# Ngā wāhanga ātea me ngā aronga whakarato Open space categories and provision targets

Absolutely Positively **Wellington** City Council

Me Heke Ki Pōneke



# **Open space categories**

#### **Overview**

Open space categories are the building blocks of the open space network. Detailing these categories helps us understand and plan for a range of opportunities across Wellington's open space network, in both greenfield and currently developed areas.

The categories are determined by purpose (what the park is used for), variation in character (what the park looks like), and level of service (standard of development and maintenance) and are based on Recreation Aotearoa's guidelines (2017), with some changes for relevance to Wellington. They only apply to land that is owned or managed by the Council.



## **Destination Park**

Destination parks offer a unique experience that attract a large numbers of visitors from all over the Wellington region. They are typically high-profile landmark parks that are special and much-loved.

Examples: Wellington Botanic Garden ki Paekaka, Zealandia, Wellington Waterfront (including Waitangi Park, Frank Kitts Park) Mākara Peak Mountain Bike Park, Basin Reserve.



# **Neighbourhood Parks**

Multi-use parks that are often used within a neighbourhood. They provide a mix of informal and formal recreation experiences, from picnicking, playing and relaxing, to organised sporting activities. They can include various types of park infrastructure such as sports fields, play areas, or community gardens.

Examples: Karori Park, Carrara Park, Macalister Park.



## **Urban Public Spaces**

Open spaces in Wellington's CBD, suburban centres and associated areas of intensified development that provide for socialising, play, events, relaxation, and enjoyment. Include squares, plazas, and greens.

Examples: Midland Park, Te Aro Park, Constable Street Play Area.





### **Liveable Streets**

Well-designed streetscapes offer important 'open space' to communities. Particularly essential in high density areas where open space is at a premium. They can provide essential areas of public life- strolling, sitting, eating, dancing, listening to music, people-watching, exercise, and markets.

Examples: Cuba Mall, Victoria Street, Swan Lane.



### **Nature Areas**

Relatively undeveloped areas where the natural environment dominates. These spaces are managed for the protection and restoration of our indigenous ecosystem and for walking and biking recreation opportunities. Most of our 387km track network is situated within nature areas.

Examples: Waimapihi, Te Ahumairangi, Matairangi.



## **Coastal Areas**

Beaches, rocky shores, and adjacent public open space on the south coast and around the harbour.

Examples: Oriental Bay, Lyall Bay.



# Linkages

Little parks, spaces or corridors that cater for active transport connections but are not streetscapes. They are often small with little development other than a footpath and/or steps and some natural elements.

Examples: Small park between Salamanca Road and the Terrace, Leonie Gill Walkway.



# Cemeteries/Urupā

Open spaces in Wellington which are used for burials and interments. These are recognised as places of guardianship and remembrance where we support our bereaved, treasure our heritage and experience peace and tranquillity.

Examples: Mākara Cemetery, Karori Cemetery.

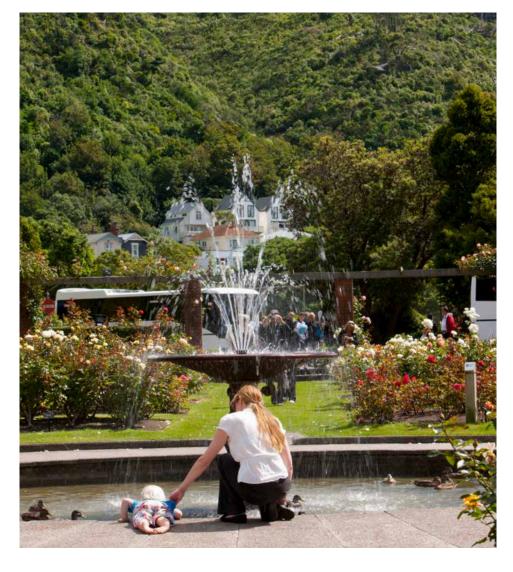


# **Provision targets**

The open space categories include provision targets. Provision targets help us to prioritise our investment and look for opportunities to optimise value for money while achieving good community outcomes. The provision targets have been developed from international evidence, national guidelines, and community expectations, about what creates a liveable city and what defines a quality park. They are consistent with the vision, values and outcomes of Te Whai Oranga Pōneke the Open Space and Recreation Strategy.

