
ORDINARY MEETING

OF

CITY STRATEGY COMMITTEE

AGENDA

Time: 9:30 am
Date: Thursday, 16 March 2017
Venue: Committee Room 1
Ground Floor, Council Offices
101 Wakefield Street
Wellington

MEMBERSHIP

Mayor Lester
Councillor Calvert
Councillor Calvi-Freeman
Councillor Dawson
Councillor Day
Councillor Eagle
Councillor Foster
Councillor Free
Councillor Gilbert
Councillor Lee
Councillor Marsh
Councillor Pannett (Chair)
Councillor Sparrow
Councillor Woolf
Councillor Young

NON-VOTING MEMBERS

Te Rūnanga o Toa Rangatira Incorporated
Port Nicholson Block Settlement Trust

Have your say!

You can make a short presentation to the Councillors at this meeting. Please let us know by noon the working day before the meeting. You can do this either by phoning 803-8334, emailing public.participation@wcc.govt.nz or writing to Democratic Services, Wellington City Council, PO Box 2199, Wellington, giving your name, phone number and the issue you would like to talk about.

AREA OF FOCUS

The role of the City Strategy Committee is to set the broad vision and direction of the city, determine specific outcomes that need to be met to deliver on that vision, and set in place the strategies and policies, bylaws and regulations, and work programmes to achieve those goals.

In determining and shaping the strategies, policies, regulations, and work programme of the Council, the Committee takes a holistic approach to ensure there is strong alignment between the objectives and work programmes of the seven strategic areas of Council, including:

- Environment and Infrastructure – delivering quality infrastructure to support healthy and sustainable living, protecting biodiversity and transitioning to a low carbon city
- Economic Development – promoting the city, attracting talent, keeping the city lively and raising the city's overall prosperity
- Cultural Wellbeing – enabling the city's creative communities to thrive, and supporting the city's galleries and museums to entertain and educate residents and visitors
- Social and Recreation – providing facilities and recreation opportunities to all to support quality living and healthy lifestyles
- Urban Development – making the city an attractive place to live, work and play, protecting its heritage and accommodating for growth
- Transport – ensuring people and goods move efficiently to and through the city
- Governance and Finance – building trust and confidence in decision-making by keeping residents informed, involved in decision-making, and ensuring residents receive value for money services.

The City Strategy Committee also determines what role the Council should play to achieve its objectives including: Service delivery, Funder, Regulator, Facilitator, Advocate

The City Strategy Committee works closely with the Long-term and Annual Plan committee to achieve its objectives.

Quorum: 8 members

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1 Meeting Conduct

1.1 Apologies

The Chairperson invites notice from members of apologies, including apologies for lateness and early departure from the meeting, where leave of absence has not previously been granted.

1.2 Conflict of Interest Declarations

Members are reminded of the need to be vigilant to stand aside from decision making when a conflict arises between their role as a member and any private or other external interest they might have.

1.3 Confirmation of Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 2 March 2017 will be put to the City Strategy Committee for confirmation.

1.4 Public Participation

A maximum of 60 minutes is set aside for public participation at the commencement of any meeting of the Council or committee that is open to the public. Under Standing Order 3.23.3 a written, oral or electronic application to address the meeting setting forth the subject, is required to be lodged with the Chief Executive by 12.00 noon of the working day prior to the meeting concerned, and subsequently approved by the Chairperson.

1.5 Items not on the Agenda

The Chairperson will give notice of items not on the agenda as follows:

Matters Requiring Urgent Attention as Determined by Resolution of the City Strategy Committee.

1. The reason why the item is not on the agenda; and
2. The reason why discussion of the item cannot be delayed until a subsequent meeting.

Minor Matters relating to the General Business of the City Strategy Committee.

No resolution, decision, or recommendation may be made in respect of the item except to refer it to a subsequent meeting of the City Strategy Committee for further discussion.

2. Petitions

SAVE THE EVANS BAY PATENT SLIP WHARF!

Primary Petitioner: Alex Randall
Total Signatures: 62
Contact Officer: Mike Oates
Director Responsible: Jane Hill

Recommendation

That the City Strategy Committee:

1. Receive the information.

Purpose

1. The e Petition "Save the Evans Bay Patent Slip wharf" was initiated by on 25 November 2016 and closed on 25 January 2017.
2. The purpose of the e Petition is to restore the Patent Slip Wharf. "The Patent Slip Wharf is an historic landmark, a pillar of the local fishing community and part of Hataitai's summer fun. While it rots away to ruin in the harbour, people could be obtaining sustainable and affordable food by fishing, boating with ease, enjoying time with their families jumping from the wharf and learning about our very first patent slip, of national importance".
3. The e Petition was open to all members of the public with internet access to the Council's website. It received 62 signatures as at 25 January 2017.

Background

4. The Jetty was built in the 1920's to assist with the berthing and slipping of ships at the old Patent Slip. The jetty is of high historic value to Wellington. It is listed as a category 2 structure in the Heritage NZ register, a feature of historic merit in the Wellington Regional Coastal Plan and a Historic Place in the Wellington District Plan.
5. The jetty is in poor condition and has been closed since 2001 for mooring boats and 2008 for pedestrian access. The last three bays have partially collapsed into Evans Bay.
6. The Council proposed demolition in the 2011/2012 annual plan. This was deferred for one year. Demolition of the structure is subject to resource consent.

Options

7. A structural survey was carried out in 2014, and a series of options developed for the future of the jetty. The options and indicative costs are as follows:

Option	Indicative costs (2014 costs)	Risks
1. Do nothing. Jetty gradually deteriorates	Nil until collapse	WCC seen to be doing

		nothing.
2. Demolish and remove entire jetty	\$200,000 plus consenting costs	Resource consent required under the regional coastal plan. Likely to be opposition to demolition.
3. Remove the end 3 bays. Minor refurbishment/restoration	\$550,000 plus \$400,000 over the next 10 years	Only extends life by up to 10 years. Will be ongoing costs
4. Remove the end 3 bays. Major refurbishment/ restoration.	\$800,000 plus \$200,000 after 10 years	Only extends life by up to 10 years. Will be ongoing costs.

8. Options 3 and 4 have similar costs over 10 years and will only extend the life of the jetty by up another ten years in the extreme maritime environment. Deterioration will be exacerbated by sea level rise. Any refurbishment of the wharf will require a change in design to meet the building code. For instance it is really difficult to replace a pile under the decking so new piles would need to be driven on the outside of the wharf as bracing. The only way to obtain a 30 year life is to build a new structure.
9. There is no sustainable use for the wharf when restored either for its original role or for recreational reasons. However, there is some value in exploring the concept of an option 5, being partial demolition whilst leaving some structures intact. This could leave some piles in place to denote the jetty.
10. Heritage NZ are keen for adaptive solutions to be found prior to demolition but understand that Council cannot fund the restoration of every historic place. They are always interested to see a solution that will enable a long term use. In this case it has no use as a wharf even when restored and its role for recreational fishing is limited. The only practicable reason to restore is for its heritage status alone.
11. Officers plan to lodge consents under the Greater Wellington Regional Coastal Plan in 2017/18 for demolition of the Patent Slip Wharf.

Attachments

- Attachment 1. Patent Slip Jetty showing deterioration at the end Page 9
Attachment 2. Patent Slip Jetty showing Slipway rails in the Foreground Page 10



Item 2.1 Attachment 2



3. Policy

ANIMAL POLICY: SCOPING PAPER

Purpose

1. To agree to the development and scope of the proposed Animal Policy.

Summary

2. The Wellington Consolidated Bylaw 2008, Part 2: Animals (Animal Bylaw) review took place from November 2015 to August 2016. Attachment 1 details a summary of the review. To support the bylaw, Councillors agreed at the Environment Committee on 17 March 2016 to direct officers to explore the option of developing an Animal Policy (Policy).
3. The scope of the project needs to be set by the City Strategy Committee. Having a defined scope is important as it sets the expectations for our capacity to deliver.
4. A Policy would provide guidance and educational information on animal welfare issues. These can cause neighbourly disputes and are a common cause of requests for advice. It could provide documentation for the business practices for the Public Health team.
5. Pets and animals are an important part of many Wellingtonians lives and animal management is an emotive topic. The approach to the Policy needs to recognise this.
6. The proposed purpose of the Policy is to encourage responsible pet ownership, and to provide information around the implementation of the Animal Bylaw. The following areas are likely to be covered in the Policy:
 - a) Compulsory microchipping of domestic cats was introduced in the Animal Bylaw review. The policy could provide more information on this requirement.
 - b) Conflict between cats and wildlife was a concern raised by Animal Bylaw submitters. A policy, along with education, can be used to provide information on how to reduce this conflict.
 - c) Poultry are increasingly being kept domestically and guidance on managing poultry in urban areas could be given. The Policy could establish the processes for seeking the Council's permission to keep either more than eight poultry or roosters in urban areas (required under the Animal Bylaw).
 - d) Guidance on best practice beekeeping and animal care in urban areas could be included in the Policy.
 - e) Feeding pigeons and other animals in public places creates a nuisance. Reducing food sources is the most effective way to manage the pigeon population. An option is to use policy to establish designated feeding areas for birds such as the Wellington Botanic Garden Duck Pond.
 - f) Pets and emergency management could be covered by the Policy.
 - g) Animal welfare is an increased focus of the Animal Bylaw. The Policy could also cover aspects of animal welfare.

7. Dogs and amending dog exercise areas is out of scope for this project. The Dog Policy and associated dog exercise areas were reviewed alongside the Animal Bylaw.
8. An Animal Policy development was assessed to have a “moderate” significance in accordance with the Council’s Significance and Engagement Policy. See attachment 2 for draft briefing paper. Engagement with key stakeholders is planned throughout the policy development process. Formal consultation on the draft Policy is tentatively scheduled to take place in August/September.

Recommendations

That the City Strategy Committee:

1. Receive the information.
2. Note that officers were directed to explore the development an “Animals Policy” covering the management and welfare of cats and other animals by Environment Committee on 17 March 2016.
3. Agree that there is a need for further guidance on animal management in Wellington.
4. Agree to the development of an Animal Policy.
5. Agree that the draft purpose of the Animal Policy is to encourage responsible pet ownership, and set out more information around the potential implementation of the Wellington Consolidated Bylaw 2008, Part 2: Animals.
6. Direct officers to report back to the committee with a draft Animal Policy encompassing options for encouraging the responsible ownership of all animals, including:
 - a) Cats (including options for managing any conflicts with wildlife);
 - b) Poultry (including roosters);
 - c) Bees; and
 - d) Animal management in an emergency.
 - e) Where animals (including pigeons) can be fed in public places.
7. Note that dogs and dog exercise areas are out of scope.
8. Note that the proposed consultation and engagement plan is consistent with the Council’s Significance and Engagement Policy.

Background

The Need for an Animal Policy

9. Mid way through the Animal Bylaw review in 2016 the need for an Animal Policy was identified. Attachment 1 details a summary of the Animal Bylaw review. Issues around animal management highlighted in the Animal Bylaw review cannot be addressed by a bylaw alone. Councillors agreed at the Environment Committee on 17 March 2016 to direct officers to explore the option of an Animal Policy.
10. Bylaw content is limited by legal restrictions imposed by a variety of legislation including the Bylaws Act 1910 and the LGA. As a result guidance and educational information has a limited place within bylaws.
11. The high level of public interest in the Animal Bylaw highlighted the increasing public debate around animal management, particularly cats. There appears to be a public

desire for further engagement and information on the issues that the Animal Bylaw review raised.

12. Currently no formal document summarises existing Council operational practice around animal management other than the Animal Bylaw. A policy could provide this framework for non-regulatory options, guide operations and the public, and create options for implementation of the Animal Bylaw.
13. A policy was deemed to be more suitable than a bylaw to address some of the issues raised in the Animal Bylaw review. The table below compares the limitations on bylaws and policies.

	Animal Bylaw	Animal Policy
Intent	Set out regulation	Sets out the implementation of the regulation and can set out best practice
Content and public education	Limited to content that passes LGA tests	Content not constrained in the same way as bylaws - can make policy statements (if they meet consultation requirements)
Enforcement	No infringement fees, but sets up expectation of enforcement. Limited to abatements notices and court	No expectation of enforcement by itself. Can set up mechanisms to support bylaw enforcement
Consultation	Required to undertake Special Consultative Procedure (LGA s83)	Required to meet consultation principles (LGA s82)

Animals in Wellington

14. Cats are a popular pet for Wellingtonians. There are no official records of the number of cats in Wellington but approximately 52 percent of New Zealand households own a cat (there are 71,000 households in Wellington, and some will have more than one cat). Victoria University of Wellington's Cat Tracker Survey estimates that approximately 35% of Wellington households own a cat.
15. Dog ownership in Wellington is popular, with nearly 11,000 dogs registered. The Dog Policy, along with dog exercise areas were reviewed alongside the Animal Bylaw in 2015-2016.
16. Poultry ownership is becoming more popular in Wellington. There are no official records of the number of poultry in Wellington. Encouraging urban agriculture is an important platform in enabling Wellington to be resilient.
17. Rooster numbers in the city are estimated to be very low. It is difficult to stop roosters from crowing loudly and there is high probability that nuisance will occur.
18. High numbers of pigeons in cities are caused by people feeding them. Some people enjoy feeding animals such as ducks and pigeons. Pigeons in Wellington tend to live in commercial areas, close to public places, and areas with a higher human density. Pigeon culls have been previously decided against by the Council. Reducing food sources is the most effective way to manage the pigeon population.¹ Pigeon nesting and faeces causes damages to buildings, particularly in the central city.
19. Animals traditionally kept as livestock are becoming increasingly popular in urban areas, e.g. goats, horses, pigs, alpacas and donkeys.
20. Wellington is a bee friendly city. Encouraging urban agriculture, such as bee keeping, is an important platform in enabling Wellington to be resilient.

¹ Ryan, Alice C. 2011. *The distribution, density, and movements of feral pigeons Columba livia and their relationship with people*, Victoria University of Wellington

Pest management

21. Pest management is largely dealt with Our Natural Capital – Wellington's Biodiversity Strategy & Action Plan and Greater Wellington Regional Council's Regional Pest Management Strategy (RPMS).
22. Pigeons and stray cats are excluded from pest management strategies. Responsibility for resolving pest issues associated with these animals is a grey area. Feral cats are included with the RPMS.

Partnership with Wellington SPCA

23. The Wellington SPCA and the Council are working together to form a collaborative approach to animal management in Wellington. Working together helps both organisations and aims to ensure that Wellington's animals are well cared for.
24. Animal welfare is an increased focus of the Animal Bylaw. Currently the Council's health inspectors do not have any formal training in animal welfare and the policy can clarify aspects of animal welfare that are addressed by the Public Health team.
25. The Wellington SPCA recognised the need for the Council to have some expertise in animal welfare, and seconded a staff member to the Council temporarily for 1 day a week, at their cost.

Snip'n'Chip

26. Snip'n'Chip offered heavily discounted desexing and microchipping for cats within Wellington from October – December 2016. There were 1,980 cats microchipped during the Snip 'n 'chip campaign.² Of these 626 were also desexed. This is a good example of non-regulatory options that can be used to support the objectives of the Policy and Animal Bylaw.
27. Snip'n'Chip was in partnership with the Wellington SPCA, with the support of 13 local veterinary clinics and the New Zealand Companion Animal Register.
28. Other Councils from across the region have expressed interest in running the Snip'n'Chip programme in their region and the Wellington SPCA is currently working with them towards this.

Discussion

Engagement and consultation for the Animal Policy

29. An Engagement and Consultation Plan has been drafted and can be updated to reflect feedback from the City Strategy Committee. This draft plan has considered the project's significance; risk factors; various stakeholders; and resourcing available for the review. The plan was developed in accordance with the Council's Significance and Engagement Policy.
30. Engagement and consultation is split into two stages – with continued engagement throughout this process. Attachment 2 provides an overview of the draft engagement and consultation processes for the Policy. Changes may be made to this following direction from committee and the confirmation of scope.
31. Relationships with stakeholders have been established during the Animal Bylaw review. Key issues highlighted by stakeholders throughout the bylaw process. Engagement is planned to continue on with these stakeholders, but does not need to repeat previous work.

² Figures updated from Quarterly report

Stage 1: Continued engagement

32. Early engagement with key stakeholders will inform draft policy content. Engagement with key stakeholders will be continued throughout this process. Officers will work to identify any additional key stakeholders throughout the policy development process. External stakeholders will change depending upon the scope of the policy.

Ongoing engagement with cat sector

33. Relationships with key cat stakeholders were developed during the Animal Bylaw review. A cat reference group (CRG) comprised of key stakeholders in the cat sector has been established, following the high degree of public interest in the cat section of the Animal Bylaw. The intent of this group is to ensure that the policy is including the correct issues within its scope and to make sure that the policy effectively addresses their needs as well as the wider communities.
34. Meeting with the CRG is aiming to be undertaken at each key project milestone. The first meeting took place in late 2016 while officers were beginning initial work on the Policy. The second is scheduled to take place in March, following the scope of the Policy being confirmed.
35. The CRG is comprised of members from the Wellington SPCA, Wellington Cats Protection League, New Zealand Vet Association, the Wellington Vet Group and the Council. The Kitten Inn and New Zealand Cat Fancy have also been invited to attend, but have been unable to take part to date.
36. These groups were identified as key stakeholders by officers in accordance with the Significance and Engagement Policy. If further key cat stakeholders are identified that they are able to join the CRG. Additionally, further engagement will be undertaken to ensure that a wide variety of stakeholders are able to have their say.

Stage 2: Formal consultation

37. A consultation on the draft of the Policy. This is planned to run from 21 August to 25 September 2017. Detailed planning on this consultation period can be undertaken closer to the time and the recommended process would be advised along with the draft Policy.
38. Consulting of the Policy under the Special Consultative Procedure (SCP) detailed in the LGA could be considered depending on the level of public interest.
39. Consultation will be undertaken via existing Council channels. These include making copies available on wellington.govt.nz; in the Service Centre; at all libraries; community centres; and via the Contact Centre. The general public will also be notified via the Council's social media channels. Submitters on the Animal Bylaw will also be notified.
40. Groups from across the community will also be encouraged to have their say. We will work with stakeholders to ensure their networks are notified. Councillors are encouraged to advertise the consultation with their constituents. Community Boards and advisory groups will also be worked with and officers will work with the Treaty Relations teams to seek feedback from iwi.
41. Media interest on animal management, particularly cats, is also likely to alert the public of the opportunity to have their say.

Legal risk

42. The likely scope of the Policy is considered to have low level of legal risk as it either provides clarity about the implementation of the existing Animal Bylaw or contains non-binding educational material. Officers will review any potential content throughout the policy development process to ensure that content is legally robust.

Financial impacts of scope

43. Currently there are no planned budget implications of the Policy itself. Officers advise against creating public expectation in this area if no supporting budget will be allocated.
44. A wide Policy scope could risk increasing public expectation about operationally the Council can do. This could then have financial implications as more operational resources are required to meet demand.

Options

45. It is proposed that the high level purpose of the Animal Policy would be “to assist Wellingtonians to be responsible pet owners.” This purpose can be further refined following engagement.
46. The scope needs to balance meeting the needs of the community, while balancing their expectations with our capacity to deliver. Our capacity to deliver is limited by legislative, operational, and financial constraints. Officers recommend that the scope is initially broadly defined and then it can be narrowed, if necessary, following consultation.
47. A focus on responsible pet ownership was established by the Animal Bylaw submissions. The process will allow us to work with the public to establish what is considered to be a ‘responsible owner’.

Scope of Policy

48. The scope of the policy could include the following:

Responsible cat ownership

49. It is proposed that the Animal Policy supports responsible cat ownership, and helps remedy cat related issues. Officers will provide advice to the Committee on the practicalities of any options for managing cats.
50. Microchipping and registration may need to be expanded on further in the Policy to build on the provisions of the Animal Bylaw. Information could be provided on best practice, the need for microchips, and how they work.
51. Some cat issues that were raised by submitters on the Animal Bylaw and could be covered by the policy are:
 - a) Encouraging de-sexing;
 - b) Reducing the conflict between roaming cats (owned, stray, and feral) and wildlife, including voluntary curfews and containment;
 - c) Advice on how to minimise the impact of owned cats living in areas with wildlife; and
 - d) Management of cat hoarding.
52. It should be noted that the Council is empowered under the Animal Bylaw to act on cat nuisance so it can already act to resolve nuisance issues. Cats are included within ‘all animals’ that must be kept in a ‘manner that is not likely to become a nuisance, dangerous, offensive, or injurious to health’. However, there are currently limited resources to actively enforce this requirement.

Urban poultry ownership

53. The Policy could allow for guidelines on best practice for urban poultry ownership. Permission to keep roosters and more than eight poultry in urban areas can be expanded on in the Policy to provide clear guidelines and processes for seeking permission will enable poultry owners to make informed decisions.

54. Options for poultry management that were excluded from the bylaw review were that could be considered as part of the Policy development are:

- a) Set number of poultry per m²;
- b) Establishing set distance coops can be kept from boundaries and buildings;
- c) General conditions and structures of coops; and
- d) Rehoming of unwanted roosters or fertilised eggs.

Bees in urban settings

55. Guidelines around bee keeping could be set out in the Policy. Bee ownership is not explicitly managed by the Animal Bylaw, other than prohibiting bees from being kept in a manner that causes a nuisance.
56. Guidance about suitable locations for hives to be kept and best practice bee keeping in urban areas could be included in the Policy.

Feeding Animals in Public Places

57. Areas where the public can feed animals in public places need to be established within the policy. Setting designated feeding areas recognises that some people enjoy feeding pigeons and ducks, and currently provides them with suitable areas. Options include the Wellington Botanic Garden Duck Pond.
58. Clarifying the Council's stance on pigeon management within the Policy is another option.

Animals and emergency management

59. The need for a wider conversation about pets and emergency management has been previously raised by the Wellington SPCA. There is the opportunity to potentially use the Policy to enable pet owners to have adequate supplies for their animals in an emergency.

