

**SUBMISSION :**

**DCC Parks & Recreation Draft Strategy 2016 – 2026**

**INTRODUCTION:**

Our submission pertains to the beautifying of berms and the many useful small spaces around our city and suburbs, with a view to building resilient local communities, mitigating the consequences of climate change, and enhancing these areas for the benefit of all. We believe that our vision belongs under the statements on page 6 – “*Protecting and caring for parks, landscapes, flora and fauna*” and “*Supporting Káí Tahu in practising kaitiakitaka.*”

We are grateful to Council for the many attractive plantings it has undertaken in recent years. However, we are also aware of the many areas in our city that could perhaps be providing a more aesthetically appealing environment, as well as producing native species and food producing vegetation which offers sustenance for the community. Our vision is one of co-operative participation by DCC Parks staff and the local communities.

Thank you for your consideration.

**POINTS FROM THE DRAFT STRATEGY DOCUMENT  
(as they relate to berms) :**

What will the future bring? – p8:

- **Increasing environmental awareness:** “Dunedin residents are becoming more aware of the need to better manage our impact on the natural environment and the potential threats of climate change.”
- **Growing our economy (local):** “Our national environment also contributes to making Dunedin an attractive choice for tourists and new residents ....”

What we want to achieve: p10:

**People are active: Priorities:**

- More active children and young people
- More active older people
- Increasing awareness of opportunities and places to be active

Implementing the Strategy: p12:

- **Keeping an eye on the future:** The future will bring a number of challenges and opportunities for .... It’s Important ... we not only think about the ‘here and now’, but also focus on understanding future trends ..... are able to change and adapt”

Parks and Open Spaces in Dunedin: – p16:

- Local and neighbourhood parks
- Civic spaces, streets and shared spaces

## GENERAL MATTERS DISCUSSED BY SCAN

### How would it happen?

- Supervision by Parks and Recreation staff with active support from community members
- Plants (including edible species/trees (including fruit and nuts), provided by DCC and community members
- Co-operation and networking with those with horticultural experience and those already involved in community gardens and other similar organisations.

### Benefits:

- Bringing together of like-minded existing organizations
- Strengthening communities through shared knowledge and skills
- Community involvement which initiates pride in, and care for our suburbs
- Building community connections among residents (Families, the young and elderly)
- Increased knowledge of inter-relatedness of humans, the earth and our food.
- Provision local food and medicinal plants for local people.
- Greater bio-diversity which includes native plant species, fruit trees and edible plants which support living things – (Bees pollinate one third of our food. Birds distribute seeds and require trees to set down).
- Residents feel ownership and personal connection to ‘their special place’
- Keeping more people, more active, ‘*more often in the valued outdoors*’
- Improved general feeling of well-being.
- Lessing need for lawn maintenance
- Great absorption of CO<sup>2</sup>
- Future-proofing - creating resilient communities for a sustainable future.

Overseas studies of ‘concrete jungles’ where there are but a few trees, have shown that public sense of well-being is much greater than in those without trees. **Productive areas** around our city which also include **commuting corridors**, and which bring people together, would **increase wellbeing** to an even greater extent and create a sense of **connection, belonging, and right** to our own special personal/community areas.

## COMMENTS ON DRAFT STRATEGY GOALS AND PRIORITIES

(relating to berms):

### PARKS AND OPEN SPACES

#### OBJECTIVE 1: PEOPLE ARE ACTIVE:

**No 4 : (Year one priority):** *Support the on-going development of a citywide volunteer and education programme ....*

AGREE

**No 7: (Year 2/3 priority):** *Establish ‘greenway plans’ ... to improve recreational walkways and cycleways through parks and open spaces and build connections across the city.*

Enhancing berms relates to this strategy - connecting and enhancing walkways and cycleways. - supported on page 29 where it is stated that “92% of participants took part in sport and recreation at one or more facilities. The most common were paths, cycleways and walkways (63%). And ... Almost 8 out of 10 (77%) took part in one or more natural settings...”

AGREE

**But greater priority in terms of berms.**

**No 8: (Yr 3): Develop key open spaces as activity hubs ....** Changing recreation needs and demands:

**AGREE – but greater priority for berms – transforming their use.**

**OBJECTIVE 2: OPEN SPACES & FACILITIES SUPPORT DUNEDIN’S COMMUNITIES TO THRIVE.**

**No 6: (Yr 3) :** *Develop key open spaces as community hubs, recognising and providing for evolving use of open space such as community gardens, access for community events and activities.*

**AGREE but greater priority for berms.**

**No 7: (Y1):** *Support a range of volunteer and community programmes to facilitate community participation in open spaces.*

**AGREE – top priority.**

**OBJECTIVE 3: OUR PARKS, NATURAL LANDSCAPES, FLORA AND FAUNA ARE TREASURED BY THE COMMUNITY.**

**No 5: (Y1):** *Develop planting guidelines to facilitate the establishment of native ecosystems and increase biodiversity values of public open space and private land.*

**AGREE – Top priority.**

**Resilience and Sustainability :**

**Native trees and plants; edible and medicinal plants; fruit/nut trees;**

**OBJECTIVE 4: WORK WITH OTHERS.**

**No 2 (Yr1)** *Establish a framework for manu whenua to partner and participate in policy, planning, design, development and management of parks and open spaces.*

**AGREE – Top Priority.**

## **SPORT AND RECREATION**

**OBJECTIVE 1: PEOPLE ARE ACTIVE**

**No 1 (Yr1) :** *“work with young people to design/redesign appealing accessible and innovate programmes and activities ....”*

**AGREE – top priority**

**No 4 (Yr3):** *Develop a transport plan to provide easier access to major recreation and sporting hubs and outdoor recreation areas particularly at time of peak use.*

**AGREE -**

**But greater priority in terms of berms and walk/cycleways in particular.**

**OBJECTIVE 2: OPEN SPACES AND FACILITIES SUPPORT DUNEDIN’S COMMUNITIES TO THRIVE.**

**AGREE with first two priorities which relate to berms:**

- *“A range of accessible environment that encourage play, activity and informal recreation.”*
- *“Safe and well-connect parks and open spaces; ... open spaces that can be accessed by a range of transport modes.”*

**OBJECTIVE 4: WE WORK WITH OTHERS.**

**No 8 (Yr 2/3):** *Develop and implement a volunteer plan for the sector including parks, open space and conservation volunteers.*

**AGREE. But greater priority in terms of berms.  
Networking with horticultural groups/community garden groups.**

**CONCLUSION:**

One objective of our group, *Seniors Climate Action Network*, is to develop and preserve a resilient community in preparation for future climate conditions. Therefore, accordingly, we support the development of the practical and productive use of publicly-owned open spaces, in order to strengthen community links, food production, community well-being and to support other living species, with a view to fostering resilience and sustainability.

Signed:

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(On behalf of 50 members of *Seniors Climate Action Network*)

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