

Have your say on the Mt Victoria / Matairangi Draft Master Plan

We need your feedback and ideas by 5pm, Monday 23 March, 2015.



Introduction



The Master Plan is a visual plan for tree management and replanting, and for the management of the track network. It will help guide the Council’s existing programmes and resources for Mt Victoria over the next 10 years. The Master Plan looks at landscape, future plantings, and management of pines, as well as recreation development and ways to reduce user conflict.

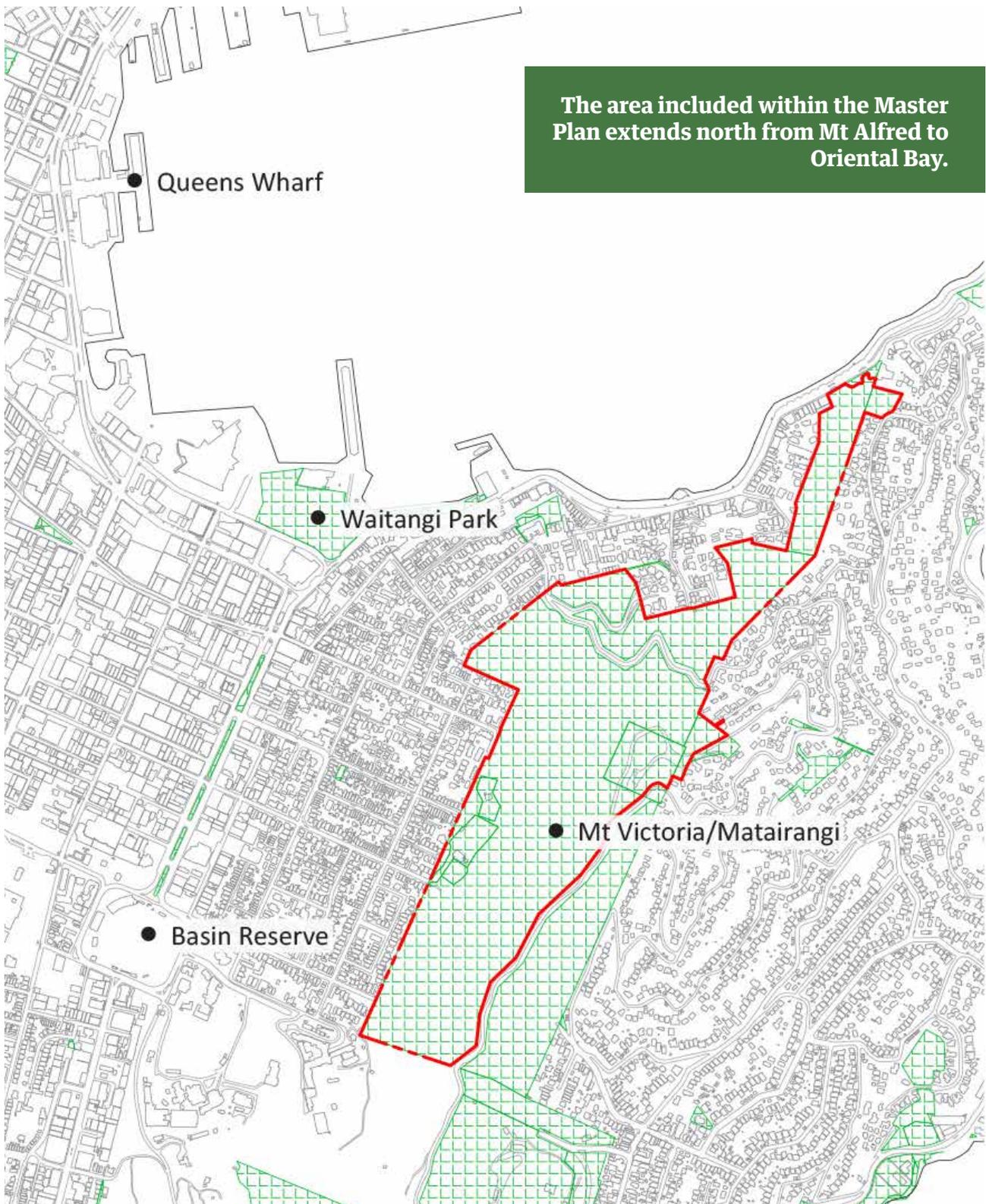
Mt Victoria is one of Wellington’s premier parks. Its closeness to the central city, visual prominence and connectivity all help make it the most popular forested area of the Town Belt.

