## OUR CAPITAL SPACES 2013 CONSULTATION - MAIN ISSUES RAISED AND RESPONSES

### General scope

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Main issues raised</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Our Capital Spaces should discuss restoring ecology in and around streams, the harbour, waterfront, coast and other marine areas</td>
<td>Scope of document widened to emphasise these areas of open space. Changes made to actions 2.5.1 and 2.5.5 around managing coastal open space and protecting and restoring streams and wetlands. Recognised the harbour as a key area of open space that needs an integrated approach (for protection and sport). For example, added action 2.5.2: <em>Work with partners on developing and implementing a “Blue Belt” programme which recognises and celebrates the harbour and its many values as part of the wider “Our Living City” programme (N1)</em></td>
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<td>The document does not mention the need to protect and interpret the heritage values of the open-space network</td>
<td>Added a new priority 3.6 to Outcome 3: <em>Protect and celebrate historic and cultural values</em></td>
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<td>Need to emphasise that passive recreation and leisure are important uses of open space</td>
<td>Made change in section 2 to recognise this:  <em>Open space and recreation areas are vital to our lifestyle, health and wellbeing, culture and economy</em></td>
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<td>Need to have a wide-ranging strategy to make open spaces accessible at different times, connected to communities and other spaces and cater for the main needs of users</td>
<td>Incorporated this within the document and referenced to the Accessibility Action Plan. For example, action 1.9.3: <em>Review local track networks as part of the development of the Suburban Reserves Management Plan with a focus on tracks accessible to all ages and abilities (N)</em></td>
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1 For Actions, the bracketed letters N, E, Ex mean the following:  N = New initiative programme, E = Existing programme, Ex = Expand existing programme
## Outcome 1 – Getting everyone active and healthy

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<td>Electronic information is useful but many people still need signs and printed brochures etc</td>
<td>Emphasised the need for clear, accessible signs and a variety of information sources and modes</td>
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| There seems to be an emphasis on organised sport to the detriment of informal recreation and leisure | Emphasised the wider range of informal recreation opportunities in Section 3:  
We also need to provide a range of open spaces and recreation links for informal activities such as walking, running, cycling and kick-around areas, as well as passive recreation and leisure activities such as picnics |
| Generally making it easier to access and participate in sport and recreation for all ages, cultures and income groups, regardless of ability | Added a new bullet point in action 1.7.1 to:  
Ensure diverse play, sport and recreation opportunities for all ages, cultures, income groups and abilities (Ex)  

| Well-used open spaces are not just formal parks spaces but can be other areas on the coast or even in reserves | Changed wording in Section 3 to emphasise this:  
Open spaces other than parks can provide a wide range of activities for the whole community. For instance, Oriental Parade, Lyall Bay, Waitangi Park and the waterfront. These areas are well used for many purposes and make great use of the inner harbour, coastline and beaches.  

| Note that smaller spaces are more effective in the central business district, so do not focus totally on larger use multi-use open space. | Added to Section 3:  
We will continue to ensure that well-used spaces are adequately provided in the central city. Such spaces do not need to be large but should be well-designed and located with adequate seating, shelter and other amenities. Examples include Midland Park and Glover Park.  

| Focus on longer tracks that provide links to communities rather than short tracks | The document did emphasise the need for a focus on longer tracks where they had multiple values for communities. Some slight wording change to emphasise this. There is still a need for short, accessible tracks that can be used by all. These will be identified during the preparation of the Suburban Reserves Management Plan. |
| Need more challenging play equipment and space for children and adults | This intent is covered in action 1.6.2:  
*Encourage greater, flexible and more creative play for all ages (including young adults and the elderly) when developing neighbourhood park spaces (Ex)* |
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<td>Need details now of which smaller spaces will have limited investment in them</td>
<td>Our Capital Spaces identifies the criteria to review suburban open spaces. This will occur during the preparation of the Suburban Reserves Management Plan and will be open for further consultation. In other parts of the city, any major changes will be consulted on, particularly if there are proposals to divest open space.</td>
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| Need to recognise the role of open space in active transport (e.g. running, walking, cycling) | Added in action 1.9.4:  
*Identify opportunities for active transport routes through the open-spaces network as part of the Transport Strategy review (N)* |
| Need to manage any conflicts between different recreation activities (e.g. walking and cycling) and provide some spaces for use by only walkers or bikers | The Open Space Access Plan identifies most tracks as multi use unless areas are declared closed to mountain bikers.  
Expanded action 1.9.2:  
*Continue to develop the track network for shared use wherever appropriate, while managing any conflicts between different activities (such as cycling and walking) (E)* |
## Outcome 2 – Protecting our birds, nature, streams and landscapes

