

Christchurch Civic Trust Partnering with PACE (Professional and Community Engagement) Internship Programme

Project: Identification of Potential Sites, of varying capacity, within the Christchurch City Council District, for NEW Christchurch Entertainment Venue(s) as alternative(s) to Hagley Park

FOREWORD

Christchurch is well endowed with outdoor attractions. It has ocean beaches, wetlands, a variety of parks, and a multiplicity of gardens, including the world-class Botanic Gardens, overlooked by the backdrop of the Banks Peninsula Port Hills. There is an astounding variety of trees. Urban rivers and streams remain open rather than piped, and some of the finest examples of braided rivers fringe the built environment.

The basic flat topography of Christchurch invites walking, cycling, and non-motorised mobility or, if seeking elevation and more effort, tramping, rock climbing and mountain biking in the Port Hills. Jet boating, water skiing, wind and board surfing, hang gliding, fishing, equestrian activities, and golf courses all offer choice in outdoor pastimes. In a short time distance measure, the alpine Mt Hutt Ski Area is close and very popular. Compared with many other urban environments in New Zealand, the range of possible choice in activities is very attractive, encouraging lifestyles that help recruit employees to settle in Christchurch. Growth in population is inevitable. This is leading to the spread of new housing onto what was once protected green belt and is changing the ratio of green space to the built environment. Consequently, what exists now is more precious but likely to face increased pressure to meet demands.

Following the Christchurch earthquake series, the Ōtākaro Avon River Corridor (a corridor extending from the city centre to the sea) was cleared of housing, adding to the quantum of open space accessible to citizens. Some open spaces, such as the city to sea corridor and Hagley Park, located in the city centre, have statutory protection as a means for controlling their use and ensuring that they are never overrun by incompatible developments. Christchurch City has now inherited the responsibility for managing all developments in the areas cleared of housing as a consequence of the earthquake devastation. The largest area is commonly referred to as the Red Zone. Any proposals receive very close scrutiny. There is now some open green space that may replace green belt space lost to housing. It is enticingly located in the Ōtākaro Avon River Corridor Red Zone.

It can be noted that in the list of activities mentioned above, specific outdoor entertainment facilities are few, and those existing are under intense pressure to meet demand. Hagley Park is the most highly sought venue for large outdoor events. It is under intense pressure.

The Christchurch Civic Trust became aware of the PACE (Professional and Community Engagement) Internship Programme¹ at the University of Canterbury. Students can be accepted for approved internships with businesses and organisations and receive academic credit in their degrees. The Civic Trust was invited to suggest a topic or topics for potential internship consideration. This presented an opportunity to have a student study the comparative merits of sites within the Christchurch City Council District that might be capable, with or without modifications, of hosting large-scale outdoor entertainment events and thereby relieve pressure for such on Hagley Park.

The Christchurch Civic Trust submitted this project proposal to the PACE Team, and a student chose to take up the challenge. Suitably qualified Trust Board members, Anne Dingwall, MA (Hons) and Dr Lynette Hardie Wills (PhD), agreed to be part of the supervisory team, led by Emeritus Professor, Christopher Kissling. The timing coincided with Christchurch City Council staff also exploring the topic of potential space for large outdoor entertainment, and a healthy relationship was forged.

After in-depth searching and analysis, the student, Poppy Selby-Page, could not find an alternative venue to meet the requirements, even though, from a bird's-eye view, there would appear to be several possibilities. All were locked into other activities or constrained by rules in the Christchurch District Plan. As a consequence, the search shifted to undeveloped green space capable of development primarily for entertainment events, with minimal concerns for neighbours. Poppy's project report covers the search process and culminates in the consideration of a completely new venue within Sector 7 in the Red Zone.

Christopher Kissling, Professor Emeritus, Lincoln University

¹ <https://www.canterbury.ac.nz/study/other-study-options/work-integrated-learning/pace-internship-programme>

Executive Summary

- This report identifies and assesses potential outdoor sites within the Christchurch City Council District to be used as alternative entertainment venues to Hagley Park.
- The history and statutory framework of Hagley Park are examined, with references to the 1971 Christchurch City (Reserves) Empowering Act, the 1977 Reserves Act, and the Hagley Park Management Plan 2007. The report highlights how Hagley Park is at risk of being overused due to high event demand, at the expense of the park's purpose.
- Because of growing outdoor event space demand, several potential alternatives to Hagley Park have been identified. Their various attributes are analysed through a table and chart, providing guidance for decision-making. This information has been collated through research and discussion with relevant parties.
- Visual guides have also been used to create a broad picture of the sites that have been researched.
- The importance of events to the city in terms of social and economic benefits are also discussed. Ensuring there is a way to sustainably continue running outdoor events at suitable venues, without compromising their everyday use, is important as Christchurch continues to grow.
- The report culminates with recommendations, based on analyses and research, of potential venues for further investigation. These are Ruapuna Raceway and Red Zone Sector 7.
- Of all the identified sites, Sector 7 has the most promise as a viable alternative.
- This report is not intended to be used as a plan to aid decision-making but rather to provide guidance/commentary regarding the identification of possible sites to be used as alternatives to Hagley Park.

