

OPEN SPACES

- **Make our streets green**
- **Create an eco inner-city**
- **Build the city in response to the local setting**
- **Create inner-city neighbourhoods**
- **Tell our stories**

The central city is literally surrounded by nature: hills, sea and sky are dominant features of the urban landscape. The central city itself, by contrast, is characterised by hard surfaces and little vegetation.

This framework aims to introduce more green spaces – places to reflect, relax, kick a ball, play with the kids. These spaces include small parks, green roofs and green links. These will be introduced when we upgrade streets, when areas are revitalised, and when developers and building owners recognise that tenants value such spaces.

These spaces are needed because of growth in the inner-city population. Inner-city residents are increasingly looking for comfortable spaces for relaxation and recreation. Green spaces are also needed because of changing patterns of activity in the inner-city, for example as people use the inner-city for exercise or to attend events and festivals. The increasing use of technology also needs to be considered in of public-space design.

Other benefits of the projects outlined here include:

- more public meeting places
- greater diversity of spaces
- increased biodiversity within city environment
- refuge spaces for environmental emergencies
- increased awareness of the city's ecology and history.

LEGEND

- Waterfront
- Parliament, Memorial Park processional route
- Cuba Street
- Blue Spaces – paths to waterfront
- Blue Spaces – stream streets (indicative)
- The Terrace and Lambton Quay
- Access to large spaces
- Triangle spaces
- East Te Aro area
- Civic area
- Victoria and Cuba area



Figure 21.
The relationship between the proposed open space strategies will form an integrated green network.

TRIANGULAR SPACES

Triangular spaces in urban environments are highly prized because they represent a junction of more than two streets, offering wider, more interesting views and a vantage point from which to see where you are in the city. They make cities easier to navigate and therefore more walkable.

Wellington's central city has an abundance of triangular spaces which were created where the original city street grid met the old shoreline. They make a significant contribution to the central city's compact, pedestrian friendly form and tell an important story about the way Wellington has changed over time.

This framework proposes the redesign of five key triangular spaces to make the most of their special features and strategic locations. Further details on these projects is available in Section 4.4.3 Te Aro. These redevelopments will improve connections to the waterfront and other civic spaces, create more quality cultural and performance spaces, and revitalise parts of the city.

Figure 22.
An extension of Te Aro park would allow for greater uses. Cuba Mall will provide a great, active edge to this space.





Figure 23.
Existing address to
Cuba Mall.

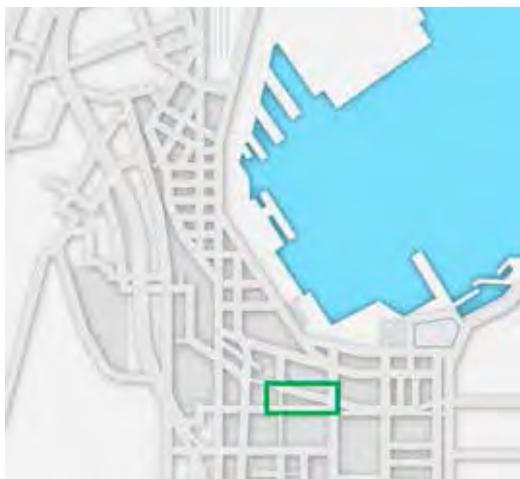


Figure 24.
Location of
Te Aro Park.

Areas of opportunity

Te Aro Park

This area could be better integrated into Cuba Mall and offer a performance space.

Victoria and Wakefield intersection

The redesign of this space could better connect two significant streets to Civic Square and through to the waterfront.

Lambton and Hunter and Willis Street Block

A redesign of this space could better emphasise the important heritage buildings here and improve the intersection of three important streets.

Post Office Square

The redesign of this space would improve its appeal, use as a park, and provide a clearer link to the waterfront through Grey Street.

Michael Fowler car park

The primary aim of this redesign is to join the western Te Aro area to the waterfront. This is a key component of the laneways project (*see Laneways section*) making ground floor activity on Opera House Lane economically viable. It has the added benefit of providing a cultural ribbon – joining the City Gallery, Te Papa, the Wharewaka, the Town Hall, Michael Fowler Centre, the Opera House and beyond to the theatres on Courtenay Place and the Film Archive on Taranaki Street.

Potential actions

- Undertake comprehensive landscape design.
- Buy property.
- Buy relevant property in order to extend the park.
- Work with mana whenua.
- Work with surrounding cultural venues to establish ways to use the space for performance.
- Undertake comprehensive landscape design in alignment with Civic Square project objectives.
- Undertake traffic assessment.
- Fund from renewals and new upgrade budget.
- Undertake streetscape design.
- Work with property owner to develop the block.
- Illustrate potential through concept design.
- Test assumption of use and patronage.
- Undertake landscape design in line with Jervois Quay project.
- Work with heritage to ensure the story of the square is told.
- Undertake a parking impact study.
- Illustrate potential through temporary/display initiative.
- Undertake landscape design.