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| Participants in the ecology workshop identified several changes to the priorities to better link with the actions and outcomes | Amended Priority 2.1:  
Protect and restore indigenous biodiversity, and demonstrate kaitiakitanga (guardianship)  
Amended Priority 2.2:  
Create ecological networks within the city to ensure movement of key indigenous species, as well as connectivity to the wider landscape  
Amended Priority 2.3:  
Develop a halo (or ecological buffer zone) around biodiversity hotspots  
Amended Priority 2.4:  
Promote and facilitate the protection of open space  
Amended Priority 2.5:  
Facilitate the restoration and protection of wetlands, streams, their catchments, and Wellington and Porirua harbours |
| Need to develop a long-term plan to introduce secondary species in indigenous ecosystems | Added a new action 2.1.3:  
Complete a restoration planting strategy for the city, ensuring that a diverse range of indigenous plant species are restored in the appropriate locations (E) |
| Don’t limit the Halo project to Zealandia in the longer term                         | Added a new action 2.3.2:  
Expand the Halo concept to other key ecological sites – for instance Otari-Wilton’s Bush (N) |
| Need some guidelines and/or criteria around priorities for protection/acquisition, particularly as the city’s population grows | Added a new action 2.4.1:  
*Develop guidelines for assessing acquisition proposals to protect and enhance open-space values (N)* |
|---|---|
| The plan is lacking an integrated approach to protection of the blue belt and in particular catchment management | In action 2.5.1, made link to Our Living City Blue Belt Programme to:  
*Develop an integrated approach to the management of coastal open space. Continue to develop and implement integrated catchment management plans such as the Porirua Harbour and Catchment Strategy, Kaiwharawhara catchment, and Owhiro catchment with the aim to protect and restore streams and wetlands (E)* |
| Recommend that the South Coast Management Plan be reviewed with a changed scope and emphasis on coastal processes /resilience and recreational use | Added a new action 2.5.5:  
*Review the South Coast Management Plan (N), and in particular:*  
- the effects of coastal processes and future sea-level rise  
- increased recreational use and its effects on biodiversity and coastal resilience  
- coastal infrastructure, particularly sea walls, roads and car parks |
| Need to ensure that track building and use of tracks do not adversely impact biodiversity | Expanded action 2.6.1:  
*Manage track use and development and ensure it does not impact on biodiversity values (Ex)* |
| Need to manage commercial activities, including fitness groups, to minimise conflict with other users and their effects on open space | Addressed in current Long-Term Plan 2.6.3:  
*Manage use of our open spaces by large groups or high-impact activities through developing a Concessions Policy (N)* |
### Outcome 3 Contributing to Wellington’s outstanding quality of life

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| Wellington can become a major mountain-bike destination to rival Rotorua and Queenstown. Need a coordinated approach and commitment from the Council | Added a new action 3.4.1:  
*Proactively develop mountain biking as one of the key attractions for visitors in the Wellington Region (N)* |
| Need to have long-term plans for developing the future mountain-bike network, including the need for single-use tracks/areas for both walkers and bikers | Added a new action 3.4.2:  
*Coordinate and manage mountain-biking track and facility development on a regional basis, including the development of Spicer Recreation-Park and the heritage park on Watts Peninsula (N)* |
| Need to protect important historic sites within the open-space network | Added new actions:  
3.6.1 *Ensure that valuable archaeological sites and historic features are protected from current and future developments (including through the planning process) and are not overly compromised by sport, recreation and environmental activities (E)*  
3.6.2 *Make our cultural and historic heritage evident in the protection, design and use of open spaces (E)*  
3.6.3 *Ensure that signs, brochures, websites, apps and other information provide good descriptions of historical and cultural features around our open spaces (N)* |
| Recognise the role of open spaces in resilience planning and civil emergencies | Added a new action 3.7.1:  
*As part of civil defence planning, scope and understand the functions that different spaces can provide in the event of earthquakes, tsunamis, rough storms, liquefaction, and other emergencies (E)* |
### Outcome 4 – Doing it together

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<td>Partnership requires resourcing from both sides (including providing partners with sufficient expertise, equipment, funding and other support). The volunteer community cannot do it without Council support</td>
<td>Changed action 4.1.2 to:</td>
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<td><em>Partner and resource community and environmental groups to manage projects that will achieve the priorities outlined in this plan (Ex)</em></td>
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<td>Take a regional approach to biodiversity and work with adjacent territorial authorities and land managers</td>
<td>Added a new priority 4.2 to:</td>
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<td><em>Collaborate with partner agencies to effectively protect and manage biodiversity</em></td>
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<td>Need to work with and support urban Māori groups and organisations</td>
<td>Added a new action 4.4.3 to:</td>
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<td><em>Support Māori community-based groups to practise kaitiakitanga (guardianship), and to use our open spaces for the development of Indigenous knowledge and traditional activities, such as raranga (weaving), for the benefit of all (E)</em></td>
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