Introduction

There is a growing need for alternative outdoor event venues to Hagley Park to be considered and explored within the Christchurch area. Hagley Park's central location makes it a highly desirable space for outdoor events. However, increased demand runs the risk of overburdening the park. This report has been written with the intention of providing insight into potential event space options within the Christchurch City Council District, by assessing the various merits of each location, in hopes it will aid decision-making.

The promotion of events in Christchurch is important for a range of reasons, including the social and economic benefits. Events bring in money to a range of businesses, such as hospitality and retail, with positive impacts on Christchurch's economy. This can be seen in the case of the annual Electric Avenue Music Festival in North Hagley Park, which generated \$10.5 million in

visitor spending in 2025.² Events can also serve as a platform for up-and-coming artists. Research shows that for every dollar spent on live performances in Aotearoa \$3.20 is returned in benefits to the wider community.³ Live performances also contribute to better life satisfaction and overall wellbeing and serve as places for people to connect.

A recent release from the Beehive regarding a financial boost for major events and tourism also details some of the positive impacts from events, such as supporting local jobs. Additionally, events encourage both residents and international visitors to go out, increasing economic expenditure.⁴ Events within Christchurch contribute towards the culture and vibrancy of the city, which is why ensuring there are suitable event spaces for events is important.

Background and Statutory Framework of Hagley Park

The Hagley Park Management Plan 2007 (HPMP) sets out the obligations for administering Hagley Park and builds upon previous legislation relevant to the land. In 1855, the Canterbury Provincial Council Ordinance decreed that Hagley Park would forever be a public park. Following this, the 1971 Christchurch City (Reserves) Empowering Act⁵ and the 1977 Reserves Act⁶ served to cement Hagley Park's status as a reserve for public recreational use.

Section 17 of the Reserves Act provides that in respect of recreation reserves, “*[the] qualities of the reserve which contribute to the pleasantness, harmony, and cohesion of the natural environment and to the better use and enjoyment of the reserve shall be conserved*”.

The HPMP⁷ outlines an overall vision for the park, the intent of it being a place for all generations (both present and future) to enjoy, whilst preserving and reflecting the city's heritage, and providing space for indigenous biodiversity (p.1).

Hagley Park is a vital part of the city and serves to support both environmental and social wellbeing within Christchurch. The Christchurch City Council (the Council) is the administering body of Hagley Park and is obligated by legislation to ensure the use of the park complies with the HPMP's Management Goals and Objectives, to protect the park's environment and character for future generations.

² <https://a-ap.storyblok.com/f/3000820/x/79b22c7288/cnzhl-q3-report-march-2025.pdf>

³ <https://www.massey.ac.nz/about/colleges-schools-and-institutes/college-of-creative-arts/college-of-creative-arts-research/measuring-and-articulating-the-value-of-live-performance-in-aotearoa/>

⁴ <https://www.beehive.govt.nz/release/next-level-boost-major-events-and-tourism>.

