attraction. It features a modular playground, toddler's play area and a space net. The current play area is at capacity and any new pieces will require the extension of the play area into the Baden Powell corner. This can happen when infrastructure can be installed at Churchill Glade to support events.

### 2.11.1 Objective

To continue to provide exciting and unique play opportunities to attract families to the Park.

### 2.11.2 Policies

Extend the play area when demand is apparent but infrastructure to support events at Churchill Glade must be installed before this is done.

Provide play opportunities for a range of abilities and ages.



## 2.12 Gifts and Commemorative Features

People may wish to bequeath gifts to be placed on Pollard Park to commemorate a loved one or event. A number of criteria must be met for Council to allow gifts to be placed on Pollard Park and it is recommended that the proposal is discussed with a Council Reserves Officer before any purchases are made.

### 2.12.1 Objective

To ensure that any bequeathed gifts and commemorative features are managed in a sustainable manner and are beneficial to Pollard Park and its users.

### 2.12.2 Policies

Consider, on a case by case basis, any request from individuals and/ or community organisations for the sponsorship of Park features.

Assess proposals on the following criteria:

- The compatibility of the proposed feature in relation to the character and use of the Park.
- The benefit to the Park users.
- The ease and cost of maintenance and whom is responsible.
- The relevance of the feature to the Marlborough community and its appropriateness.

Any Council approved gift may be acknowledged through the attachment of a small engraved or cast metal plaque associated with the feature. Where a gift or commemorative feature requires removal, it may or may not be replaced.

## 2.13 Prohibited Activities

To ensure a positive experience for all users on the Reserve, a number of activities are prohibited or restricted.

### 2.13.1 Objective

Prohibit activities from occurring that would detrimentally impact on the amenity, ecological and recreational values of Pollard Park.



### **2.13.2 Policies**

Encourage a Smoke free Park through education and signage.

The following unauthorised activities on the Pollard Park are not permitted:

- The lighting of fires.
- Rubbish dumping.
- Camping or overnight parking.
- Use, parking or storing of any unauthorised motorised or non- motorised vehicle on the reserve.
- Fishing.

Refer to Marlborough District Councils bylaws for a full list of prohibited activities.

### **2.14 Dogs**

Refer to Council's Dog Control Bylaws for restrictions on dogs in the Reserve.

### **2.15 Alcohol**

Refer to Council Liquor Ban Bylaws on Alcohol. The Council can place conditions on the use of alcohol in reserves including partial and total bans.

### **2.16 Pollard Park Management Plan Review**

The objectives and policies contained within the Plan will be kept under continuous review in accordance with Section 41 of the Reserves Act 1977.

The Plan will be subject to a full formal review within 10 years of being approved.

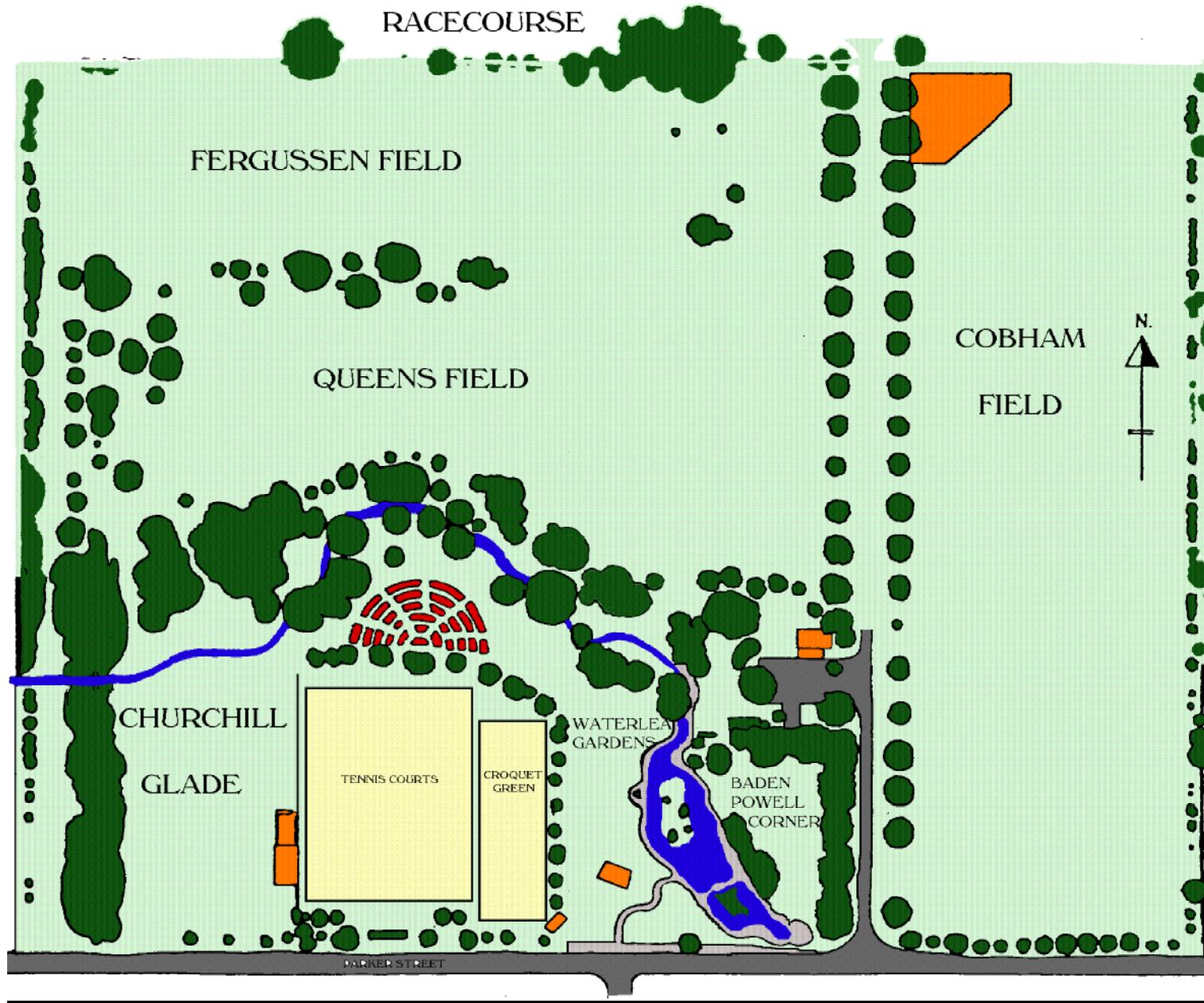


### Map 3: Pollard Park Assets





Map 5: Pollard Park 1997



Map 6: Pollard Park 2014



Map 7: Pollard Park Lease Areas

