
Outer Green Belt Management Plan

August 2019



Rangituhi
Colonial Knob
(in Porirua City)



Kilmister Tops



Mt Kaukau



Johnston Hill



Karori Park

Absolutely Positively
Wellington City Council
Me Heke Ki Pōneke



This management plan for the Outer Green Belt seeks to understand how people interact with this precious natural taonga.

Manaaki whenua. Manaaki tangata. Haere whakamua
Care for the land. Care for the people. Go forward.

Ko Ranginui e tū iho nei.

Ko Papatūānuku e takoto ake nei.

Tūturu whakamaua kia tina.

Tina hui e.

Tāiki e.

I acknowledge Ranginui above me.

Papatūānuku who lies beneath me.

Let this be my commitment.

Draw together.

Affirm.



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Front cover:

Photo taken from Mākara Peak looking north along Te Wharangi ridge. The ridge connects Mākara Peak and Mt Kaukau, and comprises a large section of the popular Skyline Track.

The Outer Green Belt carries on for many kilometres behind this viewpoint all the way to the South Coast.

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Common abbreviations used in this plan

DoC	Department of Conservation
GWRC	Greater Wellington Regional Council
KNE	Key Native Ecosystem
OGBMP	Outer Green Belt Management Plan
OSAP	Open Space Access Plan
ULR	Unformed Legal Road
4WD	Four Wheel Drive

1. Introduction



1.1 About this Plan

1.1.1 The Outer Green Belt

The Outer Green Belt is the series of reserves that Wellington City Council ('the Council') has acquired along the ridges that separate Wellington's urban and rural areas, to create a corridor of open space from the city's northern boundary to the south coast for multiple environmental, recreational and social objectives. See map below.

1.1.2 Purpose

This *Outer Green Belt Management Plan* ('OGBMP' or 'the Plan') has been prepared under the Reserves Act to provide a consistent policy, management and decision-making framework, for at least the next 10 years, in managing:

- The reserves in the Wellington Outer Green Belt, as appropriate to the classified type of reserve; and
- Other land in the Outer Green Belt that the Council owns or administers and is not reserve, to integrate with and complement the management of the Outer Green Belt reserves.

1.1.3 Scope

1.1.3.1 Spatial scope

This plan covers land that generally follows the ridges and some associated valleys west of Wellington's urban area that the Council either owns or manages on behalf of another entity, from the boundary with Porirua City Council to the south coast (above the mean line of low water springs). The spatial scope has changed significantly from the preceding 2004 management plan. In the 2004 Plan the Outer Green Belt ended in the south at the top of the coastal escarpment but has been extended down to the coast to better integrate management of the coastal edge and adjacent reserves. The 2004 plan covered a larger area, referred to as the 'Outer Green Belt Concept Area', which included both public and private land. The main reasons for removing private land from the scope are as follows.

- Under the Reserves Act, the Council can make policies and management decisions in relation to its own reserve land but the owners of other land cannot be bound by the policies in this plan,