⁵ <https://www.legislation.govt.nz/act/local/1971/0008/latest/whole.html#whole>

⁶ <https://www.legislation.govt.nz/act/public/1977/0066/latest/dlm444305.html>

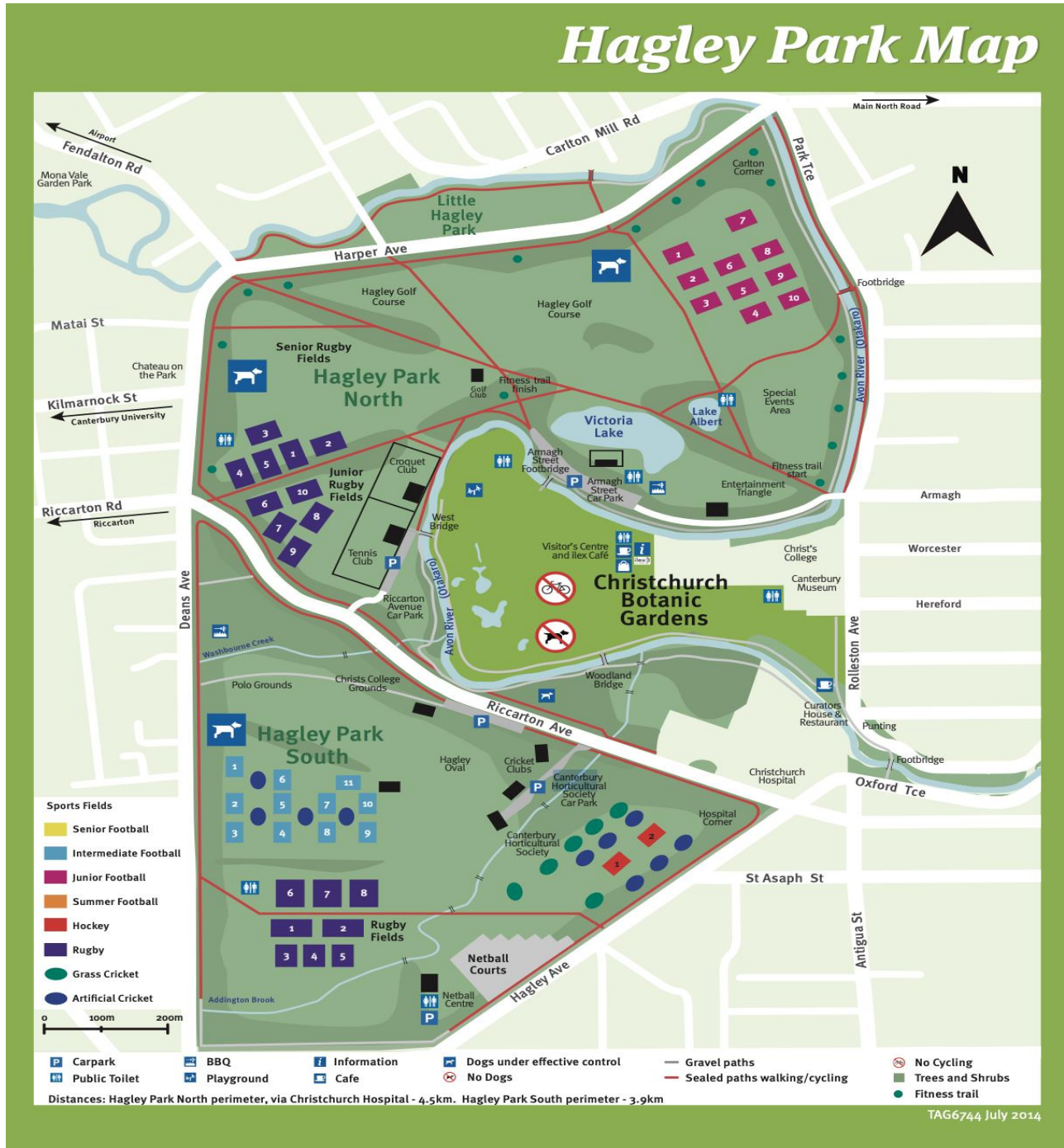
⁷ <https://ccc.govt.nz/assets/Documents/The-Council/Plans-Strategies-Policies-Bylaws/Plans/Park-management-plans/Hagley-Park-Management-Plan-August-2007-Optimized.pdf>

The HPMP's Management Goals are to:

1. Protect and enhance Hagley Park's existing and historical environmental values, its landscape qualities and its botanical features.

2. Provide areas for those recreational and sporting activities that are compatible with Hagley Park's inherent environmental and open space qualities, for the physical welfare and enjoyment of the public. (p.4)

Map of Hagley Park⁸



Opening Hours:

Hagley park is open all hours. Christchurch Botanic Gardens and all carparks open at 7am daily. The Botanic Gardens and carparks have seasonal closing times; April–September 6.30pm, March and October 8.30pm, November–February 9pm.



⁸ <https://ccc.govt.nz/assets/Documents/Parks-Gardens/Hagley-Park/HagleyParkMap-popularparks-2.pdf>

Pressure on Hagley Park

The growing demand for large events and the increasing size of such events at Hagley Park pose as obstacles to use of the space in compliance with the HPMP and relevant legislation.

Additionally, the Council is reportedly needing to decline event consent applications for Hagley Park. There is a pressing need to consider and explore alternative outdoor event spaces in the Christchurch City Council District.

