

Parks and Reserves Bylaw 2025

Department:	Parks and Recreation Team
Document ID:	2469193
Approved by:	Approved by Council 17 December 2025 Approved by Minister of Conservation 30 June 2026
Effective date:	1 August 2026
Next review:	30 June 2031

Relevant legislation:

This bylaw is made pursuant to Section 106 of the Reserves Act 1977 and sections 145 and 146 of the Local Government Act 2002.

The Central Otago District Council resolved on the 17 December 2025 at a duly called ordinary meeting of Council, to adopt the Parks and Reserves Bylaw 2025. Such resolution was made following the carrying out of the Special Consultative Procedure and other procedural requirements of the Local Government Act 2002.

The bylaw came into force on 1 August 2026.

The **COMMON SEAL** of the **Central Otago District Council** was hereunto fixed in the presence of:



Mayor



Chief Executive



Part 1: Provisions

1. Title

This bylaw is the Parks and Reserves Bylaw 2025.

2. Commencement

This bylaw comes into force on 1 August 2026

3. Application

This bylaw applies to all Parks and Reserves under the control, management or ownership of the Central Otago District Council.

4. Purpose

The purpose of this bylaw is to regulate the use of Parks and Reserves under the control, management or ownership of the Central Otago District Council, to ensure the public can utilise these spaces free from nuisances and offensive behaviour, while also protecting these Parks and Reserves.

5. Interpretation

(1) In this bylaw, unless the context otherwise requires:

Aircraft	means any man-made device capable of powered or unpowered flight, including, but not limited to aeroplanes, helicopters, gliders, hang-gliders, light weight drones or Remotely Piloted Aircraft Systems (RPAS), hot air balloons and radio-controlled model aircraft; but does not include kites and balloons which are controlled from the ground via strings.
Animal	means any mammal, bird, reptile, amphibian, fish or related organism, insect, crustacean, or organism of every kind but does not include a human being.
Approval	means an approval granted under this bylaw and includes all conditions to which the approval is subject.

Organised Sport or Recreational Activity	means any pre-arranged or scheduled activity involving a group, club, school, or organisation (for example, team trainings, competitions, or booked classes) but does not include casual or spontaneous use by individuals or informal groups.
Commercial Activity	means an activity involving trade, commerce, or any activity relating to the supply or acquisition of goods or services.
Council	means the Central Otago District Council.
Dangerous Weapon	includes a bow and arrow, firearm, catapult, sword or shanghai.
Drone	means any unmanned flying machine that can derive support in the atmosphere from the reactions of the air otherwise than by the reactions of the air against the surface of the earth.
Enforcement Officer	(a) means an enforcement officer appointed by the Council under the Local Government Act 2002 or any person appointed or deemed to be a ranger under the Reserves Act 1977. (b) includes any police employee of any level of position within the New Zealand Police who holds office as a constable under the Policing Act 2008 or any legislation in substitution therefor.
Park or Reserve	(a) means any estate in land which is vested in or administered by the Council under the provisions of the Reserves Act 1977; or (b) Any other park, domain, or greenspace area owned or controlled by the Council But does not include any estate in land, park, domain, or greenspace area which is subject to a lease granted by the Council under the Local Government Act 2002, or the Reserves Act 1977.
Person	includes a corporation sole, a body corporate and an incorporated body.

Sign	includes a notice, label, inscription, billboard, plaque or placard.
Vehicle	means a man-made device for land transport, including but not limited to a car, truck, motorbike, bicycle and heavy machinery but does not include prams, strollers, wheelchairs or other mobility scooters used by persons with physical or neurological impairment.

- (2) Legislation referred to in this bylaw shall be taken to refer to and include any legislation that is in the future passed in replacement or substitution, therefore.
- (3) A word or an expression used in this bylaw has the same meaning as it has in the Reserves Act 1977 unless the context requires otherwise.
- (4) Words in the singular include the plural, and words in the plural includes the singular.

