

WITHER HILLS FARM PARK MANAGEMENT PLAN



September 2003



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1. Introduction

The Wither Hills Farm Park (Farm Park) is located on the southern boundary of the Blenheim urban area and is just a short drive, bike or walk for local residents and visitors wishing to enjoy its wide open space, extensive recreational opportunities and the Farm Park experience that it has to offer. It has become increasingly popular in the last 10 years and is recognised as a significant community asset and an “iconic” backdrop to the town.

The Farm Park has many different experiences to offer the visitor, including mountain biking, walking and running tracks, spectacular views and the feel of being in the ‘country’ amongst the sheep and cattle grazing on the farm. The open grassland setting, particularly on the hilltops and ridgelines, gives spectacular views out over the town towards the distant Richmond Range and further on to the North Island.



Entrance portal to the Withers, Taylor Pass Road

In addition to the open farmland, many gullies and slopes have been planted in exotic and mixed tree species or are regenerating in natives. This gives users a more enclosed, forest-type experience; much needed shade for resting and picnics and an opportunity for looking at trees and bird life.

However.....

The geological characteristics of the Wither Hills and their historical pastoral management did combine to create a severe erosion problem, which was recognised as a potential threat to the township of Blenheim. The former Marlborough Catchment Board and, more recently, the Marlborough District Council, identified the need for improved and controlled soil and vegetation management of this critical catchment area that overlooks Blenheim.

Brief History

In 1944 the Soil Conservation and Rivers Control Council purchased the original core 165 ha of the present Council owned and/or controlled land on the Wither Hills. The reason for this purchase was to address the significant soil erosion problems being encountered at the time. There was also benefit in being able to demonstrate to other landowners, appropriate conservation techniques on eroded loessial soils, and to evolve new farming practices, which could be applied to a much wider area to control and mitigate the problem.

Numerous trials had been undertaken during the earlier years using various tree and grass species, fertiliser application and mechanical treatments of the land. The successful methods were then used from 1958 to treat over 3000 ha of private land in a programme identified as the 'Withers Hills Catchment Control Scheme'.



Gully erosion, Crown Block

It was recognised at the time, and has continued to this day, that the highly dispersive loess soils of the southeastern hills of the Wairau Valley exhibited some of the most severe erosion in the country. With the problems and costs associated with farming much of this country, and the need to provide appropriate erosion and flood control on land overlooking the Blenheim residential area, Council continued to acquire further properties to add to the original 165 ha purchased in 1944.

The Wither Hills Catchment Control Scheme was established in 1959. The major portion of the northern facing slopes of the hills, was purchased by the then Soil Conservation and Rivers Control Council and the Crown, and placed in public ownership in order to rehabilitate eroded areas and reduce the long-term risk from erosion. In 1993, Marlborough District Council purchased the 302 ha Sutherland Stream block to connect the two Council administered properties. This acquisition enabled the opportunity to combine management of all areas to meet the need for erosion control as well as other community requirements.

1.1 Existing Management Plans

In March 1993, Council adopted the "Wither Hills Property" Management Plan and in early 1994 the "Wither Hills Farm Park Development Plan" to provide clear guidance and policy with regard to the management and use of the property. In line with the Reserves Act 1977 requirement for management plans for public reserves to be reviewed every 10 years, a review of the current Plan, was commenced in March 2002.

In support of this review process, three other specific reviews have been undertaken:

- Land Use Review - Looking at the economic aspects of the Farm Park operations and alternate opportunities for use of the land.
- Fire Management Review - Focusing on developing a comprehensive Fire Response Plan following the Boxing Day 2000 fire. Specific attention was paid to provisions for public safety, acknowledgement and mitigation of the proximity of residential housing to the farm boundary, protection of soil conservation values and Council assets in the event of future fires.

- Soil Conservation Review – Looking specifically at the condition of the land within the Wither Hills Soil Conservation Area, to identify the appropriate requirements for ongoing soil conservation management of the hill country, and its associated drainage network.

The key findings and recommendations of these reports have been incorporated into this document.

The original management plans did not clearly define the boundaries of the perceived or actual areas of public use, and instead encompassed all Council owned or controlled land in the vicinity, regardless of its function and use.

In undertaking this review, the boundaries of the Farm Park will be clearly defined, for the purpose of the objectives and policies contained herein.

It is Council's intention to complete a full review of its current "Reserves and Recreation Policy" document (1997) and introduce a formal "Reserves Strategy" document in 2004. In these documents, the Wither Hills Farm Park is currently, and will be formally recognised as a District Recreation Reserve (under the Reserves Act) in light of its significance as a public reserve within Marlborough.

1.2 Legislative Framework

The role of Marlborough District Council in managing the regions parks and reserves is prescribed by five main Acts; these being the Resource Management Act 1991, Reserves Act 1977, the Biosecurity Act 1993, the Soil Conservation and Rivers Control Act 1941 and the Public Bodies Act 1969.

The following is a brief outline of these Acts:

Resource Management Act 1991

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

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

In the Act, sustainable management is defined as:

Managing the use, development, and protection of natural and physical resources in a way, or at a rate, which enables people and communities to provide for their social, economic, and cultural wellbeing and for their health and safety while:

- (a) Sustaining the potential of natural and physical resources (excluding minerals) to meet the reasonably foreseeable needs of future generations;
- (b) Safeguarding the life-supporting capacity of air, water, soil and ecosystems;
- (c) Avoiding, remedying, or mitigating any adverse effects of activities on the environment.

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

Under the Resource Management Act 1991 Council has prepared a Regional Policy Statement and other plans that guide resource use. The majority of the land covered by this review document is designated under the Proposed Wairau/Awatere Resource Management Plan as being required by Council for soil conservation and has an underlying zoning of 'Conservation'. This Plan also contains provisions that may affect the day to day management of the Farm Park. This may mean that permissions in the form of resource consents will be needed for some activities to be undertaken within the area of the Farm Park. Resource consents would be in addition to any permissions required under this Plan.

Ongoing soil conservation measures are in place to manage the Farm Park to achieve the above aims. The QEII National Trust Covenant area in Sutherland Stream is an example of protection and enhancement of a natural area within the Farm Park. Providing public access to this unique resource and community asset for recreation also fits with these aims.

Reserves Act 1977

The Reserves Act 1977 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 Act, reserves are classified into seven types and management principles are identified for each type. The Wither Hills Farm Park is classified as a District Recreation Reserve.

The primary purpose of a Recreation Reserve, under the Act, is to:

“Provide 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 recreation tracks in the countryside.”

The Act also governs what and how things are done within a reserve, ie; use, activities, management, leasing, revocation.

Soil Conservation and Rivers Control Act 1941

This Act allows regional councils or unitary authorities (ie; Marlborough District Council) to set up special purpose rating districts for the purpose of:

- (a) The promotion of soil conservation.
- (b) The prevention and mitigation of soil erosion.
- (c) The prevention of damage by floods.
- (d) The utilisation of lands in such a manner as will assist towards achieving of (a), (b) and (c).

In response to the erosion prone nature of the hills and the potential threat they pose to the town, Council undertakes soil conservation practices within the Farm Park in line with the Act.



Early Stream Channel Structures – Waterway Management



Former Soil Erosion – Remedial Earthworks

Public Bodies Act 1969

This Act consolidates and amends the law relating to the powers of certain public bodies to lease land.