Implementation of Animals Bylaw

60. Mechanisms for enforcement of the Animal Bylaw can be established in the Policy. Options for this include warning notices, abatement notices and prosecution.
61. Infringement fines cannot be issued for breaching the non-dog related sections of the Animal Bylaw, as an infringement regime is not set in legislation.
62. A resolution pathway could also be detailed in the Policy. Officers note that often members of the public will first talk to the Council about animal nuisance issues before talking to their neighbours. It could be useful to provide a pathway to assist neighbours talking to each other about animal related issues.

Out of scope

Dogs

63. Dogs and dog exercise areas cannot be included within the scope of the Policy. The Dog Policy was reviewed alongside the Animal Bylaw in 2015-2016. The Council received 279 written submissions from dog owners and non-dog owners.
64. The Dog Policy aims to achieve a balance between the control of dogs and recognition of the community health benefits of dog ownership. It also sets out the locations and boundaries of dog exercise areas. It is required to meet the Council's legal commitments under the DCA.

65. The Animal Policy and the Dog Policy should not overlap, due to the DCA requirements. Duplicating information between the two policies would be confusing for the public. An option is to have a small section in the Animal Policy redirecting the public to the Dog Policy for further information on the ownership of dogs in Wellington.
66. Any amendments to the Dog Policy and dog exercise areas are a separate piece of work. If Councillors would like officers to undertake further work on this, this would need to be scheduled on the forward work programme.

Re-opening bylaw

67. Officers advise against any further amendments to the Animal Bylaw before the development of the Policy and supporting non-regulatory options. The development of the Policy will enable the community conversation on responsible animal management (including cats) to continue.
68. Amending bylaws are a lengthy and costly process, due to the numerous legal requirements. Any amendment to a bylaw requires a full Special Consultative Procedure under the LGA, which can take over 6 months to complete.
69. An option is to bring the next review of the Animal Bylaw forward. A bylaw must be reviewed every 10 years under the LGA. An option is to review the Animal Bylaw earlier if it is assessed in future that non-regulatory options are not working.

Non-regulatory options

70. The Animal Bylaw and the Policy development alone will not address all of the concerns raised by submitters on responsible animal ownership. In addition to the Policy, officers also recommend the Council undertakes further campaigns to encourage responsible animal ownership, focusing particularly on cats.
71. The success of the Snip'n'Chip programme highlights that pet owners want to do what is best for their pets. No budget is currently allocated for this.
72. A cat focused education campaign could encourage people to de-sex and microchip their cats, and how they can mitigate the impact of cats on wildlife.
73. Officers can report back to committee on options for supporting the Animal Policy development with options for non-regulatory work.

Next Actions

Date	Task
Early August	Committee receives feedback from engagement, reviews the Statement of Proposal and agrees to consult
21 August – 25 September (tentative)	Formal Consultation on draft Animal Policy
Mid October	Oral Hearings
Early December	Committee review Animal Policy and changes following consultation
Early December	Adoption by Council
Due to be implemented by 17 February 2018	

Attachments

Attachment 1.	Summary: 2015-2016 Animal Bylaw Review	Page 21
Attachment 2.	Draft Engagement and Consultation Briefing Paper for Animal Policy	Page 23

Author	Jessica Clarke, Advisor, Policy and Reporting
Authoriser	Baz Kaufman, Manager Strategy Jane Hill, Acting Chief Operating Officer

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

Engagement and Consultation

An Engagement and Consultation Plan has been drafted, and can be updated to reflect feedback from the City Strategy Committee. This draft plan has considered the project's significance; risk factors; various stakeholders; and resourcing available for the review. The plan was developed in accordance with the Council's Significance and Engagement Policy. Please see attachment 2.

Treaty of Waitangi considerations

Treaty of Waitangi considerations have been taken into account. Iwi feedback will be sought.

Financial implications

There are no planned budget implications of the Animal Policy itself. A wide Animal Policy scope increases public expectation about operationally the Council can do. This has financial implications as more operational resources are required to meet demand.

The Council currently has limited animal welfare capability, and this will be raised separately in the Annual Plan process.

Policy and legislative implications

The Animal Policy review will take into account potential policy and legislative implications following the decisions made by the City Strategy Committee on this paper.

Risks / legal

Officers will review any potential content throughout the policy development process to ensure that content is legally robust.

Climate Change impact and considerations

No considerations at this point.

Communications Plan

A communication plan will be developed as part of the consultation process for the Policy development.

Health and Safety Impact considered

Health and safety must be a consideration for any actions proposed under the Animal Policy.

Summary: 2015-2016 Animal Bylaw Review

1. The Wellington Consolidated Bylaw 2008, Part 2: Animals (Animal Bylaw) review took place from November 2015 till August 2016.
2. The Animal Bylaw provides the Council with powers to manage animals. The purpose of the Animal Bylaw is to protect the public from nuisance and to maintain and promote public health and safety. It also provides the Council with legal powers to enforce the Dog Policy under the Dog Control Act 1996 (DCA).
3. Under the Local Government Act 2002 (LGA), the Council may regulate the keeping of animals, bees, and poultry. Bylaws legally need to be appropriate and proportionate to resolve identified issues. Bylaws must be reviewed every 10-12 years otherwise they lapse.
4. Consultation on the proposed Animal Bylaw ran from 1 April to 2 May 2016. The Council received 496 written submissions from a variety of different sectors of the community, largely in support of the proposed changes.

Cat management in the Animal Bylaw Review

5. Cats were explicitly excluded from previous versions of the Animal Bylaw. Public debate surrounding cat ownership had increased since the previous 2009 review. The Animal Bylaw review aimed to find a balance that retained the rights of cat owners, while mitigating some of the concerns about the negative impacts of cat ownership.
6. There is no national legislation to manage the undesired effects of cat ownership. While the Animal Welfare (Companion Cats) Code of Welfare (2007) includes some helpful standards and recommendations, it is primarily focussed on the welfare of cats.

Microchipping

7. Compulsory microchipping of domestic cats was introduced in the Animal Bylaw review. This clause requires all domestic cats over the age of 12 weeks to be microchipped and registered with New Zealand Companion Animal Register.
8. 89% of all submitters and 82% of cat owners who submitted on the Animal Bylaw supported the introduction of compulsory microchipping. Key stakeholders from the animal sector supported the Council encouraging microchipping.
9. Cats that are microchipped can be easily identified and returned to their owner if they become lost or separated. Following the February 2011 earthquake in Christchurch approximately 80 to 85 percent of lost microchipped cats were identified and returned to owners, compared to only 15 percent of cats without microchips.¹

Options for cat management that were not adopted

10. *Requiring permission to keep more than three cats* was consulted on but not adopted. It was intended to reduce cat hoarding. Generally the public supported this requirement. Officers advised that this requirement would be costly to administer with little benefit. It would be an ineffective as a very low number of Wellingtonians keep more than three cats. Victoria University of Wellington's Cat Tracker project surveyed almost 2,000 cat owners and only 6% of respondents reported owning four or more cats.
11. *Restricting the number of cats a household may own in a wildlife sensitive area* was also consulted on but not adopted. There was general support for this option. Officers advised against this option as would be costly to administer and not be an effective way to reduce cat predation of wildlife because this would only cover a very small percentage of cats.

¹ New Zealand Veterinary Association, Vets@work, 2011

12. *Compulsory de-sexing of cats* was not consulted on, but was investigated as an option for the Animal Bylaw. Officers advised against introducing de-sexing into the Animal Bylaw, as there is no registration system for cats it would be extremely difficult to monitor.
13. A high majority of cats in Wellington are already de-sexed. All cats and kittens rehomed by the Wellington SPCA have been de-sexed. Victoria University of Wellington's Cat Tracker Survey found that 97% of respondents that owned cats (nationwide) reported that their cats were desexed.
14. A *night-time cat curfew* was not consulted on or proposed in the Animal Bylaw. A curfew was suggested as an option by some submitters. Some submitters argued that a night-time curfew could minimise the impact of cats on wildlife and reduce harm to cats (as they will not get injured while roaming). Others debated that curfews would be impossible to enforce, bad for the welfare of cats, and it would be impractical for owners.
15. Officers noted at the time that the practicality of a cat curfew would need to be considered if it were to be investigated in future. The need for a curfew would also need to be informed by robust evidence.

Poultry and rooster management in the Animal Bylaw Review

16. The Animal Bylaw was adopted to require poultry to be adequately contained within the owner's property. The Animal Bylaw was also amended to require permission from the Council for keeping more than eight chickens.
17. Seeking permission to keep more than eight poultry is intended to reduce the opportunity for nuisance to occur. Submitters generally supported this requirement. Chickens kept in urban areas in large quantities can create nuisance issues such as noise and odour, as well as animal welfare issues if chickens are kept in unsatisfactory conditions.
18. Roosters were prohibited from being kept in urban areas, unless permission is granted from Council. Having a rooster in urban areas was agreed to be inappropriate by majority of submitters.

Feeding animals in public places in the Animal Bylaw Review

19. The Animal Bylaw was adopted to ban the feeding of animals in public places (excluding dogs) unless in a designated area. Restrictions on feeding animals in public in the Animal Bylaw were supported by the majority of submitters.
20. OvoControl, a form of pigeon birth control has been recommended by the Inner City Association. This is not licenced in New Zealand, and the method is time consuming and relatively costly.
21. Dogs were excluded as dog owners were concerned that giving treats to their dog as part of behavioural training could mean they may be breaking the Animal Bylaw.

Bees in the Animal Bylaw Review

22. Bees were not explicitly covered by the Animal Bylaw. Bees, along with all other animals, must be kept in a way that is not likely to become a nuisance, dangerous, offensive, or injurious to health.

Draft Engagement and Consultation Briefing Paper for Animal Policy

Noted: changes may be made to this following the direction from committee and the confirmation of the Animal Policy scope.

1 Purpose

This briefing paper provides an overview of the draft communications and engagement processes for the development of the Animal Policy. The proposed purpose of the Animal Policy project is to assist Wellingtonians to be responsible pet owners. The Policy builds on the Animal Bylaw review.

2 Communications and engagement objectives

- Work with high influence/high interest external stakeholders to establish their viewpoint on key issues.
- Enable all stakeholders, including the general public, to make a submission during consultation if they choose to.
- Use feedback from Issues Paper consultation to form the basis of the draft Animal Policy.
- Use feedback from formal consultation to make amendments to the draft Animal Policy.
- Meet at key milestones with Cr Gilbert, Councillor portfolio leader, throughout the process to ensure regular exchange of information and guidance.
- Meet at key milestones with Cr Pannett, City Strategy Committee Chair throughout the process to ensure regular exchange of information and guidance.
- Meet at key milestones with internal stakeholders to ensure regular exchange of information and guidance.
- Information provided to all stakeholders by project team will be peer reviewed by officers, to ensure quality information and guidance.

3 Significance and Engagement Policy

Council adopted a Significance and Engagement Policy (SEP) in November 2014. This sets out how the significance of a decision will be determined and how the degree of significance will influence the type and method of engagement with communities. Two key elements of the policy include assessing the project's significance rating and identifying where it sits on the International Association for Public Participation spectrum (IAP2).

Project Significance

A full assessment of significance has been undertaken on the Animal Policy development using the criteria specified in the SEP. This project was assessed to have a "medium" significance rating, due to the low strategic impact but high level of public interest in the matters covered by the policy.

IAP2 Spectrum

The Council has a commitment to engage with its stakeholders and uses as a reference the IAP2 spectrum. This spectrum is a framework to help organisations identify the appropriate level of stakeholder participation in a given project.

Engagement on this project falls within the "involve" section of the IAP2 spectrum.

4 Concurrent Council engagement and consultation projects

Continued engagement

Throughout the policy development process, engagement will be continued with key stakeholders.

Formal consultation

Formal consultation is tentatively scheduled to run from 21 August – 25 September. There may be several concurrent engagement and consultation projects scheduled for this time period. Officers will continue to work to identify any potential opportunities for collaboration, and will work towards collaboration closer to the time.

5 Who we are engaging with

5.1 Stakeholders

A number of stakeholders have been identified as part of our planning process. Each stakeholder is identified as having an interest in, or being affected by, any potential decisions made through the Animal Policy project.

Officers will work to identify any additional key stakeholders throughout policy development process.

The list of internal Council stakeholders includes (but is not limited to):

- Public Health
- Community Services
- Parks, Sport and Recreation
- Managers and ELT
- Advisory Groups
- Community Boards

External stakeholders will change depending upon the scope of the policy. The list below does not include specific stakeholders, aside from the Wellington SPCA, but lists broadly their area of focus.

The list of external stakeholders includes (but is not limited to):

- Wellington SPCA
- Animal owners
- Cat owners and clubs
- Poultry owners and clubs
- Bee keepers and clubs
- Conservation groups
- Residents Associations

5.2 Role of the elected members

- Portfolio leader is to champion the project and its purpose with the public and other elected officials.
- Portfolio leader, Mayor, and Deputy Mayor will liaise with media when appropriate (such as in press releases at key project milestones).
- Engage with their wards and communities to ensure that their viewpoints are represented.
- Communicate to officials any gaps in the planned work (content of policy, engagement work, etc).

6 How we engage

A range of communications channels and engagement methods were identified in the draft planning process to connect with different stakeholders throughout the project.

We will engage throughout process and at key milestones. Please see report for the proposed project timeline and key milestones.

Table 1: Proposed communications channels and engagement techniques

Stakeholder	Communications channels/engagement methods
Wellington SPCA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regular meetings to share ideas and collaborate • Meetings at key milestones with other Cat Reference Group members • Notified about Issues Paper and formal consultation, with the opportunity to provide feedback
Animal owners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have meetings along with other key stakeholders to share ideas and collaborate • Notified about Issues Paper and formal consultation, with the opportunity to provide feedback
Cat owners and clubs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have meetings along with other key stakeholders to share ideas and collaborate • Notified about Issues Paper and formal consultation, with the opportunity to provide feedback
Poultry owners and clubs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have meetings along with other key stakeholders to share ideas and collaborate • Notified about Issues Paper and formal consultation, with the opportunity to provide feedback
Bee keepers and clubs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have meetings along with other key stakeholders to share ideas and collaborate • Notified about Issues Paper and formal consultation, with the opportunity to provide feedback
Conservation groups	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have meetings along with other key stakeholders to share ideas and collaborate • Notified about Issues Paper and formal consultation, with the opportunity to provide feedback
Residents Associations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Notified about Issues Paper and formal consultation, with the opportunity to provide feedback. • Encourage them to share consultation details with their networks • Meet with them to discuss and share views on any area specific issues
Community Boards and Reference Groups	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Officers will work with Democratic Services to allow Community Boards and Reference Groups to provide feedback and advice.
Council internal stakeholders	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monthly meetings • Use internal staff intranet to ensure stakeholders are aware of key milestones • Updates at key milestones to Managers and ELT

7 Evaluation

Key objective: policy meets its purpose (assist Wellingtonians to be responsible pet owners).

- Have elected officials agree that the purpose are met throughout the process, via committee paper recommendations.

Objective: Work with high influence/high interest external stakeholders to establish their viewpoint on key issues.

- Use reference groups to seek feedback from key stakeholders at major project milestones
- Work with project team to ensure that we have captured the groups who are key stakeholders.
- Establish viewpoint of stakeholders, through workshops and meetings. Use feedback from any workshops and meetings to identify any areas that need to be improved.

Objective: Enable all stakeholders, including the wider public, to make a submission during consultation if they choose to.

- This will be done through formal consultation being available online and in print (at local libraries, WCC, and community centres)
- The creation of a project webpage will keep the public up to date on the review timeline and be aware of when consultation takes place. This timeline will be passed to Councillors so they may inform their constituents.
- Consultation will be advertised when it goes live in April 2016, through various media outlets (Facebook, press releases, Our Wellington).
- Throughout the project, allow feedback via email and other Councils various resources (Facebook, call centre etc.)

Objective: Use feedback from Issues Paper consultation to form the basis of the draft Animal Policy.

- Reflect on feedback from all stakeholders who made submissions. Use Councillor feedback as reference to confirm that adequate public feedback has been incorporated into the draft Animal Policy.

Objective: Use feedback from formal consultation to make amendments to the draft Animal Policy.

- Reflect on feedback from all stakeholders who made submissions. Use Councillor feedback as reference to confirm that adequate public feedback has been incorporated into updating the Animal Policy.

Objective: Meet at key milestones with Cr Gilbert, Councillor portfolio leader, throughout the process to ensure regular exchange of information and guidance.

- Will document email updates and meetings. This shall be done throughout the review process.

Objective: Meet at key milestones with Cr Pannett, City Strategy Committee Chair, throughout the process to ensure regular exchange of information and guidance.

- Will document email updates. This shall be done throughout the review process.

Objective: Meet at key milestones with internal stakeholders to ensure regular exchange of information and guidance.

- Will document email updates and team meetings. This shall be done throughout the review process.

Objective: Information provided to all stakeholders by project team will be peer reviewed by officers, to ensure quality information and guidance.

- Work with colleagues to peer-review work. This shall be done throughout the review process.

WELLINGTON PLAY SPACES POLICY

Purpose

1. To present the results of formal public consultation and request that the City Strategy Committee recommends to Council that it adopt the Wellington Play Spaces Policy.

Summary

2. The Wellington Play Spaces Policy (Play Policy) provides strategic direction and guidelines for the provision and management of play spaces in Wellington City. Planning for play will allow the Council to maximise any investment, add to it over time and ensure it is sustained. The Play Policy reflects current best practice in play space planning and delivery and expectations of the Wellington community.
3. The Policy:
 - defines what the Council means by play and a vision for play
 - includes background information and research into best practice provision, quality, management and maintenance of play spaces and what that means in Wellington
 - describes the value of and need for play and play space
 - describes a set of play space principles
 - outlines the planned network of play space opportunities
 - outlines the types of play space, with a guide to the purpose and components of each
 - guides design and management for high-quality renewals and upgrades
 - guides community and school partnerships
 - outlines what we mean by 'the city as a play space'
 - describes programming and advocacy for outdoor play.
4. Submissions have resulted in changes to the draft Play Policy. The key issues raised by submitters were how the Council decides where formal play spaces are located and the levels of service at each site. Submissions have resulted in the following key changes to the draft:
 - Further analysis of provision has resulted in two new proposals – a new play space in Johnsonville and the retention of the play equipment at Nuku Street in Strathmore.
 - Latest demographic information has been included and the layout of the document improved.
 - Further engagement with the skate community is required as a high priority to plan, prioritise and consider funding for skate facilities in Wellington.
 - Prioritising accessibility and inclusiveness in the Play Policy including a specific action to provide better information to enable informed choice according to people's needs and/or the needs of those they care for.

- Additional actions to consider and explore in delivering Strategic Priority 3 - Community and school partnerships, 4 - The city as a play space and 5 - Programming and advocacy for outdoor play.
5. No formal play spaces will be closed resulting in 113 formal play spaces. Funding option decisions are therefore based around level of service balanced with the length of the renewals cycle. This will require additional funding for the renewal of play spaces.
 6. Officers recommend prioritising more funding at each site at the time of renewal for general park improvements over shortening the renewals cycle. This will lead to high quality fit-for-purpose play space and will address the aspirations of many submitters.

Recommendations

That the City Strategy Committee:

1. Receive the information.
2. Note the summary of submissions – see Attachment 1
3. Note capex and opex consideration with implementing this policy.
4. Agree to recommend to Council that it adopts the Wellington Play Spaces Policy as appended (Attachment 2).
5. Agree to delegate to the Chair of the City Strategy Committee and the Chief Executive the authority to amend the Wellington Play Spaces Policy as per proposed amendments made by the committee at this meeting, and any minor consequential edits, prior to it being adopted.
6. Instruct officers to:
 - a. Provide options for funding the renewal/upgrade programme to implement the policy as part of the 2018/2028 Long Term Plan. Note Officers recommend Option 3 (refer Attachment 4).
 - b. Work with the skate community to plan, prioritise and consider funding for skate facilities based on the key issues summarized in the policy.

Background

7. In November 2015 the Community Sport and Recreation Committee (CSR) approved a review of the 2002 Playgrounds Policy. In preparing the draft policy officers carried out a review of research on play theory, the benefits of play and how to maximise value of play space. Play policy best practice (internationally and in NZ) was also examined.
8. In addition, early engagement included a survey of the Council's research panel (418 responses), a survey of all primary schools, an informal survey of passers-by at an event in Civic Square, a series of workshops with youth including with the youth council, and a workshop with skate community advocates.
9. On the 10th August 2016 CSR agreed to consult on the Draft Wellington Play Spaces Policy. Consultation ran from the 15th October to the 18th November 2016. 118 submissions were received.

Discussion

10. The summary of submissions (Attachment 1) includes responses to key issues raised by several submitters as well as individual submission points. Resultant changes to the Policy are noted and the Wellington Play Spaces Policy has been amended accordingly (Attachment 2).

11. The draft policy included five strategic priorities. Feedback from submissions showed the following support:

Do you agree with the five priorities in the policy? (Total number of responses: 83)

Provide a network of play spaces across the city	yes 92.59%	no 7.41%
Provide high-quality, fit-for purpose play space	yes 96.15%	no 3.85%
Community and school partnerships	yes 96.10%	no 3.90%
The city as a play space	yes 89.74%	no 10.26%
Programming and advocacy for outdoor play	yes 93.42%	no 6.58%

12. While many of the submitters raised specific issues, early engagement and the statistics above indicate a high level of support for the draft policy direction.

Key Issues

Provision – how many formal play spaces do we have and where are they?

13. 29 submissions proposed refining the provision models to focus on both equity as well as distribution (based on a 600-800m walking catchment coverage). Suggestions as to how to refine the model included taking into account walking distance AND lower socio-economic areas, higher density areas (CBD & MDRA) and areas with higher child population all three of which would in theory represent greater need.
14. Nine submissions were concerned specifically with the number of formal play spaces and what each provided in Johnsonville around the MDRA. Two ideas were recommended. Firstly to protect and improve any and all public outdoor space within 400m of MDRA zones and secondly to offset any effects of this intensification on kids by preserving and enhancing public greenspaces, and by significantly increasing public play resources (equipment, skate parks, half courts etc) within 400m of MDRA zones. 12 submitters requested that 100% of city should be within 10 mins walk of a play space (74% not good enough) and/or the measure should be 5mins not 10 and/or adjusted closer than 10 mins in areas with steeper topography.