According to the HPMP, the majority use of the park (aside from structured organised sport) is intended for passive and informal recreational activities, such as walking, running and cycling (pg. 52, 13.2 Passive and Informal Recreation). Open space is an essential element of the park and is important for both recreational and organised sporting activities (pg 78, 2.0 Open Space Component). These activities align with Objective 3.0, in that Hagley Park must be managed according to the provisions of the Reserves Act (pg 78).

As pressure on Hagley Park increases due to growing event demand, there is a risk the Management Goals and overall vision for the park will be compromised. Events may spread beyond the designated Entertainment Zone, limiting the use of the park at certain times and impacting recreational, sporting, and circulation activities. Currently, this issue has not arisen to its full extent, due to the declining of event applications by the Council. However, there is a demonstratable need to explore alternative venue options to ensure the park is used in accordance with the HPMP and relevant legislation. As pressure mounts to hold more frequent and larger events in Hagley Park, there is a risk the park's purpose of also being a casual recreation area is becoming overlooked, especially as commercial events begin to encroach beyond the designated Entertainment Zone (pg. 53, 13.2 Passive and Informal Recreation).

The landscape of Hagley Park is significant, serving as a vital greenspace and acting as a natural corridor within the city. There are also major road boundaries and cycles paths in and around Hagley Park, being a major thoroughfare within the city for cyclists, pedestrians, and drivers (pg. 64, 15.0 Circulation). As outlined in Objective 19 (pg. 94), there is a need to provide safe, logical access and circulation around Hagley Park. Having too many events in the park can impede on this objective. One issue highlighted in Objective 16 (pg.90) is congestion occurring when events are held in the Entertainment Zone, not to mention the lack of parking space. Public parking is limited by the empowering Act to the existing designated parking areas in the park (With a few exceptions, public parking is now no longer permitted or intended elsewhere in the park cf. pg 71, 17.5 Event Car Parking.) Furthermore, the District Plan (6.2.5.6 Additional

matters for Hagley Park) restricts the parking of vehicles within the dripline area of Hagley Park trees.⁹

As mentioned above, the park can be used for selected forms of entertainment (pg. 8). Commercial entertainment activity is allowed, the North Hagley Entertainment Zone being set aside for this purpose. Objective 20 (pg. 95) outlines that activities need to enhance the public enjoyment of Hagley Park, whilst being compatible with the principal purposes and character of the park. Activities need to be in the public interest and should not compromise the public benefit of the park, particularly informal recreation. Commercial activities do enhance the public enjoyment of the park. However, as mentioned previously, if demand and growth continue on the current trajectory, then Objectives of the HPMP are at risk.