Similar to the response under the Soil Conservation and Rivers Control Act 1941, Council has to undertake its soil conservation practices within the Farm Park in accordance with the provisions of the Public Bodies Act as stated above.

Biosecurity Act 1993

The Biosecurity Act provides for the effective management and eradication of pests and unwanted organisms. The Act provides a framework for the management of 'pests' through either a National or Regional Pest Management Strategy.

Council has promulgated a Regional Pest Strategy titled "Regional Pest Management Strategy for Marlborough".

The purpose of the strategy is:

- (i) Provide a framework for efficient and effective pest management in the District.
- (ii) Minimise actual and potential adverse and unintended effects associated with the declared pests.
- (iii) Maximise the effectiveness of individual pest management through a regional co-ordinated approach.

The strategy provides for the management of various declared plant and animal pests. The strategy has jurisdiction over the entire district, and therefore has implications on the management of the Farm Park.

1.3 Land Ownership Status

Council presently owns or controls 1119.68 ha of hill country and flat land. This land currently comprises five distinct blocks; all are adjoining and have been acquired over a period of years for a variety of reasons.

While acquisition of much of the land was to enable direct management for soil conservation and flood control, acquisition also took place for the purpose of establishing a regional landfill site at Bluegums and to secure suitable flat land for future residential subdivision. The latter reason was in response to growing concern over the spread of residential development on to the versatile soils to the north and west of the Blenheim urban area.



Mixed amenity planting, Quail Stream -Unfortunately most was lost during the Boxing Day 2000 fire.

The history, status and extent of the various land parcels (Blocks) is explained below:
(See also map on Page 10).

Block A: Wither Run (347.08 ha)

Lot 195 DP 309561 and Lot 2 DP 10825 Freehold land held by Marlborough District Council.

Originally known as the Borough Farm, this block was purchased by the Blenheim Borough Council in 1973. The purpose of the purchase was to enable better soil and water conservation management of the land and to better manage further urban development and subdivision.

Since the purchase in 1973 considerable residential and industrial development has occurred including in Faulkland Drive, Solar Heights, the Wither Road industrial development and the more recent Forest Hills subdivision. The old Blenheim refuse tip was established adjacent to the Taylor River, with additional land purchase for construction of the new district landfill more recently.

The Borough Farm was managed as a separate unit until the late 1970s when the adjoining Reserve Block (Block B) was integrated into the overall soil management programme. Other activities such as amenity plantings and recreational use by the community has grown in significance over the years to a point where their importance is almost equivalent to that of soil conservation.

Under the Proposed Wairau/Awatere Resource Management Plan, the flat land in Block A is zoned as Urban Residential 2. The hill slopes are zoned as Conservation and designated as being required for soil conservation purposes.

Block B: Soil Conservation Reserve (164.3 ha)

Section 2 of 8 Blk IV, Taylor Pass Survey District. Crown owned.

Previously subject to a lease under the Discharged Soldiers' Settlement Act 1915, the Crown, through the Soil Conservation and Rivers' Control, Council acquired the block in 1944 in order to deal with the major erosion problems occurring at the time. When the block was taken over, farming was no longer considered viable. Erosion from the catchments in the reserve area was causing major problems and downstream effects of flooding and debris flows were being experienced in Blenheim. A substantial programme

of soil conservation works including contour ploughing, revegetation and replanting was instituted in 1944 and has resulted in a dramatic improvement in the erosion problem. The block was subsequently able to be farmed as a productive unit and was managed in conjunction with the Borough Farm.

Gazetted in 1946 as a Soil Conservation Reserve pursuant to the Soil Conservation and Rivers Control Act 1941, the block remains in the ownership of the Crown, however control and management responsibility was vested with the then Marlborough Catchment Board in 1977 and later passed to Marlborough District Council in 1989.

Under the Proposed Wairau/Awatere Resource Management Plan, all of Block B is zoned as Conservation and designated as being required for soil conservation purposes.

Block C: Sutherland Stream (approximately 301.7 ha)

Lot 1 DP 8914 and DP 10763. Freehold land held by Marlborough District Council.

Marlborough District Council purchased the block in 1993 in order to allow continuous soil and water conservation management objectives to be applied to all the critical catchments of the Wither Hills and to promote recreational opportunities.

The Wither Hills QEII Open Space Covenant was created in 1994 to provide protection over 41 hectares of dryland forest remnant and riparian habitat. The Boxing Day 2000 fire devastated the native vegetation in the Covenant area, with almost all the kanuka dry land forest being destroyed. Council put a detailed vegetation recovery-monitoring programme in place, in conjunction with Department of Conservation and Landcare Institute, to assess natural recovery rates and to determine the future viability of the covenant as a protected site. The fenced extent of the covenant was subsequently reduced in 2002, due to a lack of native recovery being evident, and the need to more actively control the significant re-growth in weed species through intensive grazing and spray application.

In 1997, a further 9.32 ha was purchased for addition to the Farm Park. Located immediately east of the Redwood Street carpark and extending up the ridgeline towards the Mt Vernon lookout, the acquisition was undertaken to significantly improve public and farming access around the base of the hills from the Cob Cottage Road to the Redwood Street entrance.

Under the Proposed Wairau/Awatere Resource Management Plan, Block C, with the exception of the 9.32 ha addition, is zoned as Conservation and designated as being required for soil conservation purposes. The 9.32 ha area is separately zoned as Rural 4.



QEII Covenant, Sutherland Stream, following the Boxing Day Fire, 2000

Block D: Crown Rehabilitation Block (225.7 ha)

Lot 1 DP 2833. Crown owned.

Previously in private ownership and managed as part of the Wither Hills Catchment Control Scheme, the Crown acquired the block in 1984 and vested its management with the Marlborough Catchment Board and later the Nelson Marlborough Regional Council for soil conservation and river control purposes. Grazing was leased to an adjoining occupier. With the abolition of the Nelson Marlborough Regional Council in 1992, management was passed to Marlborough District Council.

Under the Proposed Wairau/Awatere Resource Management Plan, Block D is zoned as Conservation and designated as being required for soil conservation purposes.

Block E: Part Wither Run (31.36 ha)

Lot 3 DP 10657. Freehold land held by Marlborough District Council.

The land was formerly the Vernon Rifle Range, however, Gazette Notice 95554.2 revoked the reservation for this in 1979. The Marlborough Harbour Board acquired the property from the Crown in 1984 and CT 4A/260 was issued. The Blenheim Borough Council acquired the land in 1985 before it passed to Marlborough District Council as freehold title in 1989.

Under the Proposed Wairau/Awatere Resource Management Plan, Block E is zoned as Urban Residential 2, with the exception of the defined channel of the Rifle Range Drain, which is zoned Conservation with an overlying Flood Hazard Overlay.

Block F: Part Wither Run (11.54 ha)

Lot 194 DP 309561 and Part Lot 1 DP 4770. Freehold land held by Marlborough District Council.

Purchased in conjunction with Block A in 1973 by the Blenheim Borough Council, this block was surrendered from the Wither Run farm under separate title in 1976, for the purpose of residential subdivision. In 1997, Resource Consent U960274 gave approval for the subdivision of 42 lots. Resource Consent U970628, granted in 1998, gave approval for the creation of 141 lots within what is now known as the Forest Hills subdivision. To date, 3.58 hectares of the subdivision has been developed, with 82 sections completed.