Officer response

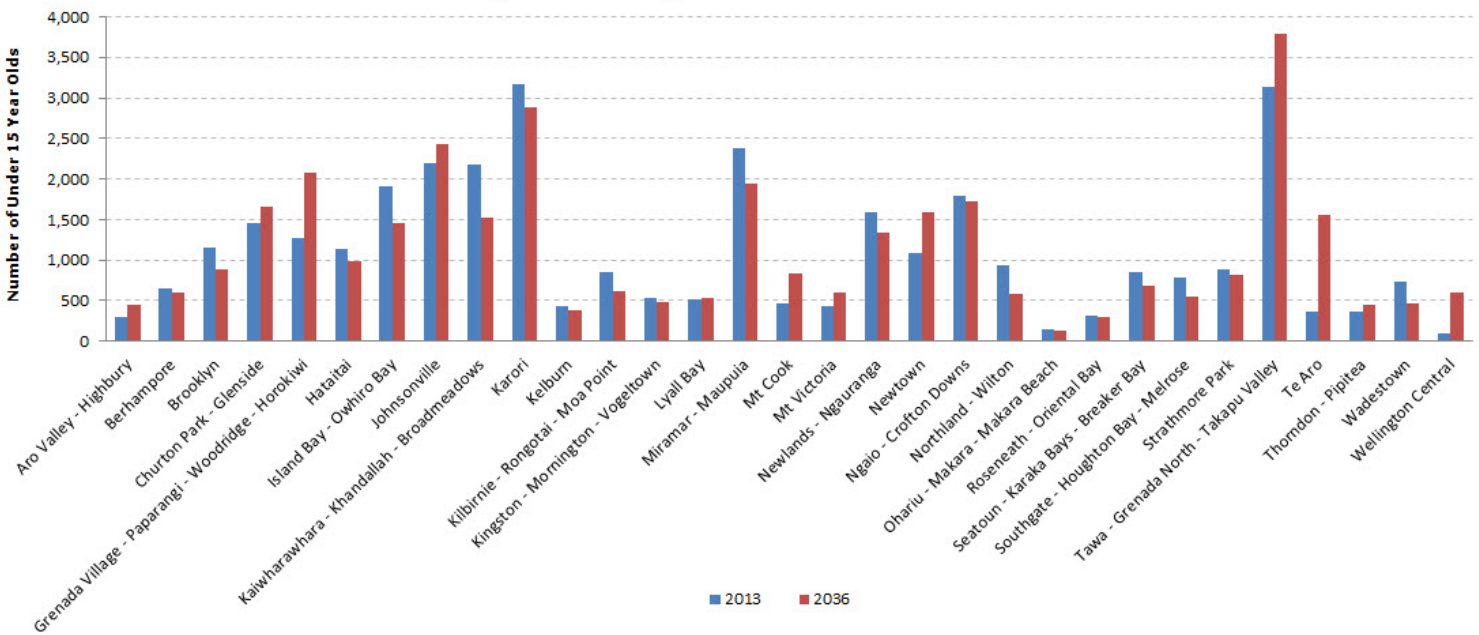
15. In summary, provision has been reviewed in response to submissions to consider equity and distribution and officers confirm that the policy does not require amendments other than an additional play space in Johnsonville and retention of the Nuku Street play space.
16. The proposed network of play spaces would provide only 31% coverage if it was mapped on a 400m walk (approximately 5 minutes). Attempting to get 100% coverage or even 74% across the whole of Wellington based on a 400m measure would require a huge increase in the number of play spaces. This is not considered a viable proposition given what we know about the cost to properly manage, maintain and renew the proposed 111 spaces we already have and are planning for. We also know that 74% of respondents to an early survey believe the number of playgrounds in Wellington is about right.
17. Wellington City Council uses the Profile id tool which is linked to Statistic NZ data to help understand how the city is growing and changing and plan for that change. Profile id also provides information on areas of social deprivation.
18. The draft policy notes that the predicted growth in the total population of children to year 2033 is 1650. This has been updated with the latest data to year 2036 predicting a total rise of only 780 children. The criticism in the submissions is that while there might be low growth, growth is not evenly distributed across the city. Submitters suggest that

coupled with there already being higher areas of 'need' Council should consider a more complex model of provision.

19. Officers have reviewed suburbs across the city. The following graph and table at Attachment 3 provide a useful picture of both growth (and decline) and allow comparison between areas of the city.

Item 3.3

Population Projection for Under 15 Year Olds



20. Areas of social deprivation are defined by Profile id statistics analysis. In Wellington City the top six are Kilbirnie, Mount Cook, Strathmore Park, Te Aro, Newtown and Berhampore.
21. The areas with a cross over in high child population, high relative growth, high actual growth and high social deprivation would in theory be the areas of potentially higher need. The table below shows the areas of need based on how many of those parameters apply. Consideration of housing type and density is also needed in analysing this information to determine what if any further play space initiatives might be required.

	Highest deprivation	Highest child population areas	Highest relative growth	Highest growth in number	Score representing 'high need'
Kilbirnie	x				1
Mount Cook	x		x		2
Te Aro	x		x	x	3
Strathmore Park	x				1
Newtown	x				1
Berhampore	x				1
Wellington Central			x		1
Tawa/Grenada Nth/Takapu Valley		x		x	2
Karori		x			1

Johnsonville		x			1
Grenada Village/Paparangi/Woodridge				x	1

22. **Te Aro** is 100% covered by a 600-800m walk model of provision of play space (located at Aro Valley, Cobblestone Park and Cuba Mall). Te Aro is bordered by the waterfront and Pukeahu which offer a wide range of informal play space at the edges of the area. Further opportunities for play space to properly service Te Aro can be considered as part of the wider project of strategic planning for central city growth and development in Te Aro. **Mount Cook and Tawa/Grenada Nth/Takapu Valley**. Takapu Valley is a rural environment and the adjacent suburb of Grenada North is served by the Grenada North Park play area. Tawa is well served by the current formal play space network with no identified need to fill gaps or increase provision.
23. There is very limited opportunity to provide further play space in Mount Cook. The development of social housing at the Arlington site in Mount Cook and the focus on Te Aro as part of strategic Central City Planning will address the potential need for more or better green open space generally and formal play space and how these might be provided.
24. City housing play areas are not included in the general provision of play space as they are not open to the general public. They do however provide specifically for areas of higher need associated with housing density and socioeconomic factors.
25. The third areas have one mark as they are in the top three in the growth measures of high child population or in the top six of deprivation. These are Kilbirnie, Newtown, Berhampore, Wellington Central, Karori, Johnsonville and Grenada Village/Paparangi/Woodridge.
26. **Wellington Central** will have high predicted growth in numbers of children relative to current very low numbers. Numbers of children in **Newtown** are predicted to grow over the next 20yrs by approximately 500 and **Berhampore** to drop very slightly. As with Mount Cook, finding public open space to provide for further play space opportunity in the inner city suburbs is a challenge.
27. Wellington Central is served by Frank Kitts Playground with almost all residential areas within 800m of that space. Reducing the measure to 400m would require a new playground. As the number of children in this area increases (predicted at around 500 over the next 20years) it may be necessary to consider additional space over time.
28. The proposed 600-800m walk provision measure provides 100% coverage in Newtown and Berhampore. Even at a 400m measure Newtown is well served with only small areas of gaps. The 400m measure would not cover Berhampore however the city housing play spaces will serve some of the residents in the area identified as a 'gap' using the higher measure of 400m.
29. Submissions received in relation to **Karori** did not raise the need for more play space, rather the concern was about the quality of the existing spaces There is also a new play space identified in the Draft Play Policy to fill a gap in provision based on the even distribution model. The proposed Karori community planning process may identify open space and play space initiatives in the long term.
30. **Johnsonville** is one of the highest three suburbs in Wellington in terms of child population (currently 2203). With a predicted rise of 223. Around 72% of residents are within around a 600/800m walk (approximately 10mins) of a formal play space.

31. There is a gap in provision at the western edge of Johnsonville. An additional play space in this area would result in an increase of 10% up to 82%. Development of a neighbourhood play space or nature play trail in that area would be subject to further community engagement and take account of future road development and connectivity projects and the heritage status of Old Coach Road. The additional play space would alleviate potential pressure on existing play space associated with there being high numbers of children in Johnsonville.
32. **Kilbirnie** is currently served by the Kilbirnie Park play space. The small geographical area covered by Kilbirnie means that everyone in that suburb is within 800m walk of that play space. A new play space is proposed near the existing skate facility in Rongotai.
33. **Strathmore Park** is an area where the Council works in partnership with other central government agencies and groups to address social deprivation issues. There are currently three formal play spaces. Further analysis suggests that Council should amend the draft Play Policy and retain the Nuku Street Play equipment to maximise opportunities for residents to play.
34. Six submissions suggested Council consider more pocket park type development throughout the city and describing the value of these in supporting community building and providing more local (walkable) play opportunities. Seven submissions outlined the need for better transport planning to support incidental play and development of pocket parks with the variety of benefits that these bring. Both of these issues are District Plan and urban development matters. Council already works closely with schools to try and achieve better sustainable transport outcomes.
35. The ability to deliver on the Play Policy across all public space (i.e not just in parks and reserves) is a key consideration. Incidental play space brings significant value to people, communities and the environment. Officers will review how this can be achieved during the review of existing policies and strategies.

Quality and fit-for-purpose – what do the play spaces look like?

36. The draft Play Policy defines three types of formal play space and general guidance around design standards and principles to achieve high quality and fit-for-purpose play space. Submissions on what the Council provides at each type of play space were wide ranging with lots of suggestions for specific improvements to individual parks and playgrounds.
37. The most significant change proposed is that the Council will retain all of the current play spaces (and plan for a small number more to account for city growth and fill gaps in provision) and improve the quality of each. The proposal to improve quality over time is based on clear understanding of the potential value that these spaces have in the community and for Wellington if designed and managed well.
38. There was a lot of useful feedback on the importance of features such as fencing. For example fencing is not just to keep young children from escaping onto roads, it is also important for containing children with learning or behavioural difficulties, for separating different aged children or activities, for helping create an environment where parents can relax outside with their children. In particular if parents or caregivers visit with multiple children.
39. The definitions of the three types of formal play space – Destination, Community, Neighbourhood coupled with the Principles and Design Standards will address many of the concerns raised. Provision of high quality play space can be achieved by increased funding for renewals to provide more than just replacement of equipment and surfacing.

40. Shade, shelter, more seats, picnic tables, drinking water, toilets, fencing, gates, better paths, planting – amenity and ecological, to integrate play equipment into the site and broaden the value of play experience through nature connection. These are all design decisions that will be considered at the time of each renewal or new build. and will ensure accessibility and inclusivity is at the heart of design decisions.
41. A recurring comment was the need to make each space attractive to the adults who are taking their children there and encourage them to get involved in childrens play. This can be achieved through good design at the time of renewal. It is recommended that this point be added to the design principles.
42. Ninety percent of respondents supported a focus on incorporating opportunities to interact with the natural environment into play spaces. The importance of play space design and renewal that includes well maintained planting crossed many of the issues raised by submitters including providing good shade and shelter, supporting biodiversity values around the city generally and broadening the value of the play experience. Funding renewals that include planting and ongoing maintenance of that planting is a key part of prioritising high quality fit for purpose play space across Wellington.
43. Seven submissions support the Mount Victoria nature play trail. There was a request for Tanera Park Gully to become a Children’s Wilderness Area. Officers recommend a further action to work with community groups to develop additional nature play trails and explore the Childrens Wilderness Area proposal.

Accessibility and inclusiveness

44. Accessibility and inclusiveness is considered across all five Strategic Priorities in the Draft Play Policy. It was raised in considering where play spaces are, equity of access, how they are categorised, designed and maintained and who the play spaces are designed for – range of ages, people with different abilities and gender.
45. Lack of facilities can exclude potential users – for example no fencing can exclude parents with children with learning disorders or multiple children. No seating can exclude elderly people and carers. Also raised was how do people get to and from these places – this can be to do with socio-economic factors, transport choice and options and various types of disability. Submitters recommended that clearer statements are included in the start of the policy and in the principles and standards sections around accessibility and inclusiveness as a non-negotiable.
46. Officers recommend amending page 11 to include the statistic that 1 in 4 people in New Zealand have a disability. Availability of information for people to make informed choices is key and an action should be added to make this information more easily available as a priority and keep it updated.

Destination play space

47. Five submissions questioned whether Wellington had a ‘proper’ destination play space with the new play space in Hutt City (Avalon Park) and in Christchurch (Margaret Mahy Playground) mentioned as examples. Three submitters requested a spread of destination play spaces across the city rather than having three centrally located.

Response

48. Officers propose that like other cities in New Zealand, there should be one destination play space. The neighbourhood and community play space provision across the city will provide a good mix of high quality play space opportunity.

49. Officers recommend amending the draft to include only one destination play space at Frank Kitts Park. There is a proposed design and funding in place for a new play space development at Frank Kitts Park.
50. The Wellington Botanic Garden and Waitangi Park will no longer sit in the category of destination play space, however both of those spaces are destinations in Wellington regardless of play provision and a community category of play space will still properly fund future renewals of both of those spaces.

Adult play equipment and exercise equipment

51. A range of submissions supported the idea of adult play. They ranged from requests for exercise equipment (like at Karori Park) through to equipment in play spaces that adults could use alongside their children to play (for example big enough swings and high enough bars).

Response

52. Adult focussed exercise equipment will not be included in the Play Policy. The proposed Sport and Active Recreation plan will consider planning for recreation facilities such as these and other ideas such as strength/agility equipment areas in open spaces around the city and areas of need.
53. Providing equipment in play spaces that adults and older children can use to play on and depending on their personal motivation perhaps 'get some exercise' is part of helping maximise the use of the space and create places that caregivers also enjoy. While not the focus, it will be considered in the design of each formal play space depending on the site and play space category.

Skate facilities

54. There were 12 submissions outlining specific issues with how the draft Policy addresses skate facilities. There were 59 responses to the question Do you think the draft policy addresses the key issues identified in the plan and provides clear direction for the provision of skate facilities in Wellington? 52% answered yes, 25% no and 23% other.
55. There is currently no budget to develop any of the existing spaces or create more. The renewals budgeting information provided later in this report does not include skate provision.
56. Skate is in the scope of the play spaces policy. Traditionally, these facilities have developed on an ad hoc basis in terms of what they provide and where they are located. There is a good spread of them across the city. The policy proposes that existing facilities are sufficient to provide for the needs of users and minor improvements to each would help increase their appeal to different users and skill levels.

Response

57. It is necessary to consider all of the suggestions raised in submissions with further engagement with the skate community on what the priorities are and how the various proposals might be funded and when. Officers propose to carry out this work as a high priority in the next 3 years

Focus on incorporating opportunities to interact with the natural environment into play spaces

58. There is a high level of support for incorporating the natural environment into play space. The new policy proposes development of new play spaces and renewals of old that will provide for this and an increase in funding to achieve it.

59. Tree planting for shade and shelter will not always be native. Tree selection will be based on the site and context and what the particular planting is designed to achieve. Opportunities for tree planting at play spaces outside of renewals timeframes will be explored with the local communities. For example, the community fruit tree programme could be extended from road reserve locations or local residents groups, schools, Officers will work with the Tanera Park Gully Restoration Group and the wider community to progress the idea as described in their submission of a Children's Wilderness Area.

Ideas for partnerships and getting more people outdoors and active through play.

60. There were many submissions suggesting how the community could be involved in the provision and delivery of play space.

Strategic Priorities 4 and 5 will encourage this type of activity. Ideas have been noted for future initiatives and passed on to other teams in Council to review how these can be delivered.

Funding

61. Current capex funding is inadequate to renew the existing playground assets on a 25 year renewal cycle. The maximum recommended lifespan. Previous renewals funding was set on the basis that we would reduce the number of playgrounds to 80. While some playgrounds were removed in the past, retiring any further play spaces has been met with significant community opposition. The current draft policy proposes 111 formal play spaces.
62. There are currently more than 27 playgrounds that are more than 25 years old well past their renewal date.
63. The current funding does not provide adequately for general improvements at the time of renewal, such as paths, fences, shade, seats and planting etc. Funding renews play equipment and safety surfacing. The key change in the new policy, (supported by Council's strategic direction, research and public feedback), is provision of quality play space development at the time of renewal to include a proper level of service.
64. Providing a network of well designed, well used, high value (for play and also other values such as quality open space development, environmental benefit, health and wellbeing and community building) is of greater importance than faster renewal of a lesser standard. The community value these spaces and it makes sense for Council to adequately fund the ongoing management and maintenance of these valuable assets to get the most out of them and any council spending associated with the provision of play.

Options

Financial Implications

65. There are three financial models to consider outlined in the following and in the graphs in Attachment 4.
66. **Option 1.** An enhanced level of service plus gap provision – 17 -20 year renewal cycle
Option one allows for an increased quality level of service (play equipment, enhanced landscaping, planting some shelter etc.) and accelerates the renewals cycle for each play area to between 17-20 years on average. It allows for the provision of five additional Council funded play areas and the renewal of two developer funded play areas. It does not allow for any investment in skate.

67. **Option 2.** Current level of service plus gap provision – 17 – 20 year renewal cycle.
Option two allows for the current quality level of service (play equipment, no enhanced landscaping, planting shelter etc.) and accelerates the renewals cycle for each play area to between 17-20 years on average. It allows for the provision of five additional Council funded play areas and the renewal of two developer funded play areas. It does not allow for any investment in skate.
68. **Option 3 .** An enhanced level of service plus gap provision – 25 year + renewal cycle
Option three allows for an increased quality level of service (play equipment, enhanced landscaping, planting some shelter etc.) and maintains the current renewals cycle for each play area to between 19-26 years on average. It allows for the provision of five additional Council funded play areas and the renewal of two developer funded play areas. It does not allow for any investment in skate.
69. All options will mean an increase in operating costs and capital costs.
70. **Officer recommendation**
Option 3 is the preferred option as it is fiscally responsible in terms of providing a balance between renewal cycle and recommended policy outcomes. Option 3 fills gaps in provision and delivers the draft policy direction – over a longer period. All of the options include adding Waitangi Park play area and identified new play space into future renewals funding.
71. Option 3 does not address future funding for skate. Officers recommend that the policy will note that Council will work with the skate communities across Wellington to understand what the issues and opportunities with the current skate facilities are and develop priorities and timelines for minor improvements. Consider new facilities or significant upgrades on a case-by-case basis and through community/club partnerships’.
72. Option 3 does not address future funding for any play space proposals associated with district plan changes, urban growth and development planning or community planning initiatives (eg Karori or Te Aro/Central City).
73. Note that Frank Kitts Park play space upgrade is funded separately as part of the Frank Kitts Park project and will be incorporated into the future renewals programme.
74. The three options illustrate the range in potential costs. Funding could be set anywhere in that range and could then be modelled accordingly.

Next Actions

75. A paper will go to Council and initiatives will be included in the Long Term Plan.

Attachments

Attachment 1.	Attachment 1 - Summary of submissions	Page 39
Attachment 2.	Wellington Play Spaces Policy	Page 65
Attachment 3.	Child population figures	Page 102
Attachment 4.	Funding scenarios	Page 103

Author	Rebecca Ramsay, Reserves Planner
Authoriser	Michael Oates, Open Space and Recreation Planning Manager Paul Andrews, Manager Parks, Sport and Recreation Jane Hill, Acting Chief Operating Officer

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

Engagement and Consultation

This was outlined in detail in presenting the draft policy to Committee in the context of pre-engagement that informed the preparation of the draft. The draft was subject to formal consultation with 118 submissions received. Councillors heard 19 oral submissions at the hearing on the 9th of February.

Treaty of Waitangi considerations

Iwi were consulted on the draft. No specific issues were raised and there was support for cultural reference at sites of maori significance.

Financial implications

The Wellington Play Spaces Policy will require an increase in funding for formal play space renewals and operational costs. A funding model will be included in the Long Term Plan. Funding will also need to be considered for any future skate facilities upgrades or other skate initiatives that come out of further work on the issue of planning, prioritising and funding skate initiatives.

Policy and legislative implications

None. The policy aligns well with Council strategic direction as described in the policy.

Risks / legal

None.

Climate Change impact and considerations

The policy promotes a walkable network of play spaces. Some of the existing play spaces may be affected in the long term by climate change and sea level rise.

Communications Plan

Officers will work with portfolio leaders and the communications and engagement team on media release.

Health and Safety Impact considered

The issues of formal play space safety is discussed in the submission summary (Attachment 1).