The number of people involved in recreation activities in this area is increasing. Common activities are walking, mountain biking (cross-country and downhill), dog walking, jogging, orienteering, and sightseeing. As these activities become more popular, the likelihood of conflicts increase, visitor experiences change, and greater demand is placed on the track network and other infrastructure. Alongside the increase in recreation is the need to manage the vegetation and long-term landscape change, particularly with the ageing conifer and pine

plantations. Given the significance of Mt Victoria’s landscape, well-planned and gradual vegetation management is needed to protect and enhance the visual amenity and ecological connections.

The Master Plan will help guide the Council’s existing programmes and resources for Mt Victoria over the next 10 years. This includes existing budgets for track renewals and upgrades, hazardous tree management, pest control, and restoration planting.

The Wellington Town Belt Management Plan (2013) identified the need to develop a Master Plan that will complement and be consistent with the existing legislative framework, including the Town Belt Deed and the proposed Wellington Town Belt Bill.



Key recommendations



It is important to consider the landscape values and character of Mt Victoria/Matairangi within the context of the whole Wellington Town Belt, local parks, and the Outer Green Belt. Ecologically, it provides valuable connections for native flora and fauna across the wider city.

This Master Plan proposes to create an ecological identity for the gullies through the vegetation and by establishing a hierarchy of paths to assist with overall wayfinding. Signage will then support this place-making system, rather than drive wayfinding.

Track strategy

Developing a track hierarchy - A three-tier track structure is proposed, with all tracks to be considered shared walking and cycling tracks, with the exception of downhill “black diamond” standard mountain bike tracks.

First tier - Commuter and tourist routes to be developed (where practically achievable) to NZ Standard Walking Track and Short Walk Standards, and have easy wayfinding via the track quality, construction and signage.

Second tier - Park walks at a variety of standards, but leading to key areas of open space and views. These will largely be differentiated by signs.

Third tier - All other tracks in the park. These would have no signage for walking, but have low-profile mountain bike grade signs where required (as currently used), and be for use by those seeking a walking adventure as well as orienteering, mountain biking and running.

Minimising potential user conflict

To reduce the risk of collisions between different user groups, the Mt Victoria/Matairangi Master Plan proposes to create intersections with oblique angles and to use “slow-down” formations before intersections. “Black diamond” standard mountain bike tracks will not intersect with the main commuter and tourist tracks within the park.

Signage strategy

A renewed signage system is proposed to align with the three-tier track strategy, and to include te reo Māori and English where practical.



FIRST TIER (Main Tracks)

Local Oriented

- Hataitai to City Walkway (improve to meet NZ Walking Track standard)
- New School/Southern Commuter Route/Newtown Route - along existing tracks(improve to meet NZ Walking track or Short Walk standard)
- Southern Walkway (improve to meet NZ Walking Track standard)

Tourist Oriented

- New Return tourist Route - along existing tracks/ pathways (improve to meet NZ Walking track standard)
- Summit Walkway - main tourist route (improve to meet NS Short Walk standard if possible)
- Te Ranga a Hiwi - a section of the Summit and Southern Walkway

SECOND TIER (Secondary Tracks)

- New Lookout Link
- Commuter Links
- New Alexandra Track
- Hataitai Zigzag

Open space development

Open spaces are generally exotic grassed lawn areas. These are highly valued as places to interact socially or to stop and take in the view. There is scope to develop these to include more diverse activities, such as play and - where close to residential areas - community gardening.

