

Reserve Category (WCC)	Reserve Classification (Reserves Act)	District Plan zone (Resource Management Act)
Neighbourhood (community) Neighbourhood (local) Sport and Recreation (community) Sport and Recreation (local)	Recreation Reserve	Open Space A
Neighbourhood (amenity)	Recreation Reserve or Local Purpose Reserve	Open Space A or Open Space B
Cultural Heritage	Historic Reserve	Open Space A or Open Space B or Conservation Site
Natural	Scenic Reserve	Open Space B or Conservation Site
Recreation and/or Ecological Linkages	Recreation Reserve or Scenic Reserve	Open Space A or Open Space B or Conservation Site

2 GENERAL OBJECTIVES AND POLICIES

2.1 LANDSCAPE

While built infrastructure and formal recreation is an important part of the reserves network, the landscape value of parks is associated with the protection and provision of the unbuilt or natural landscape and the contribution this makes to the character, quality, and liveability of the city. The significance and prominence of the natural landscape, often held as public reserve land, is a unique and valued part of the character of Wellington.

The Wellington landscape can be considered at a series of different scales.

At a broad city scale the parks and open spaces contribute to the essential character of the wider city environment – Wellington looks and feels like a “green” city with the natural landform, the hills, the coast, the gullies and vegetation cover readily visible. The value of this natural landscape is far-reaching, contributing to economic prosperity, environmental health, and the health and wellbeing of residents.

At the community scale the landscape provides community identity, contributing to the attractiveness of the area and providing the setting for day-to-day experiences. We have taken a sector approach in the development of this plan to better consider community open space networks.

At a reserve scale there is a contribution to the open space and amenity values of the local neighbourhood. Most of the suburban reserves are “local” and discrete. The larger reserves can be “local” as well as part of a wider pattern of landscape coherence and connectedness. Individual reserves vary in character and quality.

The extent to which development is woven into the natural patterns of the land is an expression of what we value and is part of our social history. An awareness of what makes our landscapes and the places where we live attractive helps us to ensure that ongoing development and change best reflect our needs.

An ideal open space framework incorporates the key landscape attributes of the city. The open space framework may include private land (with covenants and easements) as well as public land. The planting undertaken by property owners and their willingness to allow natural regeneration on their properties makes a major contribution to the quality of the environment generally and the visual amenity of their communities in particular.

2.1.1 OBJECTIVES

- a) Protect the natural character of reserve areas and visual corridors of open space to maintain the unique landscape of the suburban areas between Khandallah/Broadmeadows and Miramar.
- b) Protect the natural character of the suburban reserves network recognising the value they have in defining the character and identity of Wellington City and the different suburbs and the contribution it makes to the wellbeing of residents.
- c) Protect and enhance vegetated corridors to provide visual coherence and unifying themes across the landscape.
- d) Provide for large trees as an essential component of the suburban environment.

2.1.2 POLICIES

2.1.2.1 Natural environment

- a) Sector plans will identify specific landscape characteristics and values associated with each area to be enhanced, maintained and/or protected.
- b) The values of existing trees on suburban reserves (including heritage trees and large trees generally) will be identified and managed to retain a tall tree framework where appropriate. Sector plans identify important trees that need to be retained, protected and/or replanted.
- c) The Council will (so far as possible) protect the existing character of the ridgelines, hilltops, waterways and other significant landscape features using all appropriate means, including reserve contributions, land acquisition, Reserves Act classification and covenanting.
- d) The Council will work with developers to establish reserves that recognise significant landscape and amenity values and contribute to a wider landscape connectedness and coherence.
- e) The Council will engage with landowners and communities in the protection and enhancement of landscape and amenity values of reserve areas (and other Council-owned and managed land) and private land.
- f) The effects of vegetation removal, maintenance, and new planting on the following values will be considered on a project-by-project basis to guide management decisions:
 - i. enjoyment and interaction with nature and the outdoors
 - ii. views to and from the particular reserve
 - iii. diversity of landscape aesthetic and pattern
 - iv. retention of a tall tree (and large tree) framework for landscape, ecological and human wellbeing reasons

- v. protecting heritage tree groupings
- vi. ecology at a site scale, community scale and citywide scale
- vii. land and soil health, and stability
- viii. supporting outdoor recreation opportunities
- ix. provision of shade and shelter
- x. mitigation of effects of buildings on and around the suburban reserves network (e.g. screen them, integrate them into landscape or reduce bulk and scale)
- xi. CPTED⁸ principles.

2.1.2.2 Built environment

- a) Built development on suburban reserves will only occur if it is necessary for community or public recreation purposes and cannot be located elsewhere, and will be subject to an assessment as outlined in Chapter 4 Rules for use and development⁹. See Chapter 4 for specific policy relating to utilities.
- b) Any development will be sensitively designed and implemented to protect the landscape and open space values of the suburban reserves network and incorporate Water Sensitive Urban Design (WSUD) principles where practicable.
- c) No new building or structures of any kind will be permitted on the skylines and ridgelines as viewed from the central city, suburban centres or the harbour. In exceptional circumstances, this policy shall not apply where buildings or structures are for essential utilities and cannot practicably be located elsewhere and their public benefits outweigh their adverse visual impacts.
- d) Development in prominent locations or development that detracts from landscape values will be avoided. Care shall be taken to minimise visual distraction from the natural environment.
- e) All development will be located and designed to protect existing landscape features and established vegetation. Appropriate form, scale, materials, and colour scheme will be used to integrate development into the landscape.
- f) Colour schemes, planting, and site design associated with existing buildings and structures shall be reviewed by the Council as each comes up for attention (either by the Council or a lessee) to ensure they are well-integrated and complementary to their surroundings.
- g) Earthworks and landscape modification will be limited in scale and effect to protect natural landforms.
- h) Soft engineering approaches will be used as a preference¹⁰, for example swales and planted berms are preferred to piped storm-water and retaining walls.
- i) Structures, buildings, and furniture no longer required shall be removed as soon as practicable, and those that are unsafe or irreparable shall be removed also and replaced only if consistent with the policies in this plan and the Leases Policy for Community and Recreation Groups. An assessment of the historic significance of a building will be undertaken prior to a decision being made about its removal.

⁸ Crime Prevention through Environmental Design

⁹ Development is defined in its broadest sense including, but not limited to, earthworks, new buildings and structures, additions and alterations to existing buildings, car parks and lighting.

¹⁰ With best practice guidance reference for example the Wellington City Council Water Sensitive Urban Design Guide

Opportunities to re-use/relocate buildings, structures and furniture will be explored prior to demolition to support sustainability best practice (minimising waste).

