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SCHED11 – Ngā Nohopae Whare Ahurei

SCHED11 – Special Amenity Landscapes

Special Amenity Landscapes

Watt's Peninsula	
Site Summary	Watt's Peninsula is the northern headland of the Motu Kairangi Miramar Peninsula. The landscape extends from Mt Crawford to include the steep escarpments and narrow beach platform from Shelly Bay around Point Halswell to Scorching Bay. Watts Peninsula contains sites from different periods in Wellington's history, including Māori settlement and early European defence. The headland is an important landscape feature to Māori as it is the site of the Matakai-kai-poinga Pā and there are a large number of Māori sites that are noted for their intactness. Historic military buildings, strategic posts, and a war memorial contribute to the landscape's strong military character. The landscape is highly valued by the community for its recreational opportunities, particularly along the fairly undeveloped coastal roadway. The land cover can generally be described as exotic with some regenerating native species regenerating in the understory.
Relevant values under Policy 28 of the RPS	Natural Science Values (Moderate) Sensory Factor (High) Shared and Recognised (Very High)
<u>Natural Science Values</u>	<p><u>Ecosystem Function</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Vegetation along the ridgetop is comprised of mainly exotic conifers and exotic shrubs that have limited ecological value.</u> • <u>Native species are emerging along the coastal escarpment, with tree species in sheltered gullies and flax communities on more exposed faces.</u>
<u>Sensory Values</u>	<p><u>Aesthetic</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>The headland is an iconic landscape, recognized as one of the few remaining undeveloped areas along the Wellington city section of the harbour.</u> • <u>Although the coastal edge, roadways, and military buildings suggest that the landscape is highly modified by human activity, the landform and dense vegetation amongst a highly developed surrounding area contribute to the landscape's naturalness.</u> <p><u>Expressive</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>The steep escarpments and narrow beach platform are expressive of the forces of uplift and erosion that led to the landscape's existing character.</u> <p><u>Transient</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>There is a rich association with transient coastal experiences due to shifting tides, wave patterns, light conditions, aromatic and auditory elements, and bird migration patterns.</u>
<u>Shared and Recognised Values</u>	<p><u>Shared & Recognised</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>The area is a prominent landmark and can be seen from many points around Wellington, including from the sea, land and air.</u> • <u>The coastal roadway and adjacent rock formations are highly valued for their recreational opportunities that include running, walking, biking, fishing and diving.</u> <p><u>Historical Associations</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>The headland contains several historic military structures. These include</u>

	<p><u>buildings associated with the air force and naval base at Shelly Bay, gun emplacements on Mount Crawford, Fort Balance at Point Gordon and Massey Memorial commemorating New Zealand's past war efforts.</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>The former prison that remains on Mount Crawford was built in 1915. The prison had several uses including a reform school and men's prison before closing in 2012 (Blaschke & Rutherford Environmental Consultants, PAOS Ltd, & TRC Tourism Ltd, 2012).</u>
<p>Korokoro Stream Valley</p>	
<p>Site Summary</p>	<p>The Korokoro Stream Valley landscape comprises the portion of the stream valley between the Horokiwi Ridge and the eastern boundary of Wellington City, extending from Belmont Regional Park to the stream mouth into Te Whanganui a Tara Wellington Harbour. The landscape is a north/south complex system with steep spurs and gullies interweaving down to a narrow stream valley floor. The land cover is largely regenerating native vegetation with remnant native forest remaining in many of the gullies. The landscape is known for its recreational, cultural, and historic value. A portion of the landscape lies within Belmont Regional Park and is highly valued for its recreational opportunities. The stream valley has high spiritual value. A heritage concrete gravity dam is located just upstream of Korokoro Stream outlet into the harbour.</p>
<p>Relevant values under Policy 28 of the RPS</p>	<p>Natural Science Values (Moderate High) Sensory Factor (High) Shared and Recognised (High)</p>
<p><u>Natural Science Values</u></p>	<p><u>Ecosystem Function</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Although largely covered with regenerating vegetation, remnant native forest remains in several sheltered gullies.</u> • <u>The Korokoro Stream is recognised as having migratory indigenous fish value.</u>