Two previously approved residential allotments; totalling approximately 9290 square metres on the upper section of ridgeline known as Harling Rise were surrendered from the subdivision in 2002 for re-amalgamation into the Farm Park.

Under the Proposed Wairau/Awatere Resource Management Plan, Block F is zoned as Urban Residential 2.

Block G: Bluegums Landfill Site (102.56 ha)

Lot 2 DP 9569, Lot 1 DP 7872 Freehold land held by Marlborough District Council.

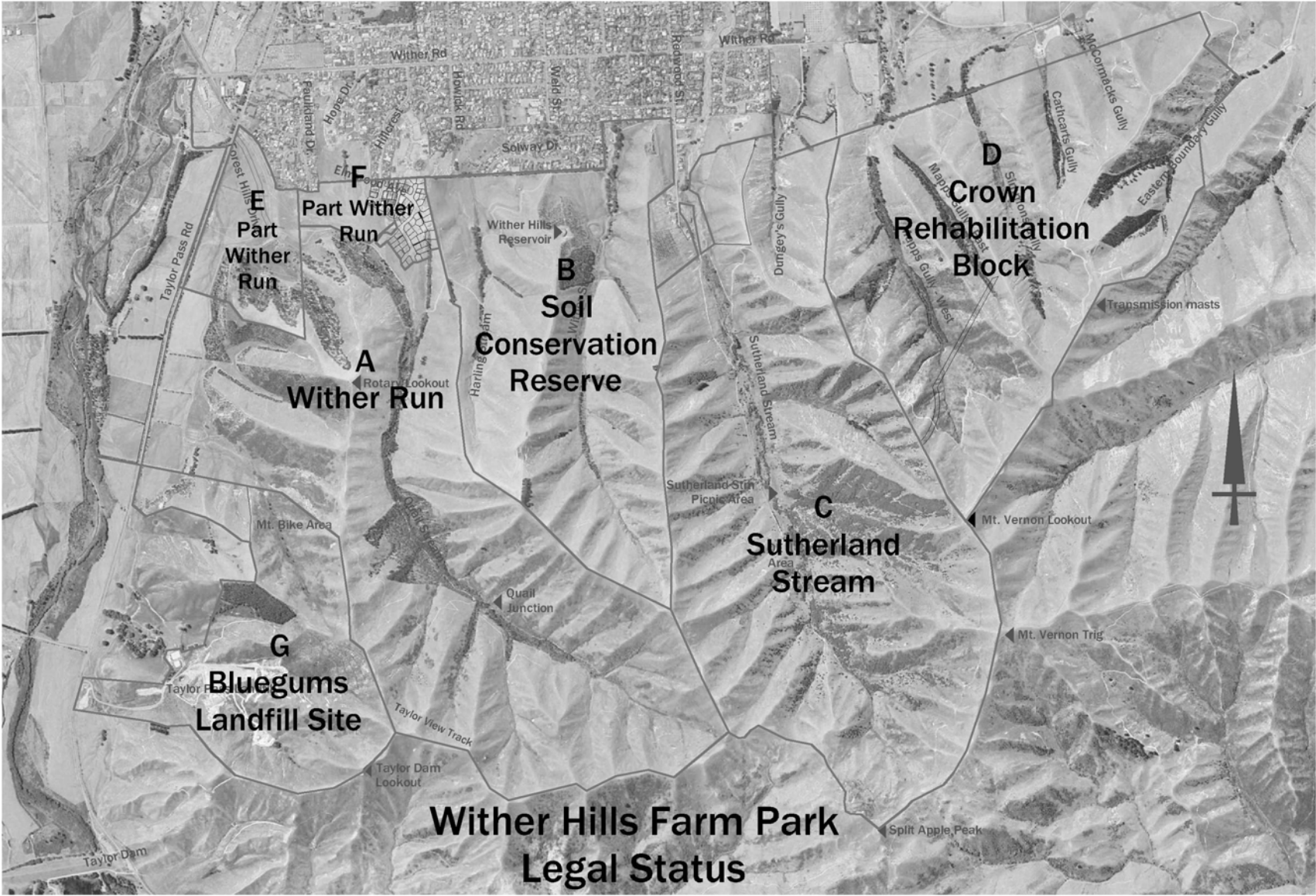
The original block, comprising 139.81 ha and comprising three separate titles, was purchased for the purpose of developing the present Bluegums landfill site.

While initially managed in total as part of the Wither Run farm, the largest of the three lots was later removed and managed separately as the landfill development got underway. It was further subdivided to remove 29.23 ha for a rural residential block, leaving 92.41 ha under the current landfill title.

The remaining two smaller lots, 10.15 ha and 8.66 ha respectively, have since been managed as part of the Farm Park in conjunction with Block A.

Under the Proposed Wairau/Awatere Resource Management Plan, Block G is zoned as Rural 4.

1.4 Legal Status



2. Management Objectives

The area recommended as being formally recognised as the Wither Hills Farm Park covers approximately 1005.31 ha and includes all or part of Blocks A, B, C, D, E and G. The boundary largely follows close to the toe of the hill slopes on the northern and western perimeter and along the skyline ridge on the southern and eastern perimeter of the Farm Park. *(Please refer map opposite).*

The following Management Objectives, and the Management Policies as stated within Section 3 of this Plan will relate to and apply to all activities undertaken within the Farm Park and guide its general governance by Council.

2.1 Primary Objectives

- (A) **Soil Conservation**
Prevention and management of soil erosion on hill slopes and waterways.
Maintenance of vegetative cover assisted by the maintenance and enhancement of soil fertility and organic matter.
Management of stream channels/riparian margins to maximise mainstream channel stability and secondary hill slope channels.
- (B) **Recreation**
To provide for and promote appropriate recreational access and use by the public and user groups, consistent with achieving the objectives of (A) and having regard to (C), (D), (E) and (F).