2.1.3 LANDSCAPE - DISCUSSION

2.1.3.1 City scale – landscape character and coherence

The most significant planning initiatives to capture the attributes of the Wellington landscape character include the ridges and hilltops overlay in the District Plan and the management plans for the Wellington Town Belt, Outer Green Belt, south coast and the Botanic Gardens of Wellington. These documents recognise the importance of Wellington's skyline and areas of largely undeveloped, natural landscapes held as public reserve land and its essential contribution to the distinctive character of the city. The suburban reserves network complements these larger areas to create a unique landscape character appreciated at a city scale.

The landscape values of the Wellington Town Belt contribute to making it an iconic and distinct city resource. The patchwork of vegetation and the prominent natural features of the ridgelines, hilltops and slopes have citywide significance. They provide a natural green backdrop to the central city and contribute to the city's identity and sense of place.

The harbour's edge follows Wellington's main fault, a very distinctive geological feature given emphasis by the steep escarpment rising up to the skyline. This "hard edge" is a defining feature of the harbour and city. These fault-scarp and coastal cliffs and the Te Motu Kairangi/Miramar Peninsula and south coast beaches are important components of the city's landscape.

2.1.3.2 Community scale

The local open space network forms part of the suburban environment that local people interact with on a daily basis and how this space looks and functions has a direct impact on their lives. Wellington's older suburbs are generally well-integrated into woody vegetation (indigenous and exotic), have views onto bush-covered hills, often have views out onto the harbour, and have reasonable walking or cycling access to larger areas of public open space, either the Town Belt, the coast or the Outer Green Belt.

The patterns of development and its density are defined by, and therefore reflect, the land form. In older suburbs, developed when engineering was more constrained and perhaps a greater modesty prevailed, houses are less dominating and the "space left over" has been colonised by indigenous vegetation. With the notable exceptions of significant infrastructure type works such as main roads and harbour reclamation, there is a sense of integration; development that accommodates rather than dominates nature. More recent development has been less generous and accommodating in this regard. Even local road development cuts deep scars across the faces of steeper hills, and structures dominate. Extensive landform change occurs through large-scale earthworks. Areas of hard surfacing and larger housing footprints often leave little space for people to plant trees and shrubs, or for nature to simply re-invade. They also have a significant impact on storm-water management. Trends towards intensifying built development will have an impact on the landscape and on the aquatic environment.

On the western edge of the city, the Outer Green Belt comprises the large reserves forming a continuous green backdrop between Mt Kaukau and the south coast. The steep faces below are covered with vegetation, while mixed vegetation reaches into the suburbs along road reserves and across steeper east-facing slopes. The suburban reserves often serve to visually connect the residential areas to the Outer Green Belt landscapes. In particular, the vegetation cover on the Natural and Ecological and/or Recreation linkage reserves provides for visual coherence and distinctive character at a neighbourhood scale (for example, Trellissick Park).

On the eastern and southern sides of the city, the suburban reserves network provides connections to the coastal landscape. Steep, undeveloped private land often connects to public open space, protecting the natural landscape patterns and supporting a variety of vegetation.

2.1.3.3 Individual reserves

The landscape values associated with the individual reserves across the suburban reserves network are generally limited by their smaller size, however they complement the large-scale reserves. There is a cumulative landscape value in a network of open space across the city and across a suburb.

Large-scale reserves affording ecological and recreational connections and making a significant contribution to the wider Wellington landscape include Centennial Reserve in Miramar and Trelissick Park in Ngaio. At the other end of the scale are small parks, sometimes isolated from wider networks. Examples include Chelsea Street Reserve in Miramar and Cararra Park in Newtown. In between are the medium-sized spaces that are not part of a wider connectedness but are attached to waterways or areas of landscape or ecological significance. Examples include Ian Galloway Park in Wilton and Cashmere Park in Khandallah. These areas often provide a valuable opportunity to exhibit natural landform and support vegetation that lends itself to defining the character of suburban areas.

Many of the suburban reserves are heavily modified with their original purpose being for landfill. This is now a unique feature of the open space network and a valuable resource in terms of providing flat space across the naturally steep landscape where residential housing has been established.

Neighbourhood reserves are often small-scale or single-purpose, such as a playground where safety and visibility requirements mean that vegetation is minimal (or at least low in stature) and landscape values are not significant in comparison to amenity or outdoor recreation opportunity.

2.2 RECREATION (AND LEISURE)

The open space network in the suburban areas between Khandallah/Broadmeadows and Miramar provides for a range of outdoor recreation activities and uses through the provision of parks across the following categories¹¹:

- Neighbourhood (community, local and amenity)
- Sport and Recreation (community and local)
- Cultural Heritage
- Natural
- Recreation and/or Ecological Linkages.

Within these areas a range of recreational and leisure activities take place, including the following.

- **Informal activities** such as walking; jogging; biking; dog walking; sightseeing; picnicking; skateboarding; children's play; community gardening; sitting to admire the view, think or knit
- **Organised sports and programmed activities** such as football, rugby, cricket and outdoor gym classes
- **Private club/group activities** such as guides, bowls, tennis and play centre facilities. Note some of these are also organised sports activities.
- **Commercial activities** such as cafes, recreation concessions and so on.

¹¹ Refer to Appendix 1 for full explanation of Parks Categories

While many of these activities are limited to certain types of area, for instance sport and recreation parks are primarily used for organised sports, others such as children's play (playgrounds) can occur in neighbourhood parks, sport and recreation parks or even on the edge of natural areas.

In addition, schools are an integral part of the open space network through formal partnerships, such as the new artificial turf at Wellington College, and informally through use of school playgrounds and playing fields after hours. Any use of school grounds or facilities needs to be approved by the board of trustees with more formal use such as leases or licences also being approved by the Ministry of Education.

This section will look at the provision of open space for recreation between Khandallah/Broadmeadows and Miramar. A more detailed, localised analysis of park categories, park provision and quality is outlined for each sector in Chapter 3 of this plan.

2.2.1 OBJECTIVES

- a) Provide open spaces and outdoor recreation opportunities close to where people live and work.
- b) Provide a wide range of quality recreation and sporting opportunities (both formal and informal) that are easily accessed and affordable.
- c) Develop and manage outdoor spaces to maximise flexibility of current and future use.
- d) Increase regular participation in recreation and sport.
- e) Develop and enhance well-located park spaces as local destinations that provide a range of activities and experiences.
- f) Support community initiatives to increase local self-sufficiency.
- g) Complete suburban track networks with a priority on connecting communities and open spaces, and providing short walking and cycling loops and transport connections.

2.2.2 GENERAL PROVISION

2.2.2.1 Discussion – general provision

Our Capital Spaces¹² outlines guidelines for the provision of open space in suburban areas. It recommends that every household should be within 600 metres or a 10-minute walk to one or more neighbourhood park, play space, or other outdoor recreation opportunity such as track link. The results of this analysis are outlined in each sector plan with actions on how any gaps can be addressed.