The categories and targets are guidelines. In reality, park provision, park design and amenities will vary depending on site context and the availability of resources.

It is recognised that our existing urban form is not easily changed to accommodate changing open space needs. It is also true that most parks are inherently multi-use spaces that provide for a range of uses and values and because of this no parks category system will be strictly prescribed. The categories and provision targets are useful for setting a 30-year ideal vision for the form, function and direction of park and recreation space in Wellington. The targets are ambitious but need to be if we are to plan adequately for growth and do urban density well.



## **Development contributions**

The open space categories include development contribution catchment areas.

As the population grows so too does demand on the Council's assets and services, including our open spaces. To meet that demand, significant investment in new or upgraded assets and services is required.

Development contribution fees are charged on new urban development projects so that a fair proportion of the infrastructure cost is funded by development.

Under the Local Government Act, the Council can use development contributions to fund new reserves and upgrade existing reserves to accommodate growth and to mitigate the effects of development on natural and physical resources. Under the Council's Development Contributions Policy, fees can be charged for specific catchment areas, at the city wide, ward or suburb levels, depending on who benefits from the project. The table below identifies the development catchments which will apply to each of the Open Space Categories identified in this strategy.



#### **Development contributions catchment areas**



# **Management grades**

The open space categories include management grades that relate to the expected quality of a park's development and maintenance, based on levels and types of use, and the character of the environment. Management grades can help manage community expectations about the level of service and manage the affordability of work that is needed on our open space network. The highest grade is likely to be expensive and the average level of service to be more affordable. The table below defines each management grade.

Asset management plans will interpret these grades into service level indicators for the operation and maintenance of open spaces and facilities e.g., the frequency of cleaning, mowing, or weeding.

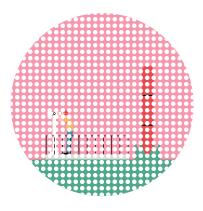
#### Open space management grades

Management grade	Level of Use	Description
1	High	Highest level of asset provision, using quality materials and bespoke designs. Maintenance is at the highest standards, with quick response times and frequent operations.
2	Medium	Moderate level of asset provision, using robust materials and simple designs. Maintenance is to good standards, with medium response times and moderately frequent operations.
3	Standard	Lowest level of asset provision, using robust materials and simple designs. Maintenance is to the lowest acceptable standard, with longer response times and fewer programmed operations.



# **Categories**

## **Destination Parks**



#### The role of a destination park is to:

- Support cultural vibrancy, visitor attractions and public events.
- Support high profile sporting activities.
- Support local economies by attracting both residents and tourists to Wellington and the immediate area.
- Provide educational and cultural opportunities.

- Large events space.
- High quality play areas.
- Distinct natural, heritage or cultural elements.
- Tourist destination.
- Well-connected and very accessible by multiple modes of transport and on foot.
- Nationally important sporting venues as identified by 'Nuku Ora's Spaces and Places Framework'.

All Destination Parks	
<ol> <li>Fully inclusive environments to our broad Wellington community, including ensuring universal design principles are considered to optimise participation for all the activities offered at a destination park.</li> </ol>	
2. Accessible public toilets are provided.	
3. Accessible through multi-modal transport options, including public transport, and the availability of mobility car parks.	
4. Extensive historic and cultural references to the whakapapa of place should be included through design artworks and interpretation. Opportunities to learn about the place will be included.	
Grade 1	
New destination park investment that is driven by growth can be supported by city-wide development contributions as they provide city wide benefits.	
May contribute to recreation or social provision target statistics described under neighbourhood parks, where destination parks are used as neighbourhood parks. E.g., Waitangi Park for city centre residents and parts of the Wellington Botanic Gardens for Kelburn and Thorndon residents.	

# **Neighbourhood Parks**



# The role of a neighbourhood park is to:

- Provide active and passive recreation opportunities that support physical and mental health.
- Support community resilience and social connections.
- Bring green space into built areas, with associated ecosystem services.
- Improve visual amenity of residential neighbourhoods.
- Provide opportunities for people to connect with nature close to home.