2.2 Secondary Objectives

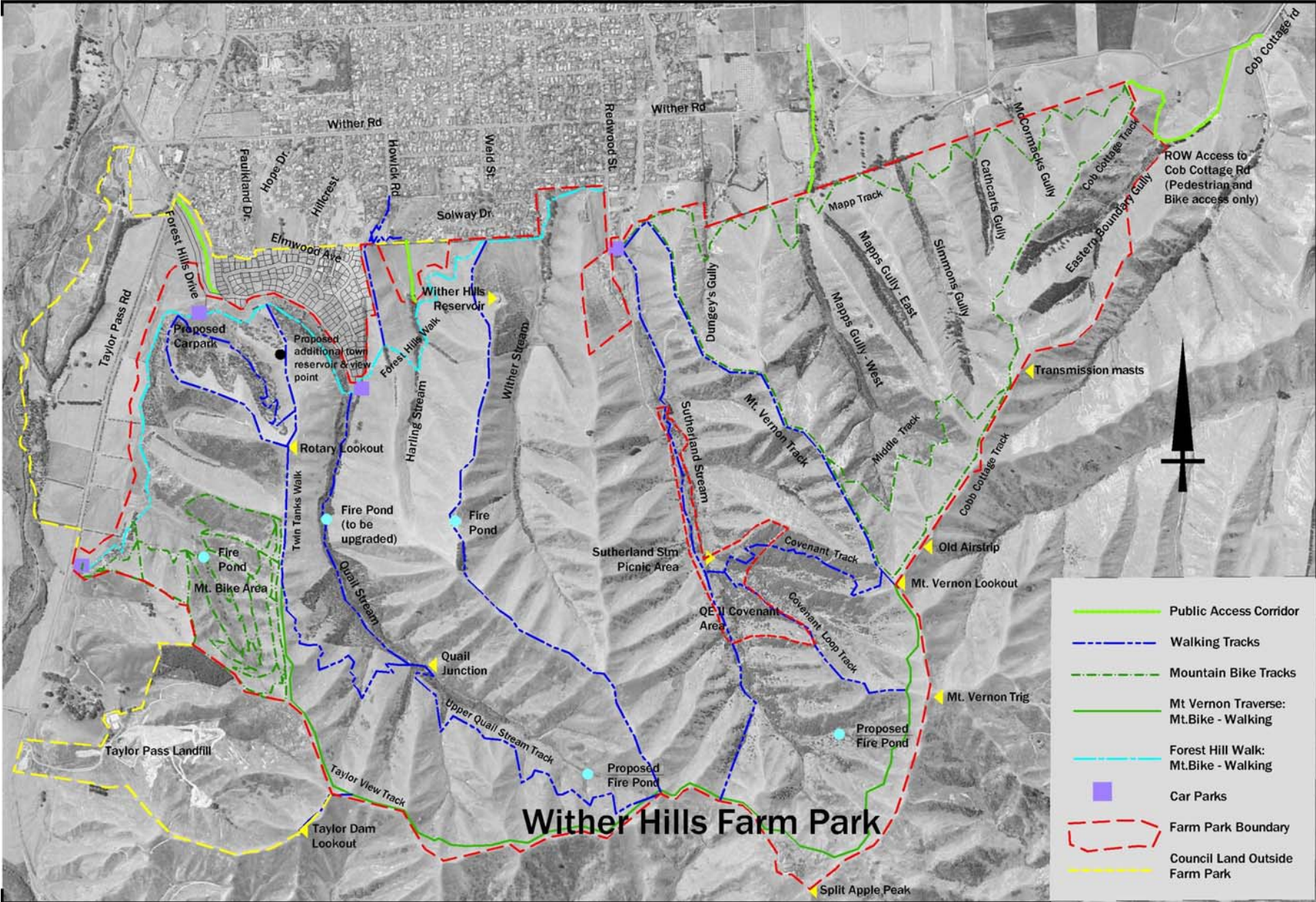
- (C) **Sustainable and Economic Land Use**
To establish sustainable and economic land uses within the Wither Hills Farm Park, which meet or assist with the objectives of (A) and (B) and having regard to (D), (E) and (F).
- (D) **Preserve and Enhance Biodiversity and Natural Values**
Preserve, enhance and reintroduce indigenous plants where possible.
- (E) **Preserve and Enhance Aesthetic Values**
Preserve and enhance the Farm Park's aesthetic values when viewed from both within and beyond the Farm Park boundaries.
- (F) **Enable and Promote Use and Accessibility**
Enable and promote use and accessibility to the Wither Hills Farm Park for all users wherever practical and having regard to A, B, C, D and E.

Explanation: The 1993 Management Plan for the Wither Hills Property listed “Farming” as a management objective. This has now been removed as it is considered that farming should more appropriately be recognised as a ‘Management Tool’, along with other current or possible land uses (ie; forestry) which can be used in achieving the primary management objectives of soil conservation and recreational use.



Mt Vernon Lookout ('Stonehenge')

2.3 Map - Farm Park Boundary, Access and Facilities



2.4 Land Use and Permitted Activities

To reflect the different features and activities undertaken within the Farm Park and to minimise conflicts between activities or land use, five Activity Zones have been developed.

Within these zones, 'Permitted', 'Advisory', 'Discretionary' and 'Prohibited' categories have been used to define land use within each zone. *(Please refer to the map opposite).*

Zone 1

This zone covers two-thirds of the Farm Park and is located adjacent to the urban areas. This zone also includes the most used walking tracks.

A vehicle viewing area on the site of the proposed second reservoir for Blenheim will also be a permitted activity.

Refer to the map for activity classifications.

Zone 2

This zone was developed specifically as the Mountain Bike Park area.

Zone 3

This zone encompasses the eastern area of the Farm Park and is a less used, more remote area of the Farm Park.

Zone 4

This area is specific to the QEII National Trust Open Space Covenant. Additional management conditions are stipulated within the Sutherland Stream, Wither Hills QEII Management Statement as formally approved by the Trust in 1997 for this specific covenant.

This zone is a protected natural area and a significant revegetation programme took place prior to the Boxing Day 2000 fire. Subsequent replanting is underway by community groups and Council, and a vegetation recovery monitoring programme is also taking place.

2.5 Map - Activity Zones



3. Management Policies

The management policies contained within this document provide general governance in the day-to-day operation, maintenance and public use of the Farm Park and all land contained within its defined boundaries.

Over the past eight years, since the adoption of the first management plans, there has been a dramatic growth in community interest and use of the Farm Park. This has meant that the original management plan and its policies, no longer accurately reflect the level and nature of use of the Farm Park, and the values and opportunities that it is seen as now offering the community.

The management policies presented within this document have therefore, been formulated to reflect the current values and opportunities, and to give clear guidance to Council and the community on issues that may arise from time to time. It is believed that the policies are flexible enough to accommodate changing needs while still meeting the stated objectives of the Plan. It is also recognised that management issues will continue to change with time and some future review and revision of the policies may be necessary.



'Kiwi Walk' launch

Soil Conservation

The broad objectives for soil conservation are:

- Prevention and management of soil erosion on hill slopes and waterways.
- Maintenance of vegetative cover assisted by the maintenance and enhancement of soil fertility and organic matter.
- Management of stream channels/riparian margins to maximise mainstream channel stability and secondary hill slope channels.

3.1 Vegetative Cover

3.1.1 To maintain and enhance vegetation cover by:

- Development and adherence to appropriate grazing policies.
- Control of rabbits.
- Adoption of a soil fertility and organic matter enhancement programme.
- Oversowing or direct drilling pastures.
- Maintenance of an approved weed control programme.
- Planting of tree species for shelter, improved soil stability, erosion control at suitable locations.



Debris Dam and Silt Traps – Mapp Stream

3.2 Waterway Management - Hill Slopes

- 3.2.1 Hill slope channel stability will be enhanced through the installation of check dam structures, which slow and control water flow and associated tree planting as and where appropriate.
- 3.2.2 Fencing techniques will control farm stock access to unstable slopes.

- 3.2.3 Slope stability will be enhanced through the planting of species appropriate to the site and may include tagasaste, flax, cabbage tree and saltbush.

3.3 Waterway Management - Main Stems and Fans

- 3.3.1 Channel stability will be enhanced by establishment of streambed and riparian margin planting where practical and appropriate.
- 3.3.2 Existing and future check dams, silt traps, grassed waterways and stopbanks will be installed and maintained as appropriate.
- 3.3.3 Anticipated flood size and appropriate channel dimensions and design will be determined for major waterways.
- 3.3.4 Planting for stability along waterways will be undertaken.
- 3.3.5 Stock damage to plantings will be prevented by adequate stock control and fencing.