GREEN WALLS AND ROOFS

Many of the city's buildings have flat roofs and terraces or podiums. These can be fitted with green roofs. Although green roofs are easier to achieve with new buildings, there is the potential to retrofit existing structures. The benefits include reduced peak flows to the stormwater system, reduced stormwater contaminants, habitat for birds, and cooling from reduced solar gain to internal spaces. It also encourages the private provision of green space to complement those provided by the city.

Wellington's climate is such that the outdoor use of open spaces in elevated positions would require shelter, but this

can be achieved with design that considers to prevailing wind direction and access to sunlight.

Green walls are commonly used in places where the space is narrow and relatively well sheltered, to provide visual interest and to cool spaces. Wellington's narrow streets and lanes would be well suited to these forms of greening provided a water supply can be maintained – these can be linked with green roofs by retaining rainwater for use to reticulate water to the green walls.



Areas of opportunity

Narrow streets

Green walls can be investigated for use within streetscape projects especially on some of the narrow streets, links and lanes.

Green building code

The long-term aim is for all new buildings and retrofits to achieve green status. While green standards are becoming the norm for new buildings, it is still necessary to assess and illustrate the potential for retrofits to achieve those standards.

Vertical connections between The Terrace and Lambton Quay

The spaces connecting The Terrace and Lambton Quay can be used as part of the open space network. Primarily this will see the:

- development of small, sheltered, elevated open spaces integrated into the public lanes and steps linking the two streets, and into existing spaces on The Terrace
- encouragement of private open spaces within apartment/residential developments, and the use of green roofs and green walls to improve the stormwater management performance and visual amenity of the area.

Edible City urban research lab

Like air, water, and other basic human needs, food is easy to take for granted when it is abundant. Patterns of consumption depend significantly on personal choice, cost and land use, but transportation and other factors such as natural disasters also influence access to, and security of, food supply. The question and role of food in our cities is explored by Massey University. Understanding its consequences for Wellington is important.

Potential actions

- Identify within the laneways design (see section *Laneways*) which areas may be appropriate for green walls.
- Work with property owners to incorporate green walls in conjunction with lane upgrades.
- Create a vegetation standard for green walls.
- Extend the Council's road reserve planting scheme to include inner-city green walls.

- Research and determine the most appropriate method for delivering green buildings.
- Develop best practice standards.
- Work in partnership with developers to deliver green buildings.

- Produce a green walls/green roofs toolkit.
- Undertake detailed design work for identified sites.
- Fund and undertake new projects to improve the public realm.
- Work with building owners to encourage retrofit of existing podium roof spaces.

- Raise public understanding and awareness by providing locations in the city for display and research projects.
- Use the city as a living 'laboratory' to test out applied research into urban agriculture and related factors.
- Collaborate with researchers to explore the relationship between urban planning and sustainable urban food systems.

Figure 25.
Retrofitted green walls and roofs can be introduced to deliver some benefits for both the performance of buildings and public amenity.

STREAM STREETS

Seven historical streams run under the city. These streams could be used to create different types of streetscapes that celebrate the city's natural heritage. Planting and landscaping could be used to filter stormwater runoff before it is discharged into the harbour, as well as reducing surface flooding during high rainfall.

The form of each of these 'stream streets' would vary according to the street space available and the landscape concept being incorporated.

Wellington's original coastline ran along Thorndon and Lambton quays and Wakefield Street, before to a major earthquake in 1855 and subsequent land reclamations. This original shoreline is an important part of the city's character. Although the original shoreline is marked with plaques and is evident from the streets' irregular shapes, there is potential to make it more distinctive by using landscaping which will also improve filtration of stormwater.



Figure 26.

Left: Celebration of where original streams meet the harbour can provide great places for people.

Right: Incorporation of water into public space design can have functional benefits also.

Areas of opportunity

Stream streets

Introduce filtration and hydrological systems as landscapes on streets that are sites of historical streams. This enables the improvement of stormwater quality from surface street runoff prior to discharge to the harbour and will provide some detention in the street system to reduce surface flooding in high rainfall events. It also reflects the natural history of the city. The use of tree-pit soakage should continue on the other larger city streets. Streets included within this project are Kent and Cambridge terraces, Taranaki Street, Harris Street, Waring Taylor Street, Whitmore/Bunny/Bowen streets and Pipitea Street.

Old coastline

Develop a consistent landscape treatment that is continuous along the old shoreline, incorporating stormwater management. This can be used to reinforce the Golden Mile and city identity.

Potential actions

- Partner with mana whenua to develop the concept.
 - Work with Wellington Waterfront and the Technical Advisory Group to establish appropriate relationships between stream streets and the waterfront.
 - Undertake landscape design and develop standard details.
 - Investigate appropriate methods for filtration and end of pipe treatment.
 - Determine location points related to stream streets.
 - Complete new projects in relation to street upgrades.
- Develop landscape palette.
 - Include heritage interpretation.

LANDSCAPE (FOCUS AREAS)

Landscape affects the way the city is laid out and functions, and the way we experience it. This is true of geological features, historical changes such as reclamations, and the way we design spaces and introduce vegetation. Future designs can enhance areas and contribute to their distinctive character.