Vegetation strategy

Mt Victoria/Matairangi plays an important role in linking ecosystems through the Town Belt, and is a critical ecological patch that links the planted ridges across Wellington. The exotic vegetation on Mount Victoria/Matairangi requires a long-term succession plan. There is significant support in the community to re-establish native vegetation but it is also recognised that careful management is necessary in the meantime to maintain the existing exotic vegetation through to the end of its useful life.

It is proposed that the exotic vegetation is managed and retained on the ridge areas of Mt Victoria, with replanting of natives occurring in areas of wind fall, weed control, and in the gullies. This approach of retaining the exotic vegetation while the native gullies establish will provide much-needed shelter, and the ability to phase out the exotics over a long period of time (0-50 years).

Gullies "Tracing the Streams"

The streams associated with Mt Victoria/Matairangi now flow in the piped stormwater network. These were once renowned by Māori for their good quality water, and supported the growing of kumara on terraces across the west-facing slopes of Mt Victoria/Matairangi that now hold houses. Tracing these streams up the valleys to their catchments reveals moisture-rich gullies.

The Mt Victoria/Matairangi Master Plan proposes to replant these using plant mixes that include a dominant tree species. The gullies will provide a positive on-going focus for revegetation groups and, once established, will assist wayfinding through identity and narrative within Mt Victoria/Matairangi.

Pine/exotic tree management

The revegetation management strategy proposes to:

- use risk management to guide the priorities for removal of exotic vegetation
- manage existing vegetation to maintain key views.

Have your say

The draft Master Plan is available online at wellington.govt.nz/feedbackmtvic or contact mtvictoria@wcc.govt.nz for a copy.

Please provide your feedback on the draft Master Plan by 5pm, 23 March 2015.

Feedback can be provided online (wellington.govt.nz/feedbackmtvic), by email (mtvictoria@wcc.govt.nz), or by Freepost (FREEPOST, Mt Victoria/Matairangi Master Plan, Parks, Sport & Recreation (REPL01), Wellington City Council, PO Box 2199, Wellington 6140)

DROP IN SESSION
Saturday 14 March 2015
1-4 pm
Victoria Bowling Club
125 Pirie Street, Mt Victoria

Gullies “Tracing the Streams”



Proposed Implementation Plan

Activity area	Issue	Description	Priority (1-3 where 1 is the highest)
Driving in the park	Park entry signs	Large scale park entry signs/structures on Alexandra Road to welcome drivers to the park and encourage greater recognition of the open space and recreation values of the setting	1
	Pedestrian crossing areas	Investigate improvements to pedestrian crossing areas at the Lookout and Centennial Memorial	2
	Traffic slowing	Investigate ability to slow traffic along Alexandra Road in places	3
	Conflict with pedestrians	Develop off-road walking and running track beside Alexandra Road to entice foot traffic off the road. This may be the upgraded Te Ranga-a-Hiwi track	2
Tracks: First tier tourist route	Easy park access	Develop main park entrance at Majoribanks	1
	Lookout Walkway (existing Summit Walkway)	Investigate upgrading the route from Majoribanks St to the Mt Victoria lookout to short walk standard where possible (while ensuring sections not at this grade can be developed in the future)	2
	New return tourist route	Investigate upgrading the route from the lookout to Oriental Parade to walking track standard providing an optional loop walk for visitors	3
	Lookout access improvements	Explore stair/path system (cycle, buggies, walking) up to the Byrd memorial, and pedestrian crossing points on the road at its base Improve pedestrian pathway around the edge of road up to Lookout carpark area	2
Tracks: First tier commuter route	Hataitai to City walkway	Consider sealing or geocells on the Hataitai commuter route to assist with water management and steep slopes	2
	New school, southern commuter route	New route from Newtown linking suburb with Wellington College, Wellington East Girls an existing Hataitai commuter route	2
Tracks: Te Ranga-a-Hiwi	Develop to first tier status	Develop relevant sections of the Summit Walkway and the Southern Walkway to a higher standard to recognise value of Te Ranga a Hiwi	2
Tracks: Second tier tracks	Shared use path	Develop tracks beside Alexandra Rd to keep walkers, runners and bikers away from traffic	3
	Lookout to Centennial Memorial	Develop tracks (footpaths) beside Lookout Road to connect the upper lookout car park with the Centennial Memorial	1
Tracks: User conflict	Track intersections	To reduce the risk of collisions between different user groups, the Mt Victoria/Matairangi Master Plan proposes to create intersections with oblique angles and to use "slow-down" formations before intersections. Where this is not possible, ensure that "Black diamond" standard mountain bike tracks will not intersect with the main commuter and tourist tracks within the park	1
Wayfinding and interpretation	Orientation maps at all park entries	Third tier tracks would not be shown. All tracks would be indicated as shared between cyclists and walkers. Q codes for access to online mapping systems	1
	Bi-lingual signs	Place names and signage in Te Reo/English where practical	1
	Site naming and differentiation	Name open spaces to reflect history and location in consultation with Mana Whenua	2
	First tier track signs	Colour way-finding systems with symbols	1
	Second tier track signs	Colour way-finding system	1
	Third tier track signs	Unsigned unless marked and graded mountain bike route	1