5

Summary of Submissions – Draft Play Spaces Policy		Response
Issues raised	Submitter number	
<p>Question 1 of the submission form asked: 1. Do you agree with the five priorities in the policy? Total number of responses: 83</p> <p>A: Provide a network of play spaces across the city yes 92.59% no 7.41% B: Provide high-quality, fit-for purpose play space yes 96.15% no 3.85% C: Community and school partnerships yes 96.10% no 3.90% D: The city as a play space yes 89.74% no 10.26% E: Programming and advocacy for outdoor play yes 93.42% no 6.58%</p> <p>While many of the submitters raised specific issues, the statistics above indicate a good level of support for the draft policy.</p> <p>Note: Generally, where submission comments are in line with or support the draft policy they have not been recorded below.</p> <p>“Strategic Priority 1: Provide a network of play spaces across the city” Qu 2. Do you agree with planning for a mix of types of play space, spread as evenly as possible across the city as outlined in the draft policy? (yes-71%, no-12%, other-17%) Qu 3. Do you support planning for a total of 111 formal playgrounds based on the goal of the majority of households in Wellington (74%) being within a 10 min walk of a neighbourhood or community playspace? (yes -71%, no-5%, other-24%)</p>	<p>3, 8, 51, 58, 62, 63, 71, 72, 74, 78, 84, 105</p>	<p>Respondents to the pre-engagement survey and to the formal consultation suggest that the majority of people are satisfied with how many play spaces there are in Wellington (74% and 71% respectively). Adding more to the network simply to achieve 100% coverage would require approximately 40 new play spaces. Those 40 play spaces would have to go somewhere and it is unlikely that there will be 40 parks ideally located in each 'gap' and with space to develop specifically for play. Development of the Draft Policy included looking at where there were obvious large gaps in provision – resulting in the actions under Priority 1, policy 2. Any further play space provision would be better assessed based on specific need (see next submission response).</p>

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Different approach to provision planning taking account of walking distance AND lower socio-economic areas, higher density areas (CBD & MDRA) and areas with higher child population all three of which represent greater need. Issue of an 'equitable' rather than 'even' spread. Also planning for child population growth. 	<p>18, 24, 36, 54, 58, 59, 61, 62, 63, 71, 72, 76, 78, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 89, 92, 99, 104, 105, 106, 116, 117</p>	<p>The policy includes discussion around the importance of informal play space and nature play and the need for Council to promote and advocate for these play experiences. These opportunities are all over the city and can provide for residents who might be outside of a 10 minute walk to a formal play space. Schools can and do 'fill the gaps' in some areas so that the reality is more than 74% of residents are within 600-800m of some type of play space. (93% of primary schools surveyed allow public access to their playgrounds outside of school hours). No change to the Draft Policy.</p>
		<p>Updates statistics with the latest available information at 'Section 2 – The future of Wellington'. Remove any analysis from this section and provide the facts.</p> <p>Changes to 'Section 2 – How are we planning for play as the city grows and changes'. Include analysis of 'higher need' and 'equitable provision'.</p> <p>Amend maps to better show areas of potential higher need in relation to the network of play spaces.</p> <p>This finer grained analysis of higher need has resulted in two new proposals – a new play space in Johnsonville and the retention of the equipment at Nuku Street in Strathmore.</p> <p>The development of social housing at the Arlington site in Mount Cook and the focus on Te Aro as part of strategic Central City Planning will address the potential need for more or better green open space generally and formal play space and how these might be provided. The Basin Reserve master planning continues to evolve and play space could be considered through that process.</p> <p>Ongoing play space renewals and wider park development projects will also enable existing play spaces to better meet the needs of their communities over time with better funding to be</p>

<p>secured as part of the new policy – for example the Kilbirnie Park play space.</p> <p>City housing play areas are not included in the general provision of play space as they are not open to the general public. They do however provide specifically for areas of higher need associated with housing density and socioeconomic factors.</p>	<p>Further analysis of Johnsonville shows that it is one of the highest three suburbs in Wellington in terms of child population (currently 2203). Predicted growth in numbers of children is not one of the highest at 223. The suburb is in line with the city wide average of around 72% of residents within the target of being within around 600/800m walk (approximately 10mins) of a formal play space. That number is in fact higher as it includes the large land areas occupied by Onslow College and Raroa Intermediate. There is a gap in provision at the western edge of the suburb. An additional play space in this area would result in an increase of 10% up to 82% which would represent high provision as compared to a city wide average. Development of a neighbourhood play space or nature play trail in that area would need to be subject to further community engagement and take account of future road development projects and the heritage status of Old Coach Road.</p>	<p>The MDRA zones are discussed in the draft policy. These areas will result in higher density living but will suit a whole range of people including older people downsizing, single people or small families. The zones will not necessarily have a resultant huge increase in child population and we can only rely on statistics NZ data to inform Council policy in relation to planning for growth. The issue of provision of more open space generally to service these zones is not one that can be addressed in the play space policy.</p>	<p>The development of the new library will result in the loss of a half court space. There are courts at the school directly opposite Johnsonville Memorial Park. The school currently allows for public</p>
	<p>61, 76, 81, 82, 83, 85, 116, 117, 89, 92</p>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Johnsonville. Submitters questioned provision of play space and open space generally in Johnsonville. Raised concerns over historic closure of a playground, proposed categories of existing play space and the need for an additional one. Raised issues with loss of half court at the library development site and their request for additional skate and youth facilities. Request to consider higher provision of play space in response to MDRA zone both in Johnsonville and in any future MDRA zone. 			

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		<p>use of these. The development of the new Johnsonville library is planned to start on site later this year. There will be an Annual Plan funding request this year by the library development project team for related projects within the wider community facilities campus (including the parks, pool and library). This will fund landscaping projects that will help maximise the values of those spaces to the community and the interconnectedness of the different places and spaces.</p> <p>Skate facilities provision and management across the city is going to be the subject of further work and associated funding requests. Please refer to the responses to skate submissions below.</p> <p>Recommend amending the draft to provide for development of a further neighbourhood play space or nature trail in Johnsonville to achieve a small increase in the number of residents within 600/800m of a formal play space and to address community concerns over the number and type (design and facilities) of play spaces provided in Johnsonville.</p> <p>Opportunities to broaden user groups and the experience at each space are part of what the new policy will achieve with a focus on high quality fit for purpose play space development. ECE's in the neighbourhood of any play space will have the opportunity to be involved in renewals plans alongside the rest of the community. No change to the Draft Policy</p> <p>This is part of the direction of the new policy. The intention is to promote the value of free play and in particular free play in natural environments. Play spaces will be designed and renewed to encourage this type of play.</p> <p>Brownfield – where there is an identified need for play space Council will look at potential to use these sites. Strategic Priority 4 provides direction to consider play in any redevelopment proposals. The desire to see development of more small scale neighbourhood play space through District Plan changes, WCC</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> locate in relation to centre-based Early Childhood Educators and Centres 	28, 56, 95	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> leave space and facilities that do not direct play but leave open for imagination, huts, trees, materials that can be transported, use playcentre and other play experts who have a thorough understanding of how kids play. 	65	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Would be good to see some brown fields development and re-purposing of land for better community outcomes. Support other agencies to keep open space – eg Ministry of Ed. 	18, 22, 54, 58, 59, 61, 63, 64, 78, 84, 97, 106, 116	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support communities to develop green space in their neighbourhoods. • More little neighbourhood play spaces on residential streets (eg Jeyapore St, Clyde street, the parade, bus stops). Value of these in supporting community building and providing more local (walkable) play opportunities. Provide for these in District Plan. 		<p>Design Guides and the Resource Consent process has been passed on to the WCC planning and urban design teams.</p> <p>The Council is already working in partnership with MOE to explore opportunities for partnerships in delivery of play space and will continue to do so. MOE has their own policy around their land assets and WCC works closely with other central government agencies such as Sport New Zealand to advocate for the importance of maintaining suitable open space and play space in schools.</p> <p>A wide range of community groups around the city are involved in the care and development of green space of all types. For example there are over 100 groups doing an enormous range of restoration type work, there are community gardens across the city and community fruit tree planting schemes. Where streetscapes lend themselves to providing informal play opportunities this will often occur and be valued by that community – for example along berms with trees to climb, vegetation to walk through or play in or places to sit. Where there is a specific need for support, community green spaces are developed in a more formal way alongside those communities - such as in Strathmore Park for example. All communities have the opportunity to be involved in the redevelopment of the local play space at the time of renewal. Strategic Priority 5 also outlines the intention to support communities in promoting the value of play.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need more easily accessible, flat, open space generally that will provide for play 	58	<p>Submissions requesting more, small, neighbourhood public open spaces that lend themselves to community interaction and play have been passed on to officers in the Strategic Planning, District Plan and Urban design teams.</p> <p>Reflected in Play Space Principles and in providing more money for renewals of play spaces there will be more opportunity to create flat space in some existing play spaces.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Getting to and from play spaces and planning 	106, 108, 71, 18,	<p>The proposal to in the first instance base provision around a</p>

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<p>transport networks around that. Walking to schools. Skating to the playground. Wayfinding to support this.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not a 'network' unless this is included. (1) • With three large secondary schools in the immediate Mt Victoria vicinity further opportunities to engage young people is needed – what can we do for them? Perhaps, develop a fun walk to school through our parks for older students would enhance their commute, and should be as much of a priority as the council's current level of support for cyclists using the Town Belt as a commuter route 	<p>58, 78, 27, 1, 59</p>	<p>measure of walking distance is the first step in supporting sustainable transport and all the benefits that walking to the play space provides. Making each neighbourhood play space a high quality space will encourage greater use with less need to travel further afield to find a space to play. Location of a central city destination play space maximises opportunities for use of public transport networks. The community play spaces category will attract users from out of area and some of those people will drive. Some will need to drive and be able to park for mobility reasons. The key is providing choice to support as many users going outside to play as possible.</p> <p>Wayfinding is an important issue and will be addressed as noted in Priority 5.</p> <p>WCC offers School Travel Planning to interested schools, this involves a series of surveys and mapping activities that look at barriers to active transport modes to and from school. Often this results in addressing safety issues through engineering.</p> <p>WCC support schools providing information on the setting up of Walking School Buses - the best ones work when there is an enthusiastic member of the community/parent who organises it.</p> <p>Some schools do this but they are not required to by the ministry other than have appropriate policies around transport but it doesn't go into the level of prescribing how kids get to school. NZTA, GWRC and DHB's have various initiatives around sustainable transport.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If communities request a new playground, basketball court etc then there needs to be the ability for the council to consider the request and to approve the request if warranted. • Disagree with essentially 'capping' the number of playgrounds at 111. 	<p>100, 102, 105</p>	<p>Consideration of any request will be against what is outlined in the Play Spaces Policy. That is why the policy exists – to guide that type of decision making and inform asset management planning. The process of formulating the policy provided for consideration of new facilities. The policy stipulates that 111 formal play spaces will meet the needs of the community. Any additional play space</p>

		<p>would need to be considered in the context of the request at that time and in light of a policy that suggests that 111 is enough for the reasons as discussed in the policy.</p> <p>“Strategic Priority 2: Provide high-quality, fit for purpose play space” Qu 4. Do you agree the principles and standards will result in Wellingtons play spaces (formal playgrounds, skate facilities, half courts and nature play trails) being high quality and meeting the needs of the community? (yes-56%, no-11%, other-33%) Qu 5. Do you agree that the guide will result in a good mix of play space that meets the needs of the city, local communities, and the range of people who use these spaces? (yes-72%, no-13%, other-33%) Qu 6. Do you agree with the locations and categories proposed? (</p> <p>A wide range of suggestions were received about play space design and improvements in specific parks. These all relate to the issue of how WCC will deliver high quality fit-for-purpose play space.</p>
<p>Issues raised</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Specific consideration needs to be given to gender in playspace provision and design • “spaces provided for girls that are tailored to their needs” • Half courts and skate facilities are traditionally spaces for males. 	<p>Submitter number 106, 33, 14</p>	<p>Response</p> <p>Council’s project ‘Shift: Shift your body, Shift your mind’ is currently working with young women (12 – 20 years) from across Wellington to improve wellbeing. Shift’s early research identified that the type and design of a space is important for encouraging young people to use it but other factors such as transport, cost, body confidence, lack of time, social/family/academic commitments were rated higher as barriers to participation. One of the key outcomes for Shift is to better understand the barriers young women face when participating in recreation and play. Through a co-design process with young women participating in Shift we have learnt the key factors to encouraging open space use by young women is similar to that of all young people in our community. They want access to places and opportunities that are free/low cost, fun, social and accessible.</p> <p>Earlier this year a programme was offered for young women to learn skateboarding skills in order to increase confidence accessing these facilities. Due to popular demand more sessions will be offered in 2017.</p> <p>Our experience with half courts is that they provide a range of</p>

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> agree with areas being spread across the city I don't agree that every area should be mixed. Something such as Skateboarding needs it's own designated areas. It does not work attaching basketball, rock-climbing or any other activity in a skate park. Kick around spaces preclude other children playing safely and without interruption and harm. What purpose are these meant to meet? 	74, 71, 80	<p>opportunities for play and recreation for all ages and are not particularly gender specific. For example, they are often used by small children to ride scooters and bikes.</p> <p>There is a balance to be found between providing for particular activities or users in a space while still maximising the value of a place to the wider community. Mixed use space is a good model of design however careful consideration does need to be given to these spaces to make sure that in providing a wide range of use the experience is not diminished. As noted for example, it is not suitable to have bikes racing through toddler playgrounds. These matters are addressed by quality design and responding to specific issues as they arise. A good example is the tree tops skate and basketball area.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A small grassed space with a piece of equipment only suitable for one age group does not constitute a playground. The danger of this approach means we end up with a 'one size fits all' solution across the city that doesn't serve any particular need. There is an over emphasis of the needs of older children in this option. Need to focus on the 10-15 year Olds more as younger already well catered for Support risk and challenge for older children and adults 	71, 16 91, 93, 51	<p>The Neighbourhood Play Space category is described in the draft Policy. They range in what they provide but will be developed so as to make the most of the space they are in. The intention of the new draft policy is to ensure each space works as hard as it can to provide for different opportunities for play for different age groups within a specified budget range. The policy is based on a spread of these smaller spaces spread around the city with larger ones more widely spread to provide choices and good access to a variety of play spaces.</p> <p>We know from engagement with youth aged people that they will take risks and use play equipment (and any other space) in ways they are not designed to be used. That is often part of the appeal of the space. The community and destination play spaces will best provide the widest range of play opportunities.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wellington needs a 'proper' destination playground (eg Margaret Mahy, Avalon Park etc). Don't have 3 ok ones have 1 awesome one. Spread the destination play spaces out. Eg one in city then one in nth and on in sth/east. Waitangi 	25, 32, 16, 8, 73, 78, 115, 116, 22	<p>Officers agree that Wellington needs one large really fantastic destination play space – in the same way that other cities do. While the Botanic Gardens, Waitangi Park and Shortland Park are destinations in terms of being places to visit for a whole variety of reasons, including play, Frank Kitts Park is set to be developed</p>

<p>play area not destination.</p>		<p>next year as Wellington's premier, iconic play space. There is a huge variety of community parks across Wellington that have been and will continue to be redeveloped over time to meet the needs of both the immediate communities and wider Wellington. Good examples include Grasslees reserve in Tawa and Churchill Park in Seatoun.</p>
<p>New Play Space suggestions</p> <p>There is an existing network of established play spaces. It is not practical, possible or financially viable to move them all to get an ideal network of perfectly located play spaces. The draft policy proposes 111 play spaces including additional play spaces to address city growth, areas of higher need and where there is very low provision. Other than that, no further new formal play spaces are proposed.</p>	<p>36, 99</p> <p>3</p> <p>107</p> <p>23</p> <p>106, 87</p>	<p>Jack Iloff Green – this is an area already very well used as a piece of inner city green open space. It is not considered necessary to include formal play equipment into the space. A very well equipped large play area will be developed next year at Frank Kitts Park.</p> <p>Tanera Park – Central Park play area is located nearby (down the hill) and Brooklyn community centre play area is up the hill centrally located in the Brooklyn Village. A proposal for a Children's Wilderness Area in the Tanera Park Gully was raised by submitters. Officers will work with the Tanera Park Restoration Group and the wider community to progress the idea as described in their submission.</p> <p>More playgrounds in Northland/Wilton will not be included in the Policy. There are already a good number of formal play spaces that alongside schools provide a wide range of play spaces close to where people live. The nature of the road network in this area makes it difficult to achieve any significant increase in service level by adding new play areas. Northland/Wilton is an area of the city with the highest relative decline in number of children forecast to fall from 943 down to 582.</p> <p>Kilbirnie needs more play spaces, particularly safe, vehicle-free space (it is cut off from its coastline by the barrier of Cobham Drive), as does Miramar, Newtown and Island Bay. All of these areas are discussed earlier in relation to distribution that is based more closely around high need.</p>

<p>Kaiwharawhara suburb –The access path to it Kaiwharawhara Park from Hervey Road will be checked. Kaiwharawhara Park is a sports field space that is available for both sports clubs and community use. There are small open spaces within the Kaiwharawhara subdivisions that could be used by the community for informal play alongside other community use.</p>	<p>109</p>	<p>Accessibility and Inclusiveness This is something that crosses all of the Strategic Priorities and is at the centre of the development of the Policy. Many of the submissions, both directly and indirectly, are about both accessibility and inclusiveness ranging from consideration of provision ('even' and 'equitable' ideas) through to specific design features (barrier free and understanding the specific needs of different users). Availability of information for users to make informed choices about where they go is also important. Many of the concerns of submitters are about general improvements and specific park improvement suggestions.</p>
<p>Amendments to emphasize the importance of accessibility and inclusiveness The WCC Accessible Wellington Action Plan has been added to the policy framework diagram. Section 2 – background and research Accessibility, has been amended to provide more information to highlight the need for careful consideration to be given to the design and facilities provided at each space. The intention to better fund play space renewals will provide more money for paths, different types of surface materials and a wider range of seating (for example) that will make play spaces more accessible. High quality and fit-for-purpose is a priority. The Play Space Principles and Standards both specifically address accessibility and inclusiveness. Strategic priority 5 will be amended to include updating all play space information online to include information for people to make an informed choice according to their needs and/or the needs of those they care for. Officers will work with Councils Accessibility Advisory Group on this project. Each community will have the opportunity to be involved in the design of playground upgrades. Include in the Appendices a reference guide to advocacy organisations who provide more information and advice to play</p>	<p>9, 16, 26, 32, 38, 40, 41, 45, 46, 53, 55, 60, 64, 67, 69, 71, 72, 73, 77, 78, 80, 84, 91, 97, 98, 100, 102, 103, 105, 109, 112, 115</p>	