Part 2: Substantive provisions

6. Entry and access to Parks and Reserves

- (1) No person shall enter or leave a Park or Reserve except through the gateways entrances or exits provided for those purposes.
- (2) No person shall enter or remain in a Park or Reserve or part of a Park or Reserve when that Park or Reserve, or part thereof is closed to the public unless Council has provided its prior written permission.
- (3) Where a Park or Reserve, or part of a Park or Reserve, is being used with the permission of Council for a function or event to which an admission fee is charged, no person shall enter or attempt to enter the Park or Reserve or part thereof without first paying the admission fee charged for that function or event in full.
- (4) Where a Park or Reserve, or part of a Park or Reserve, is being used with the permission of Council for a private function or event, no person shall enter or attempt to enter the Park or Reserve or part thereof without first obtaining the consent of the organiser of the function or event.

7. Obstructing access to a Park or Reserve

No person shall without the prior written permission of Council:

- (a) Obstruct the entrances or exits to a Park or Reserve; or
- (b) Place or leave any object or thing in a Park or Reserve that obstructs access to that Park or Reserve.

8. Assemblies and events

- (1) No person shall hold, or conduct, or attempt to hold or conduct, any public meeting, fair, gathering, demonstration, or any similar event, or make any public address, in any Park or Reserve except with the prior written permission of Council, and subject to any conditions or restrictions that Council may require at its discretion.
- (2) A copy of Council's prior written permission referred to in subclause 8 (1) above must be available for viewing by Council or an Enforcement Officer upon request during the period that an assembly or event in subclause 8 (1) is undertaken on a Park or Reserve.

9. Amusement devices

No person shall use an amusement device as defined in section 21A of the Machinery Act 1950 on a Park or Reserve without first complying with each and every obligation duty and responsibility in the Amusement Devices Regulations 1978 with respect to that amusement device.

10. Sport and recreational facilities

No person shall use a sports field, court or recreational facility in a Park or Reserve for organised sport or recreational activity without the prior written permission of Council.

11. Placing Vehicles etc. in a Park or Reserve

- (1) No person shall without the prior written permission of Council - park, store or otherwise place a vehicle, trailer, caravan, boat, kayak or other chattel or thing of like nature in a Park or Reserve other than in areas set aside for such purposes.
- (2) Subject to 11(1) any person that parks, stores or otherwise places a vehicle trailer caravan boat kayak or other chattel or thing of like nature in a Park or Reserve shall obey all signs and notices displayed in or nearby the Park or Reserve.

- (3) No person shall without the prior written permission of Council carry out any repairs or maintenance to a vehicle, trailer, caravan, boat, kayak or other chattel or thing of like nature in a Park or Reserve unless:

- (a) That person holds a current resource consent to undertake the repairs or maintenance;
- (b) A vehicle, trailer, caravan, boat, kayak or other chattel or thing of like nature has broken down within a Park or Reserve and repairs or maintenance are necessary for removal from the Park or Reserve of said vehicle, boat, or trailer from the Park or Reserve.

A vehicle, trailer, caravan, boat, kayak or other chattel or thing of like nature may only remain in a Park or Reserve for a reasonable period for the repairs or maintenance to occur and must immediately be removed from the Park or Reserve if requested by Council.

- (4) No person shall park a vehicle, trailer, caravan, boat, kayak or other chattel or thing of like nature on a Park or Reserve for the purposes of selling that chattel or thing.

12. Operation of Vehicles etc.

- (1) No person shall drive a vehicle on a Park or Reserve except on that part of the Park or Reserve set aside by Council for vehicle traffic excepting that this shall not apply to Council employees or contractors or to emergency services.
- (2) Part of a Park or Reserve shall be deemed set aside by Council for vehicle traffic if there is a formed vehicle carriageway or track or if a sign or notice located on or nearby the Park or Reserve authorise vehicle traffic thereon.
- (3) No person shall drive or operate a vehicle in a Park or Reserve in breach of a speed limit or other restriction shown or indicated on a sign or notice located on or nearby the Park or Reserve excepting that this shall not apply to Council employees or contractors or to emergency services.
- (4) Unless a sign or notice states or indicates otherwise, no person shall operate a vehicle at a speed greater than 15 kilometres an hour in a Park or Reserve excepting that this shall not apply to Council employees or contractors or to emergency services.
- (5) No person shall drive or operate a vehicle on a Park or Reserve in contravention of the prohibitions against reckless or dangerous driving in section 7 of the Land Transport Act 1998.