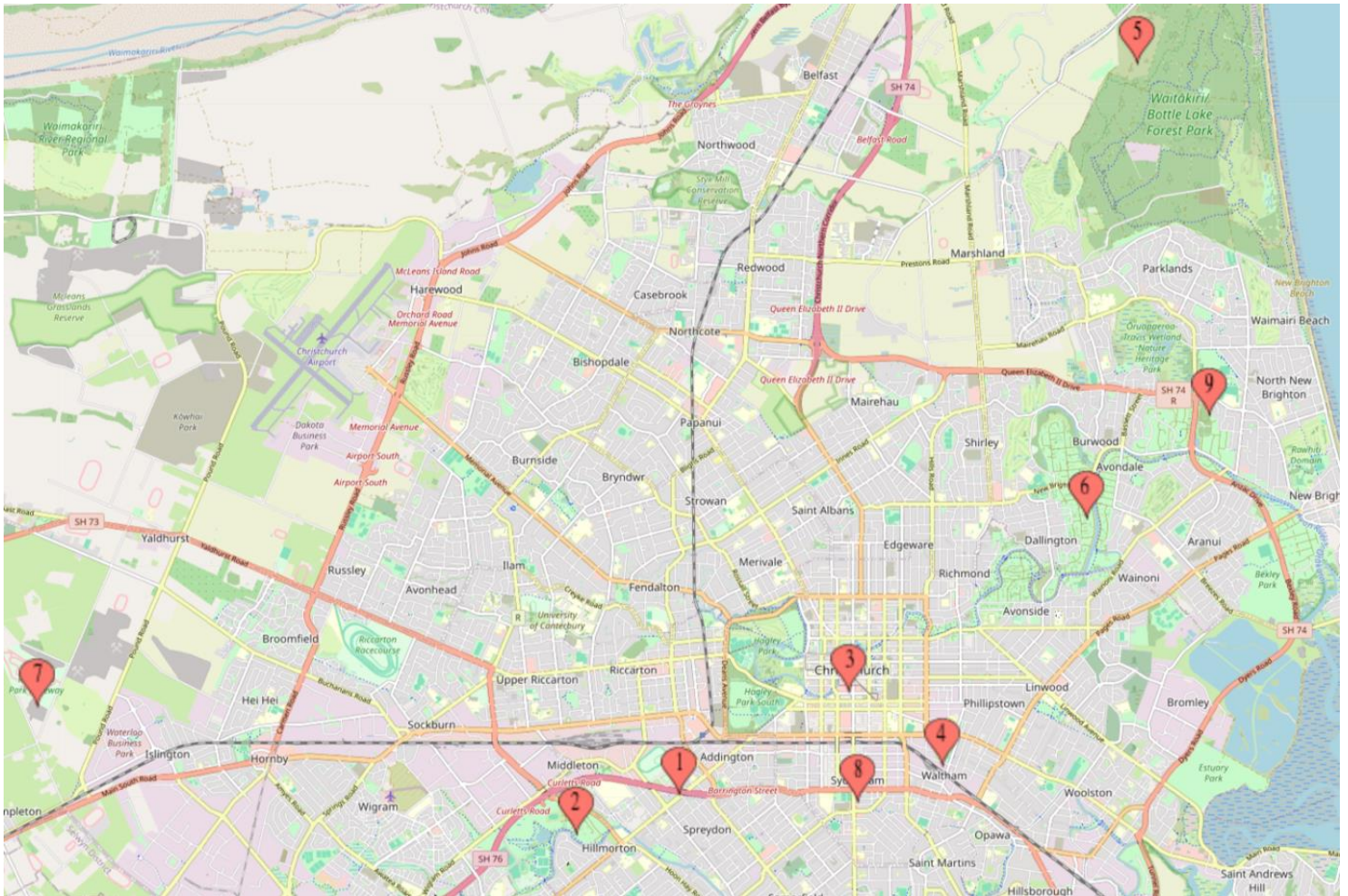
There are discrepancies between the HPMP and current planned use and expansion beyond the park's Entertainment Zone. Preliminary research of alternative sites shows there are several venues within the Christchurch City Council District that could be considered as viable options for future events. Hagley Park is a good place to have events. However, given the constraints on administering Hagley Park in accordance with the Objectives of the HPMP, the 1971 Christchurch (City) Reserves Empowering Act, and the 1977 Reserves Act, alternative sites need to be considered. Continuing to exert event pressure on Hagley Park in response to ever-increasing demand is unsustainable long term.

⁹ <https://districtplan.ccc.govt.nz>

Identification of Possible Sites

Several alternative sites were considered and explored for event use. A range of factors were considered, highlighted in a Table (page 11) and Chart (page 13). The locations of these sites are outlined in the map below.

Map of Identified Spaces



1. Addington Raceway

Addington Raceway has a capacity of roughly 5,000 people, with 1,500 carparks onsite.¹⁰ It is easily accessible by public transport and is a relatively central location. Additionally, it already has facilities in place for large events. One downside is that events may be limited due to the scheduling of races. Because the area is not a Council space, constraints are likely due to

¹⁰ <https://www.addington.co.nz/events-centre/outdoor-spaces/>

racetrack and other events use. Additionally, entertainment events could only be held on the grassed area.

2. Canterbury Agricultural Park

The Canterbury Agricultural Park has the potential to host over 10,000 people and has the space to cater for large groups of people, as evidenced by the annual A&P Show. The park is a 13-minute drive from the city and is serviced by bus routes 60 and 7. However, as stated in its management plan, the area is for “facilities, events [...] and activities servicing and promoting Canterbury’s primary industries” (pg.59).¹¹ Despite this, there is potential for the park’s management plan to be amended to allow for other commercial events. However, this needs to be assessed further. There are onsite parking spaces as well but due to noise constraints in the Christchurch District Plan, as well as pushback from residents regarding noise levels from potential concerts, events in this area may never eventuate.

3. Cathedral Square

Cathedral Square is a central location and can host up to 5,000 people. There are already facilities for events in place, and it is an easily accessible area due to its proximity to public transport routes. There is little room for further expansion but it is a well serviced location for events.¹²

4. Lancaster Park

Lancaster Park a large open space and is centrally located. However, it is lacking in the way of natural sound barriers and shade. It is also in the process of being developed into a play area, and it is unclear what this could mean for event potential.¹³ This space is mainly used for sports and it would be a major challenge to hold events there, which do not conflict with other activities.