<p>General improvements and specific park improvement suggestions</p> <p>A wide range of general improvement ideas and proposals for specific parks were received. Some were of an operational nature around maintenance. These will all be investigated to check our current standards are being met.</p> <p>Many others were about what was being provided at each space and ideas to make them better. The intention of Strategic Priority 2 (provide high-quality, fit-for-purpose space) is to change the way play spaces are redeveloped to include general improvements to the space in addition to replacement of the play equipment. An increase in funding will be sought to ensure each play space redevelopment maximises the potential of the space and the value of the play experience.</p> <p>Toilets</p>	<p>space designers and project teams. (eg Autism New Zealand, CCS, Playcentre).</p> <p>Drinking fountains, toilets, shade and shelter, fencing, picnic tables, seats, electricity, Wifi, facilities for dogs, water play.</p> <p>Design for parents and caregivers.</p> <p>Community and Destination Play Space provide a higher level of associated amenities alongside the formal play equipment. An increase in funding will be sought to maximise the value of each space both as a play space and as a green open space generally. This is a shift from the current policy and will lead to well equipped play spaces across the city and in line with the guidance provided under each category. The neighbourhood play spaces provide a huge range of benefits to users and their communities (from physical, cognitive and social development of children right through to community building, environmental stewardship and health and well-being of carers and parents). The benefits of providing an even spread of these spaces across the city so that there are over 100 across Wellington is carefully balanced with what can be provided in each space. Neighbourhood play spaces generally provide for a relatively short stay and have limited space so that providing a basic but well designed and high quality play experience in each is the focus. All communities have the opportunity to be involved in the renewal of their play space at which time they can consider what they feel is most important to their community inside the category guide.</p> <p>A new point will be added to the Play Space Principles in Priority 2 – designed to consider the needs of parents/caregivers as to create an attractive, comfortable environment.</p> <p>Toilets Toilets will only be provided at destination and community category play spaces. The potential to provide toilets at Carrara</p>
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<p>Shade and shelter</p>	<p>7, 10, 27, 42, 62, 67, 72, 84, 91</p>	<p>park and Monorgan Road Play Area will be considered through community planning projects in those areas and would be subject to future LTP funding and priority.</p> <p>Shade and shelter</p> <p>The draft policy suggests shade and shelter will be provided through a mix of trees and/or structures at destination and community play spaces. The proposal to increase renewal budgets for play spaces mean there will be some locations where shade structures could be included. Planting for shelter can also be provided with increased funding. The focus will be on planting deciduous trees so as to provide shade in summer but not in winter. The trees will also, in time, provide another place to play.</p> <p>Fencing</p> <p>A wide range of submissions were received in relation to fencing. A key issue was if fencing is needed at every space to properly cater for young children (particularly under-fives) and children with disabilities (particularly behavioural disabilities such as not understanding boundaries/risks such as roads and water for example). There were also submissions noting that the experience for caregivers is better if children are fenced in and caregivers (including ECE providers) are more able and likely to go to play spaces more often. Fencing is currently provided where there is high risk – such as play spaces adjacent to busy roads. The proposed increase in budget at play spaces will mean that there will be more opportunities to consider fencing off specific areas. The focus will be on fencing at areas where there is a higher risk and in the Community and Destination category play spaces. Submissions about particular play spaces (eg Krull Street) will be investigated by officers to see if any improvements can be made.</p>
<p>Fencing</p>	<p>8, 20, 26, 32, 46, 71, 118</p>	<p>A wide range of submissions were received in relation to fencing. A key issue was if fencing is needed at every space to properly cater for young children (particularly under-fives) and children with disabilities (particularly behavioural disabilities such as not understanding boundaries/risks such as roads and water for example). There were also submissions noting that the experience for caregivers is better if children are fenced in and caregivers (including ECE providers) are more able and likely to go to play spaces more often. Fencing is currently provided where there is high risk – such as play spaces adjacent to busy roads. The proposed increase in budget at play spaces will mean that there will be more opportunities to consider fencing off specific areas. The focus will be on fencing at areas where there is a higher risk and in the Community and Destination category play spaces. Submissions about particular play spaces (eg Krull Street) will be investigated by officers to see if any improvements can be made.</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Northland Park - improve with permanent football goal A 'wind park' or 'rain park' specifically designed to be fun, pleasant and safe (with age-appropriate risk) in bad weather. Steep bank playgrounds. More design for and encouragement of unstructured/free play Gathering spaces with facilities for families Benburn & Karori bbq's and picnic tables. Shorland Park is poor Lyllall Bay should be bigger and better (community category). The Lyall Bay playground currently has no relationship to the beach on which it sits. There are huge opportunities to encourage interaction between the beach and playground. 	<p>66</p> <p>67, 69</p> <p>23, 18</p> <p>55, 77</p> <p>29</p> <p>25</p>	<p>Northland Park Officers will pass this submission on to the operations team and look at trialling a permanent goal if one is available and the goal does not impact other park users.</p> <p>Idea noted for future renewals and new play space development.</p> <p>This idea is a key part of the notion of high quality and fit for purpose play space. It is also something that will be promoted more widely through strategic priority 5 – advocacy and programming. A specific point will be added to priority 5 to note this.</p> <p>The play spaces categories will determine the type of facilities provided at each play space. Both of these parks have wider use and value associated with sportsfields and club/community buildings of various types. The request for picnic tables will be considered by officers with any more significant proposals considered when the play spaces are due for renewal.</p> <p>Comments noted and officers look forward to working with the community on the renewal of this play space when it is due and in the context of the new policy where it will be better funded to make the most of this fantastic space and its location beside the beach. Shorland park is due for renewal 20/21 financial year.</p> <p>Lyllall Bay is a neighbourhood category and will shortly be upgraded in consultation with the community.</p>
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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kilbirnie not a proper community playground. • Holloway Road playground upgrade • Use of the Basin Reserve for youth recreational activity both formally and informally should be considered a priority for that reserve. • Climbing structures incorporated into landscaping, planting climbing trees and / or encouraging tree climbing. Flying foxes and tree swings. 	<p>25</p> <p>70</p> <p>59</p> <p>18, 69</p>	<p>Comments are noted and will be considered in any future development of the wider Kilbirnie Park area and at the time the current play space is due for renewal. This play space services the whole of the Kilbirnie community with no other close neighbourhood play spaces nearby so will need to be improved.</p> <p>The community will have the opportunity to be involved in the renewal when it is due.</p> <p>Basin Reserve Masterplan has been developed to guide planning and management decisions at the reserve. The plan is currently being refined with more detail around what the priorities for development and change might be and what these will look like. The plan recognises the importance of the reserve for cricket and as public open space generally. Ideas to make the space more appealing and open and encourage play spaces and informal use by the general public are being explored.</p>
<p>Adult play and/or exercise equipment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outdoor gym provision alongside and/or in addition to playgrounds. Use grant funding or community funding. Gyms - cost prohibitive. • Include provision of structures in community play spaces suitable for all ages to facilitate the development of movement patterns and enable simple fitness exercises to be performed. (2) Adult exercise equipment. 	<p>47, 103, 21, 51</p> <p>2, 10, 51</p>	<p>A range of submissions were received about the idea of adult play. They ranged from requests for exercise equipment (like at Karori Park) through to equipment in play spaces that adults could use alongside their children to play (for example big enough swings and high enough bars). There are a whole range of other things along that spectrum of adults exercising at one end and adults playing on play equipment at the other.</p> <p>Adult focussed exercise equipment is not something that will be</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provision for adult play – places for all ages to play and be active outside or formalised 'sport'. (2) broaden the definition of play – include adults of all ages (64) • Provision of equipment that adults can use to play alongside their children. (as different to equipment specifically for exercise/training) • Design spaces to encourage parkour type use (2) • Support risk and challenge for older children and adults • Use of grass verges on Leonie Walkway in Lyall Bay and city centres locations such as Frank Kitts and Waitangi park and similar spaces to provide obstacles for people of all ages to play on and practice general mobility/fitness type moves as part of their commute through the space. 	<p>2, 64, 51</p> <p>2, 27, 103</p> <p>2, 18</p> <p>91, 93, 51</p> <p>2, 27</p>	<p>included in the play spaces policy. It is the type of thing that needs to be considered as another facility across the city and located at some of the larger open spaces where it works well alongside other facilities (such as loop tracks around large sportsfields areas or along walkways such as the Leonie Gill Reserve). The Councils Sport and Active Recreation plan will consider planning for recreation facilities such as these and other ideas such as strength/agility equipment areas in open spaces around the city or areas of need. Funding of these (both to install and ongoing maintenance and renewal) also needs to be considered with opportunities around sponsorship and grants and models used in other towns and cities all part of that thinking.</p> <p>Providing equipment in play spaces that adults and older children can use to play on and depending on their personal motivation perhaps 'get some exercise' is part of helping maximise the use of the space and create places that caregivers also enjoy. While not the focus, it will be considered in the design of each formal play space depending on the site and play space category. There is also the opportunity to promote activities such as parkour at play spaces and across the city generally. This is captured in priority 4 – the city as a play space and in priority 5 – programming and advocacy for outdoor play where a further point is added to 'promote unstructured/free play in open spaces across the city for all ages and opportunities for adults to play alongside their children'.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In areas where special/unique recreation & sport play spaces are available, extra attention should be paid to marketing, communications and promotion to get maximum use 	<p>63, 76, 55, 61</p>	<p>Officers are working on providing better/more information on the WCC website and continue to work with recreation and community groups. The play spaces policy includes a programming and advocacy for outdoor play priority which is a new direction to help get more people outside and playing and raise awareness of facilities available and the value of these activities.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ian Galloway as a destination playspace 	<p>66</p>	<p>Ian Galloway is a community park but does not fit the category of community play space in terms of formal play space planning. The point the submitter makes however is about providing more</p>

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		<p>facilities at this site in light of recent changes in use. The park is now much more heavily used as described and both the BMX club and the skate community continue to look at ways to improve and develop the area. Officers will look at better signage, paths and opening hours for the nearby toilet block in the first instance and continue to work with the community, parks users and sports groups in any further development of Ian Galloway Park to support growing use.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support for nature play trail 	<p>67, 53, 95, 59, 4, 20, 59, 75</p>	<p>Noted.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need more bike skills areas 	<p>76, 105</p>	<p>The Councils transport team continue to work with schools on the bikes in schools programme. Some of these will be in public park space outside of school grounds and available for the general public to use.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Include maintenance & upgrade details in the policy • Not clear what categories mean. Is there a maintenance, funding or infrastructure level that differentiates these types. How does this relate to less formal play space such as our parks and Town Belt. Will the three playground categories be prioritised ahead of providing informal and incidental play space. 	<p>77, 106</p>	<p>The policy outlines how the Council is planning for play in Wellington. It does not include detailed maintenance schedules or funding figures for each space. Ongoing funding of play spaces is approved under the Long Term Plan.</p> <p>The three types represent a hierarchy of play space. There are different levels of funding for renewal of each type – higher for Destination and lower for Neighbourhood with Community in between. The exact amount spent at each site depends on a whole range of factors such as what is already at the site, the nature of the site (eg small, large, on a hill, flat, next to a stream or the bush) and how much space there is for example. Officers designing and managing any new play space or renewal work with the community to get the best from each site.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Renewals cycle too long 	<p>100, 102, 68</p>	<p>Officers are recommending that the Council approve an increase in funding to all formal play spaces to enable them to be built and renewed to a higher standard as discussed and outlined in the policy. Councillors will approve the final level of spending based on consideration of options including shortening the renewals cycle with no increase in service level, leaving the renewals cycle</p>

		<p>at 25 years but increasing the service level or both shortening the renewals cycle and increasing the service level. All of these require an increase in funding from the current level because; there is no appetite for reducing the number of formal play grounds and the better level of service makes sense in maximising the value of each space across a whole range of issues (play value, open space values generally, environmental value and community value). The longer renewal cycle is considered a better alternative to shortening the cycle at the expensive of creating high value, quality play space over time.</p> <p>The community can and do bring specific issues to officers attention and these are reviewed on a case by case basis. The policy outlines a requirement to adhere to New Zealand safety standards. There is an auditing and condition assessment regime in place and regular inspections. Officers are specifically trained in this field of work.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Better adherence to safety standards and clean environments 	100, 102, 63, 93	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local communities take more ownership of their local park to reduce the feeling of sameness associated with trying to minimise WCC maintenance costs. 	64	<p>The nature of play spaces is that over time, different people in the community have different levels of ongoing interest. Planning a network of play spaces and the ongoing maintenance, management and renewal of those over time cannot rely on ongoing community investment. Interested communities can, and do, get involved in their local play spaces through a range of activities such as picnics, events, planting days and working bees. There is an increasing interest in fruit tree planting that could work well alongside play spaces.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support mixed use spaces to allow flexibility of use as kids come and go – eg fruit trees 	53	<p>Support noted. Ideas from the community about how to get the most from each space are considered during play space renewals process. An increase in funding being support to achieve the outcomes of the policy will help include more of this type of thing.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Questioning wide range current neighbourhood category – eg compared Krull st to Jeyppore. Don't want a 'downgrade' in the future. 	68	<p>The neighbourhood play spaces do have a wide range. Each space has a history as to how it got to be located where it is, what it currently provides in terms of formal play equipment and what the context of the play area (eg adjacent to a sports field or a stream, on a hill or a small flat park surrounded by housing). The new policy specifically notes that opportunities to make the most</p>

Qu 7. Do you agree the draft policy suitably addresses providing play opportunities for youth? (yes-67%, no-16%, other-17%)	Response
<p>Issues raised</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Design - opportunity to take risk, "instagrammability", cool places to hang out in for free, Wi-fi, parkour, rock/structure climbing, amphitheatres, dance space, outdoor gym equipment, flying foxes Not just in parks More opportunity for youth to hang out/spend time 'bonding'. Spaces for 'mucking about' Not enough specific projects identified for youth Not enough engagement with youth, need to create ownership at youth spaces The focus for Youth is on physical activities, which might not be inclusive to Youth with disability. Planning and Community Consultation should ensure that this demographic is not excluded More youth facilities in MDRA seems to be a great focus on skating, bikes and scooters. Can't other spaces such as schools be used for these activities? focus on youth is already being covered in other council policies – 24 years is hardly a child or youth. Wellington High School Tennis Courts being considered for upgrade as a play space for teens and young adults 	<p>Submitter number</p> <p>2, 9, 18, 23, 51, 61, 67, 71, 78, 98, 103, 112, 113, 116</p>
<p>Qu8. Do you think the draft policy addresses the key issues identified in the plan and provides clear direction for the provision of skate facilities in Wellington? (yes-52%, no-25%, other-23%)</p> <p>Issues Raised</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improvements to existing facilities to allow more 	<p>Response</p> <p>Wellington College prioritise their resources in terms of investment in their facilities. The courts are not a high priority for the school or the Council funding.</p>
<p>Submission Number</p> <p>1, 9, 11, 13, 16,</p>	<p>Response</p> <p>Skate is in the scope of the play spaces policy. Traditionally, these</p>

<p>use and better use by different types of users (style of skate, ability and age of users). Pro's & con's of mixed use.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proposals for new facilities – indoor skate facility, a new skate facility in Johnsonville, a new facility in Miramar, Vert ramp at Ian Galloway, Waitangi too small Don't remove Nairnville park ramp Spots to skate around the city (eg a bench or bump) – vibrancy, engaged community Skate as a new Olympic sport Not just for youth – wide age appeal Pro's & cons of using other areas to skate & scooter – eg courts Promotion – Wellington as a great place to skate + the health & social benefits + facilities Lack of budget for any skate facilities or new initiatives Including skate as part of play space planning – competing for budgets. Work better with the community to plan and prioritise skate initiatives Incorporate natural elements. Promote sense of ownership – murals etc Look at what works in other areas – Lower Hutt & Auckland eggs Investment in a male dominated activity Yes stop putting up no skateboarding signs all around the city and stop clamping benches/ledges. Let people interpret the surroundings freely as long as there not hurting or scaring anyone. 	<p>18, 23, 33, 49, 59, 61, 66, 74, 76, 79, 116,</p>	<p>facilities have developed on an ad hoc basis in terms of what they provide and where they are located. There is however a good spread of them across the city. The policy suggests the existing facilities are sufficient to provide for the needs of users and minor improvements to each would help increase their appeal to different users and skill levels.</p> <p>A range of submissions were received on various matters from general planning of where they should be and what they should provide and how these decisions should be made through to specific suggestions for improvements or new facilities. There is currently no funding allocated to any skate facilities projects. It is therefore necessary to carefully consider all of the suggestions raised in submissions and consult more widely on what the priorities are and how the various proposals might be funded and when.</p> <p>Officers propose any skate related background information and actions are used as the basis for development of the scope of a project as a high priority piece of work (years 1-3 from finalisation of this policy) for further engagement with the community to plan, prioritise and consider funding for skate facilities in Wellington.</p>
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Qu9. Do you think the draft policy provides a good network of outdoor court space for informal play? (yes-74%, 12%-no, 14%-other)		
Issues Raised	Submission Number	Response
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Waitangi Park one should be part of the skate park Gender bias – courts for males Building the library on the Johnsonville Court Netball hoops should be provided where possible along with basketball nets. Courts can and should be multi use spaces Minor skating and bike skill opportunities can be provided on and alongside basketball courts and paths, lunchtime worker use Maintenance eg Aro Valley VUW Karori campus, Te Aro school upgrade partnership. School facilities are well used (eg Northland) Inclusion of inline hockey Promotion of facilities available Outdoor, multi-purpose, flat grass space as priority 	<p>11, 14, 58, 61, 63, 66, 67, 68, 69, 77, 100, 102,</p>	<p>The design and use of Waitangi Park will be considered in the skate facilities review work discussed above. The issue of gender is also discussed above.</p> <p>Opportunities for netball hoops at community and destination play spaces and as the basketball hoops need replacing will be considered. The issue of gender bias is discussed above. Half courts can, and in fact do, provide for a wide range of users as an area of informal hard surface play space. Eg kids riding bikes, skating and other informal ball games – even places to simply sit and hang out.</p> <p>Partnerships with schools and other organisations will be explored as each suggestion or proposal arises.</p>
Qu10. Do you support a focus on incorporating opportunities to interact with the natural environment into play spaces? (yes-90%, no-1%, other-9%)		
Issues Raised	Submission number	Response
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Need for general improvement at specific parks - eg Benburn, Brasenose Children's Wilderness Area at Tanera Park Gully Need for associated maintenance – high quality natural spaces and/or nature play requires checking maintenance as much as formal/traditional spaces Better use of the natural areas already there. 	<p>1, 4, 11, 15, 53, 61, 71, 77, 78, 95, 100, 102, 104, 112, 116</p>	<p>There is a high level of support for incorporating the natural environment into play space. The new policy proposes development of new play spaces and renewals of old that will provide for this and an increase in funding to achieve it.</p> <p>Tree planting for shade and shelter will not always be native. Tree selection will be based on the site and context and what the particular planting is designed to achieve. Trees in play spaces</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support multi-function high value parks – eg Karori • Need to leave big old trees until new ones grow up. Old trees as source of play. • Value as shade, shelter, urban agriculture, biodiversity and amenity planting – improves the broader value of a space. • 25yrs too long to wait for a tree to be planted. • Budget for planting. • Types of trees in play space very important. Deciduous v's native. Indigenous ecosourced plants? • More aspirational – water sensitive urban design & water quality • Playgrounds should have a mixture of natural elements such as texture. • Signage identifying plants including in Te Reo • Incorporating community gardens 	<p>will have a range of values that include ecological benefits but equally important might be the ability to climb the tree (in time) or provide robust, fast growing shelter planting that doubles as a place to play in. Limiting winter shade is also important in many play spaces in Wellington so deciduous trees will have their place.</p> <p>Opportunities for tree planting at play spaces outside of renewals timeframes will be explored with the local communities. For example, the community fruit tree programme could be extended from road reserve locations or local residents groups, schools, ECE's or individuals could initiate tree planting/guardianship schemes as specific sites where more trees might be appropriate.</p> <p>Opportunities for interpretation of the natural environment and/or signs will form part of the design of new play spaces and renewals – particularly where the natural environment is a prominent feature of the play space. This is included as one of the play space principles.</p> <p>Officers will work with the Tanera Park Gully Restoration Group and the wider community to progress the idea as described in their submission of a Children's Wilderness Area.</p> <p>Community Gardens Noted and ideas passed on to the city communities team and Park Rangers who work with the communities in setting up these gardens. This could be added to the WCC community gardens guidelines alongside general guidance about making the spaces inclusive and broadening the value and appeal of each space.</p>
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Qu11. Can you suggest any other ways partnership opportunities could improve play spaces across Wellington? (yes-52%, no-30%, other-18%)	Issues Raised	Submission number	Response
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Te Aro school potential partnership Engage more with residents associations, smaller community groups, clubs and societies. Neighbourly and other social media allow direct access and could be utilised more. Involving the local community in planting around the play space or decoration/painting (to prevent graffiti) would be great 	67 61, 116, 62, 63, 9, 58	<p>Officers will call the school to discuss their development. Noted and an additional point added to Strategic Priority 3.</p> <p>The policy proposes high quality fit-for-purpose play space and securing suitable funding to achieve that. The council continues to work with communities and other funding organisations whenever possible.</p> <p>Community led projects often happens through community working bees and resident's association initiatives, particularly when there are specific issues to be addressed such as graffiti.</p> <p>This idea has been passed onto the Councils resilience planning team. Civil defence and the Council already consider a whole range of ideas about how best to raise community awareness of disaster planning and evacuation routes.</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There is an urgent need for vertical tsunami evacuation structures in Wellington's coastal areas, especially in Rongotai/Kilbirnie. Why not design a vertical evacuation structure that incorporates play elements, such as slides, basketball hoops and climbing features? Partnership with civil defence to add learning opportunities about the many natural hazards Wellington might face. You could look at sponsorship from local gyms for a calisthenics park. They could pay for the infrastructure and receive minimal branding on the park. allowing and encouraging commercial use of the facilities Residents may be prepared, if given sufficient support from the Council, to increase investment in neighbourhood play areas. The council can support neighbourhoods in many different ways. 	8, 21 19, 2, 57 58	<p>There are already gyms operating from park spaces across the city. Any site specific proposals would be considered in terms of need and potential impact on other users of the park or open space.</p> <p>Commercial use of public formal play spaces is not part of the policy and will not be encouraged as it has the potential to limit public access.</p> <p>Ideas around funding or incentivising green space protection are broader than the play spaces policy. They have been passed on to the Councils strategic planning and district plan teams.</p>

<p>Incentives could include financing, rate rebates and maintenance or by introducing disincentives to build up potential green space.</p>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aro Valley – local community council working alongside paid professionals to lead this work. Partnership opportunities require focused planning and funding, they require people with a deep understanding of working with communities and community interests. 	65	<p>Noted and a good example of community planning projects that can help achieve better play space outcomes across the city that meet the needs of the local community.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WCC should keep developing policy, allocate funding, and develop partnerships, to help bring school recreation facility design and use into full public use. Support schools to ensure no school playground closures. Risk of school closures. 	68, 69, 71, 95, 105, 116 (do not support school partnerships – ‘farming out’.)	<p>The policy proposes a continuation of the current school partnerships model where each is assessed on a case by case basis. Each of the current partnerships is unique to each specific situation and that is the nature of these partnerships. The policy does not specifically note any future partnership but if one came up the Council would consider it at that time. The policy clearly states that the Council is committed to maintaining a network of public play spaces and that the school play spaces add to the opportunities for play in the community. Management of school playgrounds (including closure or public access) is ultimately a school by school decision making process made by the Ministry of Education and each school Board of Trustees. Strategic Priority 5 includes an action to work with Sport NZ to assist them in their role to advocate at central government level on the value of play and associated cross sector benefits – health, education, social for example.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • suggest the design and ‘look’ of parks and playgrounds should reflect the culture and diversity of the surrounding community. 	84	<p>Noted and included in Strategic priority 2 as one of the ‘design principles’ for all play spaces.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collaborate with community arts organizations to facilitate activities that encourage play and utilization/ownership of the space. Collaborate with community arts organizations for artwork/murals/sculpture ie: Vincent’s Art Workshop. Partner with 3-D printing companies and have part of the space available to exhibit 	103, 2	<p>Ideas noted. Strategic Priorities 4 and 5 will encourage this type of activity. The ideas have also been based onto the Public Act projects officer in Parks, Sport and Recreation and the Urban Design team in Council. City communities also work with communities on these types of projects.</p>

work on a rotational basis, e.g. the work changes with the seasons.		
Qu.12 Do you have any other ideas or actions that could help get more people outdoors and active through play	Response	
Issue Raised	Submission Number	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Better publicity, communication, promotion and marketing of play space in wellington. What's out there. 	45, 63	Noted and proposed in Strategic Priority 5.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fund trees the ultimate informal play experience. 	97	Noted and proposed as a key part of 'high quality fit-for-purpose play space'.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Explicit guidance is needed to enable a more ambitious statement regarding upgrades to public spaces. In addition, a commitment not to degrade existing public space as play space is needed. An example is the recent Island Bay cycle way which conceived of existing footpaths and road reserves narrowly in terms of pedestrian transport reducing footpath width at points, further limiting any opportunities these footpaths have to facilitate play. 	108	Recommending amendments to the policy to include actions at Strategic Priority 4. Strategic Priority 5 will also help address the submitters concerns Island Bay cycleway comments noted.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Some cities overseas utilise interactive art exhibitions and the like to encourage people to 'play' with their surroundings. This kind of thing could be incorporated as part of the Arts Festival and similar. A parkour park that is also an art installation would be fantastic. Public building design – eg Te Papa 	59, 19, 51	Ideas noted. Strategic Priorities 4 and 5 will encourage this type of activity. The ideas have also been based onto the Public Act projects officer in Parks, Sport and Recreation and the Urban Design team in Council.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community led improvements to general public space to improve use and opportunity for informal play Invite neighbourhoods to suggest the use of unused WCC/roading reserve land in their area to be converted into informal play areas. Encourage the neighbourhoods to take ownership of them, be part of the 'design' of them... look after the 	116, 61, 63, 64, 76, 78	Submissions requesting more, small, neighbourhood public open spaces that lend themselves to community interaction and play have been passed on to officers in the Strategic Planning, District Plan and Urban design teams. Strategic Priorities 4 and 5 will encourage community led projects around the city that encourage play.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • maintenance of them. Begin by creating a few examples so people can see what is possible. Protect, increase and improve the amount of public open space overall, as it the lack of this public space that inhibits more informal play from taking place. Also maintenance. 		<p>Our Capital Spaces – an open spaces and recreation framework for Wellington (2013-2023) guides decision making around protecting, increasing and improving open space in Wellington.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unobtrusive, incidental activity spots near areas that could necessitate waiting: shops, bus stops. These could be horizontal/pull-up bars, climbing walls, jumping games painted on the ground (hopscolch, etc). 	2, 27, 62	<p>Amend strategic priority 4 to include an action to support community initiatives that encourage play alongside primary use of existing facilities or space. Include the examples given.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I suggest co-locating play facilities at the entrance areas for popular mountain biking routes (e.g. at Makara Peak car park, and at the bottom of Polhill reserve). This would allow younger children to play while waiting for adults or older children to return from a ride, and show younger children that exercise is important at all ages. 	8	<p>The policy proposes a network of play spaces based largely on the existing network with some additions in areas of identified need. A different model might enable more play spaces based on colocation with other activities but this is not proposed. That is not to say that informal play can't be encouraged in these areas – climbing trees or mucking about in the natural environment. Often the mountain biking areas lend themselves to this type of nature play experience. Polhill has two neighbourhood play spaces nearby already.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outdoor fountains can provide great city play opportunities, especially in hot weather. 	8	<p>Noted.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promotion and events. Secret Gardens event, more events like Ciclovía please around the city. Hold 'fun days' at community playgrounds to promote them in the local area. Turn off your devices day. • Build on work and knowledge of other groups and community eg citywrigglers, playcentre, sports clubs. • Partnerships. involve and fund groups like 'pie in the sky' and the barbarian collective to set up provocations that entice people in to activities that they otherwise wouldn't be involved in 	20, 43, 45, 63, 65, 9, 53, 6.	<p>All great ideas and noted for future promotions & events ideas.</p>

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Green Prescription to promote informal play 	57	Noted. Delivered by Sport Wellington across Wellingtons Parks and recreation facilities.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to support capital E 	46	Noted. Capital E are a not for profit organisation that are part of Experience Wellington (A Council Controlled Organisation made up of the Wellington Museums Trust and Capital E).
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Accessible basic repairs for bikes 	69	Out of scope. The Council already fund these around the city a part of cycle ways planning and delivery.