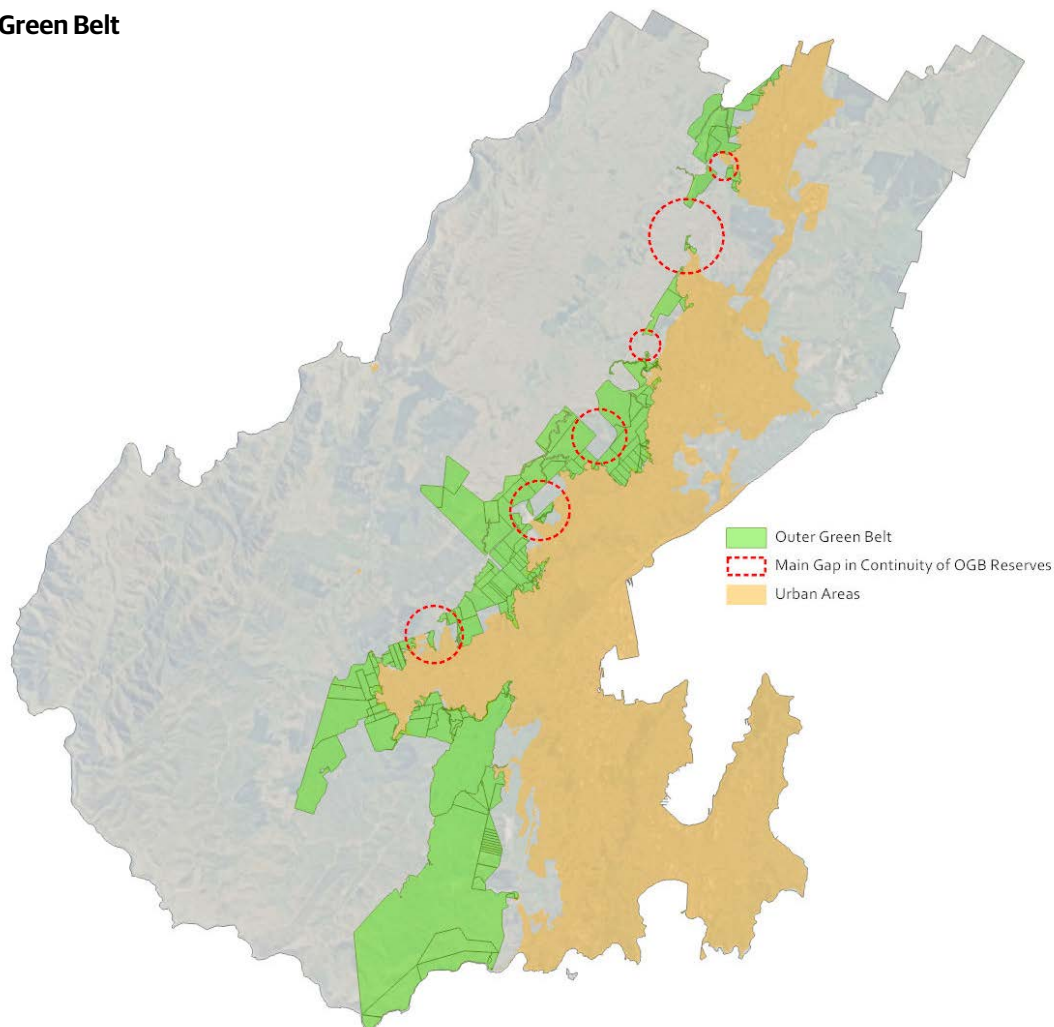
a point that was not always clear in the previous plan and had concerned private landowners

- The 2004 management plan highlighted the need to protect ridgetop values over the private land but could not do so under the Reserves Act. Since 2004, the Ridgelines and Hilltops Overlay in the Wellington City District Plan has become operative, providing a protective statutory mechanism for landscape protection over the private ridgetop land in the former Concept Area
- The scope of policies in this plan will be clearer if they are written from the point of view of Council being a neighbour to owners of adjoining private land
- Historically, defining a Concept Area was a way of expressing aspirations for a connected Outer Green Belt before much had been achieved. Now,

the Council owns sufficient reserve land along the envisaged corridor that it can be called an ‘Outer Green Belt’, albeit with the need to fill the gaps as opportunity presents, as has happened in recent years (see Appendix I, Timeline).

The Council regards all the land along the Ohariu/Te Wharangi /Te Kopahou ridges to be important to the overall Outer Green Belt vision, regardless of ownership, and will continue to seek opportunities to work with adjoining landowners on voluntary initiatives that would contribute towards the vision (see 4.6.2.3). Any such initiatives are subject to the landowner’s agreement and would recognise that landowners also have their own objectives for their land. In some locations Council may be interested in acquiring land to complete the reserve network or protect key open space values.

Outer Green Belt



1.1.3.2 Statutory and strategic framework

This *Outer Green Belt Management Plan* fits within a broad framework of statutory, regulatory and strategic policies. The relationships between this plan and the other documents are shown in the Statutory and Strategic Framework diagram below. The other documents are described in Appendix II, Policy & Planning Context. However, some key points follow.