3.4 Control of Specific Soil Erosion Activities

- 3.4.1 The design of any activity likely to have an adverse impact on soil stability, eg; tracking (including subdivision fencing), cultivation and any other activities involving soil disturbance, will be done in a manner that will mitigate adverse effects wherever possible.

3.5 Catchment Monitoring

- 3.5.1 To regularly monitor the Farm Park’s catchment areas to ensure policies are complied with and that landscape conditions are maintained. This will be achieved by annual monitoring and reporting to Council and include all aspects of land and stream management of the Farm Park that may have a bearing on soil conservation.



Check Dam and Rock Protection – Mapp Stream

Public Use and Enjoyment

3.6 Public Access and Use

- 3.6.1 To provide for informal, passive recreation within the Farm Park that is complimentary to the objectives for soil conservation, environmental and aesthetic values and the enjoyment of other Farm Park users.
- 3.6.2 Passive recreational users will have the right to enter and use the Farm Park at all reasonable times and under reasonable circumstances as defined within this Plan and determined by Council.
- 3.6.3 The principle points of access to the Farm Park will be off Redwood Street and Taylor Pass Road, however secondary access points will be provided at other points to recognise the needs of recreational users and concentrations of residential groups.
- 3.6.4 In the design, construction and placement of all facilities within the Farm Park, Council's "Barrier Free" approach will be recognised as an objective wherever practical. (Refer 3.7 below).
- 3.6.5 The opportunity to provide access for disabled persons, including wheelchair, 4 x 4 motorbikes and/or mobility scooters within the Farm Park will be explored and provided for where appropriate.



"Gateway to the Withers"

3.7 Walking Tracks, Walkways and Accessibility

- 3.7.1 To develop and maintain a network of walking tracks and walkways within the Farm Park that provides a diverse range of experiences for Farm Park users, while protecting the environment.
- 3.7.2 That further walking tracks and walkways be developed where a demonstrated need exists and where it is environmentally, physically and financially feasible.

- 3.7.3 The Farm Park will be accessible to all users ie; mountain buggies, prams and wheelchairs wherever practical and financially feasible and to reflect Objective E and in compliance with NZS 4121.
- 3.7.4 That all tracks and walkways will be developed and maintained in conjunction with the following criteria as modelled on the Department of Conservation ‘Track Service Standards’, December 1998:
- 1) Track surfacing will be compacted earth, crushed rock and/or timber boardwalks and will be well signposted with directional signs at junctions and safety signs as required.
 - 2) Seats will be provided at areas of interest and/or at appropriate rest intervals (approximately 250 metres apart).
 - 3) Safety rails will be installed where required.
 - 4) Key viewpoints provided and maintained.
 - 5) Main tracks will be on easy to moderate grades, well drained and with provision of steps and bridges where required.
 - 6) When re-aligning and upgrading existing paths, tracks and routes or developing new ones, priority shall be given to:
 - The provision of looped tracks or consideration for return journeys incorporating a number of tracks where appropriate.
 - The regrading of the track surface to a maximum of 1:8 wherever practical.
 - Providing links between notable areas of the Farm Park, facilities, features, other nearby public reserves and, where appropriate, adjoining public land and residential areas.



Replacement bridge within the, post Boxing Day Fire

3.8 Mountain Biking/Cycling

- 3.8.1 That mountain biking will be provided for in designated areas and on defined routes, subject to it being compatible with the objectives of the Farm Park, other Farm Park users, environmental and aesthetic values and maintenance requirements.

- 3.8.2 The Wither Hills Mountain Bike Park will be linked in with the existing mountain bike trails via the proposed 'Mt Vernon Traverse' within a five year period, following the southern Farm Park boundary around to Mt Vernon.
- 3.8.3 That provision will be made for the riding of bicycles along the Forest Hills Walkway; following the lower farm road between Redwood Street and Taylor Pass Road. Bicycle access along this track is intended to encourage family rides.
- 3.8.4 The Forest Hills Walkway will be extended for mountain bike and pedestrian use from the proposed new carpark at the current entrance to the Rotary and Gentle Annie walks around the base of the hill slopes to the Wither Hills Mountain Bike Park in Taylor Pass Road.
- 3.8.5 In the interest of pedestrian safety and convenience, use of the Forest Hills Walkway by bicycles will be subject to specific conditions relating to speed and behaviour, ie; "The Cycling Code of Conduct". If conflicts of use result, bicycle access will cease, or an alternative separate track could be built.



Mountain Bike Signage

Cycling Code of Conduct

- Pass with care - let others know of your presence well in advance and ensure plenty of distance between parties.
- Always give way to others.
- Control your speed and always wear a helmet.
- Don't rush livestock - give animals a chance to move out of your way.
- Respect the terrain, avoid soft surfaces and avoid skidding.
- Use stiles.

3.9 Equestrian Activities

- 3.9.1 To provide for organised horse-riding events on the Farm Park where the activity does not create undue conflict with other Farm Park users, does not have adverse effects on the environment or track surfaces or detracts from the management objectives of the Farm Park.
- 3.9.2 That, as a general rule, the casual riding of horses within the Farm Park by members of the public will not be permitted.

3.10 Para-gliding, Parapenting and Hang-gliding

- 3.10.1 The use of paragliders, parapents and hang-gliders in the Farm Park will be permitted, subject to the following conditions of use:
 - 1) Flyers must follow relevant 'Codes of Practice', safety standards and any other legislative requirements relating to their activity.
 - 2) Flyers must take responsibility for gaining approval for their landing area(s).
 - 3) The general rules of entering the Farm Park apply, including no unauthorised vehicle access.
 - 4) Undue disruption or disturbance to stock and/or other Farm Park users is not permitted.

3.11 Vehicular Access and Parking

- 3.11.1 Formal vehicle parking areas will be provided at major entrance points to the Farm Park where it is environmentally, physically and financially feasible and when a demonstrated need exists.
- 3.11.2 Unauthorised public vehicle access will not be permitted within the Farm Park.
- 3.11.3 Provision will be made for emergency or service vehicle access at all major entrance points and at all road ends bordering the Farm Park.
- 3.11.4 Internal access roads will be maintained where appropriate to a safe, useable standard, for use by authorised or emergency vehicles only.
- 3.11.5 The use of the Farm Park to gain vehicle access to private properties on a long-term basis will not be permitted. Council may grant approval for access to a private property for a specific one-off purpose on a formal request being received.
- 3.11.6 The use of the Farm Park for parking or storing of any motorised or non-motorised vehicle, or other item or material will not be permitted.
- 3.11.7 Council may, from time to time, grant approval for the use of non-motorised vehicles such as horse-drawn buggies and bicycles subject to no damage being caused to surfaces and no potential danger to other Farm Park users.



