

# BOTANIC GARDENS OF WELLINGTON DRAFT MANAGEMENT PLAN SUMMARY

APRIL 2014

WELLINGTON BOTANIC GARDEN (INCLUDING ANDERSON PARK)  
OTARI NATIVE BOTANIC GARDEN AND WILTON'S BUSH RESERVE  
BOLTON STREET MEMORIAL PARK / TRUBY KING PARK

# Have your say on the Botanic Gardens of Wellington Draft Management Plan

We'd like to know what you think of the draft management plan for the Wellington Botanic Garden (including Anderson Park), Otari-Wilton's Bush, Bolton Street Memorial Park and Truby King Park.

## What are the botanic gardens of Wellington?

Four unique yet complementary nature-based and cultural visitor attractions we refer to as 'the Gardens'.

The Gardens play an important environmental and social role. **Globally**, Wellington Botanic Garden and Otari-Wilton's Bush work towards the targets identified in the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation (GSPC) – an international framework aimed at halting the loss of plant diversity. The Wellington Botanic Garden and Otari-Wilton's Bush are Gardens of **National** Significance<sup>1</sup> and work with a number of national botanical and conservation organisations. At a **local** level, the Gardens showcase Wellington's environmental leadership and contribute to the City's open space and recreation network.

The Gardens are places to inspire and share knowledge about plants, conservation, horticulture, Maori and European heritage and sustainable environmental management.

They are valued and enjoyed by the local community for a wide range of casual and organised activities. They contribute towards public health and wellbeing.

## What will this plan do?

This plan reviews and amalgamates three separate but complementary plans into one guiding document, which will provide a clear framework for Wellington City Council to manage the Gardens over the next ten years.

The plan replaces:

- Truby King Park Conservation and Management Plan 1993
- The Combined Management Plan for the Wellington Botanic Garden, Anderson Park and Bolton St Memorial Park 2002, and
- The Otari Native Botanic Garden and Wilton's Bush Reserve Management Plan 2007.

## What the plan identifies

The objectives, policies and initiatives in this plan explain the intended methods for the protection, management, development, operation and public use of the Gardens.

The Plan identifies:

- The long-term vision and guiding principles for the Gardens.
- The general plant collection concept across the Gardens as well as the roles and themes for each garden.
- The general education and awareness messages and delivery techniques across the Gardens.
- The overall visitor experience in each garden
- The collective and integrated marketing and promotion requirements.
- The cultural and natural heritage features of the Gardens and how these will be protected.
- Key partnerships of the Gardens and community involvement.
- Actions required to implement this plan.

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<sup>1</sup> Registered under the New Zealand Gardens Trust

## What is the vision?

# To create and maintain internationally recognised nature-based and cultural visitor attractions that showcase Wellington as an eco-city.

## What are the overall changes proposed in the Plan?

The Plan proposes some overall changes in approach, in particular:

- An increased emphasis on environmental education and conservation leadership locally and nationally.
- Working more closely with other nature-based attractions such as Wellington Zoo and Zealandia to showcase Wellington as an eco-city.
- Improving the visitor experience.
- Developing a marketing strategy for the four botanic gardens collectively and individually with a focus on adding value to garden visits

by increasing visitors' focus on education and conservation messages.

- Focus on the national profile and role of Otari-Wilton's Bush.
- Partnering with external funders to support new initiatives and programmes.
- Introducing sustainable management practices for all aspects of the Gardens' management.
- Support and resource Friends and community groups to increase their membership and involvement in garden management.
- A new approach to assessing uses and development based on a system of rules.



# Wellington Botanic Garden (including Anderson Park)

Wellington Botanic Garden is one of New Zealand's oldest public gardens. Land was set aside for a botanic garden in 1844 and formalised in 1869. Today it comprises 25 hectares of heritage garden landscape, set amongst the first line of hills behind the city's centre, between the suburbs of Kelburn and Thorndon.

The green backdrop of ridgelines and gullies is home to mature conifers, native forest, plant collections from around the world and seasonal floral displays, interwoven with public art and heritage features.

The Wellington Botanic Garden is a major regional recreation and tourism destination and a major green space close to the CBD. People visit the Wellington Botanic Garden for a range of reasons including viewing plants, walking and exercising, attending events and relaxing and enjoying time with family and friends.

Anderson Park is an inner city sportsfield used for both summer and winter codes.

Main proposals in the plan include:

- **Develop the Children's Garden with a theme of people's dependence on plants for life across four principal plant services: food, fibre, construction and medicine.**
- **Develop the Treehouse as the major visitor centre providing changing exhibitions about conservation, environmental issues and gardening as well as a meeting and community space.**

In addition we will

- Continue to replace the ageing conifer framework
- Review the wider landscape and plant collections between the play area and the duckpond to enhance it with attractive, inspiring, educational-themed gardens.