- This management plan is being prepared under the Reserves Act 1977, to provide the guiding framework for the day-to-day management of, and decision-making about, reserve and other Council-owned or administered land in the Outer Green Belt. (Council may include non-reserve land in a multi-reserve management plan to better integrate open space planning¹.)
- Management of the unformed legal roads (ULRs), of which there are a number in the Outer Green Belt, must comply with legal requirements for ULRs. ULRs are not reserves
- The Outer Green Belt reserves are managed under the Reserves Act and under other legislation as necessary for any work that requires consents
- The plan also provides for working in partnership with neighbours and communities towards the Outer Green Belt vision
- Most of the other policies and strategies have been updated or initiated since the 2004 version of this plan, necessitating changes for better alignment
- In addition to the policy and strategy documents shown in the framework diagram below, other relevant programmes and initiatives have also been taken into account in this plan, e.g. Predator Free Wellington; the national Te Araroa Trail
- Cross-boundary contexts are also important, particularly in the north where the Outer Green Belt finishes at the Wellington City/Porirua City boundary. The two councils own adjoining open space with overlapping management issues and opportunities. The two councils and the Department of Conservation (DoC) are working together to integrate pest control, track networks and recreational opportunities between the northern forests in the Outer Green Belt, Porirua City's proposed adventure park and DoC's Rangituhi/ Colonial Knob Scenic Reserve.

1.1.3.3 Relationship with overlapping plans

Certain areas within the Outer Green Belt have separate site-specific plans where particular site values or uses require detailed guidance on management or development. The overlapping plans should generally be consistent, but because they are reviewed at different times there may be periods when policies in the older plans have not been updated to match more recent policies. How these interim periods are managed depends on the situation.