5. Lower Styx Road

A private property located at 240 Lower Styx Road, near Waitākiri/Bottle Lake Forest Park, is the area proposed for the Rolling Meadows Festival at the end of 2025. It has capacity for roughly 10,000 people and is closer to Christchurch than the original Rolling Meadows venue, thus making it more accessible.¹⁴ There are parking facilities onsite and it is a 22-minute drive from the city centre. However, there is no public transport access to the venue, and people are

¹¹ <https://ccc.govt.nz/assets/Documents/The-Council/Plans-Strategies-Policies-Bylaws/Plans/Park-management-plans/Nga-Puna-Wai-and-Canterbury-Agricultural-Park-Management-Plan-2010-09-23-incorporating-amendments-2015-03-124.pdf>

¹² <https://ccc.govt.nz/news-and-events/events/running-an-event/central-city-event-venues-map/cathedral-square>

¹³ <https://www.newsline.ccc.govt.nz/news/story/playing-with-history-at-lancaster-park>

¹⁴ <https://www.thepress.co.nz/nz-news/360676782/rolling-meadows-music-festival-moving-christchurch>

unable to leave on foot, which could be an issue.¹⁵ As at the time of writing this report, the resource consent process is currently underway.

6. Red Zone Sector 7

Red Zone Sector 7 is located in the Ōtakaro-Avon River Corridor and has been put forward as a potential option for events.¹⁶ It currently has the capacity for 5,000 people, so whilst not suited for large-scale events, it could help alleviate pressure on Hagley Park. According to a recent Press article, it has been chosen by the Council due to its accessibility and with consideration of noise impact on the surrounding area.¹⁷ The venue is serviced by bus routes 7, 60, and 44. Noise restrictions are unclear in the District Plan^{18;19} but since concert events have already been held there, it could be assumed further events would be permitted. Work does need to be done to develop the space but if achieved, Sector 7 could be a viable option for future outdoor events.

7. Ruapuna Raceway

Ruapuna Raceway has 1,200 permanent seats, and its grassed areas can host 50-60,000 people across two days. Upgrades are currently underway to improve the facilities and accessibility of the venue.²⁰ Issues for this venue include public transport access as there are currently no routes that run close to the area. A lack of parking and general accessibility issues are the biggest hurdles for this area. There are also restrictions around noise levels past 8pm, in accordance with the District Plan.²¹ The distance from the city could also be an issue in terms of access and economic benefits.

8. Sydenham Park

Sydenham Park was briefly considered during the research process but would not be viable, due both to noise constraints and difficulties in traffic management, given its location near an arterial road (Brougham Street).

9. Queen Elizabeth II Park

Queen Elizabeth II Park is another area that could be considered as an alternative to Hagley Park. The venue has already been used for concert and is well developed.²² It is serviced by bus routes 60 and 80, and is a 20-minute drive from the city. It has capacity for approximately

¹⁵ <https://rollingmeadows.co.nz/faqs/>

¹⁶ <https://ccc.govt.nz/parks-and-gardens/regenerationareas/otakaro-avon-river-corridor/sector-7-events>

¹⁷ <https://www.thepress.co.nz/nz-news/360483109/event-space-5000-people-christchurchs-red-zone-summer>

¹⁸ https://districtplan.ccc.govt.nz/linkedcontent/planningmaps/PlanningMaps_26.pdf

¹⁹ <https://www.ccc.govt.nz/assets/Documents/The-Council/Plans-Strategies-Policies-Bylaws/Plans/district-plan/new-christchurch-district-plan/OperativeChapter6-Feb2017.pdf>

²⁰ <https://www.nzherald.co.nz/sport/motorsport/christchurch-to-host-supercars-event-for-first-time-ruapuna-raceway-and-taupo-locked-in-until-2028/GO3J5L4KPJEY5C6QZVZOQRJN54/>

²¹ <https://www.ruapuna.co.nz/wp-content/uploads/2024/12/Raceway-Noise-Management-Plan-v1.4.pdf>

²² <https://www.thepress.co.nz/culture/360563667/bigger-christchurch-venue-shihads-farewell-gig>

10,000 people, depending on the infrastructure being used.²³ The majority of events held attract between 3,000 and 7,000 people. There are three days allotted for higher noise levels. However, there are currently conflicting messages over its continued use. There is discussion that the event space will be moved closer to residential boundaries, which would create issues regarding noise constraints.