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Introduction

Purpose and scope of the policy

This policy provides strategic direction and guidelines for the provision and management of play spaces in Wellington City.

Planning for play will allow the Council to maximise any investment, add to it over time and ensure it is sustained.

The policy:

- defines what the Council means by play and a vision for play
- includes background information and research into best practice provision, quality, management and maintenance of play spaces and what that means in Wellington
- describes the value of and need for play and play space
- describes a set of play space principles
- outlines the planned network of play space opportunities
- outlines the types of play space, with a guide to the purpose and components of each
- guides design and management for high-quality renewals and upgrades
- guides community and school partnerships
- describes programming and advocacy for outdoor play.

Definition of play

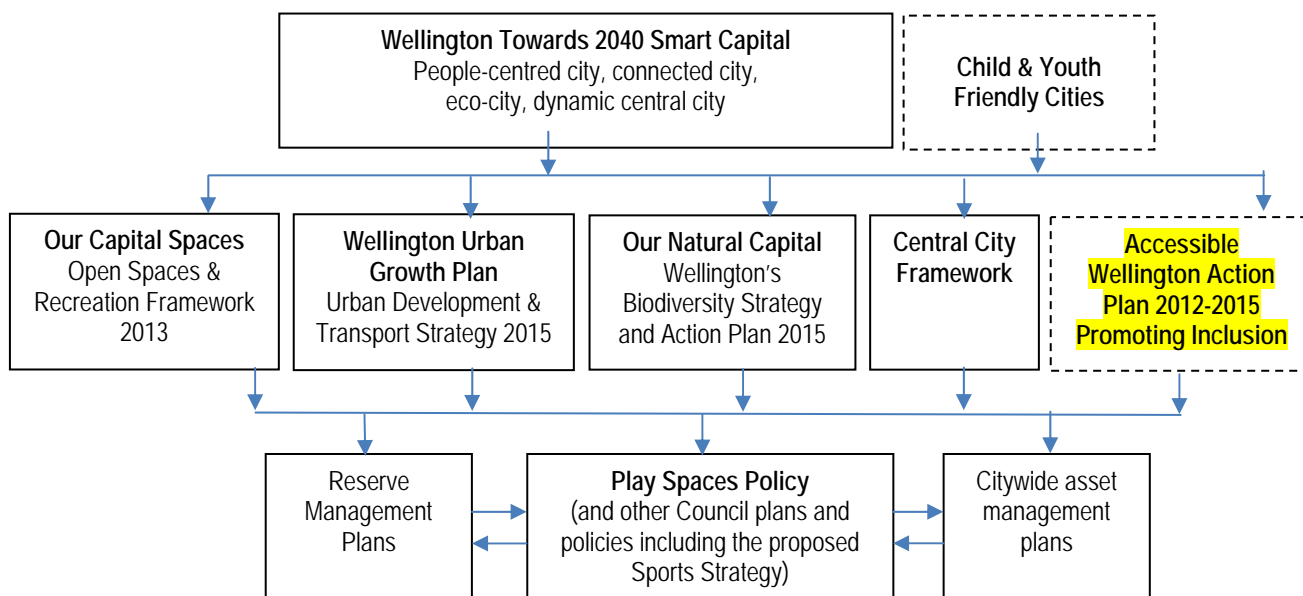
Play is what children and young people do when they follow their own ideas and interests, in their own way, and for their own reasons³.

The International Play Association (IPA) lists the key characteristics of play as fun, uncertainty, challenge, flexibility and non-productivity. These characteristics of play are relevant at all ages.

“Intent” is the key difference in the play of children (which adults have a role in fostering and providing for) and the play of older children and adults (who make a conscious decision to go somewhere and be somewhere, can get to that place and then engage in their version of “play”).

³ Play England – Why Play is Important. <http://www.playengland.org.uk/about-us/why-play-is-important/>

Alignment with Council direction



This policy has been produced to give effect to and align with Council plans, policies and initiatives as outlined in the diagram above.

Background and research

INFORMATION GATHERING

Wellingtonians care about play space as part of the open space network. We know this through preparation of Our Capital Spaces, Our Natural Capital, the Suburban Reserves Management Plan, the Mount Victoria Masterplan, informal feedback when we are renewing playgrounds and Long-term Plan benchmarking (Residents' Monitoring Survey).

A review of literature around best practice for play space policy preparation and how children interact with their environment was used in preparing the Play Space Policy. A scan of play space policy around the region was also carried out to ensure there is a regionally consistent approach.

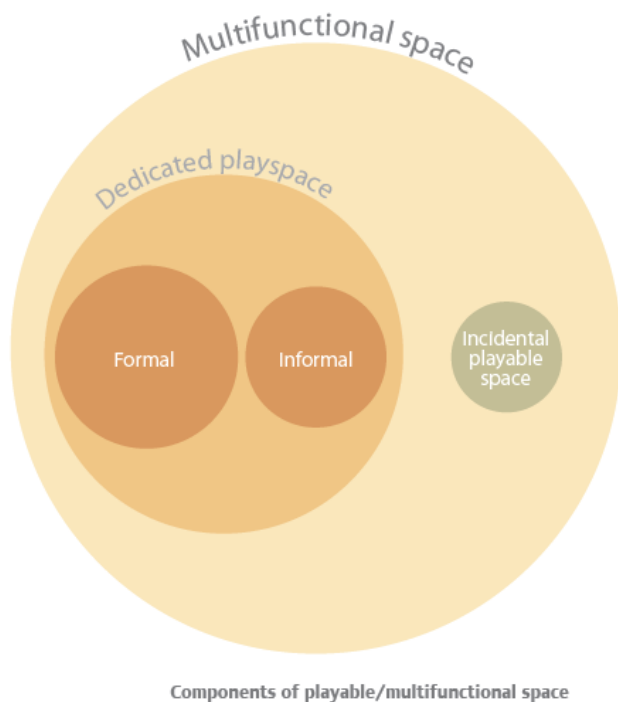
The following added further insight to the views of Wellingtonians to help inform this draft:

- a survey using the Council's research panel⁴
- a survey of all of the primary schools in Wellington
- an informal survey of passers-by at an event in Civic Square
- a series of workshops with youth
- a workshop with skate community advocates
- discussion with Council staff involved on a day-to-day basis with the provision, development, management and maintenance of play space.

⁴ A group of approximately 2000 Wellington residents who have indicated they are willing to be surveyed by Council. Only those who visited or used playgrounds or skate/scooter areas in the last 12 months were asked to respond resulting in 418 responses.

UNDERSTANDING PLAY Play space

The diagram below⁵ shows the ideas in Our Capital Spaces⁶ around the value of multifunctional space and how “play spaces” fit within this plan. It illustrates the importance of providing for a range of play spaces – from formal, dedicated play areas through to incidental playable space within other multifunctional space (such as large parks or urban environments, for example). Provision of play is broader than formal playgrounds. This policy looks to broaden the scope of how the Council provides for play.



Incidental playable space can be anywhere. This might be a small slope in a park that could be rolled down, a tree that can be climbed or that drops leaves, sticks or flowers that can be collected, sorted or thrown in the stream. It could also be a non-natural environment – a low wall that could be walked along or a high wall to jump off. Backyards, house frontages and road verges can also function as local networks of incidental play space. High-quality public art and civic space is often playable. Walk anywhere with a 3-year-old and you will find incidental playable space. Wayfinding and place-making improve opportunities for adult and youth socialisation through incidental play, particularly in the urban environment.

Dedicated playspace is a space where play is identified as one of the main functions of the space. **The Council plays a key role in provision of dedicated public play space.** Schools and private property (in particular backyards) also offer important opportunities as places where children spend time each day. In Wellington, 93 percent of primary schools surveyed allow public access to their playgrounds outside of school hours. Shopping centres often have dedicated play space. City housing facilities have play space for their residents at sites where there are children and families.

The Council provides a network of dedicated, free outdoor play facilities across the city and has clear strategic direction to continue to do so, as shown in the relationship of this policy to other Council direction.

⁵ Shaping Neighbourhoods: Play and Informal Recreation, published by the Greater London Authority, Sept 2012.

⁶ Our Capital Spaces: An Open Spaces and Recreation Framework for Wellington 2013-2023.

The importance of play

Playgrounds are currently valued and well used by Wellingtonians. Regionally, nationally and internationally, research has shown the importance of play for the development, health and wellbeing of children. It is also evident that there are wider benefits associated with play that have a very broad reach, including social and environmental.

Providing a place for children to play gives them different settings and environments to explore, exposure to different challenges, a social setting to play with other children and adults, and a place to discover what they can and cannot do.

Play theory defines types of play that can then be applied to different age groups. All play space design should be grounded in this theory as commonly accepted best practice⁷. Play spaces provide for the physical, cognitive, social and imaginative development of children, with design and environmental setting key factors in maximising the potential benefit to the child.

For children, play is a human right. On 1 February 2013, the United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child adopted a General Comment that clarifies for governments worldwide the meaning and importance of Article 31 of the Convention on the Right of the Child.

Nature play

There is a growing body of evidence to support the benefit of outdoor play and play in natural environments. A group based in the United Kingdom called the Wild Network is working to raise the profile of free play in the outdoors as not only a legitimate activity for children to engage in but a critical one that is becoming less and less of a part of children's daily lives. They are looking at ways to "market nature" to children and their parents. They sum up the benefits to children of a "re-wilded free-range" childhood as:

- improving their ability to judge and understand risk
- increasing physical health through exercise
- enhancing and maintaining mental health and positive wellbeing through exposure to the natural world
- stimulating imagination and creativity through outdoor play and learning
- improving communication skills and the ability to build and maintain relationships.

The 2015 Wellington Residents' Monitoring Survey found that 92 percent of respondents agree that a connection with nature improves residents' quality of life. Outdoor play is an opportunity for children to make that connection.

"Nature play" covers a wide range of activities, from imaginative free play in a highly natural environment to play on natural elements in a formal playground setting (such as a garden to walk through under a slide). Current thinking about the importance of nature play⁸ suggests that children are not engaging in outdoor free play as much as they have in the past. Children are not able to roam as widely as they did, and now lead more structured and supervised lives with less emphasis on spending time "mucking about".

The role of the playground as a place where children can have a broad play experience that includes free play in addition to physical and social development is more important as opportunities for outdoor free play are limited by modern lifestyles.

It is important for play spaces to offer opportunities for interaction with nature and promote the value of this for children. In Wellington, there is no shortage of places to engage in nature play at the "wild" end of the spectrum, but often there is a need for children and their families to get comfortable in a more structured or smaller scale natural environment first.

⁷ Refer to appendix 1 for Play Theory and age appropriate activity guides

⁸ Also supported by the content of *Natural Neighbourhoods for City Children (2015)*. A report on research findings by C. Freeman, Y van Heezik, A Stein and K Hand. Published by the Department of Geology, University of Otago, Dunedin 2015.

The panel survey indicated that people would choose a more natural “free play” type play space over a traditional “swings and slides” play space about 50 percent of the time. People also chose items such as “climbing/sliding on banks”, and “free play (piling up bark chips, digging, mucking about)” as things their children enjoy at playgrounds.

WHAT DO PEOPLE WANT FROM PLAY SPACES IN WELLINGTON?

The panel survey recipients told us:

- children aged 5–10 years are the main users of playgrounds, with the 0–5 year age group second and 11–12 third.
- most people taking children to playgrounds are parents, with the remaining respondents primarily either grandparents or a relative
- the top five most enjoyed activities (from a list provided that included things like free play, trees and sliding on banks) are traditional playground equipment – swings, slides, flying fox, forts and structures, and climbing nets/frames
- 74 percent of people believe the number of playgrounds in Wellington is about right
- 56 percent of people believe that, in general, the playgrounds are excellent or above average quality⁹, with 40 percent believing they are average
- the top five ideas for improvement (from a list provided) were more shade or shelter, different styles/designs of equipment, more toilets, a wider range of equipment and opportunities for free play/imaginative play
- when asked how the community might be involved in improving playgrounds, the top response in the general survey was through providing feedback to the Council on playground plans, followed by participation in working bees to help maintain the playground environment
- 41 percent of survey respondents go outside of Wellington City (eg to Porirua or Upper Hutt) to play every few months – just to go somewhere different or for another reason such as to visit family
- 58 percent of survey respondents said their neighbourhood playground (ie the one closest to where they lived) was the one they visited most often
- when asked which was most important to them, 21 percent of people said having a small basic playground near to where they lived, while 12 percent said having a large playground further away with more to offer – most people, however, believe both are equally important (66 percent)
- almost everyone (96 percent) visited playgrounds for 2 hours or less, with an almost even split between the “less than an hour” group and the “1–2 hours” group
- 45 percent of people drive to the playground, while 41 percent walk and 10 percent bike/skateboard/scooter
- 23 percent of respondents used skate/scooter areas, with Waitangi Park the most popular location – 90 percent of visitors are there for 1–2 hours or less.

The most frequently recorded general comments (after “no comment”) were:

- need more variety for the playgrounds with different kinds of design/equipment
- need more shade/shelter
- there is lots of choice
- they are well maintained.

⁹ The 2015 WCC Residents Monitoring Survey found 84% of people using playgrounds were either ‘very’ or ‘quite’ satisfied with the playground or skatepark they most recently visited.

Some of the more values-based quotes include:

For children living in a city environment, it is extremely important to have space and equipment for children to experiment, risk take and explore a range of different settings... free play, climbing, swinging, inventing games etc

Kids like the old school playgrounds not the plastic kit sets with super safe options. Life is about accepting a bit of risk and diversity. Kids like informal simple options like rope swings.

Neighbourhood playgrounds help kids socialise with their peers, and provide a meeting place for parents.

When playgrounds are renewed, requests for more than just the renewal of the equipment are always received. Most commonly this is for paths to and through the play space and for more seating.

Accessibility and inclusiveness

Almost one in four New Zealanders were identified as disabled in 2013, according to the New Zealand Disability Survey by Statistics New Zealand. The results showed that 11 percent of children and 27 percent of adults were limited in their daily activities by a range of impairments.

The Wellington City Council Accessibility Advisory Group (AAG) stressed the importance of accessibility to play space around Wellington for both children and those caring for them.

In recent times, higher numbers of older grandparents are caring for children and need to be able to safely access play spaces and interact with the children in those spaces.

The Council has recently carried out an accessibility audit based on physical constraints to access to playgrounds. A series of recommendations were made to address identified shortcomings. These are currently proposed to be addressed at the time of renewal of each site.

Considering where play spaces are, how they are categorised, designed and maintained and who the play spaces are designed for (range of ages, people with different abilities and gender for example) are all important in planning for accessible and inclusive play space across Wellington. Providing information for users to make informed choices about where they go is essential.

Shade and fencing at formal play spaces (playgrounds)

Providing shade at playgrounds has been raised by survey respondents and others. Issues include:

- the risk to children of being exposed to the sun
- the benefits to children of being exposed to the sun
- the climate in Wellington
- the appropriateness of play equipment and surface material and how that performs in different weather (eg surfaces that get too hot)
- the amount of time children usually spend at the various play spaces
- the pros and cons of planting and maintaining trees
- the pros and cons of installing and maintaining shade structures.

It is not practical or desirable to shade entire play spaces. The ability to seek shade is important at each site. Shade structures are very expensive – approximately 12 times as expensive as planting one tree (planted at 2 metres in height) that would in time provide adequate shade. An important consideration is providing shade over the equipment and not just for caregivers.

More money could be spent on larger trees for more immediate effect. Trees will not only provide shade but also add a natural play element to the space, and have ecological and amenity value. They can also provide seasonal shade allowing sun in the winter months when playground users are often seeking the sun rather than trying to avoid it.

Fencing is important, for visitors who have young children, multiple children to care for or children and young people with special needs.. Currently fencing is included in new play spaces where there is a safety risk.

Play opportunities for adults

Adult “play” can be interchangeable with the pursuit of leisure and even sport. The play of children is just that – play for the sake of play. There is no intent. They will learn (emotionally, physically, cognitively and socially) and form connections with their surroundings (natural or otherwise) through play.

Adults can and do play but it is not the same as the play of children and the Play Space Policy will focus on providing play opportunities for children and young people. Adults can choose for themselves when, where and how to play and make these conscious choices from a whole range of opportunities.

The International Play Association states that “Play is a right which all adults have a responsibility to uphold”. **Children need to be given the time and space to play.** This policy focusses on the Council’s role of providing some of that space and advocating the value and benefit of play for children and young people.

Play opportunities for “youth”

The current formal playground network is targeted at 0 to 15-year-old age range. Youth age range includes 13 to 24-year-olds. Often skate facilities and basketball half courts are considered “youth facilities”.

We know that youth are generally more concerned about finding places to meet and socialise over provision of specific equipment or facilities for “play”. Incidental play is appealing to this age group so the key is to design play spaces with places to congregate and equipment that can also be used in a more informal way by people who are physically bigger.

“**We want to play on stuff in ways that it wasn’t made to play on**” was a sentiment heard a number of times when talking to youth, which captures the challenge in designing spaces for them.

Mixed use spaces are well used by youth. For example, Waitangi Park and the waterfront were mentioned by every group as great places due to the range of activities all close by and the central, busy location. The large size of the area also means groups can meet without feeling like they are in someone else’s space or interfering with kids and families who they perceive might not want them there.

Grasslees Reserve in Tawa and Central Park play area were also mentioned as having specific equipment that was suitable for their age group to play on due to the size and fun and competitive nature of it.

This age group also use sportsfields and other flat areas for kick-about. Places to sit and meet and innovative technology (such as Wi-Fi access) were also drawcards.

We know that youth, along with other age groups, use skate facilities and half courts. Some youth, particularly females, do not use these facilities at all. This age group also has similar needs to adults, with one person stating **I don’t go to playgrounds because I work.** This highlights the very different needs of not only youth as compared to under-13 year olds but also the wide range within the youth age bracket.

Skate facilities, basketball courts and bike skills areas

These three facility types were considered as primarily catering for “youth”. It is apparent that bike skills areas are associated with biking ability rather than age group and would generally cater for younger children learning to ride or improving basic skills.

Outdoor basketball courts and half courts provide not only informal basketball space for youth age people but also due to the flat, hard surface of the space they also cater for other activities, including skating and scooters.

Scooter users are generally under 15 years of age or they are a small group of more highly skilled young people at skate facilities or commuters in older age groups. Some younger children on scooters will switch to skateboards as they get older.

The workshops with skate advocates and youth group discussions confirmed there are four main types of skateboarding: street/city skating, vert skating, plaza style skating and people using their board as a means of transport. There is also downhill skating, performance or trick skating, people just mucking about and pro skating.

Each type of skating can be provided at different facilities, with skate parks being the best place for overlap between the different styles. For example, a skate park can provide for round wall style vert skating, street and plaza style skating.

Waitangi Park is by far the most popular skate facility in Wellington, as it has all the factors that make for a good skate space – a range of activities in the skate area but also the activities and facilities around it and a central, high-profile, busy location. Due to the popularity of the space there are also periods of crowding and conflict between users with a wide range of abilities.

The key issues raised by skaters at the workshop are:

- planning for “minor” improvements of the existing network through an upgrades programme
- catering for a range of abilities at each space
- the ongoing maintenance of the existing facilities
- the opportunities for development of a network of skateable “spots” around central Wellington (either stand-alone projects or as part of other urban renewal work)
- the need for and feasibility of an indoor skate facility (pay-to-skate)
- the need for and funding of significant skate projects such as an extension to the Island Bay/Berhampore skate park or a new vert ramp at Ian Galloway Park
- promotion of skating as an activity that benefits participants and the city.

Community and school partnerships

A survey sent to all of the primary schools across Wellington in early 2016 found:

- 93 percent of schools allow public access to their playgrounds outside school hours
- during school hours, the majority of respondents (75 percent) said their children never or only on special occasions use public playgrounds – the reasons why students visited public playgrounds were varied, with most answering “they are just somewhere different” or “they are close to our school”
- 63 percent of respondents have upgraded their playground in the last 3 years or were planning to do so – of those, 50 percent considered having different equipment to other playgrounds in the area and 25 percent didn’t consider other playgrounds at all
- the most important consideration for schools in planning a new playground was age appropriateness of equipment, followed closely by the equipment’s level of challenge and student or community input.