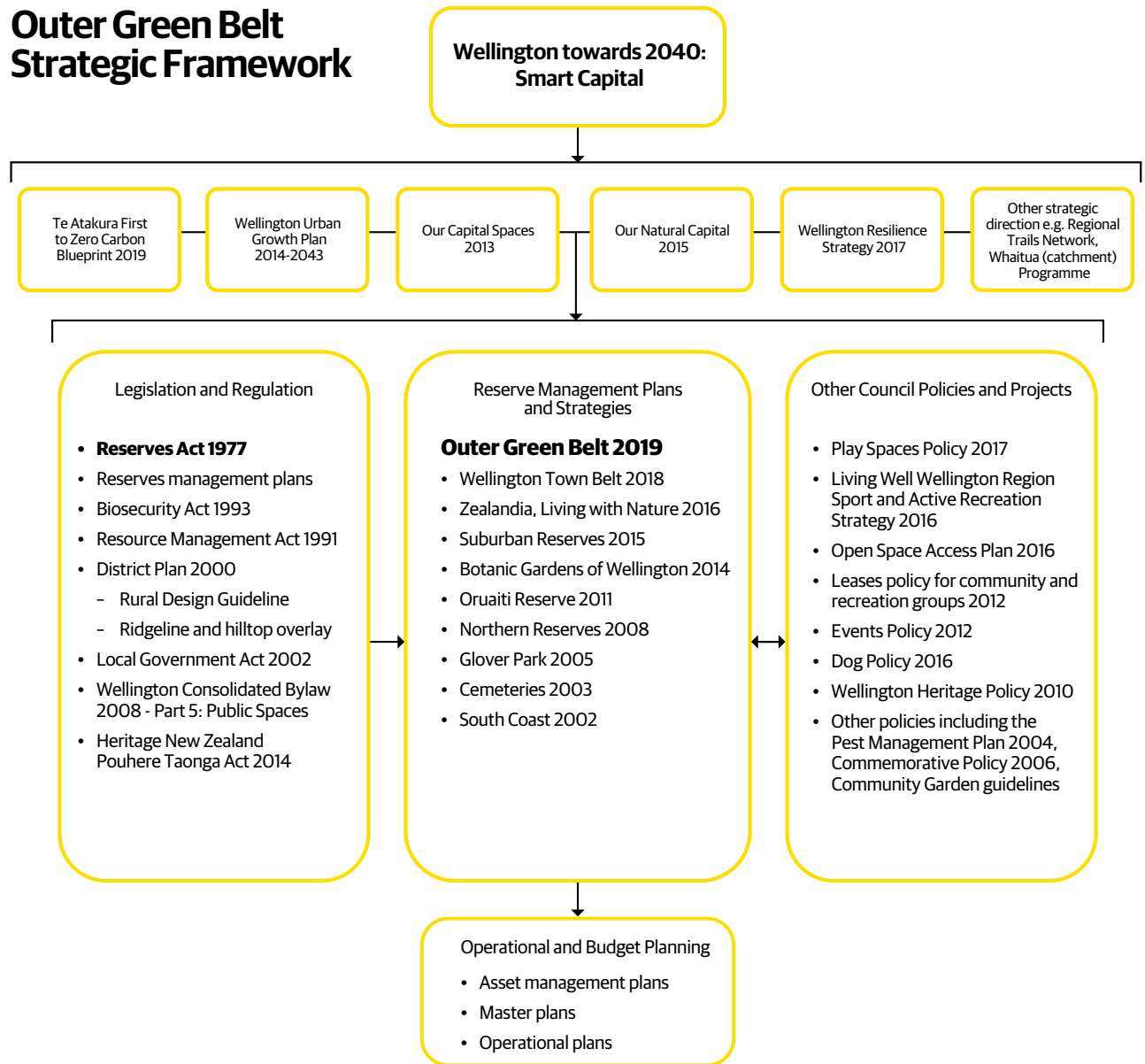
- **Other management plans under the Reserves Act.**
 - i. The primary management document for Otari-Wilton's Bush will be the *Botanic Gardens of Wellington Management Plan* (BGWMP). The BGWMP will take precedence if there is any policy conflict between it and this plan
 - ii. The OGBMP will take precedence if there is a policy conflict with that of the *South Coast Management Plan* (SCMP) in respect of the area currently under the SCMP that is to be brought into the Outer Green Belt (see 5.7.1.1). Once the SCMP is amended to exclude the area, no overlap will exist
 - iii. Some land parcels are split between management plans like Karori Park, where the hills are managed under the OGBMP and the field and play area is part of the *Suburban Reserves Management Plan*.
- **Master plans, conservation plans, landscape development plans** (e.g. Zealandia Strategy 2016-2035; the Wrights Hill Fortress and Old Coach Rd conservation plans; Mākara Peak Mountain Bike Park Master Plan). There could be instances where plans have been prepared under other legislation (e.g. a conservation plan under the Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga Act). Where there is policy conflict the most recent policy will usually take precedence and provide guidance for the next reviews of the older plan(s). Area-specific plans, master plans and landscape development plans (of various scales) must align with the OGBMP as the over-arching plan. They simply enable a greater level of detail not possible in the OGBMP.

¹ See Reserves Act Guide, chapter 6.