Provision of access to an outdoor recreation opportunity has been assessed through mapping a 600m/10-minute walk along the local street network from park and track entrance points. Solutions to identified gaps and prioritisation of actions to fill gaps in both general provision and formal play area provision need to be considered on a case by case basis through more detailed analysis. For example, a gap in both open space and formal play area provision would likely take priority over a gap in just formal play area provision only. Potential to address the gap may, however, be limited either way by there simply being no available land for public use.

If there was a gap in play provision identified, census data may show that the majority of children in that particular area are actually school-aged children so providing a play area outside of school grounds might not be a high priority. There may also be an opportunity for

¹² Our Capital Spaces – An Open Spaces and Recreation Framework for Wellington 2013–23

an arrangement with a local school to allow all local children after-hours access to play equipment and kick-about space.

When considering gaps in general provision, buying land is seldom a viable option due to the cost of purchasing land in built up areas. There are few opportunities to obtain land through development as most development in the established neighbourhoods will be small scale infill type housing.

Planning for increased housing density will consider existing open space provision in determining suitable areas for increased intensification in addition to planning mechanisms that could be employed to fund new reserves and/or development. Any new reserve land should contribute to as wide a range of open space values as possible. For example, an area containing ecologically significant vegetation and an area of flat space for informal recreation would obviously be of higher value than a steep grass-covered slope.

It is important to note that changes in age demographics or trends in open space use or urban design generally may require the redesign of parks, but not necessarily the need for more dedicated parks space. A space with a broad range of values is able to best provide for this flexibility of use over time.

As previously noted, in general, there is very good provision of access to outdoor recreation space across the suburban areas of Wellington City covered under this management plan.

2.2.2.2 Policies – general provision

- a) Provide where practicable a community or local park, play space, or other outdoor recreation opportunity such as track links within 600 metres or a 10-minute walk from residential areas.
- b) Incorporate Crime Prevention through Environmental Design (CPTED) and universal accessibility principles into the design of new spaces and modifications of existing spaces.
- c) Encourage greater, flexible and more creative play for all ages (including young adults and the elderly) through the development of neighbourhood parks.
- d) Users with mobility challenges (eg with wheelchairs, pushchairs, or people with sight-impairments) can access an adequate range of spaces and opportunities.
- e) Frequently used spaces are accessible and provide high-quality amenities and activities for local communities (eg shelter, toilets, and eating areas).
- f) Diverse play, sport, and recreation opportunities are provided for all ages, cultures, income groups and abilities alongside other open space values where possible (such as indigenous biodiversity and amenity for example).

2.2.3 PLAYGROUND PROVISION

The Playground Policy identifies four categories of playground (centralised, community, local and local basic). The policy guidelines are that:

- a significant majority of dwellings should be within 800 metres of a community playground
- a significant majority of dwellings should be within 600 metres of a local playground.

Working towards this guideline will establish an adequate provision of playgrounds in Wellington, as well as ensuring that excessive provision does not occur. This will help get the best network of formal play provision for the most people. We have used this policy to identify playground provision during the development of the sector plans.

The provision guidelines identified potential gaps in the network and areas where the provision is greater than that specified in the guidelines. What the response to both scenarios might be will vary depending on the many other factors that inform planning across the whole network.

The aim of the playground policy is to consider how best to provide playgrounds to the community in an equitable manner recognising the needs of communities and suburbs and taking into account constraints such as topography and funding.

A recent safety audit has also identified playgrounds where work is needed to improve accessibility and safety for users and their caregivers. This work will be carried out as part of routine maintenance. Any larger works required have been identified in the sector plans.

2.2.4 DOG EXERCISE AREAS

2.2.4.1 Discussion – dog exercise areas

Most areas in Wellington City are classified as “Controlled public places” where dogs are welcome on-leash and under the control of their owners. The Council provides 51 designated off-leash exercise areas and 8 beach exercise areas across the city. Dogs can exercise and socialise off-leash in these areas as long as they remain under the control of their owner and subject to some restrictions in some areas. Off-leash areas are designated under the Dog Policy 2009. Dogs are prohibited in play areas and sportsfields.

There are no guidelines for the provision of off-leash dog exercise areas, which has resulted in a range of sizes and locations from the small enclosed areas at Cummings Park and Cog Park, through to longer walkways such as Maupuia Walkway. There are several on areas of the Wellington Town Belt adjacent to reserves covered under this plan.

2.2.4.2 Policy – dog exercise areas

- a) Provide for the reasonable exercise and recreational needs of dogs and their owners.

2.2.5 TRACKS

2.2.5.1 Discussion – tracks

Our Capital Spaces¹³ includes under “Outcome 1: Getting everyone active” a priority point to “Complete the track network with a priority on connecting communities and open spaces, and providing short walking and cycling loops and transport connections”. Further detail is provided by actions:

- 1.9.3 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
- 1.9.2 Continue to develop the track network for shared use wherever appropriate, while managing any conflicts between different activities.

The network in the suburban areas has developed mainly to serve individual reserves, rather than link the reserve network together. The major tracks and walkways through this area identified in the Open Space Access Plan are:

- **The Sanctuary to Sea Track**, which runs from Zealandia through Otari-Wilton’s Bush and Trelissick Park towards Wellington Harbour at Kaiwharawhara. The track ends at Trelissick Park.
- **The Harbour Escarpment** between Khandallah and Newlands. The southern section starting from Homebush Park is still to be planned and constructed.

¹³ Our Capital Spaces – an open spaces and recreation framework for Wellington 2013-2023.

Access to the Outer Green Belt from the suburban areas of Khandallah/Broadmeadows through to Karori is well-developed and provides numerous entrance points to bush tracks and the longer walkways such as Te Araroa. Any opportunities for further track links associated with suburban reserves are identified in the sector plans.

Some of the newer tracks have been built and maintained by volunteer groups, for instance in Centennial Reserve in Miramar. The tracks are designed for dual-use, except for a few that have been built as mountain bike-only tracks (to ensure the safety of all track users, for example downhill mountain biking activity).

There is ongoing demand from users for more beginner level/family-friendly biking and walking tracks. These will be identified in the sector plans.

There are a whole range of values associated with the individual reserves across the city and the full range of those values needs to be considered as part of any track development. As referenced in Our Capital Spaces, the needs of different user groups are also important in thinking about shared use and accessibility.

Parks and reserves can also provide important routes for active transport, whether from the suburbs into the central city or to link suburban areas. Beginner and family-friendly tracks will often be used as alternatives to walking or cycling along the road corridors. The suburban reserves, because of their generally smaller size, do not provide the opportunities provided by the Wellington Town Belt or Outer Green Belt. In most cases, where a track could be developed through a suburban reserve, it already has.