- (6) No person shall drive or operate a Vehicle on a Park or Reserve in contravention of the prohibitions against careless or inconsiderate driving in section 8 of the Land Transport Act 1998.

13. Parking

- (1) No person shall park a vehicle in a Park or Reserve otherwise than in an area set aside for such purpose.
- (2) No person shall stop a vehicle or leave a bicycle in a Park or Reserve so as to obstruct an entrance to or a carriageway or track on the Park or Reserve.
- (3) Without limiting the scope and effect of this clause, a vehicle or bicycle shall be deemed to obstruct an entrance to or carriageway or track on a Park or Reserve, when the vehicle or bicycle shall have been left unattended in the entrance or on the carriageway or track for a continuous period of 30 minutes or more.

14. Notices and bills

- (1) No person shall without the prior written permission of Council:
- (a) Post or erect a placard bill poster notice or similar item in a Park or Reserve; or
 - (b) Interfere with a placard bill poster notice or similar item that has been lawfully posted or erected in a Park or Reserve.
- (2) A person who is distributing a notice or handbill in the reserve must stop doing so if directed to stop by an Enforcement Officer.

15. Behaviour in a Park or Reserve

- (1) No person shall obstruct disturb or in any way interfere with any other person's use or enjoyment of a Park or Reserve.
- (2) No person shall intimidate, endanger or cause a nuisance to any other person in his or her use or enjoyment of a Park or Reserve.
- (3) No person shall let off fireworks in a Park or Reserve without Council's prior written permission.

- (4) No person shall light a fire in a Park or Reserve without Council's prior written permission.
- (5) Consumption of alcohol in a Park or Reserve is subject to both the Sale and Supply of Alcohol Act 2012 and Councils Alcohol Restriction in Public Places Bylaw 2025.
- (6) No person shall erect any tent, marquee, stall or similar temporary structure (excluding casual shade tents) in a Park or Reserve without Council's prior written permission.
- (7) No person shall undertake or cause to be undertaken any behaviour or activity that causes damage to a Park or Reserve or to any Council property located in or nearby a Park or Reserve.

16. Dangerous weapons

No person shall carry or use a dangerous weapon on a Park or Reserve without the prior written permission of the Council.

17. Dogs

- (1) No person shall bring a dog on to a Park or Reserve or allow a dog under his or her custody or control to remain on a Park or Reserve unless it is under effective control subject to any restrictions or prohibitions specified by Council's Dog Management Policy or Dog Bylaw.
- (2) A person on a Park or Reserve with a dog must comply with any sign or notice concerning the control of dogs.

18. Animals other than dogs

- (1) No person shall take an Animal that is not a dog on to any part of a Park or Reserve other than that part of a Park or Reserve set aside by Council for vehicle traffic.
- (2) Any person who takes an Animal that is not a dog on to a Park or Reserve must keep the animal in his or her custody and control at all times so as to prevent the animal from creating or causing a public nuisance or a risk to public health and safety.
- (3) A person on a Park or Reserve with an Animal that is not a dog must comply with any sign or notice concerning the control of that animal.

19. Litter

- (1) A person on a Park or Reserve must:

- (a) Take all litter out of the Park or Reserve when he or she leaves; or
- (b) Place all litter in a place or receptacle provided for that purpose by Council.

20. Commercial Activity

- (1) No person shall undertake a Commercial Activity on a Park or Reserve without first obtaining Council's written permission and all regulatory matters and steps required by law.
- (2) Any person that undertakes a Commercial Activity on a Park or Reserve must have a copy of Council's written permission in subclause (1) available for inspection by Council or an Enforcement Officer at all times while the Commercial Activity is undertaken.

21. Encroachments

No person shall permit or allow any building object, fence or thing to encroach on to a Park or Reserve without first obtaining Council's written permission.

