

# Te Papa Ōtākaro / Avon River Precinct

## The Promenade Fact Sheet *Spring 2016*

### WHAT

A new city waterfront is being created along the Ōtākaro / Avon River in the central city. The Promenade will transform the city side of the river with a new shared-space streetscape, paved areas, art, gardens, lighting and seating.

### WHERE

Work will occur between the Antigua Boatsheds near Christchurch Hospital, and the Margaret Mahy Family Playground – Tākaro ā Poi, on the corner of Manchester and Armagh Streets.

### WHY

The 'Share an Idea' public consultation process highlighted the importance of the Ōtākaro/Avon River to the people of Christchurch. The Central Christchurch Recovery Plan identified the Ōtākaro/Avon River Precinct as a significant

Anchor Project that will improve people's connections with the river.

### HOW

Ōtākaro Limited is managing the projects that make up the Te Papa Ōtākaro/Avon River Precinct.

### WHEN

Work is expected to begin in summer 2016/17 and will take place in stages.

### WHO ELSE IS INVOLVED

Christchurch City Council and Matapopore Charitable Trust are key partners in the project.

### KEY FEATURES

- High quality shared space paths will make it easier for people to access and enjoy the beautiful river surrounds that are a key part of Christchurch's identity and character.
- The area will be more accessible, making it appealing and safer for people of all physical abilities and ages.
- More trees, gardens and landscaping, better lighting and more places to sit will encourage people to spend more time near the river and places nearby.
- The changes maintain or enhance existing features like bridges. They will build on the 'park like' qualities and recreational uses of the river and nearby areas.
- Art pieces create interest and bring together Ngāi Tahu and European values and stories of the river.
- More sustainable practices, such as the use of 'rain gardens,' will help to look after the health of the river.
- The shared-space promenade will retain access for service vehicles and business customers, but will be a slower speed to make the river precinct more tranquil and people-focused.



Artist impression showing what The Promenade will look like along Oxford Terrace, above the Canterbury Earthquake National Memorial.

# Map of the Te Papa Ōtākaro / Avon River Precinct

The transformation of the Avon River Precinct is already visible. When all of the parts are finished the area is likely to be one of the central city's key attractions. People will be able to walk or cycle, or sit or gather together on the edges of the river throughout the entire length of the river precinct. The Promenade connects the Antigua Boatsheds to the Margaret Mahy Family Playground.

## WHAT ELSE MAKES UP THE ŌTĀKARO / AVON RIVER PRECINCT?

A lot of work has already been done to enhance accessibility for people to the Ōtākaro / Avon River.



### 1 WATERMARK

Watermark was the first improvement to the riverside landscape (2013), near the Antigua Boatsheds. There is now improved seating, new boardwalks along the edge of the river, street 'furniture' and better lighting.



### 2 CANTERBURY EARTHQUAKE NATIONAL MEMORIAL

The Canterbury Earthquake National Memorial, although a separate project, is another significant feature along the river. Work on the project will be finished by February 2017.



### 3 TRIUMPHAL ARCH & BRIDGE OF REMEMBRANCE

Strengthening work on the Triumphal Arch and the Bridge of Remembrance was finished in 2015.



### 4 THE TERRACES

The Terraces opened in June 2016 and will help to create a connection between the river and the nearby businesses.



### 5 WORCESTER EAST TERRACE

The Worcester East Terrace and punt stop opened in September 2016.



### 6 VICTORIA SQUARE

Victoria Square is being restored to make it safer and more accessible, with work to begin in summer 2016/2017.



*The Te Papa Ōtākaro / Avon River Precinct and The Promenade are all about people.*



**7 MARGARET MAHY FAMILY PLAYGROUND**

The Margaret Mahy Family Playground is proving popular with local people and visitors. Opened in 2015 it is one of the largest playgrounds in the Southern Hemisphere.



**8 AVON LOOP**

The Avon Loop will be the final section, improving access to the riverside. The proposed design will embrace the changes to the area from the earthquakes (for example slumped banks) and include a corridor of indigenous plants to create a natural habitat.



**RIVER HABITAT RESTORATION**

Work was done in 2014 to restore the habitat of the river, including removal of 10,000 tonnes of silt. Fish are thriving, the water is flowing faster and the riverbed is cleaner.