<p><u>Sensory Values</u></p>	<p><u>Aesthetic</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>The Horokiwi ridge is a notable green backdrop to both the city edge and rural communities to the north.</u> <p><u>Expressive</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>The complex valley system is highly expressive of fluvial erosion processes. The rocky outcrops along the Horokiwi ridge are indicative of the eroded peneplain surface.</u>
<p><u>Shared and Recognised Values</u></p>	<p><u>Shared & Recognised</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>The landscape, forming part of Belmont Regional Park, is highly valued for its recreational opportunities such as walking and biking.</u> <p><u>Historical Association</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>The concrete gravity dam was used to supply water for mill operations for the Wellington Woollen Manufacturing Company. Constructed in 1904, the dam was one of the earliest mass concrete gravity dams in New Zealand and is recognised as a heritage site (Astwood & Baines, 2014).</u>
<p>Wright's Hill/Makara Peak</p>	
<p>Site Summary</p>	<p>Wright's Hill/Makara Peak are a series of hilltops forming a ridgeline that rises from the Wellington faultline escarpment, creating a distinct rural/urban edge. The landscape is characterised by distinctive flat-topped blocks with steep slopes that form gently undulating, relatively wide valleys. Located south and west of the suburb of Karori, the landscape is bound by the Karori Wildlife Sanctuary to the east, Silver Stream to the south, South Makara Road to the west, and Makara Road to the north. The Karori Stream Valley bisects the two hilltop blocks. The landscape is best known for its recreational and historical value, and scenic views from the top of the hills. There are walking and mountain biking tracks throughout, with designated mountain biking park on Makara Peak. An extensive WWII fortification and tunnel system is located on Wright's Hill. The land cover can generally be described as regenerating native vegetation with native shrubland present along the ridgeline of Wright's Hill.</p>

Relevant values under Policy 28 of the RPS	Natural Science Values (High) Sensory Factor (Moderate High) Shared and Recognised (Very High)
<u>Natural Science Values</u>	<p><u>Rarity</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <u>Wrights Hill is one of few native shrubland hilltops remaining in Wellington. When combined with the Karori Wildlife Sanctuary landscape they form the largest contiguous areas of indigenous vegetation in Wellington’s Outer Green Belt (Boffa Miskell Ltd, 2014).</u> <p><u>Ecosystem Function</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <u>Land cover is mainly regenerating native shrubland and secondary forest mixed with exotic species.</u> <u>The stream valleys contain important indigenous remnant trees.</u>
<u>Sensory Values</u>	<p><u>Aesthetic</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <u>The hill blocks are part of the central ridge forming the undeveloped skyline backdrop to the city and western residential suburbs. Both hilltops are iconic landmarks within the community.</u> <u>Although the landscape is modified by military structures on Wright’s Hill and an extensive network of mountain biking paths on Makara Peak, the relatively intact natural landform and dense vegetation contribute to the landscape’s naturalness.</u> <p><u>Expressive</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <u>The steep valley walls and escarpment edges are expressive of the forces of uplift and fluvial erosion processes that led to the character of the landscape. The gently undulating, relatively flat-topped summit of Wright’s Hill is expressive of an ancient peneplain surface.</u>
<u>Shared and Recognised Values</u>	<p><u>Shared & Recognised</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <u>The landscape is highly valued for recreational opportunities. Riding the ‘Makara Circuit’ is a popular route for road cyclists and Makara Peak Mountain Bike Park is an award-winning dual use (biking and walking) park.</u> <u>The landscape is highly used due to its proximity and ease of access from the city’s outer suburbs.</u> <p><u>Historical association</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <u>An extensive network of WWII structures along the top of Wrights Hill. Remnants of observation posts, fortifications, gun pits, reservoirs, building platforms and tunnel networks are present (Boffa Miskell Ltd, 2014)</u>
Mount Kaukau	
Site Summary	Mount Kaukau is located northwest of the suburb of Khandallah along the Te Wharangi Ridge separating the rural and urban sections of the city. Accentuated by the transmitter tower at the summit, Mount Kaukau is the most visible high point within the Wellington landscape. The landscape comprises the hilltop forming Mount Kaukau, extending south to include the Crow’s Nest above Ngaio. The landscape consists of mainly pasture, with rocky outcrops that are expressive of the peneplain surface. There are also areas of regenerating native vegetation on the southern slopes near Khandallah. The summit of Mount Kaukau is a destination along the popular Skyline Track, offering panoramic views of Wellington and to the South Island.