There were also some really helpful comments that provided more detail. Like the Council, a key issue for schools is funding playgrounds – both the initial build and also the maintenance and inspections.

The survey of schools and the panel survey both indicate that many people can and do use playgrounds in schools. The Ministry of Education fund schools but do not directly influence the provision of outdoor play (type, quantity or quality). Individual schools make this decision in consultation with their community and subject to prioritisation of the general funding.

Sport New Zealand is developing a framework to enable them to take a “lead agency” role at a central government level to advocate for the importance of play.

The Council has a health and safety responsibility around managing and maintaining formal playground equipment, which will limit involvement in this aspect of playground management. The survey panel told us that providing feedback on playground plans was their preferred way to be involved but some were willing to participate in working bees to help maintain the playground environment. A comment at a more informal survey in Civic Square included support for community involvement as “*teaching respect for the park if kids have more say*” and “*so they feel the park is part of their community*”.

The general public want to be involved in providing for play in public space. There are existing community groups already actively engaged in the care and custodianship of different reserves, including ones with playgrounds in them. For example, the Friends of Central Park help beautify and maintain the playground environment at Central Park.

The Council currently provides Push Play trailers and free sports equipment from the Push Play library for use in parks. This is intended to facilitate easy and free opportunities for outdoor play.

HOW ARE WE PLANNING FOR PLAY AS THE CITY GROWS AND CHANGES

The Wellington City population in 2016 was 206,590, living in about 77,000 households.

- In almost all of Wellington's suburbs, family-with-children households (including sole parent families) make up less than 50 percent of all households. This reduces to 20 percent or less for the central city, Te Aro, and city-edge communities.
- Between 2016 and 2036, Wellington's population is projected to increase by approximately 32,170 (15.6 percent) to 238,760. The total household count will increase by about 14,830 (19 percent).
- Family households with children will increase by about 2500 over the next 20 years.

We need to consider what play space requirements there will be as the city changes and grows:

- In 2016 there were 34,200 children (aged 0–14 years) in Wellington. By 2036 this is expected to rise by only 780 children across the whole city (a 2.2 percent increase).
- Children made up 16.6 percent of the total population in 2016 and are projected to make up 14.6 percent of the total population in 2036.

Child population and predicted change

Map 1 shows a broad scale picture of the numbers of 0-14 year olds as a portion of the total population and relative to other areas. The overlay of Council playgrounds shows the relatively even spread of playgrounds throughout the city, with good provision where there are currently high numbers of children.

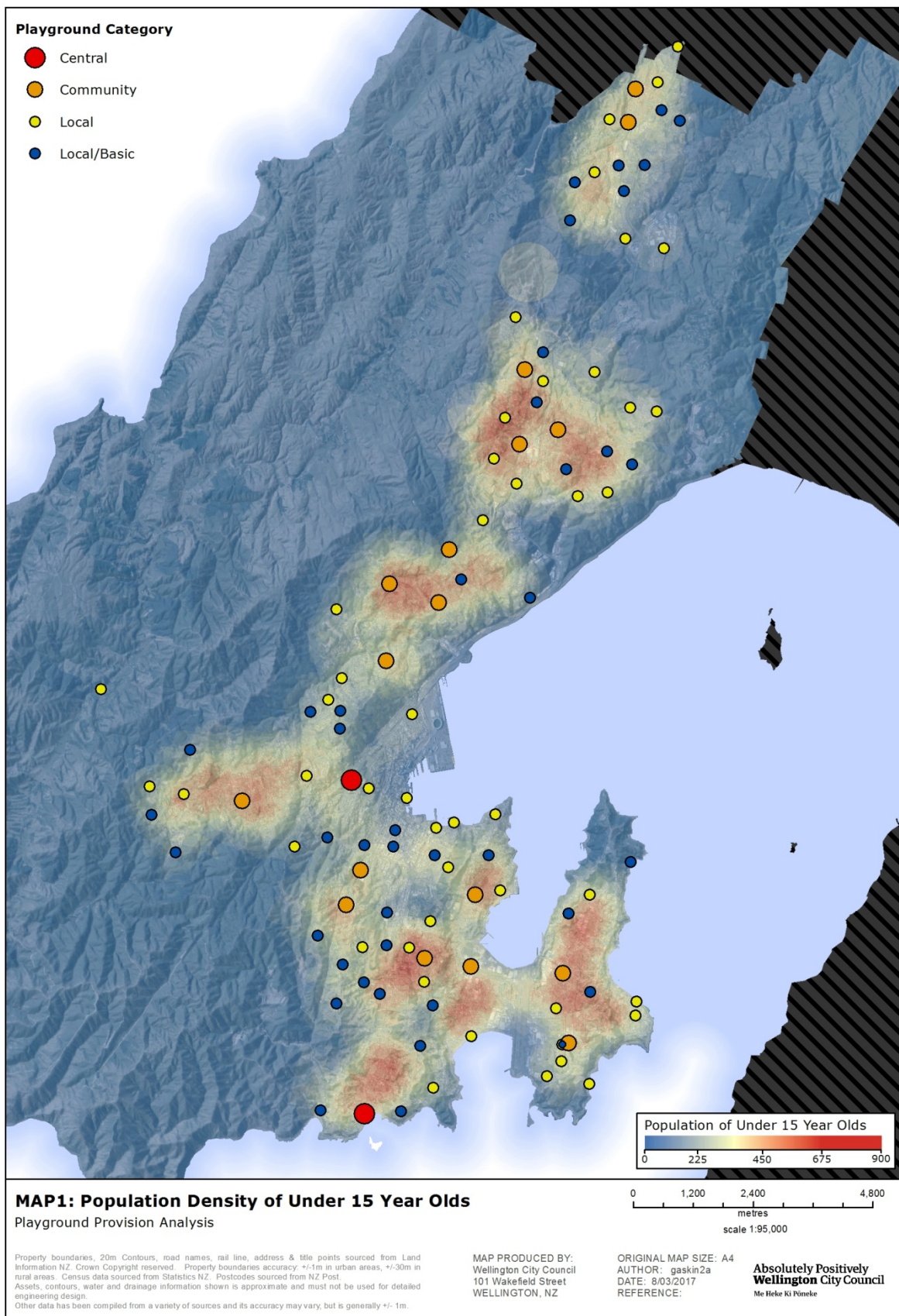
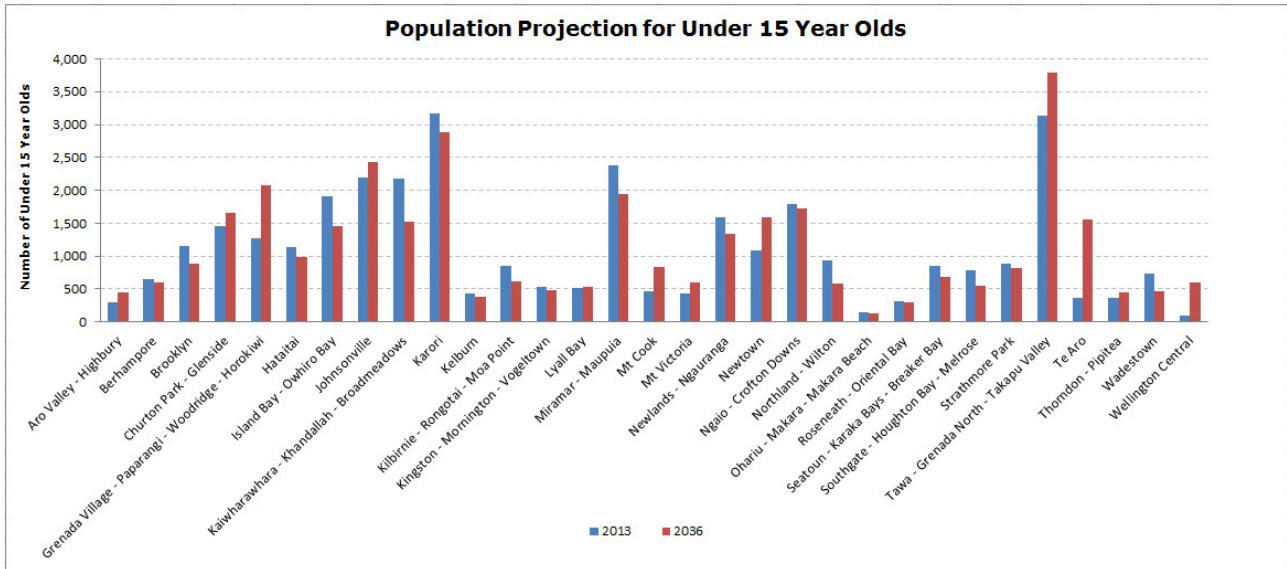


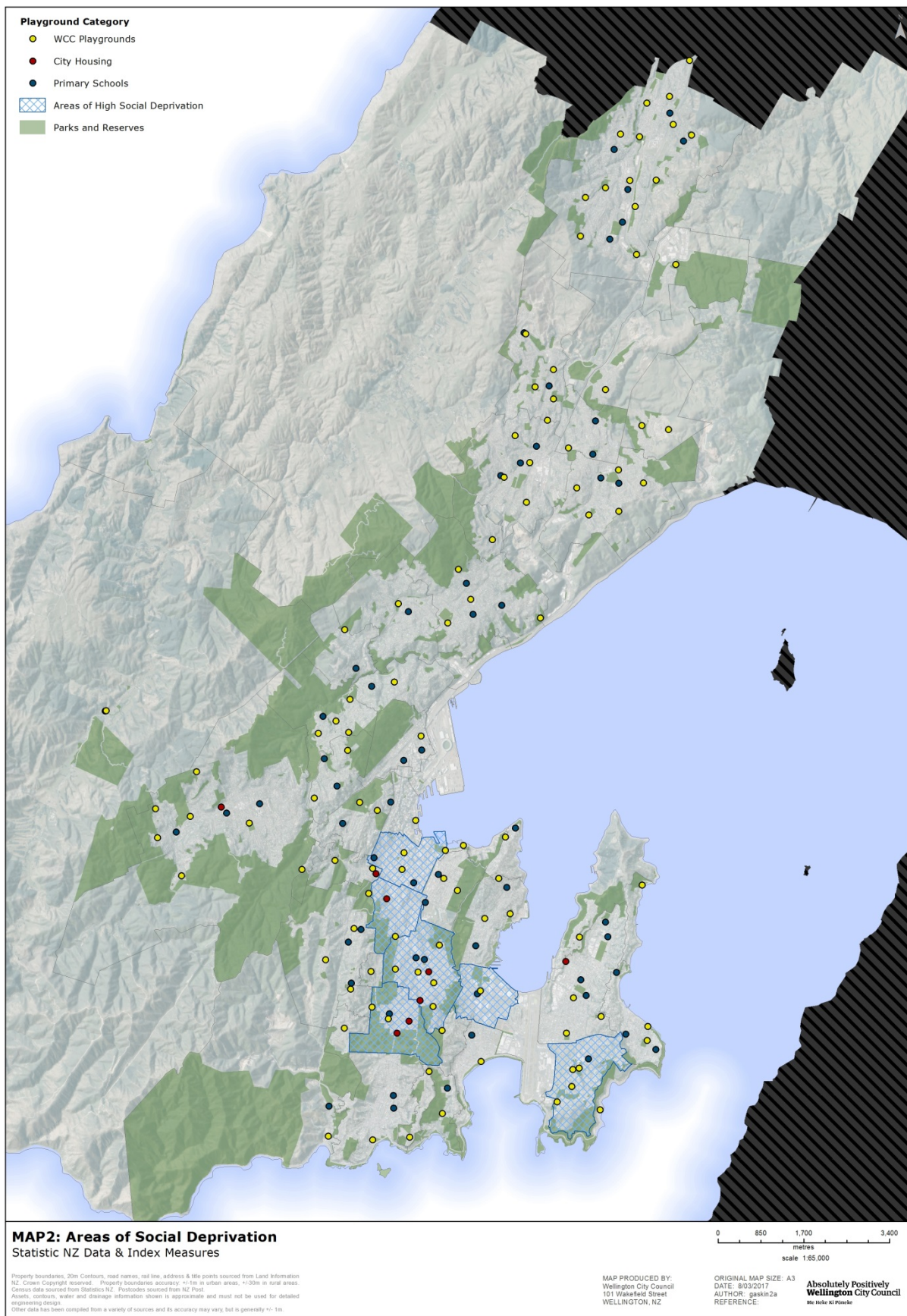
Figure 1 illustrates current areas of high child population (shown on Map 1) alongside future growth. Some areas have very high growth but from a low current number (eg TeAro). Other areas have low or negative growth but from a high current number (eg Karori). These areas vary in geographical size which also requires consideration in terms of assessing which areas represent comparatively higher need and then of course any resultant action. The table shows the wide variety of growth scenarios in the different areas around the city.



Social deprivation

Areas of social deprivation are defined by Profile id statistics analysis. In Wellington City the three suburbs that rank the highest are Kilbirnie, Mount Cook and Strathmore Park. Te Aro, Newtown and Berhampore are forth equal.

It is clear that Kilbirnie, Mount Cook and Strathmore Park are very different communities with different needs. Closer analysis of formal play space provision in the areas of high deprivation shows mixed results. Map 2 is a map of the current play spaces (including city housing play space and schools) with areas of social deprivation highlighted.



City wide growth and change

There are three key areas for growth and change in Wellington; the central city, suburban housing density change and city growth outside the existing residential areas. Findings in relation to population growth predictions and areas of social deprivation require consideration alongside areas of potential pressure related to development and growth as these measures can be interrelated.

The central city

Residential occupation in the central city is growing and some of this growth will include families. Part of the drawcard for living in the central city is the proximity to large areas of open space for engaging in recreation activities and play. The central city is contained within a 2.1 square kilometre area. It is surrounded on all sides by either the waterfront or Wellington Town Belt, which are easy to access and offer a range of informal play space and opportunities for interaction with the natural environment. The waterfront has a series of large, well-equipped, formal playgrounds (Frank Kitts Park, Waitangi Park and Freyberg Beach).

The Central City Framework notes:

“Unlike most central cities, Wellington is small enough that it’s easy to walk from one end to the other. This compactness, and the relationship between the city and the natural features that surround it, contribute to Wellington’s unique character – making it an urban village with a wild edge.”

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

The proposed network of smaller spaces offers opportunity for informal and incidental play space to complement the existing formal playgrounds and wider natural environment. Great examples include the recent laneways projects where people play on the dots on Bond Street and kick balls at the end of Leeds Street. Cobblestone Park includes play equipment, a basketball hoop and half court and opportunities to play amongst the vegetation. Pukeahu National War Memorial Park is a large, flat open space where people of all ages can run around and explore.

Opportunities to create more play space will be explored through central city strategic planning, ongoing central city greening initiatives and streetscape upgrades. Future parks and public open spaces in the city will be developed with opportunities for play in mind.

Another key area for provision of play in the city is at or near Council community housing where children and young people are tenants, often in some of the highest density accommodation in the city (ie apartment blocks). Each site that accommodates children has its own play space specifically for tenants. Given the limited private outdoor space some of these children have direct access to, it is important that the families know about the range of places they can go to play outside and that they are able to easily get there.

Medium-density residential areas

Across Wellington, there are two existing medium-density residential housing areas (MDRA) and five additional suburbs being considered for the introduction of MDRA zones. The intention of these is to enable a broader range of housing choice around a selection of suburban centres with good connection to public transport and community services/amenities.

The proposed MDRA are expected to cater for people to “age in place” and provide alternative housing choice for small/childless households. However, there is no guarantee about who exactly will ultimately reside in these homes – some couples may elect to live there with a small child, given the proximity to service and transport amenities. It is also possible that if the medium-density areas attract ageing baby boomers, then the larger family homes that this group currently occupy in the local area will be bought by families and accommodate more children in the future. MDRA zones will not specifically create a large growth in the number of children residing in these areas, but there may be some small increase as larger family homes are effectively “freed up”. Any change in the number of children in each suburb is unlikely to require new formal playgrounds

when considered in the context of the citywide projections for child population across the whole city over the next 20 years.

Each of the existing and potential MDRA areas under consideration have been mapped to identify the existing formal playgrounds in the respective neighbourhoods. Each is slightly different. Tawa is well serviced for formal play, with seven playgrounds within the area and a number around the edge. Newlands has a skate facility and funding in place for construction of a new community playground in 2018/19. Johnsonville has three playgrounds within the MDRA. The new library development area and further development at Alex Moore Park may result in the need to review half court provision. Khandallah has one small play space in the village centre, however, Khandallah Park and Nairnville Park will service a large portion of any potential new MDRA. The potential need for play space on the eastern edge of this area has been identified in the Suburban Reserves Management Plan (SRMP). The Karori area is lacking at the city end and Island Bay at the northern end. Both of these have been identified as an issue in the SRMP. There is a new playground planned (and funded) for Island Bay/Berhampore (at Wakefield Park) in 2016/17. Kilbirnie is serviced by the Kilbirnie Park play space that will be improved at the time of renewal.

In addition to formal play space, each suburb has access to neighbourhood parks, large natural parks and other open spaces where children, young people and adults can play and enjoy recreation activities. The artificial turf in Johnsonville for example provides for year-round outdoor play space.

In summary, there is no additional formal play space required (other than that already planned) to meet the needs of the community as a result of existing and potential MDRA zones. The change to the make-up of these communities is not expected to result in significant numbers of extra children. While some new homes in the MDRA zones may have smaller backyards, all of the areas are, or will be, appropriately served by formal and informal public play space with access to natural environments.

Greenfield development areas

There are two main areas for growth in the northern suburbs: at Churton Park (Stebbing's Valley) and between Woodridge and Grenada North (Woodridge, Lincolnshire Farms and Hunters Hill). As development is planned and constructed, the reserves network will extend into those areas, including the provision of formal play space.

A new community playground is planned for Lincolnshire as identified in the District Plan Structure Plan. The playground will be funded by development contributions. A new neighbourhood playground is planned for Stebbings Valley as part of a Reserves Agreement between the land owner and the Council. Development beyond these areas or changes in anticipated development style (from rural to residential for example) may result in the need for further play space.

MDRA MAP – removed as it is only one area of higher density living with Te Aro and the central city suburbs predicted to see high predicted growth in child numbers as described in a far higher density living environment.

In addition to an even distribution of formal play space, consideration therefore needs to be given to areas where there might be higher need in the future in relation to areas of social deprivation, areas of higher density living, areas of current high child population and areas of predicted high growth in child population. This addresses both even and equitable distribution in planning for play space.

What do we have now?

Dedicated play space

The play spaces network

In 2016 the play spaces network includes 107 public formal playgrounds. The majority of play areas fit the category of local or local basic. Map 3 shows the spread and category of the current formal playground network. City housing and school playgrounds also provide play space for residents and local communities.

Construction of a nature play trail is underway at Mount Victoria. The idea is to integrate play trails into the open spaces and tracks to encourage play and broaden children's interest in landscapes and Mount Victoria/Matairangi. Natural landscape play elements might include balancing, climbing, living huts, and tunnels.

Walking distance analysis is used to guide decision making about how many play spaces there should be and where. This is consistent with other Councils in the Wellington Region and play space policy best practise. The value of the play spaces network will be around providing high quality play space close to where people live.

Map 4 shows that currently 66 percent of all residents are located within a 600-metre or 10-minute walk of a neighbourhood playground or 800 metres of a community playground. This mapping provides the basis for considering even distribution of formal play space across the city based on walking distances along the road network. The new mapping refines the 2002 playgrounds policy provision analysis and planning and identifies potential gaps in the network. Gaps can then be considered alongside other factors such as social deprivation and population growth predictions for example, to help determine priorities for new initiatives for play space.

In addition to Council provision of formal play space there is a network of school playgrounds that the general community use outside of school hours. City housing residents also have playgrounds for their use.

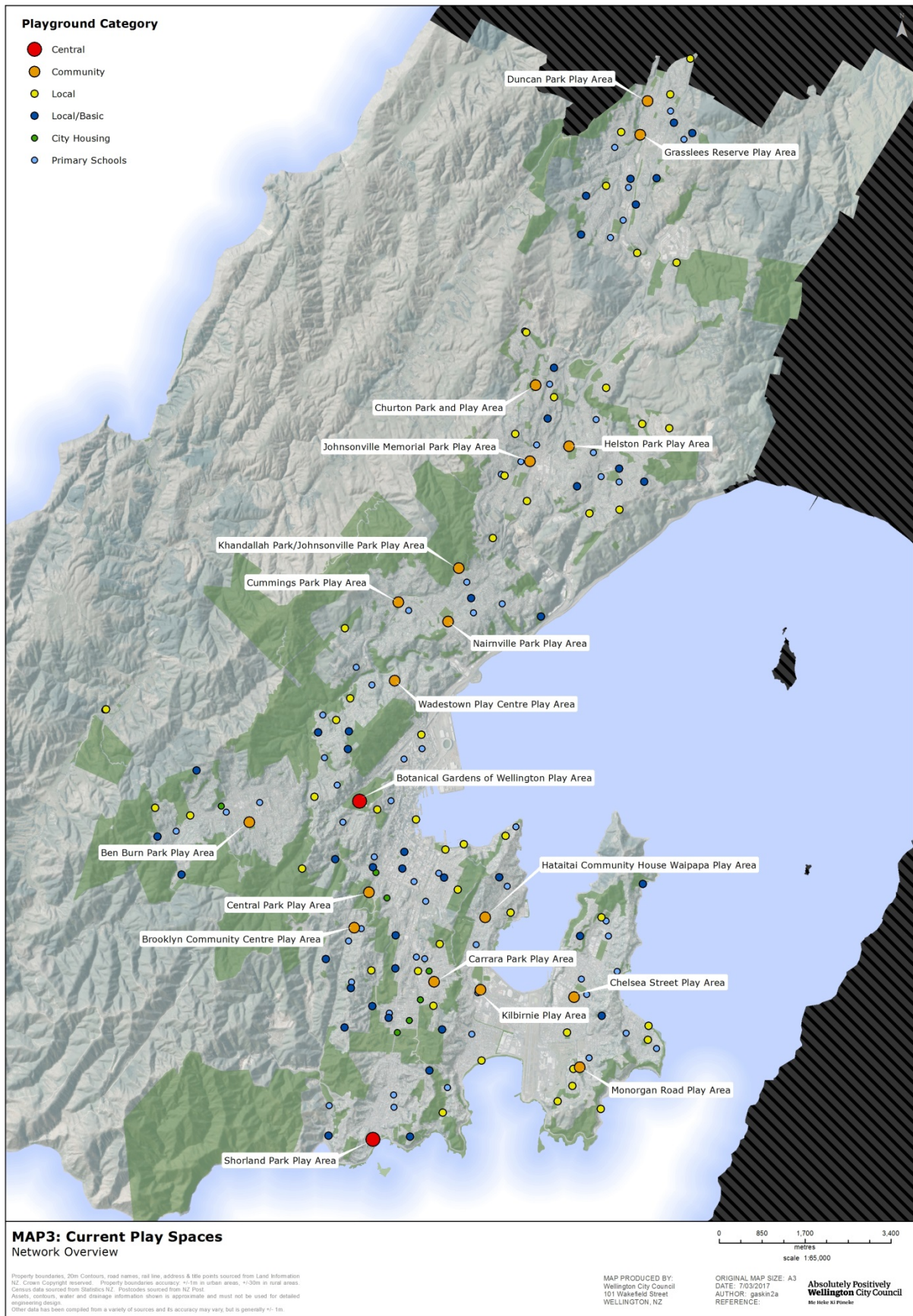
Wellington City compares well regionally with the number of playgrounds per head of population (at approximately 1/1800 residents or 3.2/1000 children¹⁰) and the walking distance "ideals" that represent an even distribution across the city.