Farm Park Entrance and Carpark - Sutherland Stream, Redwood Street

3.12 Public Responsibility

- 3.12.1 The public has an obligation to use the Farm Park in a responsible manner, to abide by the constraints and rules for public access, to ensure minimal disturbance to stock and to have regard to the rights of other users and the Farm Park lessee(s).
- 3.12.2 Persons entering the Farm Park will be expected to recognise and adopt the New Zealand Environmental Care Code (refer Appendix 1) and to avoid or minimise any impact on natural and cultural heritage resources and the enjoyment of other Farm Park users.
- 3.12.3 The Farm Park is also a working farm. Visitors are asked to respect the rights of the farmer and take extra care when near stock and farm equipment.
- 3.12.4 Pedestrian access into the Farm Park is not restricted, however as a guideline for users, and in the interests of safety, the Farm Park is open one hour before sunrise and one hour after sunset. These times may be extended for special events.

3.13 Education and Interpretation

- 3.13.1 To enhance the enjoyment, recreational experience, awareness and understanding of the Farm Park’s cultural, environmental and conservation values through the provision of appropriate onsite interpretation.
- 3.13.2 Priority will be given to providing interpretation and education services where they:
 - 1) Contribute to people’s understanding and appreciation of the natural and cultural heritage values of the Farm Park.

- 2) Raise awareness of environmental and conservation issues ie; school and community tree planting projects.
- 3) Encourage visitors to undertake activities in ways which minimise impact on the environment of the Farm Park and other users.
- 4) Facilitate visitor enjoyment of the Farm Park.
- 5) Have been identified in user surveys as desired by the public.
- 6) Assist in the sustainable use and management of the Farm Park.



*“Revive the Withers” community planting day - 15 September 2001
(post Boxing Day 2000 fire)*

3.14 Special Events or Activities and Exclusive Use

- 3.14.1 Council may grant approval for the holding of special events or activities within the Farm Park subject to the event or activity not being contrary to the Objectives or unduly disruptive to other Farm Park users.
- 3.14.2 For approval to be granted by Council, the special event or activity must be of a recreational or community nature which complements or enhances use of the Farm Park and/or is considered to be of significant benefit to the community.
- 3.14.3 The impact of special events or activities will be managed in such a way as to avoid over allocation of resources and any unnecessary disruption to other users.
- 3.14.4 Applications for the holding of special events and activities within the Farm Park must be submitted to Council at least three weeks prior to the event being held. Notification to the lessee(s) must be provided for within the prescribed timeframe.
- 3.14.5 Council may, from time to time, close part or all of the Farm Park to the public for the purpose of allowing an approved special event or activity to occur. Organisations staging such events may be charged a rental fee and may in turn charge a fee to the public to enter the Farm Park to view or participate in the event. Such closures and the charging of fees will be subject to the provisions and requirements of Section 53(1)(e) of the Reserves Act 1977.

- 3.14.6 Exclusion of the public from any part of the Farm Park will only be for a limited period and only when absolutely necessary. Appropriate notice of such exclusions will be given in accordance with the provisions of the Reserves Act 1977.
- 3.14.7 In order to protect the Farm Park environment and the health, safety and wellbeing of Farm Park users, restrictions may be implemented on activities identified throughout this section, relating to:
- 1) Size of group
 - 2) Location
 - 3) Duration
 - 4) Time of day
 - 5) Season or time of year
 - 6) Infrastructure conditions
 - 7) Environmental conditions
 - 8) Anticipated impacts

3.15 Prohibited Activities

- 3.15.1 To prohibit activities from occurring that would have a permanent adverse impact on the natural environment and amenity values of the Farm Park or that could be detrimental to the enjoyment of other Farm Park users.

3.16 Dog Exercising

- 3.16.1 In acknowledgement of its role as a working farm, the public may not take dogs into the Farm Park.
- 3.16.2 Certified guide dogs used by the sight or hearing impaired are exempt from this ruling subject to prior consultation with Council and the Farm Park lessee(s).

3.17 Noise Control

- 3.17.1 Users of the Farm Park must comply with all relevant statutes in respect of creating noise within the Farm Park and shall not create unreasonable noise, such that it may disrupt the quiet enjoyment of other users, nearby residents or wildlife.

3.18 Hunting and Use of Firearms

- 3.18.1 Unauthorised hunting of any kind or the use of firearms or other weapons is not permitted within the Farm Park.

3.19 Motorised Equipment

- 3.19.1 The unauthorised use of any motorised equipment within the Farm Park is not permitted. This ruling applies to all motor vehicles, motor scooters, motorbikes, generators, chainsaws and other motorised equipment, which could cause disruption, disturbance or fire or other danger to other Farm Park users, stock, the lessee(s) or adjoining residents.

Landscape Character, Amenity Values and Ecosystems

3.20 Landscape Character

3.20.1 To protect and enhance the intrinsic and natural landscape values of the Farm Park, and its importance as the backdrop to the Blenheim urban area by:

- 1) Preserving the expansive qualities of the open rural landscape.
- 2) Preserving the iconic image of the Wither Hills as a backdrop to Blenheim by recognising the importance of the sharply contrasting horizon line of the hills and the open grassland nature of the dominant vegetation cover.
- 3) Providing for passive low impact recreational experiences only.
- 4) Limiting future development of intensified land use or subdivision to below viewable contours.

3.21 Planted Vegetation

3.21.1 Remove “tuft” plantings from horizon line and ridgelines.

3.21.2 Limit amenity plantings to below the 60 metre contour at the western end of the Farm Park and below the 100 metre contour at the eastern end, except where planting conforms to natural land contours or drainage patterns

3.21.3 Reintroduce indigenous plants where possible to enhance biodiversity and natural values.

3.21.4 Avoid accentuating manmade features with planting, eg; along straight boundary lines and tracks, by integrating planting patterns with natural landforms.

3.21.5 Use buffer zone plantings to screen urban development.

3.22 Development Activities

3.22.1 Structures, such as water tanks, fire ponds, fence lines, production or erosion control plantings, telecommunication facilities and other obvious man-made elements, will be located discretely to avoid discordant or a cluttered appearance, when viewed from both within and beyond the boundaries of the Farm Park.

3.22.2 Development of structures or similar in viewable areas of the hillsides will be avoided wherever possible.

3.22.3 Where appropriate, structures will be clustered and screen planted and/or painted to reduce visual dominance within the landscape.

3.22.4 Assess development and management proposals with reference to the likely effects on landscape values and the appropriateness of the siting and design of the development.

3.23 Conservation and Restoration of Environment

- 3.23.1 No action will be permitted in the Farm Park which directly or indirectly damages natural vegetation or wildlife habitat without proven justification and mitigating measures being put in place. Where compromise is seen to be desirable, for instance to allow walkway development or allow for flood control or soil conservation works to take place, advice will be sought from relevant Crown agencies and other experts as appropriate.
- 3.23.2 Natural vegetation and wildlife habitat will be restored by a programme of revegetation where:
 - 1) Areas have been retired from grazing in order to protect water quality and natural values.
 - 2) Areas where significant deterioration of the natural environment and soil conservation values exist.
 - 3) A requirement for restoration of wildlife habitat has been determined.
- 3.23.3 Areas which have modified environments, ie; flood control channels and structures, soil conservation works, walking tracks etc may not be restored to their original vegetative cover.