Open Spaces	Play	Integrate play trails into the open spaces and tracks to encourage (natural) play and broaden children's interest in landscapes in the park	3
		Incorporate elements of landscape play at Horseshoe Park and Gunners Seat Hill	3
		Investigate interest in garden areas for children at the Pirie Street Play Area and incorporate in the Play Trail	3
	Parking	Improve parking around Centennial Memorial	2
	Seating	Provide seating at the Saddle with space for track users to pass	2
	Encroachment	Manage encroachment of residential properties on the west slope of Mt Victoria	2
	Memorials	Do not provide for any further commemorative planting	1
Vegetation	Exotic trees	Do not replace fallen or removed pine, macrocarpa and eucalypt trees with exotic species	1
		Use signature native trees to trace historical stream paths	2
		Use the 'ridgeline species collection' to revegetate the park's ridges	2
		Manage vegetation removal according to risk and hazard profiles. Remove hazardous trees from priority A and replant with native species	1
		Trial light gaps in priority C area	2
		Tree by tree management, pruning or felling individual trees as required in priority B area	2
	Streams	Connect gullies to their stream and provide historical interpretation and an opportunity for visitors to visually engage with each site via planting different dominant indigenous species in each gully	2
	Views	Manage vegetation to retain and frame views	1
	Community planting	Planting by community groups is focussed on the gully planting — 'Tracing the Streams'	2
	Lord of the Rings filming area	Limit adverse effects on trees and retain sense of discovery and adventure in this setting. Retain exotic plantings and aim to extend lifespan as much as possible	1
Historic trees	Retain pine trees behind Ellice Street houses for as long as possible	1	
Other assets	Safety	Review and address user safety issues identified	1
	Rubbish bins	Retain status quo	3



Consultation questions

- Mt Victoria/Matairangi Master Plan

1. Have we identified the main issues?

Yes No

Comments:

2. Do you support what is proposed for the recreation strategies
(tracks, wayfinding, open space development) ?

Yes No

Comments:

3. Are there any other recreational activities we should consider for Mt Victoria?

Yes No

Comments:

4. Do you support what is proposed for the vegetation strategies
(community planting, exotic tree management)?

Yes No

Comments:

5. Do you agree with the priorities in our implementation plan?

Yes No

Comments:

Any other feedback or comments you wish to make:

Please attach additional pages if you need to

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**Absolutely Positively
Wellington City Council**

Me Heke Ki Pōneke



Freepost, Mt Victoria/Matairangi Master Plan,
Parks, Sport & Recreation (REPL01),
Wellington City Council,
PO Box 2199,
Wellington 6140