



**PRESS RELEASE: FOR IMMEDIATE USE**

**April 18, 2008**

## **Comment sought on Ivon Wilson plan**

Public comment is sought on the Ivon Wilson Park Draft Management Plan, released by the Southland District Council.

Council Reserves Officer Leighton Hare said the plan is a revised version of a draft Management Plan prepared in 1985 by the then Lands and Survey Department which was responsible for the park.

“This draft plan has served its purpose well and should continue to form the basis of the revised plan,” Mr Hare said.

“I’d like to keep the continuity of what’s been happening in the past going through to the future,” he said.

Ivon Wilson Park is on the outskirts of Te Anau on the Te Anau-Manapouri Highway. The first plantings in the park began in 1958 by Automobile Association (Southland) members, including Ivon Wilson.

The park was transferred back to the Crown in 1968 and in 1999 the Department of Conservation requested Council take over the management of it. In 2007 it was vested in Council.

The focal point of the park is Lake Henry and its surrounding bog vegetation.

“It really is the gem in our crown,” Mr Hare said.

The plan states four key management objectives – to promote and facilitate use of the park, to enhance and maintain the scenic values and attractions of the park, to maintain Lake Henry and surrounding bog in its natural state and to foster public appreciation of the park.

Mayor Frana Cardno said she had received many positive comments about the park and its improvements.

Mr Hare was doing a fantastic job looking after the park, she said.

ENDS

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