

# 12.0 Open Space

## 12.1 Introduction

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This section of the Plan is concerned with the sustainable management of resources insofar as they relate to open space or the reserve areas of the Marlborough Sounds. Approximately 60% of the land area covered by the Plan is in public ownership. Generally, this land is protected under the Reserves Act 1977 and a large proportion of it is administered by the Department of Conservation. The Council also has responsibilities for reserve management.

Open space is important for recreation activities, conservation values and landscape or visual reasons. In addition open space areas often exhibit high levels of natural character, this being identified as a matter of national importance under section 6 of the Act. The substantial open space resource which exists in the Marlborough Sounds is a significant contributor to the wellbeing of both Marlburians and visitors to the area. It also provides protection for important habitats and ecosystems.

Many localities within the Marlborough Sounds planning area are important for a vast range of recreation activities. Areas are numerous but some of the widely recognisable ones are the Queen Charlotte Track and the Queen Charlotte Sound area as a whole, outer Sounds, reserve areas in the Pelorus Sound such as Tennyson Inlet and the walkway through to Nydia Bay, Pelorus Bridge in the hinterland and the Mt\_Richmond State Forest Park. Important also, are the smaller reserve areas located in the urban areas such as the Picton Foreshore Reserve and local parks.

## 12.2 Issue

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**The need to provide sufficient and suitable open space to meet the present and future recreational, conservation and landscape needs of the community to enable their wellbeing; and**

**The need to ensure that open space is used, developed and protected in accordance with sustainable management principles.**

Provision of open space is covered in Chapter 23 Subdivision and Development, relating closely to Council's Reserves Management Strategy. The means to ensure that adequate provision of open space is obtained include: reserve contributions on subdivision; financial contributions for developments; and through Council works and acquisitions in the form of Annual Plan commitments. New open space requirements include conservation reserves, coastal or esplanade reserves, neighbourhood parks, sports facility parks, linkage or access reserves and utility areas for Council or other public works.

The management of reserve land in terms of the Act requirements (ie; sustainable management) is the subject of this chapter of the Plan. Integrated management of the resources contained within reserve land comes under the control of the Conservation Act 1987 and the Reserves Act 1977. The general intent of the Plan is not to repeat management processes but to only pick up those matters requiring control under the Act which are not covered under other legislation.

Generally, the types of activities and consequently the acceptable effects within a reserve are those indicated by management plans under appropriate legislation (identified above), for example, in the case of Department of Conservation land, the Conservation Management Strategy and Reserve Plans for the Nelson/Marlborough Conservancy. The Plan seeks to provide for these activities and only looks at the management of any off-site effects. The Plan must also enable activities restricted under the Act such as minor discharges, where there are none or only minor adverse effects.

Three different types of open space have been identified for the purposes of the Plan. These have been distinguished by the use of zoning. They are:

- Conservation Reserves;
- District Recreation Reserves; and
- Local Recreation Reserves.

The Conservation Reserve areas are of particular importance. This zone includes the Conservation Estate, administered by the Department of Conservation. The Conservation Estate is a very substantial and important resource of the Marlborough Sounds. The Estate covers a very large land area and is intimately connected with some very important water resources in the area (eg, Queen Charlotte Sound and the Pelorus River). Marlborough contains extremely important pieces of New Zealand's conservation heritage, including the greatest diversity of natural values among any of New Zealand's 14 conservancies (Department of Conservation administrative areas). A number of the areas are of national importance both in terms of their particular ecological value and for the tourism and recreation opportunities they provide. Some areas are of international importance. The importance and the conservation values present within the Conservation Estate is described in detail in the Conservation Management Strategy for the Nelson/Marlborough Conservancy. Rather than repeating the Conservation Management Strategy, the Plan seeks to recognise the presence of important conservation resources and the values which they form. Management of these areas is detailed in specific management plans prepared by either the Department of Conservation or Council. In doing this it is important that the Plan acknowledges and addresses the various issues which this resource faces. This acknowledgment occurs throughout the Plan.

The issues arising in respect of the Conservation Estate (Conservation Zone) are extensive and differ for each different type of area or particular ecosystem. Some of the more common or well known issues include: problems with pests such as possums; invasion by wilding pines in the Sounds; and, pressure from tourism and recreation as visitor numbers continue to increase bringing with them greater demand for recreation facilities and commercial development. The Plan therefore supports the Conservation Management Strategy and reserve management plans as the relevant management documents for these reserves and the methods which they offer for managing them. It is recognised that these documents are formulated through a public process.