1.1.4 Timeframe

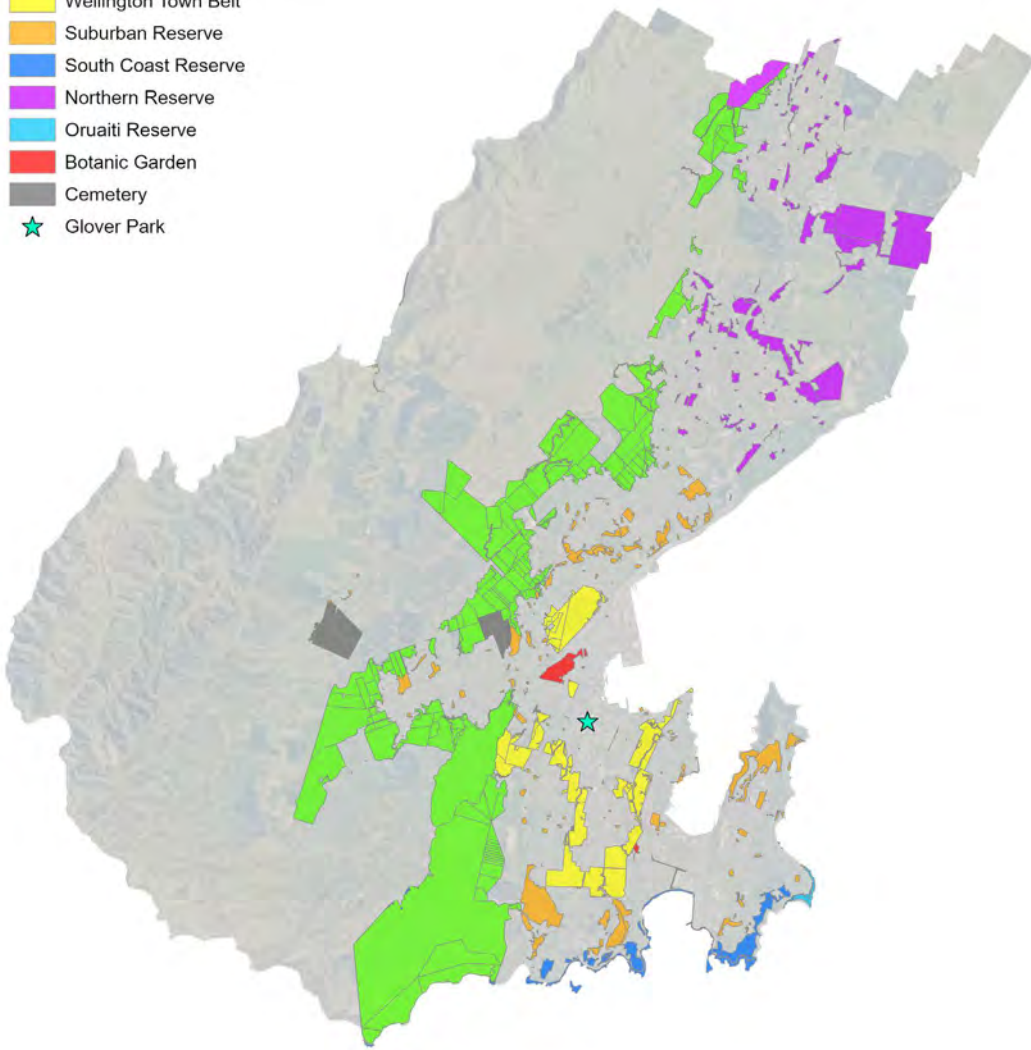
This plan is intended to span a 10-year period, from 2019-2029. It should be seen, however, as the second in a series of ongoing management plans that will be progressively reviewed and updated over time, always with a much longer term 50 to 100-year and beyond vision in mind.

Outer Green Belt Strategic Framework



Wellington Reserves Network

- Outer Green Belt
- Wellington Town Belt
- Suburban Reserve
- South Coast Reserve
- Northern Reserve
- Oruaiti Reserve
- Botanic Garden
- Cemetery
- ★ Glover Park



1.1.5 Plan structure

The Plan is structured from the broad scale to more detailed area-specific policies as follows:

Outer Green Belt as a whole:

- Vision and principles (Part 2)
- Description (Part 3)
- General objectives and policies (Part 4)
- Management sectors (Part 5): Area-specific policies and actions for seven sectors defined to reflect local character, open space values and communities of interest, area-specific issues and opportunities. The sectors are shown on the map underleaf.
- Rules (Part 6).