2.2.5.2 Policies – tracks

- a) Tracks will be shared use (ie pedestrian and cycle) and open for cycling unless otherwise identified in accordance with the Open Space Access Plan (2008).
- b) The open space access network will be integrated with the wider city and regional access networks, and cycle and walking commuting needs.
- c) Develop more tracks that are accessible and useable by people with limited mobility, push chairs and wheelchairs. This includes the able-bodied, people pushing strollers, the elderly and people with impairments or disabilities.
- d) Develop a plan for additional beginner level/family-friendly biking and walking tracks.
- e) The walkway system will be accurately mapped and interpreted, and this information will be freely available to the community.
- f) All tracks will be physically sustainable and have minimal environmental impact, as far as possible.
- g) Tracks will be designed and maintained to defined standards in the Open Space Access Plan, with significant hazards identified and/or mitigated.

2.2.6 COMMUNITY GARDENS

2.2.6.1 Discussion – community gardens

Community gardens allow residents to share in the provision of food, recreation and therapeutic opportunities. They can also promote individual health and wellbeing, environmental awareness, and provide community education.

A community garden is defined as:

A small-scale, low- investment neighbourhood communal gardening venture, where the primary purpose is growing vegetables or fruit. Community gardens may have an explicit gardening philosophy, ie organic growing, they may be treated as one garden or they may allow participants with individual plots to manage them as they see fit.

(Wellington City Council Guidelines for Community Gardens, September 2009)

In Wellington City there are already a number of different types of community gardens and orchards, on reserve land, in community housing complexes, schools and so on.

The increased interest in community gardens and orchards over the past few years has resulted in a number of applications to use parks and reserves. To assess these applications and ensure a consistent approach, the Council has prepared a set of guidelines (Wellington City Council Guidelines for Community Gardens, September 2009).

Assessment of applications for use of parks and reserves for community gardens and orchards will use the criteria specified in Rules for Use and Development. These are slightly modified from the Community Garden guidelines with the gardens operating as a not-for-profit activity with no individual plots or allotments. The Council will not support commercial gardening on public reserves.

2.2.6.2 Policies – community gardens

- a) Community gardens and orchards may be permitted, so that community groups can provide food as well as recreation and therapeutic opportunities for the community.
- b) Assessment of applications for community gardens and orchards will be according to the criteria specified in Rules for Use and Development.
- c) Community gardens should not have a negative impact on indigenous biodiversity.
- d) The Council will not support commercial gardening on public reserves.

2.2.7 SPORT AND RECREATION PARKS (“SPORTSFIELDS”)

2.2.7.1 Discussion – sport and recreation parks

The sport and recreation parks are managed as a citywide network.

Council sportsfields are under growing pressure with increasing demand from sports groups – particularly from football. The period where demand is highest is from April to August.

The city has limited land suitable for developing into sportsfields. The artificial sportsfields at Nairnville Park, Te Whaea, Wakefield Park, St Patrick’s College, and Wellington College have provided an additional capacity of over 50 hours a week during peak times. An additional field has recently opened at Alex Moore Park in Johnsonville. There are no plans for further artificial fields until the success and utilisation of the existing fields have been reviewed over the next three years. That review will be a regional review.

The growth and improvement in facilities, however, brings with it the need to upgrade infrastructure to cater for increased use, for example car parking, changing facilities, floodlighting, fencing, toilets and so on. New buildings and the infrastructure associated with development of outdoor formal sportsfields can result in significant impacts on the open space values and natural environment of parks and reserves. To protect specialist surfaces (and the investment), fencing is often built to limit use by casual users, for ball control and to protect the turf.

At the other end of the scale there are sports clubs not making full use of existing facilities. Bowls is one sport with declining numbers and club membership. There are currently only two

bowling clubs with leases on parks and reserves covered under this plan (at Wilton and Kilbirnie) with the clubs at Karori, Vogelmorn and Hataitai (private land) all now closed.

Balancing the provision of a diverse range of recreation opportunities with maintaining public access to open space and the natural environment needs to be carefully managed. There are a number of informal recreation activities that use the more formal developed spaces – for example, picnics, flying a kite, kicking a ball around and community events.

2.2.7.2 Policies – sport and recreation parks

- a) A range of sporting and recreation opportunities are provided that satisfies the needs of citizens and visitors.
- b) Work with Sport Wellington to monitor participation in physical activity and barriers to participation across the wider region.
- c) Built facilities will be very carefully managed to ensure the focus remains on parks providing for outdoor recreation.

2.2.8 ELITE SPORT

2.2.8.1 Discussion – elite sport

Elite sport¹⁴ and associated events are important to Wellington as a destination for major events, entertainment, and also to provide a pathway for talented young people to develop their skills and pursue a career in elite or professional sport. Such sport can sometimes bring in external funds to improve facilities that can in turn benefit community sport.

There is increasing use of the public sporting infrastructure for elite sport. The development of elite sport and the associated professional support and administration can put pressure on existing facilities used for community sport. It's important community use and access is not compromised by these changes.

2.2.8.2 Policy – elite sport

- a) Support the use of the reserve network by elite sport, provided such activity complements and supports community use, access, and participation.

2.2.9 CLUB FACILITIES

2.2.9.1 Discussion – club facilities

Tennis, bowling, and scout clubs have leased areas for specialised playing surfaces and/or clubrooms. Other clubs, such as rugby, cricket, football and athletics for example, lease land for clubrooms.

Most of the club and community group leases have buildings that are only available for club members. Some, such as bowling clubs and tennis, are available to be used on a pay-for-play (casual) basis. Many clubs sub-lease facilities to other clubs to make best use of the facilities and share costs as well as allowing casual play.

Leasing is permitted to enable the public use of parks and reserves by providing a wider range of facilities than would otherwise be available.

¹⁴ This does not include people playing their sport at a high performance level such as national athletic competitors but is intended to capture professional sports and franchises (the Pulse netball team, and Wellington Phoenix for example) and events such as the Cricket World Cup.

With the exception of sports such as football, many traditional sports clubs are experiencing declining membership. This issue has been further complicated by the rising cost of maintenance, building compliance, and insurance. However, another influencing factor is the increase in casual sport (pay-for-play). Many people are choosing to participate in sport and recreation on a casual basis rather than committing to membership of a club. There is also more choice, with new sports emerging such as floorball, handball, ultimate frisbee, and futsal.

The Council is working with a number of clubs (such as bowling clubs) to address sustainability issues. Many clubs are being encouraged to amalgamate or to share resources/facilities. This is commonly referred to as a “sportsville” model.