We aim to develop open space across the focus areas that have different character and uses depending on location and weather constraints to supplement the space we already have.



Figure 27. Sections across the city explain the relationship of the city to the surrounding hills and harbour.

Areas of opportunity	Potential actions
<p>Capital City: Parliament and Memorial</p> <p>The green spaces at Parliament, the proposed Memorial Park, the open space related to the Railway Station, and the processional route that is to link these together provide important recognition of Wellington's capital city status.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Work with the Ministry for Culture and Heritage (and others) on activities to showcase the 150th anniversary of the capital moving to Wellington in 2015. – Develop a comprehensive open space design for the Parliamentary area (in line with objectives set out in the precinct plan see <i>Parliamentary Precinct</i> section). – Continue to work with the New Zealand Transport Agency (NZTA) and the Ministry for Culture and Heritage to ensure the delivery of Memorial Park. – Define the processional route and ensure that streetscapes within this reflect the precincts that it runs between. – Undertake relevant new works for street projects.
<p>Civic</p> <p>The space between Willis Street, Harris Street, Jervois Quay and Lower Cuba Street forms a 'hinge' within the city. This area is home to Civic Square. This project is a comprehensive design that focuses primarily on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – the legibility of connections between Civic Square and the street network surrounding it – increasing the active use of the square – creating more legible links between Willis Street and the waterfront. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Undertake specific pedestrian analysis. – Comprehensive public space design. – Identify potential modification to adjacent buildings and uses and work with stakeholders to define timing around any modifications. – Detailed design for streetscape and square. – Complete new projects.
<p>Cuba/Victoria</p> <p>Design options for the public open spaces of Cuba Mall and upper Victoria Street will be explored.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Undertake Victoria and Cuba precinct plan. – Complete detailed design for streetscape simplification.
<p>East Te Aro</p> <p>East Te Aro has undergone significant change due to growth of residential apartments over the last 10 years. A comprehensive landscape plan is required for this area to determine where the opportunities are for small park spaces for the residents in this neighbourhood. The focus will be on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – existing public open spaces which can be made more effective, and specific design development will be required for these – development of a new linear park using the Kent and Cambridge terraces median strip and linking between the Basin Reserve and Waitangi Park – clearer delineation of open spaces at each end of Courtenay Place – opportunities for small park spaces. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Complete East Te Aro precinct plan to identify potential new open spaces, and use wind study to help determine appropriate built-form to try and mitigate wind issues. – Undertake detailed design for existing open space upgrades. – Work with NZTA to determine specifics for Kent and Cambridge terraces and how they integrate with Basin Reserve. – Undertake landscape design for Kent and Cambridge terraces.

Areas of opportunity	Potential actions
<p>Allenby steps/pocket park (Terrace Gardens)</p> <p>Redesign the pocket park and access way. The park can be developed as a staging post between the city and Kelburn campus. It also offers the potential as a performance/theatre space or a community garden.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Undertake pedestrian-movement study. – Explore private, institutional funding, and Plimmer bequest funding options. – Complete design concepts. – Complete detailed design.
<p>Public Space Design Manual</p> <p>The manual aims to achieve improved streetscape, high-quality materials and a high standard of maintenance. It is a key tool for achieving the objectives of the Council's Public Space Design Policy (available at Wellington.govt.nz). This manual provides the palette of materials, fixtures and furniture in public space areas targeted for investment in Wellington's central city and suburban centres.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Use analysis within the Spatial Structure Planⁱⁱⁱ, along with consideration of transport objectives, to determine primary urban planning objectives for each street within the city. – Undertake stage 2 of the Public Space Design Manual which rationalises the street furniture for each precinct and common street types. – Set performance criteria for monitoring public space. – Ensure a relationship between the palettes suggested and techniques used with the suburban centres. – Align with the public art strategy. – Align maintenance and renewals budgets to match the recommendations within the manual.
<p>Access to large spaces</p> <p>There are large open space areas that can play an increased role in the provision of open space in the city. Primarily these are the Town Belt and waterfront. Improving the links to these from the central city will make more people use them as well as enhancing the experience of these large open areas.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Implement East-West street projects. – Develop a signage strategy that directs people towards these spaces from within the urban environment. – Provide a series of entry points and linkages from the edge of the Town Belt up to the ridgeline and lookout points. – Highlight popular walking routes for visitors to the city.
<p>Clyde Quay</p> <p>Create a public space plan to improve public access to the historic Clyde Quay Harbour and connection back to the rest of the waterfront and up to Mt Victoria.</p>	<p>Prepare a public space plan that considers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – current and proposed relationship with Oriental Parade – current and proposed access arrangements – heritage fabric – landscape – public facilities – built-form.
<p>Wellington Waterfront</p> <p>The Wellington Waterfront Framework will be implemented. See separate framework document (available at www.Wellingtonwaterfront.co.nz).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Implement framework.

WELLINGTON HAS OVER 200sq m OF
GREEN SPACE PER CAPITA - ONE OF
THE GREENEST CITIES IN THE WORLD



WELLINGTON
207sq m



NEW YORK
18sq m



LOS ANGELES
25sq m