Relevant values under Policy 28 of the RPS	Natural Science Values (Moderate <u>High</u>) Sensory Factor (High) Shared and Recognised (High)
<u>Natural Science Values</u>	<p><u>Ecosystem Function</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <u>Most of the hilltop and crest flanks are covered in pasture. Native vegetation is generally limited to gullies, but patches of regenerating scrub are becoming more widespread.</u>
<u>Sensory Values</u>	<u>Aesthetic</u>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Mount Kaukau is an iconic high point along the network of ridgelines and hilltops that form the backdrop to Wellington.</u> • <u>The landscape and vegetation are modified by the pastoral land use and presence of the transmitter tower and accessory buildings at the summit. However, the patterns of landform remain largely intact due to the absence of roads and other structures throughout most of the landscape.</u> <p><u>Expressive</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>The rocky outcrops on the ridgetop and upper slopes are highly expressive of the peneplain surface that was uplifted. Mount Kaukau is considered one of the best preserved peneplain surfaces in the Wellington Region</u>
<p>Shared and Recognised Values</p>	<p><u>Shared & Recognised</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>The summit is highly valued as a destination for panoramic views of the city and harbour, Hutt Valley, the Tararua Range, Porirua and the South Island.</u> • <u>The landscape is highly used by walkers, runners, and mountain bikers due to its proximity and ease of access from the city’s outer suburbs. Tracks through the landscape are the most well used within Wellington.</u>
<p>Town Belt</p>	
<p>Site Summary</p>	<p>The Town Belt is a network of areas of open space providing a scenic backdrop to the inner city. The portion of the Town Belt contained within this SAL forms a horseshoe shape from Point Jerningham near Matairangi Mount Victoria in the northeast, to Mount Albert at its southern end, then northwest to the boundary of the Karori Wildlife Sanctuary. Known as the ‘lungs’ of the city, the network of reserves has deep historical roots and was formed in the mid-19th century to establish public parks and gardens at the edge of urban development. In order to establish vegetation quickly, species that were hardy and fast-growing, primarily radiata pine, were selected in lieu of native species. While these non-native species continue to dominate the landscape today, there are increasingly large areas of regenerating and planted native vegetation. The landscape is highly valued for its open space network and recreational opportunities within an urban context. Matairangi Mount Victoria, one of the city’s most iconic landmarks, is located within the SAL.</p> <p>Note: Does not include the full extent of the Town Belt outlined in the Wellington District Plan. Although Te Ahumairangi Hill and the Wellington Botanic Garden are part of the Town Belt, they are recognised as independent SALs</p>
<p>Relevant values under Policy 28 of the RPS</p>	<p>Natural Science Values (Moderate) Sensory Factor (Moderate-High) Shared and Recognised (Very High)</p>
<p>Natural Science Values</p>	<p><u>Ecosystem Function</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Vegetation throughout the landscape is dominated by non-native species such as radiata pine, macrocarpa and eucalyptus that have limited ecological value.</u> • <u>Many of the streams within the town belt are ephemeral or have been piped underground in response to surrounding urbanisation. While there are some locations with open flow perennial streams that are healthy enough to support fish populations, the streams are channelised with a mix of hard and soft edges.</u>
<p>Sensory Values</p>	<p><u>Aesthetic</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>The Town Belt is an iconic backdrop to the central city. Matairangi Mount Victoria is a prominent landmark that offers panoramic views of the city and harbour.</u> • <u>The densely vegetated reserve is protected by its own Act of Parliament enacted in 2016 and is highly valued for its aesthetic quality and contrast to the surrounding urban landscape.</u> • <u>The landscape is modified by human activity with roads, sports facilities, and various other structures, earthworks, and extensive plantings of exotic tree species. However, the network of pathways through dense vegetated cover contrasts with the surrounding developed urban and residential areas, contributing to the Town Belt’s sense of landscape naturalness.</u> <p><u>Expressive</u></p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <u>The fault formed ridges and valleys through the landscape are highly expressive of the forces that led to the existing character</u>
Shared and Recognised Values	<p><u>Shared & Recognised</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <u>The network of open space areas within an urban context contributes to the health and well-being of the community.</u> <u>The landscape is highly valued for the many recreational opportunities it provides. A series of trails provide linkages to various parks and sports facilities.</u> <u>There are several active volunteer groups that are critical to the success of the Town Belt. Volunteers are involved with re-vegetation and restoration projects, pest management, and trail maintenance.</u> <p><u>Historical Associations</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <u>The origins of the Town Belt date back to the 1830s and are rooted in colonisation, social hierarchy, and the promotion of health and well-being of citizens. The green network was known as the ‘lungs’ of the city as well as a socio-economic barrier to keep highly valued property closer to the central city (Wellington City Council, 2013)</u>
Te Ahumairangi Hill	
Site Summary	<p>Te Ahumairangi is a steeply rising hill forming the northern backdrop to the central city. The landscape is a Wellington landmark and part of the Town Belt. Located along the Wellington faultline, Te Ahumairangi Hill is bound by the suburbs of Wadestown to the north, Wilton to the west, and Northland to the south. The vegetation is mostly exotic, but native forest is regenerating throughout. Te Ahumairangi Hill is the only undeveloped landform near the city’s central business district and provides an important green backdrop. The landscape has both important recreational and cultural values.</p>
Relevant values under Policy 28 of the RPS	<p>Natural Science Values (Moderate) Sensory Factor (High) Shared and Recognised (High)</p>