2.2.9.2 Policies – club facilities

- a) Maximise use of facilities consistent with the primary purpose.
- b) Identify opportunities for clubs to amalgamate and share facilities or services.
- c) Regularly monitor the health of sports clubs to ensure that more clubs are sustainable over the long-term.
- d) Partner with Sport Wellington to organise and promote sport and recreation development opportunities for clubs (including greater partnerships with businesses and the community and marketing the activities on offer).
- e) Leasing of reserve land and facilities to sport and recreation clubs is allowed where the activity is consistent with the objectives of this management plan and:
 - i.* is concerned with community recreation, sport or leisure activities
 - ii.* is open for public participation (clubs will be encouraged to allow casual play at their facilities or, at least, that their membership shall be open to all members of the public)
 - iii.* complies with Rules for Use and Development (Chapter 4).
- f) Leases will be administered in accordance with the Council’s Leases Policy for Community and Recreation Groups (2012), except where inconsistent with this management plan.

2.2.10 COMMERCIAL ACTIVITIES

Running a community sporting team or club can be an expensive operation. There are fewer volunteers around to help run competitions, coach teams and maintain facilities and buildings. This has led some clubs to have paid administrators, coaches, and players.

Some clubs are investigating commercial activities/opportunities to enable them to raise funds to run competitions and programmes and invest in their sport. This varies from charging for play or sponsorship, through to running commercial facilities such as cafes and pro-shops.

Any approval to carry out commercial activity will only be permitted to the extent that the:

- activity is necessary to enable the public to obtain the benefit and enjoyment of the park or reserve or for the convenience of people using the park or reserve
- activity does not require a new permanent building or structure.

In addition, where the activity is related to an existing sporting club or community group, the commercial activity must complement and be ancillary to a group’s primary community or recreational activity. Excess funds generated by the activity are in the first instance applied to

any maintenance obligations the group has under its lease and then to the group's community or recreational activity.

2.3 ECOLOGY AND INDIGENOUS BIODIVERSITY

The vision statement for indigenous biodiversity in Wellington City is:

Wellington is a city that protects and restores indigenous biodiversity and proudly showcases its natural areas. It is a city renowned for its kaitiakitanga (environmental guardianship).

This vision statement will be achieved through Our Natural Capital: Wellington's Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan. The suburban reserves network plays an integral part in assisting to achieve this vision. This section is focussed on how the suburban reserves network contributes to Wellington's ecology and indigenous biodiversity.

Enhancing and protecting indigenous biodiversity often complements other values of the open space network, such as landscape value (eg people value the green backdrop to the city and it visually unifies the city landscape), recreation value (walking in the bush or seeking shade in a playground) and community value (it can provide a sense of identity in a suburb, and groups form over restoration projects). At a suburban reserves network scale this translates into a need to look for the potential for both connectedness of ecosystems and ecological enhancement of individual reserves.

2.3.1 OBJECTIVES

- a) To protect indigenous biodiversity and indigenous ecosystems within and between suburban reserves, including aquatic ecosystems.
- b) To restore and connect indigenous ecosystems within and between suburban reserves and the wider reserves network.
- c) To protect and restore existing stream habitats, with a focus on the Kaiwharawhara, Owhiro and Karori Stream catchments.
- d) To protect and enhance the large tree network (both indigenous and exotic species) through and between the suburban reserves to assist with movement between habitats and support neighbourhood amenity and character.
- e) To incorporate opportunities for indigenous biodiversity enhancement in any development plans across all park categories to maximise diversity of parks values and use of the suburban open space.
- f) To carry out weed and pest animal control within suburban reserves where these significantly impact on indigenous biodiversity values.
- g) To work collaboratively with iwi, schools, communities, researchers and individuals in restoring suburban reserves.
- h) To prioritise protection of bush remnants¹⁵ and other identified ecologically significant sites on both public and private land.
- i) To acknowledge that local healthy open space benefits people's health and wellbeing, and these people are more likely to engage in positive environmental behaviour.

¹⁵ Refer to An Inventory of the Surviving Traces of the Wellington Primary Forest of Wellington City by G Park (1999).

2.3.1.1 Discussion – ecology and indigenous biodiversity

While the large areas of land associated with the Outer Green Belt, Wellington Town Belt and the south coast provide the most significant habitat for our indigenous biodiversity, the suburban reserves network also has an important role to play. Broadly speaking, the forests in suburban reserves are fragments of a bigger picture, and most are regenerating secondary forest. The larger reserves provide core habitat for our indigenous species, while the smaller spaces allow for these species to travel between areas. The mix of type, size and spread of parks is also a part of what makes our parks network unique and the landscape and lifestyle in Wellington City distinct. The same applies to streams, where many of the remaining streams are fragments of the former system, often piped above and below the reserves.

Trelissick Park and 17 other suburban reserves have been categorised as “natural” parks with a primary purpose of protecting the natural environment. While the “natural” parks provide the greatest opportunities to enhance citywide indigenous biodiversity (primarily due to larger size and quality of vegetation), indigenous biodiversity is an attribute of the parks network that has value at all scales. Smaller parks and even individual trees, when considered as part of a network, make a significant contribution to citywide indigenous biodiversity. These smaller spaces are identified as Ecological and/or Recreational Linkage reserves. The other categories of reserves can also have indigenous biodiversity values as secondary to their primary purpose.

A principle of ecology is that everything is interrelated. The ecology of the suburban reserves is heavily influenced by how biodiversity (both indigenous and exotic) is managed on private land and other Council land not managed as reserve. For example, important food sources for birds may be specimen trees on private land or road reserve, or a source of weeds could come from private gardens. Advocating for the protection and restoration of indigenous biodiversity and the management of pest species across all land is an important opportunity for the ecological health of the whole city.

To be successful, restoration activities need to be well planned. Sites with sheltered conditions along stream valleys within suburban reserves offer good opportunities for restoration planting. Many factors need to be considered, including variations in site conditions that could affect survival rates, species choice, and pest threats. The Council intends to assist the natural successional process by carrying out extensive enhancement planting of the tall tree species in areas of young indigenous forest and scrub, as well as restoration planting on bare land and following weed control. There is also potential to diversify understorey and ground-layer plant species through enhancement planting. All proposals for enhancement planting will need to be assessed on a case-by-case basis. Fundamental to all restoration efforts is ongoing plant and pest management to optimise the conditions for restoration and to protect any biodiversity gains.

There are a number of “identified sites of ecological significance” within and around the suburban reserves network. These are sites that were identified in an inventory of the precise location and extent of the surviving traces of Wellington’s forest remnants. The survey identified every stand of vegetation within the Wellington City boundaries in which canopy tree species characteristic of the district’s primary forests’ tree species are naturally occurring. There were a total of 401 sites identified in 1999, 108 of which are on Council reserve land. Unprotected remnants on private land are a significant issue; however, this is a Resource Management Act matter that District Plan changes can address.