## 12.3 Objectives and Policies

<b>Objective 1</b>	Appropriate management of open space and reserves to ensure conservation and enhancement of the natural environment.
Policy 1.1	Recognise areas of conservation value by incorporating them into a Conservation Zone.
Policy 1.2	Recognise the land in the Conservation Zone as an open space resource in which priority is given to the conservation and protection of natural areas, landscape features and scenic, botanical, ecological and habitat values.
Policy 1.3	Restrict the range of activities and associated development to a type and nature which, while allowing enjoyment of the qualities of the open space, has least impact on its conservation values.
Policy 1.4	Provide for appropriate public access to and along the coastal marine area, lakes and rivers within the Conservation Zone.

<b>Objective 2</b>	The provision of open space for a wide range of organised sports, recreation and community activities.
Policy 2.1	Recognise those areas important for organised recreational pursuits by incorporating them into a District Recreation Zone.
Policy 2.2	Recognise the land in the District Recreation Zone as a resource for organised sport, recreation and community activities and for their associated buildings and structures.
Policy 2.3	To encourage sustainable multiple use of recreation and community buildings and facilities.
Policy 2.4	Control the scale, design and location of buildings and structures to protect the open space character of the reserve.
Policy 2.5	Ensure that district recreation activities do not adversely impact on the amenity of surrounding areas

<b>Objective 3</b>	The provision of open spaces throughout the residential areas of the Sounds which serve the local needs for recreation and community activities, and which contribute to visual amenity.
Policy 3.1	Recognise those areas important for local amenity, recreation and community usage by incorporating them into a Local Recreation Zone.
Policy 3.2	Recognise the land in the Local Recreation Zone as a resource for low key, every day recreation and community activities.

Policy 3.3	Restrict the range of activities and associated development to a type and nature which allows recreational and community use of the open space, while retaining its visual amenity and compatibility with adjacent residential activity.
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*The Open Space Zones recognise and provide for the three levels of open space requirements made by the community (including visitors to the Sounds).*

*The first zone, Conservation, applies to open space which is intended to be retained largely in its natural state. Included in this zone are areas of native vegetation, natural ecosystems and important habitats, water margins and areas of outstanding landscape value. An important aim for this zone is the promotion of public access to and along the coast, lakes and rivers. Public access within this zone will only be restricted in accordance with Policy 8.3.1.7 (Public Access). The zone largely follows the extensive Conservation Estate in the Sounds which is administered by the Department of Conservation. The policies are in accord with the overall intent of the Conservation Management Strategy which applies to the Sounds Plan area (and which the rules for this zone are based on).*

*The District Recreation Zone applies to those areas of open space which cater for active recreation including sports fields, tennis courts, indoor recreation/leisure pursuits and a number of other recreation and community activities. Such activities have the potential to attract large numbers of people resulting in high levels of traffic, noise and other adverse effects. Policies 12.3.2.4 and 12.3.2.5 control any adverse effects of district recreation, and any buildings or structures used for this, on the surrounding areas.*

*The Local Recreation Zone applies to open space which provides for the amenity of residential and town centre areas. Such areas provide for amenity because of their natural, open character and the local recreation and community activity which they accommodate. Provision is made for informal children's play areas and the like.*

## 12.4 Methods of Implementation

Zoning	The Plan identifies on the planning maps the following open space zones: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conservation;</li> <li>• District Recreation; and</li> <li>• Local Recreation.</li> </ul>
Rules	Plan rules permit appropriate activities based on the conservation, amenity, recreation, or landscape value associated with the particular reserve or type of reserve, subject to performance standards where these are necessary.
Performance Standards	Performance standards address matters which ensure that open space is used and developed in a manner which is compatible with the amenities of adjoining residential areas. Matters include noise, car parking, building setback and discharge standards.

Other Legislation	<p>Management plans prepared under the Conservation or Reserves Acts have been used as the basis for Permitted Activities in the three open space zones.</p> <p>Council (Regulatory Department) will participate in the preparation and planning of relevant reserve management plans under the Reserves and Conservation Acts, in pursuit of achieving the objectives of this and other relevant chapters of this plan.</p>
Advocacy	Encourage initiatives to improve the representivity of reserve lands within the Plan area.

*The methods provide for the policies above and enable relevant authorities to administer open space activities as set out in management plans.*

## 12.5 Anticipated Environmental Results

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Implementation of the policies and methods in relation to open space will result in:

- Maintenance of the characteristics which ensure that these open spaces remain highly valued by the community in terms of ecological, conservation, recreation, and landscape values.