Natural Science Values	<p><u>Ecosystem Function</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <u>Although much of the vegetation is exotic, native forest is regenerating in the understorey and within sheltered gullies.</u> <u>Native vegetation is regenerating on the western slopes where a combination of tree felling and storms have removed large areas of pine trees.</u> <u>The large area of tree cover provides habitat for birds.</u> <u>The headwaters of five streams originate from this area, the Pipitea, Tiakiwai, Tutanenui, Waipiro, and Kumutoto Streams (Rachel Buchanan, 2012).</u>
Sensory Values	<p><u>Aesthetic</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <u>The landform appears largely unmodified by human activity, with modifications mainly limited to a single access road, telecommunication mast, radio transmitter tower and reservoir along the ridgeline. Although, the land cover consists mainly of introduced tree species, the dense backdrop of vegetation contributes to the high natural character.</u> <u>The backdrop is an iconic landmark and is highly valued for its contribution to the urban landscape and panoramic views of the harbour, city, Hutt Valley and western hills from the summit.</u> <p><u>Expressive</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <u>Located along the Wellington faultline, the landscape is highly expressive of the forces of uplift that led to its existing character.</u>
Shared and Recognised Values	<p><u>Shared & Recognised</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <u>A network of walking and mountain biking tracks provide recreational opportunities valued by the community.</u> <u>The green backdrop that the hill provides to the western part of the city, especially the CBD, is highly valued by the community.</u> <u>The landscape is highly used due to its proximity and ease of access city centre and surrounding suburbs.</u>

Wellington Botanic Garden	
Site Summary	The Wellington Botanic Garden consists of 26 hectares of native bush, exotic forest, specialty gardens, and floral displays near the Wellington city centre between the suburbs of Kelburn and Thorndon. The landscape was originally an important food gathering area for Māori, forming part of the Kumutoto Pā. Later, it became an important place for European settlers to import plant species to assess their economic potential, making it one of New Zealand’s oldest botanic gardens. While the stream systems are modified and there is a significant amount of exotic vegetation, the dense vegetative cover and remnant indigenous bush improve the ecological value of the garden. A network of trails connecting open space with several notable attractions, contribute to the garden’s popularity as a shared and recognised space.
Relevant values under Policy 28 of the RPS	Natural Science Values (Moderate <u>High</u>) Sensory Factor (High) Shared and Recognised (Very High)
<u>Natural Science Values</u>	<p><u>Research and Education</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <u>The documented collections of plants are used for scientific research and education. It is the only public garden in New Zealand to have a scientific mandate from the government (Wellington City Council, 2002).</u> <u>In addition to educational facilities such as the Treehouse Visitor Centre, Cable Car Museum, and Carter Observatory, informational signage and guided and self-guided walking tours contribute to the educational opportunities within the gardens.</u> <p><u>Rarity</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <u>Native bush areas along the western slope of Fern Glen Stream and Stable Gully are the only examples of original gully native forest within the city (Myers, 1987).</u> <u>The microclimate created by the vegetation and Pukatea Stream are habitat for glow worms.</u> <p><u>Ecosystem Function</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <u>Although a significant amount of vegetation is exotic, the garden contains several remnants of indigenous bush and areas of regenerating native vegetation. The larger areas of bush are generally healthy and self-sufficient with high ecological value.</u> <u>The large area of tree cover has helped expand the native bird habitat for restored populations in Karori Wildlife Sanctuary.</u>
<u>Sensory Values</u>	<p><u>Aesthetic</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <u>The landscape is somewhat modified with building structures associated with the gardens and other quasi-public organisations, altered streams and exotic vegetation. However, the dense vegetated cover and limited presence of roads amongst developed urban and residential areas, contribute to the garden’s sense of landscape naturalness.</u> <u>A network of walking tracks through lush vegetation and floral displays contribute to the landscape’s high aesthetic value.</u> <p><u>Transient</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <u>There is a rich association with wildlife transient movement, most notable through bird flight and auditory elements such as bird song and calls.</u>
<u>Shared and Recognised Values</u>	<p><u>Shared & Recognised</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <u>The garden is highly valued by the community as a place for recreation, education, public art, and seasonal events. A network of pathways, open space for picnicking and play and events such as summer concerts, light festivals, and seasonal floral displays attract many residents and tourists to the gardens.</u> <u>Several notable attractions are within or adjacent to the garden. These include, the Wellington Cable Car and Museum, Begonia House, Lady Norwood Rose Garden, Treehouse Visitor Centre, and Carter Observatory.</u>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>The volunteer programme highly contributes to the success of the Botanic Garden. The Friends of the Wellington Botanic Garden was formed in 1990 to promote and support the development of the garden, raise funds and support, and foster public interest.</u> <p><u>Historical Association</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>The garden is classified as a Garden of National Significance by the Royal New Zealand Institute of Horticulture and is an Historic Places Trust Heritage Area (Wellington City Council, 2014).</u> • <u>The landscape was used by European settlers as a place to import plant species to assess their economic potential (Wellington City Council, 2014).</u>
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