# The Promenade



The width of The Promenade will vary along its 2.8 kilometre length, but all areas will include:

1. An accessible walking route adjacent to property boundaries.
2. Seating near the edge of the river.
3. A paved pathway for pedestrians near the river edge.
4. A shared space promenade for pedestrians, cyclists and vehicles (10kph speed limit).
5. A flexible occupation zone that can be brought to life for outdoor eating and other recreational uses.
6. Tree-lined rain gardens, other landscaping and 'street furniture.'



Examples of the paving that will be used.

## SURFACES

- Paving for The Promenade will bring to life a story of 'River meets city.' Light grey flagstones representing the river stone (greywacke) will merge with dark grey flagstones, representing the building material of the city (basalt from the Port Hills).
- There will also be grassed areas for sitting, relaxing and recreation.

## GARDENS AND PLANTS

- A mix of native and exotic plantings will contribute to Christchurch's identity as a garden city.
- Feature trees will include kowhai trees and *Acer rubrum* (Red maple).
- Other plantings will be chosen for colour and fragrance.
- Rain gardens will improve stormwater management, contributing to a healthier river.

## STREET FURNITURE

- Over 120 new seats and benches installed as part of the Ōtākaro / Avon River Precinct will be arranged to encourage friends and whanau to spend more time in the area.
- New street lights and feature lighting will help to enhance the safety and usability of the area.
- New bicycle racks throughout the precinct will make it easier for cyclists to enjoy the area.



Street furniture installed near the Bridge of Remembrance. The seats are designed to bring to mind a waka.

*Ōtākaro / Avon River Precinct will be a destination that encourages people to spend time near the river and places close to the river. It will connect with the public areas of the East and the South Frames, to create a people-friendly, accessible, greener corridor around the core of the city.*



Maumahara – Remembering our fallen in battle.

## EMBRACING CULTURAL VALUES

Artworks and words will highlight Ngāi Tahu and European stories along The Promenade.

### LITERARY TRAIL

A Literary Trail is being installed along the length of Ōtākaro/Avon River Precinct's promenade. Panels will display quotes and pepeha (how to introduce yourself in Maori) by prominent New Zealand poets and writers Apirana Taylor, John Deans, Wiremu Te Uki and David Eggleton.

All 15 of the Literary Trail panels will be located at sites relevant to their texts, for example, poems which refer to particular locations will appear in their vicinity and Ngāi Tahu texts will appear at culturally significant sites. Examples of this can already be seen at The Terraces.

## WHARIKI MANAAKI

13 paved Whariki Manaaki (woven mats of welcome) are being installed along the river. In sequence, they reference the pōwhiri process of welcome and support the guiding principle of the rebuild of Christchurch for Ngāi Tahu, 'Kia atawhai ki te iwi,' Care for your people. The Whāriki are designed by expert weavers Reihana Parata, (*Queen's Service Medal*), and Morehu Flutey-Henare, (*Master of Applied Indigenous Knowledge*), with technical support from Wayne Youle, (*Bachelor of Design*). The Whāriki pictured is already in place near the Bridge of Remembrance. It is called **Maumahara – Remembering our fallen in battle.**

## CONSTRUCTION

The central city is a hive of construction activity. The work will happen in stages and may be underway in a number of locations at any one time.

Scheduling work in the central city is a complex task which needs to consider impacts on stakeholders and traffic, the availability of specialist work crews, and nearby project and services coordination.

- Where possible, work for the Avon River Precinct will be coordinated with other work nearby.
- Safety is our number one priority. Please stay clear and stay alert.
- Constructing this project will involve increased noise, dust and vibration.
- All works are subject to favourable weather and on-site construction conditions.

## OTHER NEARBY CROWN-LED ANCHOR PROJECTS

Project	Status*
Christchurch Convention Centre Precinct	Main construction is planned to begin in mid-2017 and finish in late-2019.
Canterbury Earthquake National Memorial	Work is on track to finish in time for the February 2017 anniversary.
Victoria Square restoration	Work begins in summer 2016 /2017 and is planned to finish in 2017.
East Frame	Work begins on the public spaces in spring 2016 and on the residential lots in late 2016 / early 2017.
An Accessible City (Manchester Street)	Work began in mid-2016 and finishes in 2017.

\*Based on the best information available at the time of production.

Find out more about the projects that Ōtakaro is delivering at [www.otakaroltd.co.nz](http://www.otakaroltd.co.nz)

## CONTACT DETAILS

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The boardwalk at the Watermark (left) and the Worcester East Terrace (right).