- Play-areas, skate parks, sports fields, dog exercise areas, kick-around areas, paths, seating, rubbish bins.
- Areas for socialising and relaxation.
- In some bigger parks, there can be space for events, community facilities and markets.
- Amenity planting: trees, gardens, and grass.
- Buildings such as toilets, community centres, changing rooms or clubrooms.

Tier	Community Park	Local Park	Amenity Area
Features	Larger multi-use park supporting a range of recreational uses. People may travel several kilometres to use, so supports the wider community. Often include pockets of nature.	Smaller neighbourhood parks within walking distance of residents' homes. Often include pockets of nature, a single sports field or play area. Often include flat or gently undulating grassed areas for play.	Small areas that can provide 'door-step' access to green amenity and socialising spaces. Often include a grassed area and can include a seat and a few trees or shrubs.
Approximate	>20,000m²	~ 2,000m² - 5,000m²	<1,000m²
size	New community parks are typically between 30,000m <sup>2</sup> to 50,000m <sup>2</sup> and larger if providing organised sports use – up to 10 hectares.	Many existing neighbourhood parks are smaller but this size allows for more activities.	Particularly useful in high density residential areas where land is hard to come by and private outdoor space is minimal.
Provision targets - distribution	Everyone can walk 10-minutes from their (including local or community neighbourh     High Intensification areas¹:     Everyone can walk 5-minutes from their h (including local or community neighbourh	nood park or urban park) ome to a recreation or social open space	As required for amenity for seating/ lunchtime/timeout areas.
	3. Recreation opportunities: Evenly distribute across the open space no	etwork park elements, such as community and play spaces, to provide a range of different	

Ngā wāhanga ātea me ngā aronga whakarato Open space categories and provision targets



Tier	Community Park	Local Park	Amenity Area
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# Provision targets- quality

- Principles of crime prevention through environmental design should be applied.
   Including encouraging passive surveillance or "eyes on the park" approach from neighbours by using boundary fencing that is visually permeable and unobstructed and ensuring there is visibility and that sightlines are clear within a park.
- 2. Wide street frontage should be included, with at least one full road frontage (for safety and ambience) and ideally more than one road frontage (for choice of access).
- Entrances to parks should be attractive and inviting. They should be identifiable, legible, and well maintained.
- 4. Walking paths and cycle ways should be connected to parks. with multiple entrance points and connections to link with the surrounding neighbourhood.
- 5. Toilets and change facilities should be available in/ or accessible to(<300m) a community neighbourhood park (Toilets should be consistent with standard 4241:1999.)
- 6. Connection to bus transport networks and the provision of mobility car parking should be available in community neighbourhood parks.
- 7. Universal design principles should be applied to ensure spaces are accessible to everyone.
- 8. Land should be used efficiently by creating open spaces of a regular shape and relatively equal proportion. Avoid overly elongated, narrow, or irregular shapes with dead ends.
- 9. Historic and cultural references to the whakapapa of place should be included through design artworks and interpretation.
- Parks should incorporate trees and opportunities for people to connect and play with nature.
- 11. Community Parks should be multi-functional and provide for a variety of uses. When renewing local and community parks, activate the 'power of ten²' multi-use principle to get more use out of them.
- 12. They should provide diversity in the environment with a range of colour, texture, shapes, and fragrances that are interesting to visit during different times of the day and year.
- 13. Signage should be highly visible and located at entry points, activity areas and intersections of paths. Some signage should be visible from the street to encourage use by passers-by.
- 14. Water sensitive urban design elements should be incorporated and consideration given into how the park can support the resilience of the wider neighbourhood.

- 1. Amenity areas should be on the road and not internal spaces.
- 2. May include some spaces to sit.

Management grade	Grade 2	Grade 3	Grade 3
Development contributions	New community parks and upgrades that support our growing population may be supported by development contribution with a ward-based catchment.	New local parks and upgrades that support our growing population may be supported by development contribution within a suburb-based catchment.	New amenity areas and upgrades that support our growing population may be supported by development contribution within a suburb-based catchment.

<sup>2</sup> Power of ten is a concept that comes the Project for Public Places. It considers that places thrive when users have a range of reasons (10+) to be there. These might include a place to sit, playgrounds to enjoy, art to touch, music to hear, food to eat, history to experience, and people to meet. Ideally, some of these activities will be unique to that particular place, reflecting the culture and history of the surrounding community. Local residents who use this space most regularly will be the best source of ideas for which uses will work best.