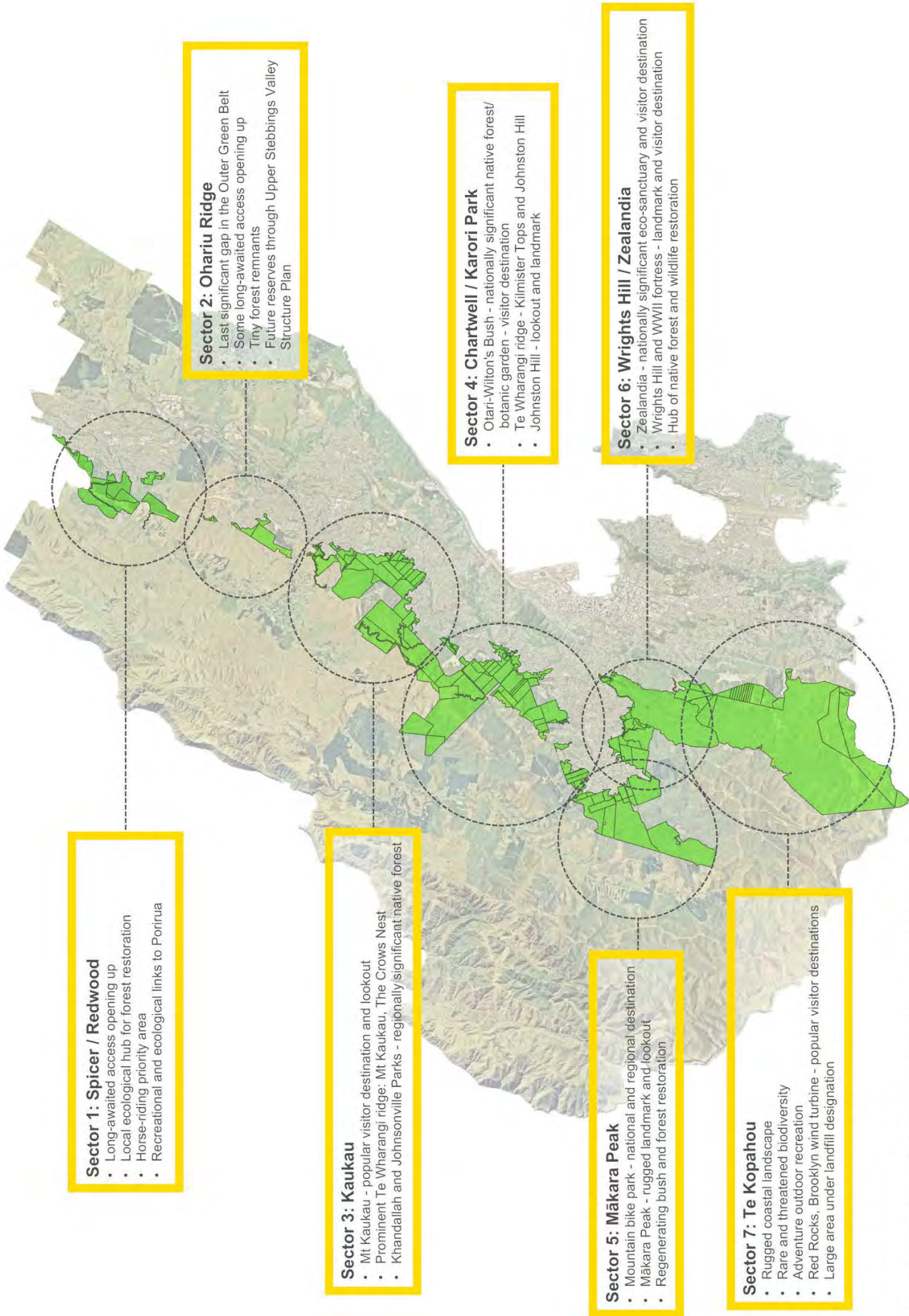
1.1.6 Implementation, funding and reporting

This plan has a long-term focus - ensuring that the essential values of the Outer Green Belt are protected and managed, and proposed actions gradually implemented step-by-step.

The actions identified in Part 4 (general objectives and policies) and Part 5 (management sectors) are categorised as 'existing', 'expanded' or 'new' and indicative timeframes for implementation given. An implementation plan will be developed to further inform programming into work and budget planning, and the allocations of resources under the Council's funding allocations system.