22. Trees and Vegetation

- (1) No person shall remove, damage, prune, poison or cut any tree, plant, vegetation or seed in a Park or Reserve without first obtaining the Council's written permission.
- (2) No person shall remove, damage or disturb any soil, dirt, turf, gravel, sand or other natural matter from a Park or Reserve without first obtaining Council's written permission.
- (3) No person shall plant or introduce any plant, tree, shrub, seed or plant matter of any kind to a Park or Reserve without first obtaining Council's written permission.
- (4) No person shall wilfully disturb harm or pollute any watercourse pond, or other water feature within a Park or Reserve.

23. Drones and Aircraft

- (1) Any person may fly a Drone over a Park or Reserve but must in so doing not breach or fail to comply with:
 - (a) Relevant New Zealand Civil Aviation Authority rules; and

- (b) The Drone flight restrictions set out on the Council's website from time to time.
- (2) No person may without first obtaining Council's written permission and paying any applicable fee:
 - (a) Land an Aircraft on a Park or Reserve or take off in an Aircraft from a Park or Reserve;
or
 - (b) Use an Aircraft to set down pick up or recover anything in a Park or Reserve; or
 - (c) Parachute into a Park or Reserve.
- (3) Nothing in subclause 19.2 prevents an Aircraft from being used on or over a Park or Reserve in an emergency.
- (4) Nothing in this clause applies with respect to either the Alexandra Aerodrome, the Cromwell Racecourse Aerodrome or the Roxburgh Aerodrome.

24. Requirement to leave a Park or Reserve

- (1) Any person that contravenes or breaches this bylaw shall upon request by an Enforcement Officer immediately leave the Park or Reserve for such period as the Enforcement Officer considers reasonable in the circumstances.

25. Residing or camping on a Park or Reserve

- (1) No person shall reside on a Park or Reserve in any circumstances.
- (2) No person shall camp on a Park or Reserve unless:
 - (a) A person camps in a place or location set aside by Council for the purpose of camping;
 - (b) A person has paid any applicable camping fee;.
 - (c) A person camps in a manner that is consistent with the provisions of the Freedom Camping Act 2011.
 - (d) Camping is permitted by a Reserve Management Plan prepared in accordance with section 41 Reserves Act 1977.

26. Offences

Any person who does not comply with any requirement in or under these bylaws commits an offence under the Reserves Act 1977 and is liable to the penalty specified in the Reserves (Infringement Offences) Regulations 2019.

Part 3: Permissions and approvals

- (1) If a person wishes to obtain Council's written permission to an activity on a Park or Reserve in accordance with this bylaw that person must:
 - (a) Apply in writing to Council for the permission which may include use of an applicable application form for that permission.
 - (b) Provide the information required or requested by Council; and
 - (c) If applicable pay the fee set for that permission in the Council fees and charges policy published from time to time on its website.
- (2) Council may grant or refuse to grant the requested permission at its discretion.
- (3) The permission from Council will be in written form and may include a lease, licence, order, permit letter or other written document.
- (4) The permission may be granted on such terms and conditions as Council considers appropriate at its discretion.
- (5) The permission may be granted for a fixed term after which it will expire.
- (6) Council may revoke any permission if in its reasonable view any terms and conditions thereof either have not or will not be complied with.
- (7) Council may at any time revoke any permission if the circumstances in and under which the permission was granted have materially changed in the time since the permission was granted.

Part 4: Enforcement

27. Removal or alteration of a work or thing

The Council may under section 163 of the Local Government Act 2002, remove or alter a work or thing that is or has been constructed in breach or contravention of this bylaw, and may

recover the costs of the removal or alteration from the person who committed the breach or contravention.

28. Offences

Every person who fails to comply with the requirements of this bylaw or breaches this bylaw commits an offence under the Local Government Act 2002 and / or the Reserves Act 1977 and is liable to the penalties set out in those Acts, including the Reserves (Infringement Offences) Regulations 2019.

29. Applications approvals in force as at commencement of this bylaw

Any Council permission or approval in respect of a Park or Reserve that is current at the commencement of this bylaw shall constitute a permission or approval granted by Council under this bylaw.