Assessment of Desirable Criteria

Below is a brief table summarising key factors that should be considered when assessing event site suitability.

Venue	Capacity	Transport Accessibility	Sound Impact and Proximity to Residential areas	Wind/sun protection	Additional Facilities
Addington Raceway	5,000~ possible, potential for more	11-minute drive from city centre. Serviced by bus routes 7, 120, and Orbiter	Grandstands provide sound barrier. Sound management plan in place. Addington and Hillmorton close by.	Built infrastructure provides protection	Catering, crowd management plans already in place.
Canterbury Agricultural Park	12,000	Routes 60 and 7 buses are the closest to the area, although there is an 18-minute walk from the bus stop, so may not be accessible for everyone. 13-minute drive from central city.	Management plan likely in place, though not for concerts specifically	Yes	Lighting, parking facilities
Cathedral Square	5,000	Central city, serviced by majority of bus routes, as it is near Christchurch Bus Exchange.	Management plan in place for concerts.	Limited – surrounding buildings could serve as wind buffers	Power, water, toilets, lighting – street lighting and inground spotlights throughout the

²³ https://www.ccc.govt.nz/assets/Documents/The-Council/Plans-Strategies-Policies-Bylaws/Plans/Park-management-plans/QEII-Park_Updated-MasterPlan_A1.pdf

					Square. Limited parking
Lancaster Park	TBC	5-minute drive from city centre, serviced by bus route 3.	Sound shells needed, limited natural barrier. Near Waltham, Linwood and Phillipstown.	Limited	No facilities suitable for large-scale events
Lower Styx Road	10,000	Only accessible by car, 20- minute drive from the city	Vegetation may provide barrier, no large residential zones in close proximity, aside from Spencerville and several properties	Vegetation provides protection	N/A
Queen Elizabeth II Park	10,000	Serviced by bus routes 60 and 80; 20 minute drive from central city	Management plan in place, several residential areas nearby	Possibly – depends on event space and infrastructure being used	Parking, infrastructure can be used depending on location and scale of activity
Red Zone Sector 7	5,000	Approx 13- minute drive, 20-30- minute bus ride Serviced by bus routes 7, 44, and 60 Public parking is not available onsite	Burwood nearby. Sound management plan in place	Trees can provide sun and wind protection, serving as natural barriers	N/A
Ruapuna Raceway	1,200 permanent seats, 50-60,000 across two days	Not serviced by bus, 22-minute drive from central city	There is a current noise plan in place. Nothing close by – Templeton and Islington are closest	Limited, facilities being built	Two grandstands, terraced seating, hospitality marquee sites
Sydenham Park	Unknown	7-minute drive, serviced by bus routes 1, 8, and 44.	Located in Sydenham, no noise plan identified.	Limited, trees could serve as barriers.	Nothing suitable for large scale events.

Security is another main factor considered when planning events, particularly in relation to alcohol purchasing and consumption. Hagley Park and Queen Elizabeth II Park are designated event spaces, so it is possible to implement large-scale alcohol bans. Banning alcohol outside the event area gives police the power to confiscate/take action against drinking alcohol in public spaces around the event. Being able to do this is more desirable regarding safety and security. There is generally a 24-hour limit on these bans, and rules around the ban can make it difficult to implement in other places.

The chart below displays some of the attributes of the identified venues, comparing them to one another. Sydenham Park has not been included due to its very little chance of being used for events, because of noise constraints and its location on a main road.

Venue	A&P Showground	Addington Raceway	Cathedral Square	Lancaster Park	Private Property	Red Zone	Ruapuna Raceway	QEII
Venue Capacity	10,000+	5000+	>5000	20,000+	10,000+	>5000	20,000+	10,000+
Distance from city centre (Km)	<5km	<5km	<0.1km	<0.1km	<15km	<10km	<15km	<5km
Public Transport Accessibility	Average	Good	Very good	Good	Limited	Average	Limited	Good
Protection from Elements	Average	Good	Average	Limited	Average	Limited	Limited	Good
Facilities	Average	Good	Good	Limited	Limited	Limited	Good	Good
Noise plan/control	Average	Very good	Very good	Limited	Average	Good	Good	Good

Identification of Implementation Hurdles

Hurdles to implementing events vary depending on the event venue, although there are key factors that need to be considered when making decisions. Transport and accessibility are major factors in relation to event site viability. Current and future transport plans in Christchurch will impact events in the city. There is a need to ensure a range of transport modes can be used to access events to ensure accessibility for all. Both parking for private vehicles and connected public transport services are essential. As discussed above, not all considered venues have equal levels of accessibility, thus posing barriers to successful event implementation.