The Council's funding is prioritised and set through the Long-term Plan and Asset Management Plans. Operational funding is used for the day-to-day management and maintenance, and development and/or renewal works are funded through the capital works programme. There are often competing funding demands within the Council's strategic priorities, so funding will be prioritised and allocated taking into account those other demands and the Council's overall, long-term objectives.

People and groups who use and/or volunteer services to manage the Outer Green Belt need to be kept informed and have opportunities to provide feedback and influence decision-making. There is potential every three years as part of Council's Draft Long-Term Plan review, to provide submissions and feedback on the proposed programme of work. This may include advocating for additional or better targeted investment in support of this management plan's objectives.



Sector 1: Spicer / Redwood

- Long-awaited access opening up
- Local ecological hub for forest restoration
- Horse-riding priority area
- Recreational and ecological links to Porirua

Sector 2: Ohariu Ridge

- Last significant gap in the Outer Green Belt
- Some long-awaited access opening up
- Tiny forest remnants
- Future reserves through Upper Stebbings Valley Structure Plan

Sector 3: Kaukau

- Mt Kaukau - popular visitor destination and lookout
- Prominent Te Wharangi ridge: Mt Kaukau, The Crows Nest
- Khandallah and Johnsonville Parks - regionally significant native forest

Sector 4: Chartwell / Karori Park

- Otari-Wilton's Bush - nationally significant native forest/ botanic garden - visitor destination
- Te Wharangi ridge - Kilmister Tops and Johnston Hill
- Johnston Hill - lookout and landmark

Sector 5: Mākara Peak

- Mountain bike park - national and regional destination
- Mākara Peak - rugged landmark and lookout
- Regenerating bush and forest restoration

Sector 6: Wrights Hill / Zealandia

- Zealandia - nationally significant eco-sanctuary and visitor destination
- Wrights Hill and WWII fortress - landmark and visitor destination
- Hub of native forest and wildlife restoration

Sector 7: Te Kopahou

- Rugged coastal landscape
- Rare and threatened biodiversity
- Adventure outdoor recreation
- Red Rocks, Brooklyn wind turbine - popular visitor destinations
- Large area under landfill designation

Outer Green Belt Management Sectors

1.1.7 Relationship with mana whenua

Wellington City Council recognises the importance of the mana whenua² relationship and has formal memoranda of understanding (MOUs) with Taranaki Whānui ki Te Upoko o Te Ika (Taranaki Whānui) and Te Rūnanga o Toa Rangatira Incorporated (Toa Rangatira), based on the following principles:

- **Partnership:** Acting reasonably, honourably and in good faith to ensure the strategic relationship has integrity and respect, in the present and for the future of Wellington
- **Participation:** Recognising that both parties can contribute, for mutual benefit, in deciding the future of the city - working towards and achieving the parties' visions; and
- **Protection:** Actively protecting the taonga of Taranaki Whānui and the taonga of Ngāti Toa Rangatira and safeguarding cultural concepts, values and practices to be celebrated and enjoyed for all Wellingtonians.

The Council has a responsibility to take into account the principles of the Treaty of Waitangi and to improve opportunities for Māori to contribute to local government decision-making processes.

Under the memoranda of understanding, each party recognises the authority of the other to exercise their responsibilities - *kāwanatanga* (governance) by the Council and *rangatiratanga* (customary authority) and *kaitiakitanga* (guardianship) by *tangata whenua*.

This draft plan is intended to reflect these above principles including, in particular, the key relationship understandings recognised in the MOUs in relation to Council planning and policy processes and to culture and heritage.

Officers will continue to work with *iwi* to incorporate the Māori world view and concepts into the management and project work as appropriate. The Council is currently working on implementing the 2018 *Te Tauihu - te reo Māori* Policy which will help inform naming and interpretation processes and partnerships with *iwi* and the wider community.

² *Mana whenua* means customary authority exercised by an *iwi* or *hapu* in an identified area.