

15. General Administration

This part of the plan deals with general matters relating to parks administration. It covers the criteria for naming parks and features, and for park closures, the potential to transfer park management and how the council will work with adjoining landowners and managers to achieve the best outcomes for regional parks.

15.1 Naming of parks and features

Objective 15.1:

To ensure that the names of parks and the features within them are appropriate, geographically correct and reflect tangata whenua, cultural, historical and natural associations, features or events.

Policy:

- 15.1.1 Naming new parks will require Council approval and will be informed by historical research and a human occupation report.
- 15.1.2 New parks will be named within eighteen months of acquisition following the completion of a human occupation report.
- 15.1.3 Naming of park features or facilities will be referred to the General Manager Parks and the Chair of Parks Committee, or equivalent, who will have the discretion to approve the name, or refer it to the Parks Committee or equivalent.
- 15.1.4 Naming a new park, feature or facility will be based on the following preferences:
- a) a name which is identified as a condition of gifting,
 - b) a name which reflects:
 - i) tangata whenua values,
 - ii) a natural feature within the park,
 - iii) a historic name for the land,
 - iv) a historical feature or association with the park,
 - v) historically or culturally significant individual or event, or
 - vi) an individual or organisation that significantly contributes to the park or facility through gifting or sponsorship,
- providing the proposed name is not already in use or strongly associated with another existing location or feature, and therefore is likely to cause confusion.
- 15.1.5 Prior to naming of a new park, feature or facility it must be evidenced that the chosen name is geographically and/or grammatically correct.
- 15.1.6 Where it is deemed appropriate by the Council, the preferred name or names for a new park will be subject to consultation with relevant tangata whenua, interest groups, and the wider community.

- 15.1.7 Where a name for a park or park facility is gifted, either by a benefactor or tangata whenua, the council will honour the responsibility that comes with this and seek to reinforce the significance of the name through interpretation or other means.
- 15.1.8 Reinststate traditional names, or rename a park, part of a park, or a park feature, facility or destination, in accordance with policy 15.1.4, where:
- a) the current name has not been formally adopted or a previous decision has overlooked significant occupation history or events associated with the park, site, feature or facility,
 - b) the expansion of the park incorporates a prominent natural or cultural feature, for which it is more appropriate to name the park,
 - c) there is justification for part of the park to be named independently of the parent park name, or
 - d) the name of the feature or facility is no longer deemed appropriate by the Council to be associated with public land or facilities.
- 15.1.9 Consider dual names for parks, features and facilities.
- 15.1.10 All names of regional parks and park features will be retained in a register including a record of the reason for the chosen name. Names will not be removed from park features without authority from the relevant committee.

Explanation:

Locations often have layers of informal and formal names that have been used over time. Tangata whenua of the region hold ancestral associations with all parts of regional parks; land is viewed by tangata whenua as a source of identity and giving consideration to park names is deemed appropriate.

Historical associations and natural and cultural resources are often the things that distinguish regional parks from the areas around them and the wider region. In this respect, they play an important role in defining the identity of the park and should also be given consideration. The potential to have a Māori name and an English name will also be considered. In some cases the choice of park name will be foreshadowed by conditions set out in gifting agreements and will be respected where this name is not culturally insensitive to tangata whenua.

Features and facilities, such as destinations and tracks and buildings within a park, can assume their own identities for park users and the community. It is therefore important to ensure that names are appropriate and relevant. Note that all proposals to site memorials, commemorative plaques and dedicated structures on parks are discretionary activities and will be assessed in terms of policy 13.5.6.1.

Tradition and the continuity of a name and community identification with a name are important community values, and any renaming must therefore have strong rationale to support it. This rationale should also apply when considering the removal of a track name which may be proposed for efficiencies sake or when realignments have occurred.

It is important to retain a record of names which includes the rationale behind the decision to adopt the name. This is an important reference for researchers, cartographers, publishers, government authorities and the public.