The survey notes: “the surviving traces of the old forest are crucial to the process of forest re-establishment... Only where they are in proximity, in reach of seed-dispersing birds, or close enough for wind to spread seed, can the new forest approach the nature of the former forest. Where there is no old forest nearby, the process is infinitely slower, to the extent that artificial re-planting may be necessary to stimulate it”. The suburban reserves that contain these identified sites of ecological significance are critical in providing not only the protection of this remaining vegetation but also allowing for the proximity between sites given the geographical spread of the reserve network. There is also opportunity for enhancement of the vegetation across the suburban reserves network by both the Council and community groups.

Communities and individuals that identify with the natural value of their open space are often more actively enjoying the reserves network and contributing to its protection, restoration and enhancement. The suburban reserves are often the local reserves that people visit or even just see on a regular basis for a “daily dose” of nature. People’s awareness and connection with nature is enhanced when parks are healthy, which in turn promotes health and wellbeing in those individuals and communities.

2.3.2 POLICIES

2.3.2.1 Identifying and planning

- a) The important areas for ecological restoration on suburban reserves will be identified and prioritised around:
 - i. their representativeness, rarity, connectivity or buffering function, diversity, health and special features
 - ii. enhancing the indigenous species diversity of suburban reserves
 - iii. improving the ecological connectivity of the suburban reserves network and adjacent Town Belt, Outer Green Belt, coastal areas, northern reserves and botanic gardens
 - iv. improving freshwater habitats and fish passage (in line with GWRC Fish Passage Restoration programme) particularly in the Kaiwharawhara, Makara/Ohariu, Karori, and Owhiro Streams
 - v. improving the ecological buffer zone around Zealandia.
- b) All restoration planning will take into account potential for natural regeneration and site conditions.
- c) Opportunities for planting large tree species to benefit indigenous biodiversity through providing a food source or facilitating movement (whether indigenous or exotic) will be identified and tree planting undertaken by the Council and community groups.
- d) Plant and animal pest threats will be identified and assessed, and their management prioritised in accordance with the policies and priorities in relevant local and regional pest management plans. In prioritising plant and animal pest management, priority will also be given to:
 - i. ecologically significant areas
 - ii. areas containing species representative of the indigenous biodiversity of the city (providing control does not have an adverse effect on these species)
 - iii. areas important for ecological connectivity
 - iv. areas of hazardous tree removal
 - v. areas of high amenity and recreation value
 - vi. improving the ecological buffer zone around Zealandia.
- e) Restoration, revegetation and pest management programmes will be reviewed and adapted as necessary in response to the results of ongoing monitoring and research.

2.3.2.2 Protection

- a) The Council will protect the indigenous biodiversity within suburban reserves, including the streams, natural water courses and soil, from threats such as weeds and pest animals, fire, pollution, earthworks and recreational activities.
- b) Partnerships will be promoted between the Council, other organisations and adjacent landowners in implementing pest management programmes and protecting indigenous biodiversity.

- c) Infrastructure within suburban reserves, including stormwater management devices, will be managed and, if necessary, redesigned to minimise impacts on the natural environment.
- d) The suburban reserves network will be managed to maintain and enhance its ecosystem services, prioritising water quality, indigenous biodiversity protection, education, low-impact recreation, intrinsic worth, cultural significance, and carbon storage.

2.3.2.3 Restoration

- a) Eco-sourced plants will be used in all restoration planting.
- b) Areas cleared of exotic vegetation and invasive weeds will be restored through planting and/or enabling natural regeneration.
- c) Regular follow-up maintenance will be carried out on all areas being restored until canopy cover has been achieved and as required thereafter.
- d) Planting of larger, slower-growing tree species, and other specialist species, will be carried out to diversify the range of indigenous plants, to provide additional habitat and, where appropriate, to add to the tall tree framework on the suburban reserves network.
- e) The Council will enable and advocate for fish passage within streams flowing across suburban reserves.
- f) The Council will encourage, support, and work collaboratively with iwi, local communities, businesses and interested groups to develop and implement restoration programmes within the suburban reserves network in accordance with Council indigenous biodiversity planning.

2.3.2.4 Monitoring, research, and education

- a) The ecology of the suburban reserves network, including indigenous biodiversity, water quality, weediness and impacts of animal pests, will be monitored as part of the Council's citywide monitoring programmes, and will include continuing bird monitoring.
- b) Monitoring will include record-keeping of Council and community-based planting and pest control activities, to inform future decision-making.
- c) Monitoring results will be reported regularly to inform the Council and the public about trends and issues.
- d) Research and information-sharing about the ecology of the suburban reserves network, its management and its role in the city's urban ecology will be encouraged through partnerships and communication networks involving the Council, research organisations and interested community groups.

2.3.2.5 Awareness/advocacy

- a) Local parks will be promoted to groups as outdoor ecological classrooms by enabling opportunities for on-site learning, such as school activities, spaces for learning and interpretation signage.

- b) Council will work with community groups and give them adequate support and education around planting and pest control, and ensure their activities do not have a negative impact on our indigenous biodiversity.

2.4 CULTURE AND HISTORY

This plan highlights the key historical values of the suburban reserves between Khandallah/Broadmeadows and Miramar. While many reserves have no visible heritage items, they do have their own “story” associated with cultural significance and history of the land and about how they came to be public open space. When shared, these stories can add to the reserve’s value and enhance a sense of community and stewardship for people associated with that history and local residents and users of the space.

2.4.1 OBJECTIVES

- a) Significant historical and cultural features and values of the suburban reserves are identified, managed, and protected.
- b) Appreciation of the cultural heritage and the history of the suburban reserves will be enhanced through research and interpretation.

2.4.2 POLICIES

- a) Historic buildings and sites, and traditional and wahi tapu sites within the reserves, will be protected and managed according to recognised conservation principles and policies. Collaboration with mana whenua and Heritage New Zealand will be important in implementing this policy.
- b) The reserves will be protected and managed in a manner reflecting their value and significance, in consultation with any directly affected groups or individuals.
- c) Interpretation at reserves will be carried out as broadly as possible to include cultural, social, economic, and historical significance of each site.
- d) Where possible, proposed works will avoid recorded archaeological sites. Where avoidance of recorded sites is not possible, authority shall be sought from Heritage New Zealand before any work is carried out. In areas of high archaeological potential, when there is reasonable cause to suspect that an archaeological site (recorded, or for the discovery of unrecorded sites) may be damaged, modified, or destroyed by any activity, an archaeological authority shall be applied for from the Heritage New Zealand in accordance with the Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga Act 2014.
- e) Wherever appropriate, Māori place names will be used, on signs and maps, plant labels and interpretation.
- f) Any activity occurring on or near the “Sites of Significance to mana whenua or other Māori” listed in the District Plan shall be discussed with mana whenua before the activity starts.
- g) Interpretation of these significant sites will be carried out in partnership with mana whenua.