School Planting Day 1999

3.24 Amenity Plantings

- 3.24.1 To provide for the continuation of the amenity-planting programme in accordance with the recommendations as specified under Section 3.20 of this Plan and where ecological, soil conservation and amenity values have been determined. A Master Tree Planting Plan has been prepared in line with the principles set out in Section 3.20. It defines potential planting areas within the Farm Park. (Refer Appendix 2). This Plan is seen as providing the framework

for a 20 year planting project. This Plan also incorporates all potential water and soil conservation plantings.

- 3.24.2 Plantings will recognise factors of slope aspect, altitude, microclimates, prevailing soil nutrient and moisture, future drought potential, fire resistance and habitat and food values in the selection of appropriate species.

3.25 Habitats and Ecosystems

- 3.25.1 Indigenous habitats and ecosystems in the Farm Park will be protected and enhanced as stated in Objective D eg; QEII Covenant.
- 3.25.2 Opportunities and mechanisms for the encouragement of primarily indigenous, and other wildlife within the Farm Park will be identified and implemented as appropriate.
- 3.25.3 Future plantings and development will take account of the impact on wildlife habitat and will aim to enhance values wherever possible.



“Habitat Awareness signage” – Ouail Stream

3.26 Pest Management

- 3.26.1 To control plant and animal pests as prescribed in Council's 'Regional Pest Management Strategy'.
- 3.26.2 To control and, where possible, eradicate undesirable weed and feral animals throughout the Farm Park and to prevent re-infestation where feasible.
- 3.26.3 Management practices will recognise the potential value of some recognised plant pest species, such as broom and gorse, as nursery environment for native regeneration in controlled environments.
- 3.26.4 New plant and animal pests, and unwanted organisms will be prevented from becoming established within the Farm Park.
- 3.26.5 Techniques that mitigate, or wherever possible avoid, adverse effects on non-target species and the environment in general will be used when developing programmes for pest control.
- 3.26.6 To act as a good neighbour and minimise any potential spread of a pest or undesirable weed, feral animal or unwanted organism.

Buildings, Structures and Facilities

3.28 Design and Construction

- 3.28.1 As a general principle, to provide, maintain and approve only those buildings and structures that are necessary to meet the needs of Farm Park users and general Farm Park operations.
- 3.28.2 The design, construction, placement and maintenance of buildings and structures shall have regard to the following:
- 1) The Primary Objectives of soil conservation and recreational values.
 - 2) The need to enhance the recreational and visitor experience in the Farm Park.
 - 3) The health and safety of Farm Park users.
 - 4) The need to avoid or mitigate adverse effects on natural, cultural and historic features and the character of the Farm Park.
 - 5) The landscape qualities of the Farm Park from both within its boundaries and beyond and as stated in Section 3.22.
 - 6) The physical suitability of the site compared to possible alternative sites.
 - 7) Using environmentally responsible technology and techniques wherever practicable.
 - 8) The potential levels of use of the building or structure under consideration and the potential consequences for the levels of use on surrounding resources and facilities.
 - 9) Possible impacts on the function of adjacent facilities.
 - 10) Use of appropriate design.
 - 11) Wherever possible to provide for the needs of people with disabilities.
 - 12) The ongoing costs of maintenance and operation.
 - 13) To act as a good neighbour and consult with potentially affected parties as necessary.

3.29 Visitor Facilities and Signage

- 3.29.1 Visitor facilities and signage will be provided that:
- 1) Ensure the Farm Park users are aware of the features, facilities and safety aspects within the Farm Park, particularly fire danger.
 - 2) Facilitate safe and non-conflicting recreational experiences.
 - 3) Manage competing demands for highly used resources and sites.

- 4) Protect natural and cultural resources and promote environmental awareness.
- 5) The principle of gradation is used in facility design to reflect the sense of remoteness and isolation the further into the Farm Park the visitor travels ie; a reducing presence of facilities, the further one travels from the urban interface.

3.30 Advertising Signage

3.30.1 Three classifications for sponsorship advertising signage will be permitted as follows:

1) Advertising Signage on Existing Structures

Approved sponsors shall be allowed to advertise or display the extent of their sponsorship on existing structures within the Farm Park. Signage will be confined to an area no greater than 10% of the face of the structure up to a total area not exceeding 0.5 m² per structure, unless by special authorisation of Council. The design and colour of the sign shall not detract from the amenities and character of the Farm Park and surrounding land nor cause a distraction to passing traffic.

2) Atmosphere Advertising Signage

Where the advertising contributes to the atmosphere created by the activities carried out, sponsorship advertising may be permitted. This shall be restricted to a specified structure. The size, siting and design of the advertising on selected structures to be at the discretion of the Reserves and Amenities Supervisor and may require resource consent.

3) Temporary advertising:

Placing of temporary advertising panels or banners within the Farm Park for display only during events or activities shall be permitted. The size, design, colour of signs shall, in the opinion of the Reserves and Amenities Supervisor, not detract from the amenities and character of the Farm Park and surrounding land nor cause a distraction to passing traffic. This also shall apply to major one-off promotional activities both during and up to a three week maximum lead in period. The siting of such temporary signs to be approved by the Reserves and Amenities Supervisor.

3.31 Memorials

3.31.1 Subject to Council approval, provision may be made for the planting of commemorative trees and/or the placement of commemorative plaques within the Farm Park in recognition of persons or events which may be of some significance to the community or who have contributed in a positive way to the Farm Park or the wider community of Marlborough.

Public Safety

3.32 Public Security and Safety

- 3.32.1 All recreational structures and facilities will be maintained to a high standard of safety at all times.
- 3.32.2 Construction of any new structures or facilities will comply with all building standards and codes and meet all legislative requirements.
- 3.32.3 Council will endeavour to identify and mitigate all hazards to users of the Farm Park. Scheduled monitoring is carried out to assess the conditions of all tracks to achieve this.
- 3.32.4 In undertaking such works, due consideration will be given to the importance of retaining the natural character of the landscape and of the 'working farm' nature of the Farm Park.



Aerial view of fire coverage, very near to residential area

3.33 Fire Hazard

- 3.33.1 The lighting of fires will only be permitted when required as a management tool and in accordance with relevant fire restrictions and permit conditions.
- 3.33.2 Adopt and promote a grazing regime which minimises excessive vegetative growth and dry matter build-up.
- 3.33.3 The Farm Park Fire Response Plan will be maintained.
- 3.33.4 Priority will be given to fireproofing all recreational and amenity structures through the use of non-combustible or fire resistant building materials and maintaining a fire buffer around structures using gravel, spraying and mowing techniques.
- 3.33.5 Assess the need for additional helicopter-dipping ponds where a suitable water source is available.
- 3.33.6 All farm tracks will be maintained, wherever practical, to a standard suitable for four wheel drive fire appliances. This will include providing for adequate turn around points and sufficient side and overhead clearance from vegetation.