- Develop a landscape concept plan for the Cable Car entrance that recognises its status as a major entrance and encourages visitors to enter and explore
- Improve protection and enhancement of the native forest remnants
- Extend the Herb Garden south towards Serpentine Way to develop a space suitable to hire out for special events, including weddings
- Investigate the development of a War and Victory garden on Remembrance Ridge.
- Review planting and interpretation in the Threatened Species garden to better articulate the messages around the pressure on plants and ecosystems.





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# Otari-Wilton's Bush

Otari Native Botanic Garden and Wilton's Bush Reserve (Otari-Wilton's Bush) is about 5km from the CBD and nestles in the deep valley formed by the Kaiwharawhara Stream (also known as the Te Mahanga Stream), between the suburbs of Wilton, Karori and Crofton Downs.

Otari-Wilton's Bush is the only public garden in New Zealand dedicated solely to native plants. It's a place of inspiration, learning and engaging with New Zealand's natural environment. It plays a leading role in New Zealand off-site plant conservation.

At 100ha, it's the largest of the four gardens. It contains the largest remaining primary native forest remnant (17ha) in Wellington City and 5ha of native botanic gardens. The balance of the area is fragmented bush remnants and large tracts of regenerating bush. The native botanic gardens highlight the extent, diversity, use and rarity of New Zealand flora.

Otari-Wilton's Bush has been used recreationally by Wellingtonians since the 1860s, and continues to be a recreation destination for locals and tourists. The most popular activities are walking, running, sight-seeing and picnicking.

Main proposals in the plan include:

- **Manage the native forest at Otari-Wilton's Bush as a key native ecosystem and establish it as part of the Zealandia halo concept.**
- **Establish the Cockayne Centre in the ex-curators house, as a public space and to support education and research and showcase the use of native plants in gardens.**

In addition we will

- Continue to redevelop pathways through the native botanic gardens with viewing points and links onto the Circular Walk and Nature Trail

consistent with the proposal in the Landscape Development Plan.

- Redevelop the plant collections in the native botanic gardens (below the Cockayne Lookout) around the proposed redeveloped pathways.
- Identify and test new interactive trails – in particular a family trail (Tamariki Trail) and an ethno-botanical trail – possibly using new technology.
- Where possible, and in conjunction with Zealandia, consider reintroducing fauna known historically to have occurred in the Wellington Peninsula forests.
- Develop the Nature Trail as the main educational trail with interpretative signage, plant labelling of all common trees and curriculum-based self-guiding material.
- Investigate developing a multi-purpose track naming and identification system associated with the history of Otari, as part of the Interpretation and way-finding strategy.





**We're proposing to manage the native forest at Otari-Wilton's Bush as a key native ecosystem and establish it as part of the Zealandia halo concept**

# Bolton Street Memorial Park

Bolton Street Memorial Park was developed for the Wellington colony from three 19th century cemeteries – the Public, Church of England and Jewish cemeteries – together referred to nowadays as the Cemetery. Aside from containing the historic memorials, it has an extensive collection of heritage roses and a visitor centre displaying information on the graves.

The Cemetery is located on the slope, divided by the motorway, falling away to the east from Anderson Park and the Seddon Memorial. It provides a 'green link' between the Wellington Botanic Garden, the Terrace and the CBD.

Within the Cemetery, over 8600 people are interred. There are 1334 visible memorials and headstones commemorating the city's early history, resting amongst a heritage rose collection and mature trees. In addition, approximately 3700 graves were relocated to make way for the Wellington motorway.

Main proposals in the plan include:

- **Changing the name of Bolton Street Memorial Park to Bolton Street Cemetery.**

# Truby King Park

This historic property sits on a ridge in Melrose with magnificent views over Evans Bay, Lyall Bay and Newtown. Formerly the home of Sir Frederick Truby King and his wife Isabella, it comprises the original house designed in 1923 by architect Gray Young, the historic garden laid out between 1925 and 1935 by Truby King and a mausoleum where Frederick and Isabella Truby King are interred.

At its peak, it was a garden which was highly regarded throughout Wellington.

Main proposals in the plan include:

To retain the essential landscape character of the historic garden by

- Completing reconstruction of the landscape features particularly the walls and archways around the house.
- Replacing the large pine tree framework with a framework of smaller trees and open up the views over Evans Bay.
- Increasing use of edible plant and tree species to emphasise the holistic nature of the garden.



In addition we will:

- Prepare and implement a five-year programme of maintenance and restoration work in consultation with the Friends of Bolton Street Memorial Park.
- Electronically locate all known grave sites and headstones and store them on the Council Geographic Information System (GIS).
- Work with the Catholic Diocese to integrate administrative records and maintenance standards between Mount Street Cemetery and Bolton Street Memorial Park.

- Find a long-term sustainable use for the house that enables public access on either a regular or managed basis.
- Develop a schedule of regular open days and guided tours for the house and garden.
- Develop a partnership with the Truby King Park Trust and the local community to increase use and visitation as a local community space.