2.4.3 IMPORTANT CULTURAL AND HISTORICAL RESERVES AND FEATURES

Each of these sites (except the Bridle Track) sits within the context of a reserve that has a variety of other values specific to each site and that provide an important part of the character of each place.

2.4.3.1 Bridle Track

The Bridle Track was the first recognised main route to Wellington during its European settlement in the 1840s. The track followed a number of Māori routes from Wellington Harbour and along the top of the ridge. The area was a resting place and a vantage point, and there is archaeological evidence of shellfish having been consumed at the site.

The path has continually been used and modified to allow for people to travel from the harbour, Kaiwharawhara and up to Te Wharau Ridge and Paerau. There is a local emotional tie to the track and it is still a popular shortcut in to the central city for the residents of the northern suburbs. While the track is not a parks asset, the Council will manage the area to protect the heritage values and current values as a cycle/walkway link.

2.4.3.2 Brooklyn War Memorial

The memorial was built to commemorate Brooklyn's World War I servicemen. It was planned and constructed through the efforts of the Brooklyn Returned Services Association and the people of Brooklyn. In just two years following the end of the war, they raised £900 for its construction. The designer and sculptor are not known.

The Brooklyn War Memorial is a distinguished and elegant memorial and is set on a spectacular site that has views across the area and city.

2.4.3.3 Cog Park and the Patent Slip

Evans Bay is the site of the first Patent Slip in Wellington and New Zealand. The Patent Slip, consisting of two slipways built in 1873 and 1922 respectively, was designed to accommodate large ships over land for maintenance and repairs and is considered a great engineering feat.

In 1969, the first slipway closed and an upgrade of the second slipway commenced. The No. 1 slipway was sold for scrap in 1972 and the machinery removed. The No. 2 slip continued to operate until 1985, when it too closed. Following the demolition and removal of the slips and associated buildings, the land was then drastically altered.

The Evans Bay Patent Slip is a site of great historical and technological significance, locally, nationally and internationally. The seven cogwheel winch built by Kennards is possibly the only one ever produced, and rated for a pull of 2000 tonnes it is also the largest of any winch of its time, making it extremely rare. In addition to the large machinery, a patent slip of this size is exceptional; from the 1870s it was common to maintain large ships by dry-docking. A number of engineers have identified the construction of such a large slip facility, from scratch, with primitive machinery and in such a difficult location as being an outstanding engineering feat. In addition, it is undoubtedly the first large-scale underwater construction in New Zealand. [Paraphrased from its Heritage New Zealand registration]

2.4.3.4 Miramar Bowling Club Pavilion

The Miramar Bowling Club was founded in 1946. Initially it had a small pavilion but acquired its current clubrooms in 1948 from the Centennial Exhibition, where it had been an operational fire station. Alterations were made to the building to fit it out for purpose but it remains generally intact.

Edmund Anscombe was commissioned to design most of the buildings for the Centennial Exhibition. The buildings were prefabricated and temporary in construction as they were only intended to last five years. Anscombe used what was then the cheapest building material available – painted asbestos cement in flat sheets and battens. After the Exhibition closed, some buildings were dismantled while others were accidentally burnt down in a fire. The fire station is one of the only Exhibition buildings known to still to exist.

2.4.3.5 Fort Buckley

Fort Buckley is an historic fortification initially constructed in 1885 on a spur of land overlooking Kaiwharawhara. It was built as part of the coastal defences of Australia and New Zealand, in response to fears of a Russian attack following the establishment of a new sea port at Vladivostok, and the consequent presence of the Russian Imperial Navy in the North Pacific. It was the first of the coastal defences built in Wellington, and was operational until 1893. It was later refurbished as an anti-aircraft battery during the Second World War. [written by Bruce McFadgen, 2009]

2.4.3.6 Trelissick Park Magazine Store

The site of the Kaiwharawhara magazine has been occupied by the magazine itself for over 100 years, since 1880. The magazine is significant as few examples of this type of military/civilian structure still remain.

Originally there was two stone magazines, two corrugated iron sheds, a keeper's house, stables and a coach house at the site. One of the magazine buildings is still largely complete, with the front wall and complete side wall of the other also standing. The stone lining of the dirt track approaching the location can also still be seen.

The magazine is located between the site of the old Kaiwharawhara jetty and the physical remains of Fort Buckley, which was built on the hilltop south of the river mouth and the magazine. The jetty and the fort had a special functional relationship with the magazine. Originally the magazine would have formed a wider landscape with the jetty, which was used to transport the powder and materials, and Fort Buckley, which the magazine was serving.

This history was obtained from the New Zealand Heritage List/Rārangi Kōrero and the Trelissick Park Management Plan (that is superseded by this plan). The site is a Category II historic place and was acquired in 1995 by Wellington City Council. It is now an integral part of Trelissick Park. The Capital Defence website has some more information about the site. <http://capitaldefence.orconhosting.net.nz/prfiles/pre1930/kaiwarra1.htm>

Further references to the Trelissick Park Magazine Store are as follows:

Onslow Historical Society publications:

Julie Bremmer, "Kaiwharawhara Powder Magazine", *The Onslow Historian*, Vol 14, 1984.

Steven White, "Kaiwharawhara Powder Magazines 1880-2005", *The Onslow Historian*, Vol 35, No's 1 & 2, 2005.

Chris Cochran, Kaiwharawhara Magazine Trelissick Park, Wellington, Conservation Report, prepared for Wellington City Council, May 1998.

2.5 COMMUNITY GROUPS AND PARTNERSHIPS

Our Capital Spaces identified as one of its four key outcomes “Doing it together”.

There are currently more than 80 community groups across 112 sites involved in general parks advocacy, restoration projects, animal pest management, and track building throughout the city. As well, many sporting and recreational groups manage facilities and sporting activities, and many schools have environmental programmes both on and off-site in the surrounding parks network. The map on the following page shows the spread of formal community partnership and participation.

In addition to the people or groups working at specific sites or on specific projects, there are groups that advocate for their community of interest or more generally around parks related issues. For example, there are active residents’ associations across the city and a range of organisations such as Forest and Bird, Wellington Botanical Society and Living Streets Aotearoa all with key areas of interest and expertise.

There has always been public involvement in the management, development, and protection of the suburban reserves network. This involvement ranges from individuals who look after the reserve adjacent to their properties, through to organised groups that lease areas and are responsible for managing these areas as, for example, bowling greens or tennis courts. There is the opportunity to get a wider section of the community involved in the reserve network including urban Māori, ethnic communities and young people.