Securing promoter buy-in can also be a hurdle regarding new event spaces. Hesitancy about using new event spaces due to uncertainty regarding the use of facilities and how successful an event could be, can make people reluctant to use new event spaces. Using tried and tested spaces is often more attractive, as there is less risk involved. This could be remedied by allowing promoters/organisers to choose their own ticketing options and/or to sell alcohol. Part of what makes Hagley Park so attractive is that there are limited constraints regarding these sales, thus making events held there more profitable. This is something to take into consideration when assessing potential new event spaces.

Hurdles also include the potential infrastructure development required to provide an event space suitable for use. In saying that, there is a clear need to find and use new event spaces within the city, so infrastructure development is not something that can be ignored. Despite these hurdles, there is general support from promoters, businesses, and the wider government for entertainment events in Christchurch, particularly due to the economic and social benefits events offer.

Summary and Recommendations

Based on research and the assessment of each potential venue's facilities, it can be concluded that Red Zone Sector 7 and Ruapuna Raceway are the two sites with the most potential to be used as alternatives to Hagley Park. Both spaces have positives and benefits, although it could be argued that Sector 7 provides more opportunity to develop an event space.

As summarised before, Ruapuna likely has the space required for events. Noise levels could be less of a problem than other spaces, although there are restrictions on noise past 8pm, in accordance with the District Plan. Accessibility is an issue in terms of parking and public transport access, as well as the distance from the city – posing hurdles in terms of both access and potential economic benefit. Nevertheless, development underway for the 2026 New Zealand Supercars event could help remedy these issues.

On the other hand, Sector 7 is located closer to the central city and has better public transport access. According to the District Plan, the area is zoned for a Specific Purpose (Ōtakaro Avon River Corridor), which could include transitional activities, such as entertainment activities. These would aid in improving connectivity within the local area, with social and economic benefits.^{22;23}

The noise restrictions for this area are a little unclear in the District Plan but given concert events have already been held, it could be assumed further events would be permitted.²⁴ Work does need to be done to develop the space but if achieved, Sector 7 could be a viable option for future outdoor events.

Sector 7 has more potential for future development when compared with Ruapuna. The latter is currently used for events and has other external variables regarding ownership and leasing that would need to be navigated.²⁴

Additionally, proposed Council plans for Sector 7 could result in there being three different event areas across the site, which, if combined, could host up to 25,000 people for outdoor events. While only proposed at this stage, it demonstrates the potential of Sector 7 as a valuable outdoor event space. The area also has potential for incorporating natural elements, such as trees, to create wind and sound barriers; also doubling to encourage ecosystem restoration. If the area is developed by the Council, it would mean the venue could be controlled and managed by the city, thus enabling more control over the venue through regulation and pricing. Being able to enforce certain levels of pricing for the use of the site could also result in more revenue being returned to the city for further investment.

Conclusion

There is a clear need to limit the burden of events on Hagley Park, so as not to infringe on the park's purpose but rather to ensure it will be available for all to enjoy, both in the short and long term. Looking at the potential for other event spaces is a vital way to do this, and doing so will serve to maintain the social and economic benefits of events within the city. Based on research, Red Zone Sector 7 is currently the most viable alternative event venue option to Hagley Park and should be explored further.

Ruapuna also has merits that should be considered. The use of one or both of these spaces to host outdoor events could serve to provide relief to Hagley Park by providing alternative options.

In addition to the identified spaces in this report, there are two possible new areas that could be worthy of further consideration. One includes the land under the control of Christchurch International Airport. This could be a valuable space in terms of location, if the current installation of a solar panel farm does not preclude the development of an outdoor event space. Additionally, the area around the Waimakariri gravel quarry could be considered. The use of an exhausted pit that has been converted into an outdoor entertainment venue could be valuable also, if landscaped appropriately.

Research confirms that the search for and the development of new outdoor event venues should not be delayed. Existing capacity for outdoor entertainment, especially in this growing city, is not sufficient. If Christchurch is to continue hosting a variety of events, there needs to be

²⁴ <https://www.ccc.govt.nz/assets/Documents/The-Council/Plans-Strategies-Policies-Bylaws/Plans/district-plan/Proposed-city-plan/PC52-RuapunaSection42AReportFinal.pdf>

support and involvement from both Council and the wider community. It is clear is that further work is required to assess and cement new event spaces for the city's use.

Acknowledgements

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