

Public Drinking Fountain Design Guidelines

Last updated: 16 July 2025

Review Date: 16 July 2026 (annually, or on needs basis)

Responsible Officer: Parks Officer

Drinking fountains on Reserve Land

QLDC aims to balance the benefits of providing public drinking fountains with the long-term costs of maintenance and replacement. Historically drinking fountains have been chosen subjectively based on aesthetic personal preference of a designer, project manager, developer or QLDC Parks Officer. This has resulted in a variety of drinking fountains across the district, with varying cleaning requirements, frost tolerances etc. This inconsistency leads to varying levels of service for the public and challenges for maintenance servicing.

Purpose of the guidelines

The purpose of the guidelines is to provide a structured decision-making process to help select appropriate drinking fountains and their locations. This process encourages dialogue between designers and QLDC Parks Officers to prevent decisions being made in isolation, such as ensuring consultation with the QLDC Service Teams that will be responsible for long-term maintenance of the asset.

Aiming for consistency across the district

Sometimes choosing assets based only on aesthetics, price, and availability results in problems downstream as there are other long-term elements to consider. For instance, fountains with open bowls may look nice but can create maintenance and cleaning issues e.g. campers using them to clean their dishes, collecting leaf litter. In addition, some fountains are competitively priced, but parts may be expensive and hard to source.

Existing suitable example:



Marine Parade

Guidelines and design checklist

The following criteria have been developed as a guide to help with choosing public drinking fountains in the Queenstown Lakes District.

SITING AND LOCATION
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Located at logical resting spot • No other existing drinking fountains in close proximity (unless demand requires) • Vehicle access for regular servicing and maintenance • Available connection to a power source • Potential to co-locate with other amenities and structures e.g. toilets and picnic tables • Sited to reduce exposure to high levels of wind, frost and sun • Sited to reduce gathering leaf material and debris
SAFETY
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • People can move easily near and around the drinking fountain • Free from sharp edges
MAINTENANCE
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water source is accessible for plumbing • Ability to be winterised if required (<i>nominated fountains are turned off June-August every year to protect the asset from freezing – achieved by isolating the water feed to each individual fountain</i>) • Wiring is insulated (<i>requirement for the district</i>)

- Where water source is impacted, local hazards e.g. ‘Lake Snot’ at the Wanaka Lakefront, the effect on the filter and any potential future costs have been considered
- Trap is functional, easily cleaned, will not create a trip or frozen puddle hazard
- Grates are easy to clean and leaf material/debris will not collect
- Consider if a soak pit area is required and practicality/maintenance
- Consider if a dog bowl is required and associated costs/maintenance (not recommended)
- Consider if a bottle filler will be included (highly recommended)

ACCESSIBILITY

- The water fountain can be accessed by all user abilities and is wheelchair friendly
- Consider if fountain will be primarily used by children

MATERIALS AND AESTHETICS

- Durable materials that weather with time and are easy to maintain and replace
- High quality stainless steel (not too shiny)
- Materials and colours are sympathetic to the local landscape, cultural heritage and reserve character
- In context of other structures within the vicinity
- Potential for vandal deterrent coating treatments and minimal surface area for vandals to paint or place stickers

MANUFACTURER

- New Zealand or Australian designed and made e.g. meet AUSNZ Standards
(Other manufacturers may be considered if they meet all other guideline criteria and there is sound justification, such as economies of scale when purchasing)

PARTS AND SUSTAINABILITY

- Parts are manufactured in New Zealand or Australia and easy to source
- Filter type is easily maintained, and parts can be sourced easily
- Model is planned for future manufacturing and not being discontinued
- Footprint of fountain is minimal