## **Urban Parks**



### The role of an urban park is to:

- Support social interaction in an urban environment.
- Provide passive and active recreation options in an urban environment.
- Provide greening for visual amenity and associated ecosystem services.
- May support commercial activity through complementary association or by providing venue for temporary events such as markets and festivals.

- High proportion of hard surfacing to support high usage.
- Event space.
- Public artworks.
- Landscaping for amenity, water sensitive design and urban greening.
- Seating and other park furniture such as rubbish bins, and lighting etc.
- Small-scale recreation and play features e.g. basketball hoop, skating surface or a play installation.

Urb	oan Park	Small Urban Park
pro tak or f and	wide relief from urban busyness, a place to eat your lunch, e a break, support casual use by shoppers and workers and/ for residents to hang out in. Can support low scale events If greening and can be very busy places. Includes plazas that	Small spaces in the central city, suburban centres or near key public transport nodes that provide 'door-step' access to sitting and socialising space, and green amenity. Can support moderate public use associated with community and business activity.
100	00-3000m <sup>2</sup>	<1000m <sup>2</sup>
1.	City Centre: two new urban parks as per the Green Network	Plan.
2.	Metropolitan centres: ideally, at least one urban park in Joh	nsonville, and Kilbirnie.
3.	Local centres: minimum of one small urban park per centre:	(Local Centres are defined by the District Plan)
4.	Near transport hubs: provide small urban parks near major t	ransport hubs, for people to wait and mingle.
	Spa pro tak or f and are 100 1. 2.	<ol> <li>Metropolitan centres: ideally, at least one urban park in Joh</li> <li>Local centres: minimum of one small urban park per centre:</li> </ol>



Urb	oan Park	Small Urban Park	
1.	Universal design principles	will be incorporated to ensure spaces are accessible to everyone.	
2.	Toilet should be available in	n/ or accessible to(<300m) an urban park.	
3.	Green elements should be i	ncorporated, such as trees, planting, and grass.	
4.		n elements should be incorporated and consideration given into how the park can support neighbourhood.	
5.	Story telling about the com	munity and whakapapa of the place should be incorporated.	
6.	Bespoke elements like desig	gn, artworks, and interpretation that reflect or strengthen local character should be incorporated.	
7.	Lighting to make it safe and	attractive at night should be incorporated.	
8.		orporated, this means adjacent buildings should have active uses at street levels such as cafes and vely park interface.	
9.	Play opportunities for child	ren to play in accordance with the <i>Play Spaces Policy</i> should be provided.	
10.	Principles of crime preventi	on through environmental design will be applied.	
11.	Design elements that intent	tionally deter different communities from feeling welcome in our open spaces will not be used.	
Standard 1			
		hat support our growing population in the city centre relating to growth could be attributed	
New urban parks and upgrades that support our growing population in metropolitan centres should apply to ward catchment areas.			
New urban parks and upgrades that support our growing population in neighbourhood and local centres should be applied to suburb catchments.			
		parks is additional to requirements for neighbourhood parks but a 3000 sqm urban park can ark provision as it provides sufficient space for a variety of recreational activities.	
	1. 2. 3. 4. 5. 6. 7. 8. 9. 10. 11. Sta	<ol> <li>Toilet should be available in</li> <li>Green elements should be in</li> <li>Water sensitive urban desig the resilience of the wider n</li> <li>Story telling about the com</li> <li>Bespoke elements like desig</li> <li>Lighting to make it safe and</li> <li>Active edges should be incoshops, helping to create a li</li> <li>Play opportunities for child</li> <li>Principles of crime preventi</li> <li>Design elements that intent</li> <li>Standard 1</li> <li>New urban parks and upgrades the city wide catchments.</li> <li>New urban parks and upgrades the suburb catchments.</li> <li>Provision requirements of urban</li> </ol>	

## **Liveable Streets**



#### The role of a Liveable Street is to:

- Support active transport, walking and cycling around the city. Their prime purpose is as a movement corridor but in areas where obtaining land for parks can be costly and slow to happen, liveable streets that prioritise pedestrian movement can provide other important open space values.
- Support opportunities for vibrant public life.
- Support play and recreation near people's homes.
- Support greening in densely built urban landscapes.
- Support ecosystem services

- Wide pavements with plenty of space for walking and wandering.
- Trees and other amenity planting, and water sensitive design techniques.
- Seating and places to stop and explore.
- Art works and place-based storytelling.