- 3.33.7 During periods of high to extreme fire risk, regular mowing and weed eating will take place along the residential boundary to the Farm Park to maintain a minimum fire buffer strip of 3 metres.
- 3.33.8 Trees and shrubs adjoining the residential boundary will be of a suitable fire resistant species and will be maintained so as to minimise the risk of fire and enable easy access for fire fighting.
- 3.33.9 During periods of high/extreme fire risk, a fire buffer strip will be maintained along all road boundaries to the Farm Park, extending between the road edge and the road boundary fence. This strip will be maintained by close cut mowing and any trees and shrubs located within it will be of a suitable fire resistant species and will be maintained so as to minimise the risk of fire and to enable easy access for fire fighting.
- 3.33.10 Take into account planting layout and fuel load factors when planning further plantings on the Farm Park.
- 3.33.11 Break up planting areas, by grazing or periodic mowing and weed-eating, to create a controllable fire break and to consider light grazing amongst shrubs/trees once big enough to reduce fuel load.
- 3.33.12 Any significant forest plantation areas within or adjoining the Farm Park shall meet minimum forestry industry standards for external firebreaks and internal access for four wheel drive fire appliances shall be maintained.
- 3.33.13 Provide, in the form of appropriate signage at all entry points to the Farm Park, clear notification to Farm Park users that they are entering a working farm and of the potential of fire, and that they do so at their own risk.
- 3.33.14 Maintain standard procedures and signage which enables the implementation of access restrictions and/or total exclusions for Farm Park users from part or all of the Farm Park for reasons of operational activities, organised events or public safety.
- 3.33.15 During periods of 'high' to 'extreme' fire danger, the public may be excluded from part or all of the Farm Park. Appropriate signage, public notification and enforcement provisions will be undertaken in such events.



Fire fighting, Boxing Day 2000

Sustainable and Economic Land Use

3.34 Sustainable and Economic Land Use

- 3.34.1 Manage the land in a manner consistent with the maintenance and enhancement of the soil conservation, ecological, amenity and recreation values while recognising and attaining appropriate levels of economic return from the capital asset as owned or controlled by Council.

3.35 Grazing

- 3.35.1 Maintain a productive and protective vegetative cover in a manner that promotes soil conservation, while recognising the need to minimise the fire risk associated with excessive vegetation growth and dry matter build up.

3.36 Forestry

- 3.36.1 Develop and maintain woodlots and plantations on the Farm Park for the purpose of land and soil management, recreation, public amenity, research, production and conservation.
- 3.36.2 Any new or replacement woodlots or plantations will be located with full regard for the recommendations relating to layout and altitude as specified in the landscape and soil conservation sections and fire hazard considerations within this Plan.

3.37 Tourism

- 3.37.1 Commercial tourism or recreational ventures utilising the Farm Park will be encouraged subject to their being compatible with the stated objectives and policies of this Plan.
- 3.37.2 Such ventures must have the specific approval of Council and will be subject to a formal concession licence agreement and fee.
- 3.37.3 Where permitted, the activity must be of a recreational nature or will enhance the recreational use of the Farm Park in a manner consistent with its character and use, and be considered to benefit the community.
- 3.37.4 Individual concessions will be monitored to assess the impacts of the activity on the Farm Park, its values and other users. These impacts will be taken into consideration in the renewal process.



Marlborough Tramping Club - Weed Control Working Bee - Spring 1999, QEII Covenant, Sutherland Stream

3.38 Telecommunication or Similar Sites

3.38.1 Any new applications for telecommunication facilities to be located within the Farm Park will be encouraged to co-share with existing site holders ie; on the Cob Cottage ridgeline below the Mt Vernon Lookout.

3.39 Inventory, Monitoring and Research

- 3.39.1 To hold quality and timely base-line information about the Farm Park's physical assets, ie; buildings, fencing, water supply, recreation facilities, etc.
- 3.39.2 To hold quality and timely information about the Farm Park's physical resources; vegetation cover, weed species and extent of cover, soil conditions and erosion severity and potential threats and wildlife occurrence and numbers.
- 3.39.3 User statistics will be recorded to monitor changes over time in the Farm Park environment and in visitor needs and preferences. Scheduled monitoring of tracks and structures is done to ensure public safety within the Farm Park.
- 3.39.4 The impact of recreational use will be monitored to ensure management objectives are being met and to enable the identification and resolution of points of conflict. The mechanism for dealing with complaints will be arrived at by consultation with the user groups concerned, the wider community and the Farm Park grazing lessee(s).

3.40 Future Uses

3.40.1 The opportunity for alternative, future recreational and/or commercial activities being undertaken within the Farm Park shall not be discounted. Approval of any such activity shall be subject to Council approval and their compatibility with existing uses and not being in conflict with the other policies contained within this Plan.

Public Consultation and Review

3.41 Community Values

- 3.41.1 Ensure that Farm Park reflects the needs and values of the community.
- 3.41.2 Consult with individual groups and agencies, with an expressed interest in the Farm Park, on any significant developments and/or changes in policy or operational procedure relating to the Farm Park and its day to day running.

3.42 Community Partnerships

- 3.42.1 Increase community understanding and support for the Farm Park through actively involving community involvement in Farm Park management and increasing public awareness and involvement in the decision making processes.
- 3.42.2 Provide enhanced opportunities for public involvement in activities and projects centred upon the Farm Park.
- 3.42.3 Allow subtle and appropriate advertising and associated promotion within the Farm Park where benefits are accrued back to the Farm Park through individual or corporate sponsorship.
- 3.42.4 Provide opportunities for volunteers to become involved in Farm Park activities as a recreation and leisure activity.
- 3.42.5 Liaise with and support the recognised community groups where their activities are recognised as complementary to the objectives and policies of this Plan.

3.43 Protocols of Communication

- 3.43.1 Provide clear protocols for communication between all persons and parties involved in operational activities within the Farm Park and to ensure that all works undertaken, other than day to day general maintenance, are done so with the clear understanding of all parties, including Council staff, contractors, the farm lessee(s).
- 3.43.2 Give the lessee(s) of the Farm Park a minimum of seven days notice for any minor upcoming works and one month for major upcoming works that may hinder or disturb the farm's work operations. Sufficient consultation is required with the lessee(s) regarding the type of works and the impacts that work may have on the day-to-day operation of the Farm Park.

3.44 Neighbouring Property

- 3.44.1 Neighbouring property owners will be consulted prior to any proposed major developments within the Farm Park where the effects of that development on adjacent properties may be undesirable.
- 3.44.2 Every attempt will be made to mitigate undesirable effects of development on neighbouring properties. However, the final decision is Council's and the benefits to the community must be weighed against the costs to individuals.

3.45 Policy and Management Plan Review

- 3.45.1 The policies contained within this Plan will be kept under continuous review in accordance with Section 41 of the Reserves Act 1977.
- 3.45.2 In accordance with Council policy on District Recreation Reserves, this Plan will be subject a full formal review within 10 years of being approved.

4. Appendix 1

4.1 New Zealand Environmental Care Code

- **Protect Plants and Animals**
Treat New Zealand's forest, birds and wildlife with care and respect. They are unique and often rare.
- **Remove Rubbish**
Plan your visits to reduce rubbish and carry out what you carry in.
- **Keep to the Track**
By keeping to the track, where one exists, you lessen the chance of damaging fragile plants.
- **Consider Others**
Be considerate of other visitors who also have a right to enjoy the natural environment.
- **Respect our Cultural Heritage**
Many places in New Zealand have a spiritual and historical significance. Treat these places with consideration and respect.
- **Enjoy your Visit**
Take a last look before leaving an area; will the next visitor know that you have been there?
- **Protect the Environment** for your own sake, for the sake of those who come after you, and for the environment itself.
- **Toihu te whenua** (leave the land undisturbed).

5. Appendix 2

5.1 Master Tree Planting Map

