



Have your say on allowing camping as a managed activity on part of Happy Valley Park

A proposed change to the Suburban Reserves Management Plan 2015

Wellington is a popular destination for campers, particularly those in motor homes and campervans, given the easy access to the Cook Strait ferries, range of visitor attractions and numerous events.

We currently have enough camp sites for self-contained motor homes and campervans (those with a toilet and at least 3 days storage capability for drinking water, toilet waste and grey water), but there's increasing demand for camping sites suitable for non-self-contained vehicles or tents.

Wellington City Council would like to propose an amendment to the Suburban Reserves Management

Plan 2015 that will allow camping as a managed activity on part of Happy Valley Park, and subsequently develop a low-cost campground in the car park area.

Tell us what you think of this proposal by either filling out the attached submission form or visiting wellington.govt.nz

Submissions close on
5pm, Monday 12 October 2015



Background information

The Council has made a number of changes over the last 12 months to improve the camping experience, as well as protect our more scenic parks and reserves.

Last summer, the Council allowed freedom camping with restrictions at Evans Bay Marina and Te Kopahou Reserve car park. High demand caused problems, so further restrictions are proposed at Te Kopahou and security will be increased.

Under the Camping Bylaw, people are able to camp anywhere other than prohibited areas listed in the bylaw and parks and reserves.

A key concern we are trying to address is where campers go once they are moved from non-permitted camping areas. The Council would like to direct visitors to a designated campground within Wellington City.

The proposed site

The Council has investigated sites for a campground around the popular central, eastern and southern suburbs of Wellington. The aim was to find a desirable place to camp relatively close to the central city, and that if it was turned into a campground wouldn't disrupt current users too much or have a big impact on the site's open space values.

The preferred site is the Happy Valley Park car park.

Happy Valley Park car park is mid-way along Happy Valley Road in the heart of Owhiro Bay, 5 minutes' drive from the Brooklyn shops and a couple of minutes' drive from Wellington's scenic south coast. It's close to some of Wellington's fantastic walking

and biking tracks, such as the City to Sea Walkway, Tawatawa Reserve, and Te Kopahou Reserve via the Tip Track off Happy Valley Road.

Currently the site is a gravel car park with a sports pavilion, connected with the two lower grade sportsfields. The sportsfields are used by junior and college cricket and football, but they are not in high demand.

The site could accommodate up to about 33 camping sites, including areas for tents, with the potential for further expansion towards the outer edges of the sportsfield.



What's proposed?

The Wellington City Council would like to propose an amendment to the Suburban Reserves Management Plan 2015 that will allow camping as a managed activity on part of Happy Valley Park, and subsequently develop a low-cost campground in the car park area.

Draft Amendment to the Suburban Reserve Management Plan 2015 (additions are in blue)

Amendment 1.

Under 3.7 Sector 7 Melrose, Kilbirnie, Rongotai, Lyall Bay, Houghton Bay, Southgate, Island Bay and Owhiro Bay add

3.7.7 Motor home and Camping Park

Wellington is a hot spot for freedom camping, given our location for ferry crossings. During summer (November to March) approximately 100 vehicles per night are looking for places to stay within Wellington City and they typically stay for 1-2 nights. Nationwide, there has been a notable increase in self-drive visitors to New Zealand and it is expected that this market will continue to grow.

Wellington currently provides two restricted freedom camping sites. There is a growing need to provide additional areas for the non-self-contained camper.

Under section 53 (h) of the Reserves Act 1977, the Council can set aside parts of a recreation reserve for camping ground purposes.

Policies

- Allow camping as a managed activity on part of Happy Valley Park.
- Develop a motor home and camping park on part of Happy Valley Park that is sensitively designed to enhance the landscape values of the local area.

Amendment 2

Under 3.7 Reserve table, Happy Valley Park add under actions. **Develop a motor home and camping park.**

Amendment 3

Under 4 Rules for Use and Development , 4.4 Managed activities, 4.4.4 under bullet point camping (for educational purposes **only and in approved sites identified in the sector plans**).

Amendment 4

Under 4.6 Prohibited activities, 4.6.4 p. camping (except for educational purposes **and at approved sites identified in the sector plans**).

The Happy Valley Park Camp Ground

If camping is permitted at Happy Valley Park, then the Council will need to decide on how a low-cost campground is best managed. Options might include development and management by a private provider (if there is market interest), a Council-managed self-service facility with daily visits, or a Council-managed campground with an on-site camp manager.

Development and management will be required to provide all-weather surfacing and access, signage, lighting, security, amenity, ablutions, basic kitchen facilities, rubbish management and cleaning.

If camping is permitted at this site, then freedom camping can occur this summer 2015/16.

What happens next?

1. Submissions on the proposed amendment are due Monday 12 October 2015.
2. Oral submissions will be held in late October/early November 2015.
3. Submissions will be analysed.
4. A report to decide the proposed amendment will go to the Environment Committee in late November 2015.
5. If approved, then the Council will prepare and submit a resource consent application for the development of the campground.





Have your say on allowing camping at Happy Valley Park

Section one - details for the submission form

Enter your name and contact details

Mr Mrs Ms Miss Dr

First name*

Last name

<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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Street address*

<input type="text"/>

Phone/mobile

Email

<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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* Mandatory fields

I am making a submission

As an individual On behalf of an organisation, Name of organisation _____

I would like to make an oral submission Yes No

We are keen to get your views on allowing camping at Happy Valley Park.

You can have your say:

- submit online at wellington.govt.nz,
- email a submission to happyvalleycamping@wcc.govt.nz
- complete this form, detach and post back to us (no postage required)
- request an opportunity to make an oral submission.

Submissions are due by 5pm, Monday 12 October 2015

Disclaimer:

All submissions (including name and contact details) are published and made available to elected members of the Council and the public. Personal information supplied will be used for the administration and reporting back to elected members of the Council and the public as part of the consultation process. All information collected will be held by Wellington City Council, 101 Wakefield Street, Wellington. Submitters have the right to access and correct personal information.

Questions

1. Do you support the amendment to the Suburban Reserves Management Plan, which will allow camping on part of Happy Valley Park? (Please circle)

Oppose Neither support/nor oppose Support

Why do you say this?

2. If you support camping as an activity in this area, do you have an opinion on how the camp site is managed, eg self-service with daily visits, on-site camp manager?

Self-service with daily visits On-site camp manager Other management

Why do you say this?

3. Are there any other changes you think should be included? (please tick)

Yes No,

Your comments

4. Do you have other comments? (Please attach additional pages if you need to)

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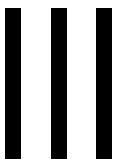
**Please return this submission form
by 5pm 12 October 2015.**

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Free Post Authority Number 2199

**Absolutely Positively
Wellington City Council**

Me Heke Ki Pōneke



Freepost Wellington City Council
Happy Valley Camping, Parks, Sport & Recreation (REPL01)
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