Tier	Live	eable Streets			
Provision Targets		Provisions for streetscapes are set by urban design guidelines. The key factors related to our strategy that should be included when designing a liveable street include:			
	1.	Universal design principles will be incorporated to ensure spaces are accessible to everyone, with spots for sitting and resting.			
	2.	Places for children to play should be incorporated.			
	3.	Water sensitive design techniques and street trees should be incorporated.			
	4.	Design elements that intentionally deter different communities from feeling welcome in our open spaces will not be used.			

# Linkages



## The role of a Linkage is to:

- Provide walking and cycling corridors, contributing to the active transport network around the city.
- Provide opportunities to enjoy and connect to nature.
- Support ecosystem services.

- Pathway and/or steps.
- Green elements.
- Seats or benches.

Linkages	
<ol> <li>Universal design principles will be incorporated to ensure connecting spaces are accessible to as many people as pos with spots for sitting and resting.</li> </ol>	
2. Principles of crime prevention through environmental design will be applied.	
3. Green elements will be incorporated, including trees, vegetation of grass.	
Grade 3	
Upgrading and developing linkages can be supported by suburb level development contributions when developing them is a response to population growth.	
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## **Nature Areas**



#### The role of a Nature Area is to:

- Protect and restore biodiversity.
- Support ecosystem services such as soil stability, and climate change mitigation.
- Provide opportunities for people to connect to nature supporting spiritual and mental health.
- Provide opportunities for education.
- Provide informal recreation opportunities such as walking, biking, and volunteering.
- Contribute to Wellington's landscape character and sense of place.

- Intact or relatively intact natural ecosystems, including unique and/ or threatened species and habitats, streams, and water bodies.
- · Tracks and trails.
- Ancillary visitor facilities such as seating, picnic tables, toilets, carparking and drinking fountains.
- Wayfinding and interpretation signage.
- Cultural heritage elements such as historic pa sites and WW2 installations.

Tier	Nature areas	Small nature areas
Description	Large scale sites with intact or relatively intact natural ecosystems, unique and/or threated species and habitats. Include low impact recreation activities.	Small nature areas provide important ecological connections across Wellington City. Often difficult topography.
Size	Large	Generally, under 30,000m²
Provision targets - distribution	Distribution largely governed by where the natural areas are. Connectivity and climate change mitigation opportunities pres	



Tier Nature areas Small nature areas

# Provision targets - quality

- 1. Healthy ecosystems.
- 2. Track connections to adjacent suburbs.
- Universally designed recreational track opportunities should be provided so all people can access nature in places across the city, including short, medium, and long track routes, some without stairs and with low gradients. Include resting/sitting places.
- Toilets will be available in/or nearby (<300m) of signature and regional trail destinations. Signature and regional trail destinations are defined through the Regional Trails Framework.
- 5. Whakapapa story telling should be incorporated through interpretation and design of spaces such as entrances.
- Opportunities for environmental education and nature play should be incorporated, including access to streams and wildlife.
- 7. Walking and cycling network should be integrated with the wider active transport network.
- 8. Signage should be highly visible and located at entry points and intersections of paths to support wayfinding. Some signage should be visible from the street to encourage use by passers-by.
- Design elements that intentionally deter different communities from feeling welcome in our open spaces will not be used.

No quality provision targets for small nature parks.

#### Management grade

Grade 3: Emphasis on animal pest and weed control, and track maintenance.

# **Development** contributions

Significant new ecological connections provide city wide ecological services and therefore development contributions can be collected at a city-wide level.

## **Coastal Areas**



#### The role of a Costal Area is to:

- Protect and restore the natural environment, including the healthy functioning of ecosystems e.g. restoration of dunes and wildlife breeding areas.
- Provide opportunities for marine and seaside-focused recreation including beach play, swimming, boating, walking and rock climbing.