The future of the suburban reserves network depends on the active involvement of the community. Council resources are limited and the success of future work on reserves depends heavily on the involvement of the public. Council officers and community groups will continue to work closely in partnership, together meeting objectives in the management plan.

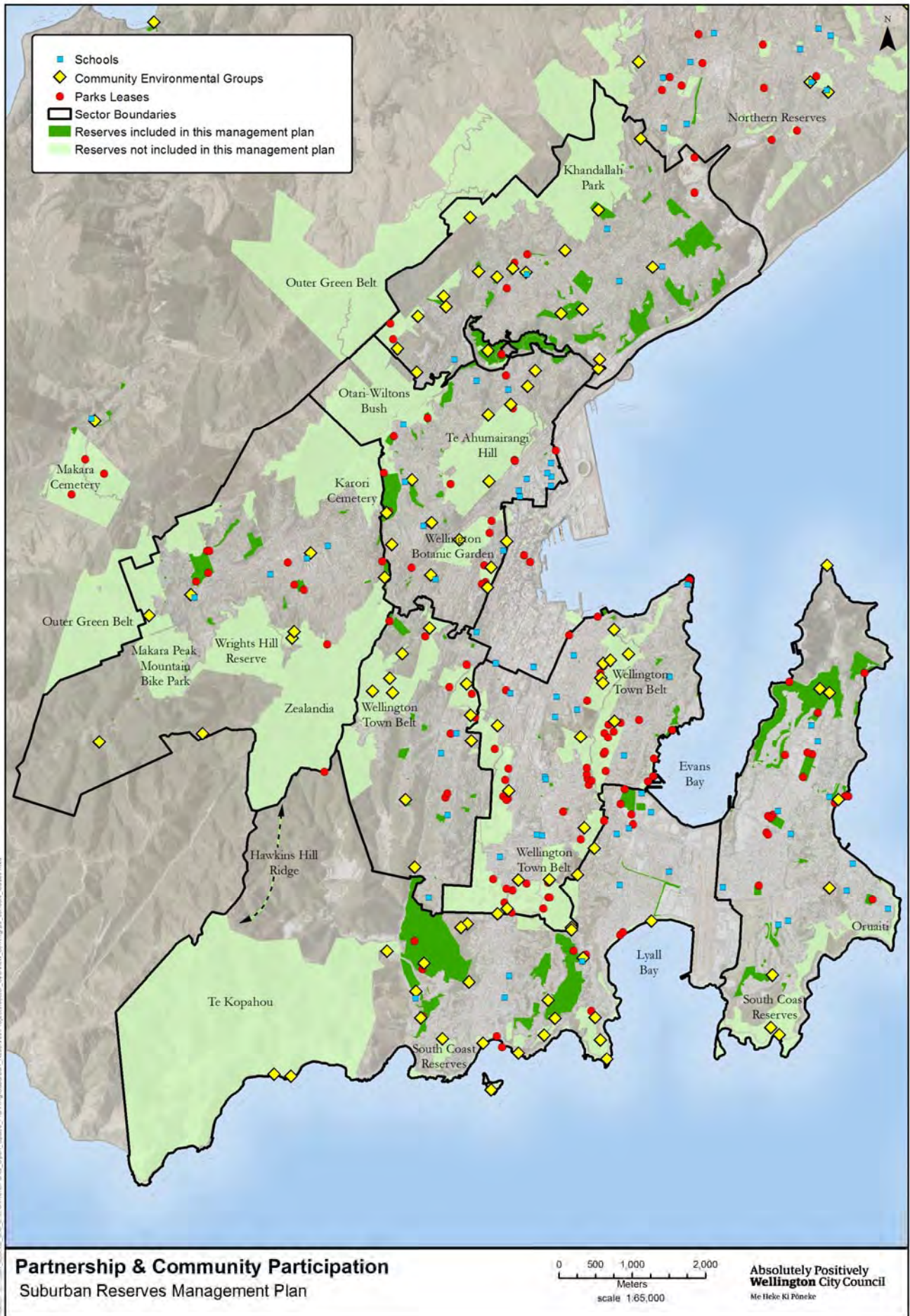
Council support for groups is not detailed in this plan as the different needs of each group are too broad to have a one-size-fits-all statement of “support”. The many different groups need support in many different ways depending on the site they are at, the type of project they are planning, and the different skills and capabilities of the group members. Some current information can be found at:

<http://wellington.govt.nz/recreation/enjoy-the-outdoors/parks-and-reserves/volunteers-and-support>

And <http://www.naturespace.org.nz/>

Examples of great community partnerships include: the Makara Peak Mountain Bike Park, the Berhampore Golf Course, community gardens and orchards in public open spaces, and the restoration of Trelissick Park.

Suburban reserves and track networks provide public space for people to informally interact. They also provide the opportunity for people and groups to simply look at or experience the natural environment. Both the human interaction and the interaction with the natural environment are increasingly recognised as being critical to the health and wellbeing of people living in cities. Building a sense of community also assists in building local resilience.



2.5.1 OBJECTIVE

- a) Manage the suburban reserve network on behalf of and in partnership with the wider Wellington community.

2.5.2 POLICIES

2.5.2.1 Policies – community groups and partnerships

- a) To encourage and support active community participation in the ongoing management, maintenance, development, and monitoring of the suburban reserve network.
- b) To provide opportunities for individuals, groups, and businesses to be involved in activities on the suburban reserve network, such as research, habitat restoration, events, community gardening, and recreation development (such as tracks).
- c) To establish, as appropriate, Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs) with groups that contribute to activities on the suburban reserves, such as habitat restoration, recreation development, and events.
- d) To support the beautification of the suburban reserves by adjacent property owners, provided the work is consistent with the objectives and policies of this plan.
- e) To report regularly to community groups on progress towards key objectives in the Suburban Reserves Management Plan.

2.5.2.2 Policies - partnership with mana whenua

- a) We will encourage Treaty partners and the wider Māori community to help determine how this plan can be implemented, including:
 - i. working in partnership with mana whenua to co-manage reserve land vested in mana whenua
 - ii. supporting 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.

2.5.2.3 Policies - partnership with education and health providers

- a) We will encourage and support environmental education and physical and mental health initiatives in the outdoor open space environment.
- b) We will encourage and support tertiary-level research into the values and management of suburban open space in Wellington, including but not limited to:
 - i. studies into environmental, recreational, and social issues associated with open space, recreation, and natural environments
 - ii. landscape and city character studies
 - iii. implications of increased suburban housing density to open space provision, type and use
 - iv. the potential values and role of the Wellington road reserve as part of the suburban open space network
 - v. pest management (plant and animal)
 - vi. providing for large trees in the suburban environment.