- Provide opportunities for people to connect to nature - supporting spiritual and mental health.
- Provide community and social spaces e.g. picnic areas, playgrounds, seating areas on the seaside.
- Support education about the ocean and shoreline natural environments, and cultural history.

- · Beaches and rocky shores.
- · Facilities such as changing rooms, showers, toilets and play areas.
- Areas for socialising and relaxing.
- Wayfinding and interpretation signage.
- Physical structures on or near the water that enable ocean recreation and/ or protect land-based infrastructure e.g. sea walls, marinas, wharves, jetties, slipways, boat sheds, pontoons.

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## Cemeteries/Urupā



# The role of a Cemeteries/Urupā is to:

- Provide space, facilities and services for burial and cremation.
- Provide spaces of appropriate design and amenity for grieving and remembrance.
- Respect and protect these places of historical significance, connecting with the past.
- Provide for informal recreation and contact with nature.
- Respect the needs of the recently bereaved with the interests of other cemetery users.

- Special purpose facilities including crematoria and chapels.
- Visitor facilities such as roadways, parking, paths, steps, toilets, seats, grave locating, and wayfinding signage.
- Clear layout of burial plots (for use and maintenance).
- Amenity planting grass, gardens, trees.

Tier	Cemeteries/ Urupā	
Provision targets	1. Vehicle and walking access to burial areas via roading and paths, with universal design principles applied where possible.	
	2. Accessible public toilets are provided consistent with standard 4241:1999.	
	3. Wayfinding signage included. Particularly to help people find burial plots.	
	4. Walking trails for recreation where appropriate.	
	5. Seating at regular intervals.	
	6. Interpretation about the history and people buried included in historic parts of cemeteries.	
Management grades	Grade 1: highest level of service for the cemetery buildings, garden areas and more recent burial areas.	
	Grade 3: for older burial areas.	
Development contributions	Funding related to growth can be connected to city wide development contributions.	
Other comment	Cemeteries are provided for and managed under the Cemeteries Management Plan except for Bolton Street Cemetery managed under the Botanic Gardens of Wellington Management Plan.	

# Relationship between open space categories, reserve classifications and District Plan zones

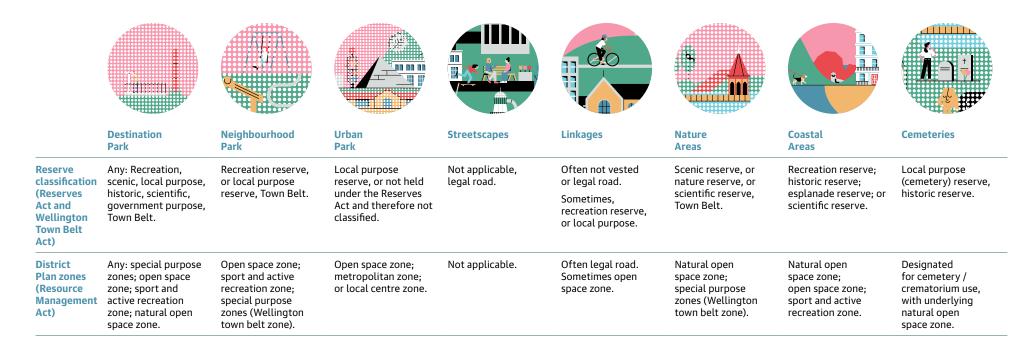
The open space categories described above are used as an informal and flexible planning tool for providing and managing open space. In contrast, the reserve classifications for open space held under the Reserves Act 1977 and the Wellington Town Belt Act 2016 embed formal legal requirements. These statutory reserve classifications bind the Council and limits, to a greater or lesser extent, how the land can be used. Reserve classifications are recorded on the property title and in reserve management plans prepared under the Reserves Act. The management plans set out policies, rules, and actions to guide the use, management, and

development of the reserve land – in accordance with the reserve classification – and guide day-to day-and long-term decision-making.

The District Plan includes open space zones (with associated policies and rules) that control land use, subdivision, and development activities within and adjacent to open spaces, as guided by the Resource Management Act 1991. The District Plan identifies the types of

development activities that are permitted on reserves and activities that require resource consent.

The table below provides a general guide to the relationship between reserve categories, reserve classifications and District Plan zones. Note that the processes to classify a reserve and/or carry out a zone change are subject to specific statutory processes.



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