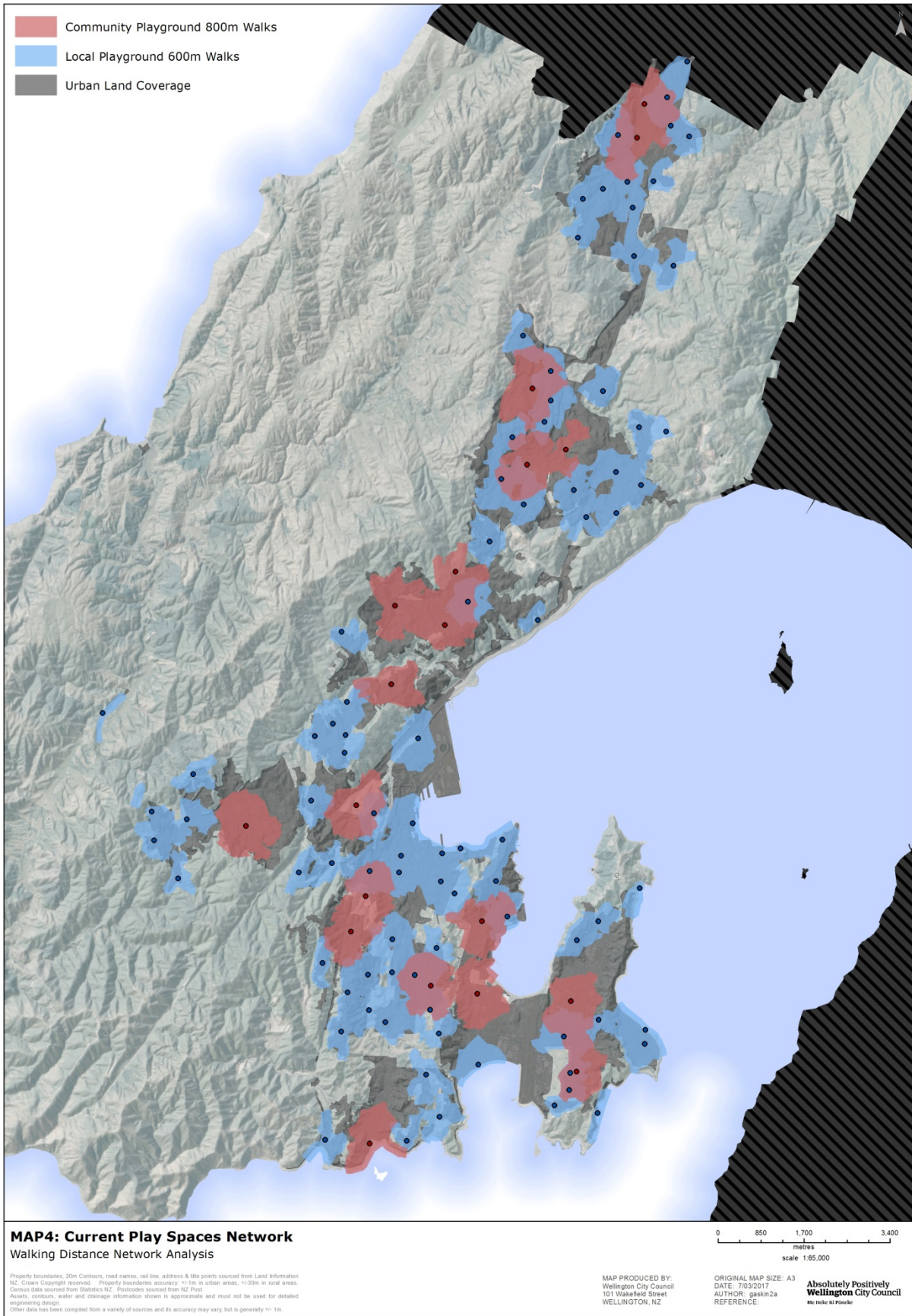
There is limited public support for retirement of formal playspace, even where there would be a citywide benefit in helping provide a more even distribution of playgrounds around the city. The community believes that the current network of 107 is "about right".

Formal playground space is the "favourite place to play"¹¹. This is followed by pools, other water places (beaches, rivers, lakes, ocean), the non-playground area of parks and around our house/flat or outside at a friend's house.

¹⁰ Based on 2013 census data and national recreation benchmarking (Yardstick) and including city housing playgrounds

¹¹ Research panel results





How we manage playgrounds

The existing budget for the “renewal” of playgrounds allows for approximately four renewals per year. This equates to a replacement of play equipment and safety surfaces at each playground every 25 years. Regular inspections and maintenance is carried out, which helps inform renewals prioritisation.

The category of playground currently determines what play equipment could be expected and the age of child the playground will primarily cater for. This can at times limit opportunities to achieve the best outcome for each particular space and community in terms of the renewal allowing the creation of a more multi-functional play space. The opportunity to consider drainage work or earthworks or other general park improvements to create a better space at the same time as the play equipment renewal would have a better long-term result in terms of the quality of the space and its range of use.

Community expectation has changed to anticipate more than just replacement of old and/or failing equipment (which is what the budget provides). Consistently, there are requests for associated improvements to the park such as paths, tree and amenity planting, shade and fencing.

A key issue is the implication of including amenity planting as part of the playground renewal. This is an important part of the concept of play spaces and familiarising children with nature play opportunities. This is something the community support, and research shows it will deepen the value of the space as a place to play. This work is not currently funded through the LTP. A tree, for example, could provide shade, be a place to play and beautify the area but there is currently no funding to provide the tree, a tree cage and to plant and maintain it for the first 5 years. Amenity planting often needs high maintenance, particularly if it is designed to be played in and amongst.

There is an identified need to address the accessibility of many of the Council's playgrounds. As a result of the accessibility audit, opportunities to improve access are considered at the time of the playground renewal. This includes, for example, widening gate clearance to 1.2 metres, removing vehicle barriers that restrict pedestrian access, improving seating opportunities for carers, and improving paths and play equipment accessibility.

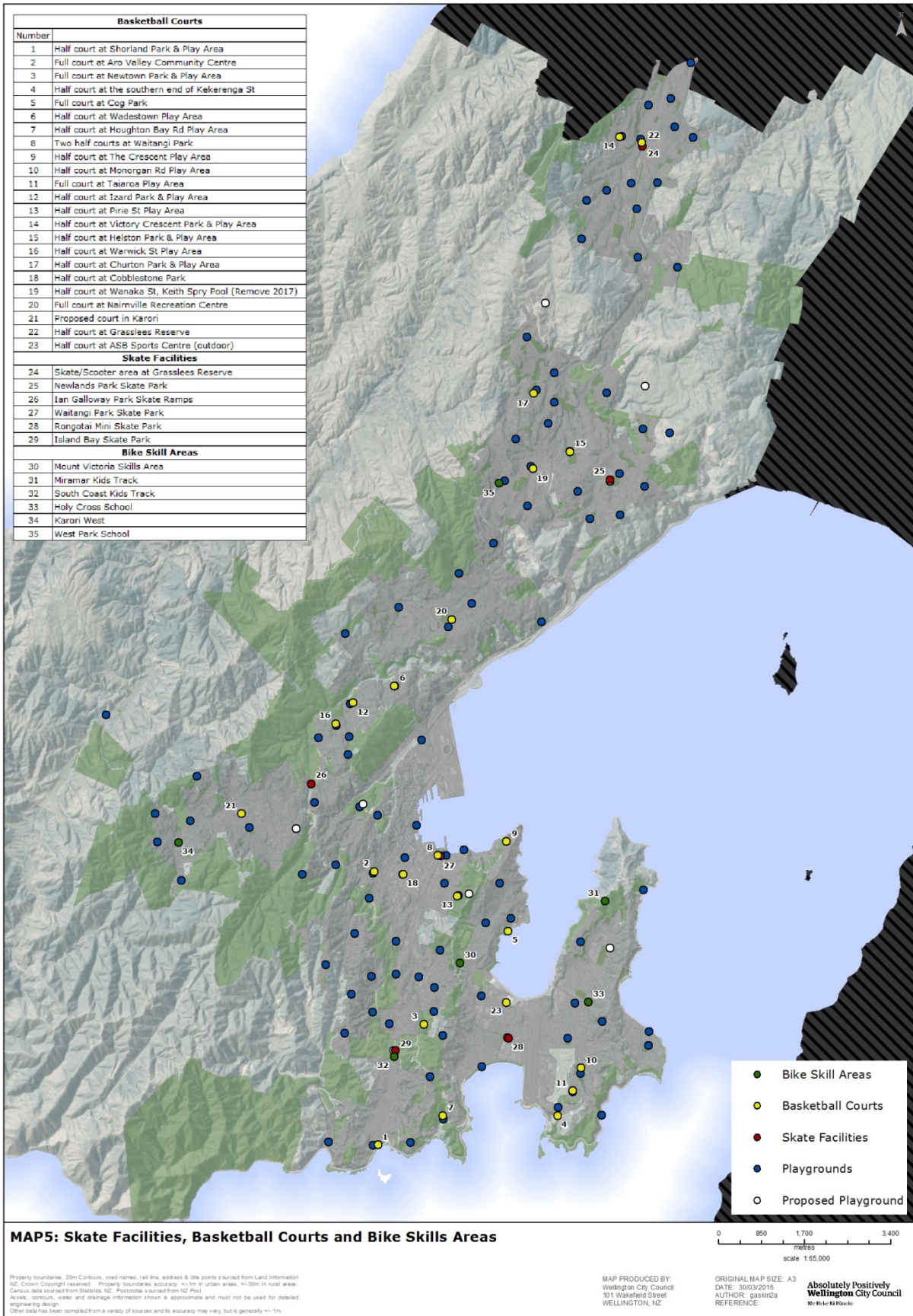
We know that people want different equipment in each playground so that they can go to a different area in the city and the playground will look and feel different.

Skate facilities, basketball courts and bike skills areas

There are seven skate facilities, six bike skills areas (including three in schools developed in partnership with the Council and the Bike On Charitable Trust) and 22 outdoor basketball courts (17 half and five full sized) available for public use. Map 5 shows these areas with a good spread across the city. There is no outdoor court provision in Karori.

How we manage skate facilities, basketball courts and bike skills areas

Maintenance is carried out on a reactive basis. Unlike playgrounds, however, these facilities don't have a predicted “lifespan” in the same way as play equipment does. Changes are made in response to changing use over time (led by popularity and/or evolution of different sports) or repair of general wear and tear.



Other dedicated play space

There is a range of other dedicated play spaces around the city that are not part of the Council public playgrounds network, including:

- school playgrounds
- city housing playgrounds
- private facilities (shopping centres, retail stores, commercial play experience)
- private backyards.

Public accessibility to these varies but they all form part of the complete picture of play available to children and young people living in Wellington. Map 3 shows the range of “other” play spaces alongside the publically accessible Council network. Schools and backyards are particularly important as places where children spend large parts of their time each day.

The Children’s Garden is a new development at the Wellington Botanic Garden. It will demonstrate our dependence on plants and ecosystems and the services they provide. It will provide a unique opportunity to get children involved and encourage environmental and botanical awareness in future generations. It will provide an opportunity for interaction with nature that will help children feel more comfortable in their natural environment and will have a focus on learning through play.

There are regional opportunities for play, both free and at a cost, such as the regional parks and destination playgrounds. The recent Wellington Zoo developments provide a focus on play and nature connection and Zealandia also provides opportunity for play. Te Papa is a popular indoor play space.

Community involvement and school partnerships

Included in the 107 formal play spaces are three school playground partnerships. Each partnership was developed specifically for the situation and is therefore different. They provide for playgrounds on school and/or Council-owned land that are managed and maintained by the Council with renewal through joint funding. Makara School is open to the general public outside of school hours, while Amesbury Drive School and the Kipling Street play area are open to the public at all times, as the location of those allows use without disruption to the rest of the school.

The Council provides funding for bike skills areas in schools through the Bikes in Schools programme, which was piloted in 2015/2016. To date, West Park School, Karori West Normal School, and Holy Cross School have developed a fleet of new bikes and bike helmets, purpose-built riding tracks and bike storage facilities. The schools came up with ideas to make the track design and use safe, fun and unique to each school. They are open for community use outside school hours. The Council has allocated funding until June 2018 for 3 to 4 more schools to develop bike skills areas per year, in partnership with the Bike On Charitable Trust.

Community involvement in the development of plans varies depending on the scale of the playground development. A neighbourhood playground renewal, for example, will have plans posted on site and users can comment. The new playground development at Frank Kitts Park included in-depth and wide-reaching public engagement and consultation.

While survey results suggest the community wants to be more involved in maintenance and management of playgrounds, to date this has not occurred in any formal way and will be limited somewhat by strict health and safety requirements around play equipment and fall surfaces.

Incidental play space

Wellington City has endless opportunities for free play in the natural environment, with over 4207 hectares of open space, including Wellington Town Belt, the Outer Green Belt, coastal reserves, 250 neighbourhood park spaces, 43 sport and recreation parks, Wellington Botanic Garden, Otari-Wilton's Bush and 330 kilometres of tracks. This abundance of natural environments all close to the central city and residential areas is part of what makes Wellington unique.

"Just take your children outside, give them time, and let them play." – Karl Nolan, Botanic Garden Collection Curator.

Suburban areas and the central city also provide incidental play space. The Council has a responsibility in ensuring opportunities for play spaces are improved where possible in the public realm. The Bond Street activation project is a good example of "playful" design that encourages a range of people to use a street space in a whole new way, while the artificial turf in Civic Square has seen informal play become a major use of this space for all ages.

Play Spaces Policy & Action Plan

Vision

Wellington City's Play Spaces are a network of sometimes wild, always fun, diverse, safe and accessible places that foster growth and development of children and contribute towards building a healthy, active, connected city.

Strategic Priority 1: Provide a network of play spaces across the city

Policy 1 – The play space network

The Council will provide:

- 113 dedicated formal play spaces (playgrounds) – destination, community, neighbourhood, school partnerships (at 2015 there are 107)
- the Mount Victoria/Matairangi nature play trail
- the Children's Garden
- six formal skate/scooter facilities
- 22 outdoor basketball courts (16 half court, six full)
- six bike skills parks (both in parks and at schools)
- playgrounds at City Housing sites where children are living
- incidental play space across the city, both in parks and other public spaces.

Policy 2 – Dedicated play space (playgrounds)

The Council will provide a network of dedicated play space based on best practice provision analysis, nationwide comparison¹², and census data that suggests there will not be a significant increase in the number of children in Wellington in the next 20 years, and the knowledge that Wellingtonians believe the number of playgrounds in Wellington is “about right”. Areas of higher density living (both existing and planned) social deprivation, and child population predictions, have also been considered. Map 6 shows the proposed network of playgrounds by category.

The focus on an evenly spread network of a variety of high-quality¹³, well-maintained spaces means that after accounting for the actions described below, there will be no more new formal playgrounds. This allows for approximately 74 percent of all Wellingtonians to be located within 600 metres of a neighbourhood playground, or 800 metres of a community or destination playground¹⁴. Map 7 shows this distribution and walking catchment with suburb and growth information.

A relatively even spread of a mix of formal play opportunities across the city provides the best outcome for the most children, and young people now and into the future. This will be complemented by a play trail, skate/scooter facilities, outdoor half courts, bike skills areas, spaces provided by others (at schools, for example) and informal and incidental play opportunities that exist and will be improved throughout the city.

Actions:

- 1) The following new playgrounds will be constructed to complete the network of dedicated playspace:
 - a community play space near or at Wakefield Park (Island Bay/Berhampore)
 - a community play space at Newlands Park
 - a neighbourhood play space at the city end of Karori
 - a neighbourhood play space at Kilbirnie.
 - A neighbourhood play space at Johnsonville

Note that the final location and design of each play space will be subject to further consideration as per Priority 2.

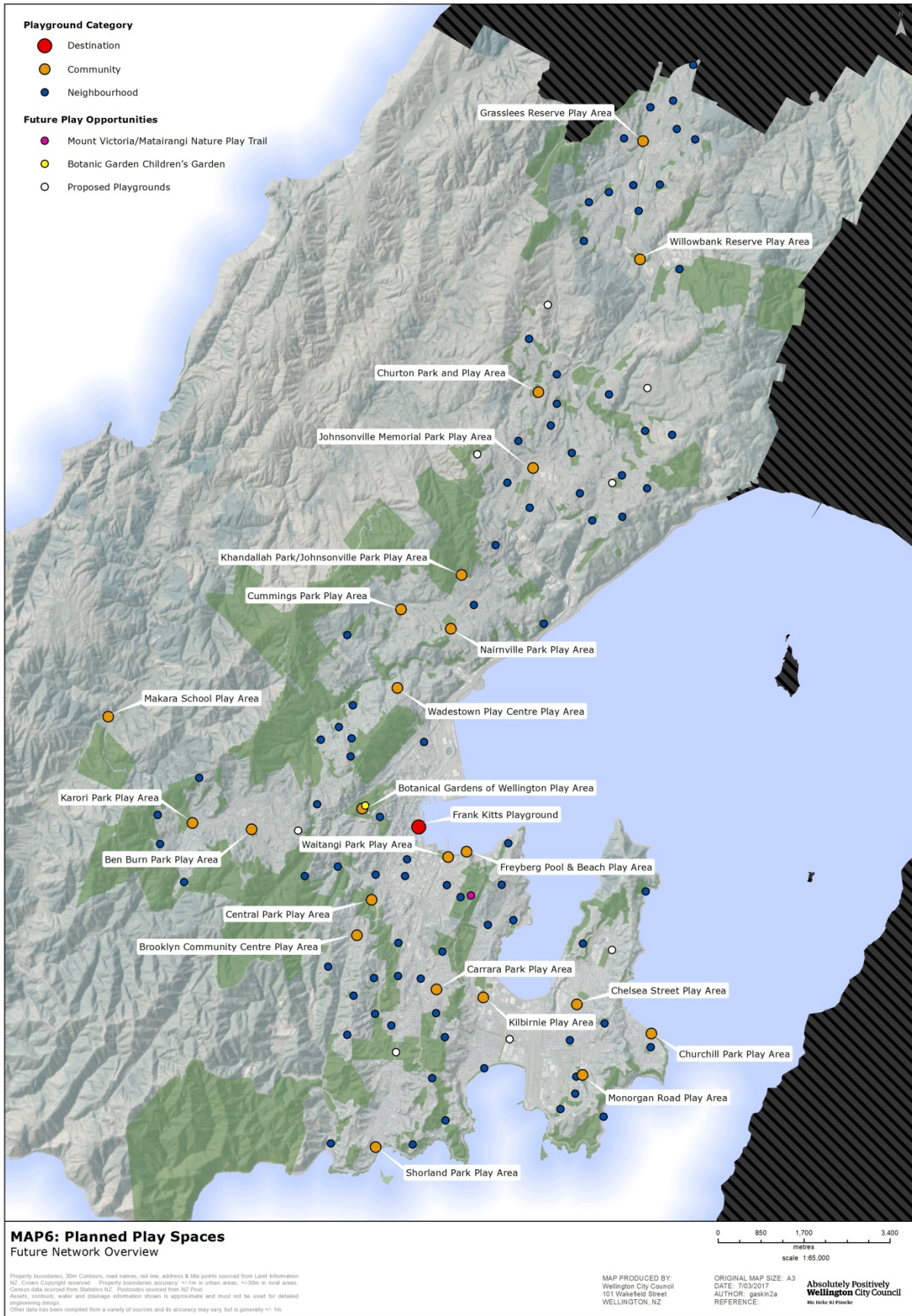
- 2) The following new playgrounds will be constructed and funded by development contributions as part of future greenfield growth in the northern suburbs:
 - a community play space at Lincolnshire Farms and potential for a further neighbourhood play space between Lincolnshire Farms and Grenada North (at Hunters Hill)
 - a neighbourhood play space at Churton Park (Stebbing Valley).
- 3) The Miramar North and Kenmore Street neighbourhood play spaces will be retired at the time of development of a new community play space at Miramar Park and Newlands Park respectively.
- 4) Play equipment in the Burbank Crescent reserve will not be replaced when it reaches the end of its lifespan, as outlined in the Northern Reserves Management Plan. The land will remain reserve.
- 5) No other dedicated play space (playgrounds) will be closed unless there is a proposed partnership for a new playground (with a school, for example) or there is a proposal for a new playground nearby. The result is no reduction in the number of playgrounds in the network over time.

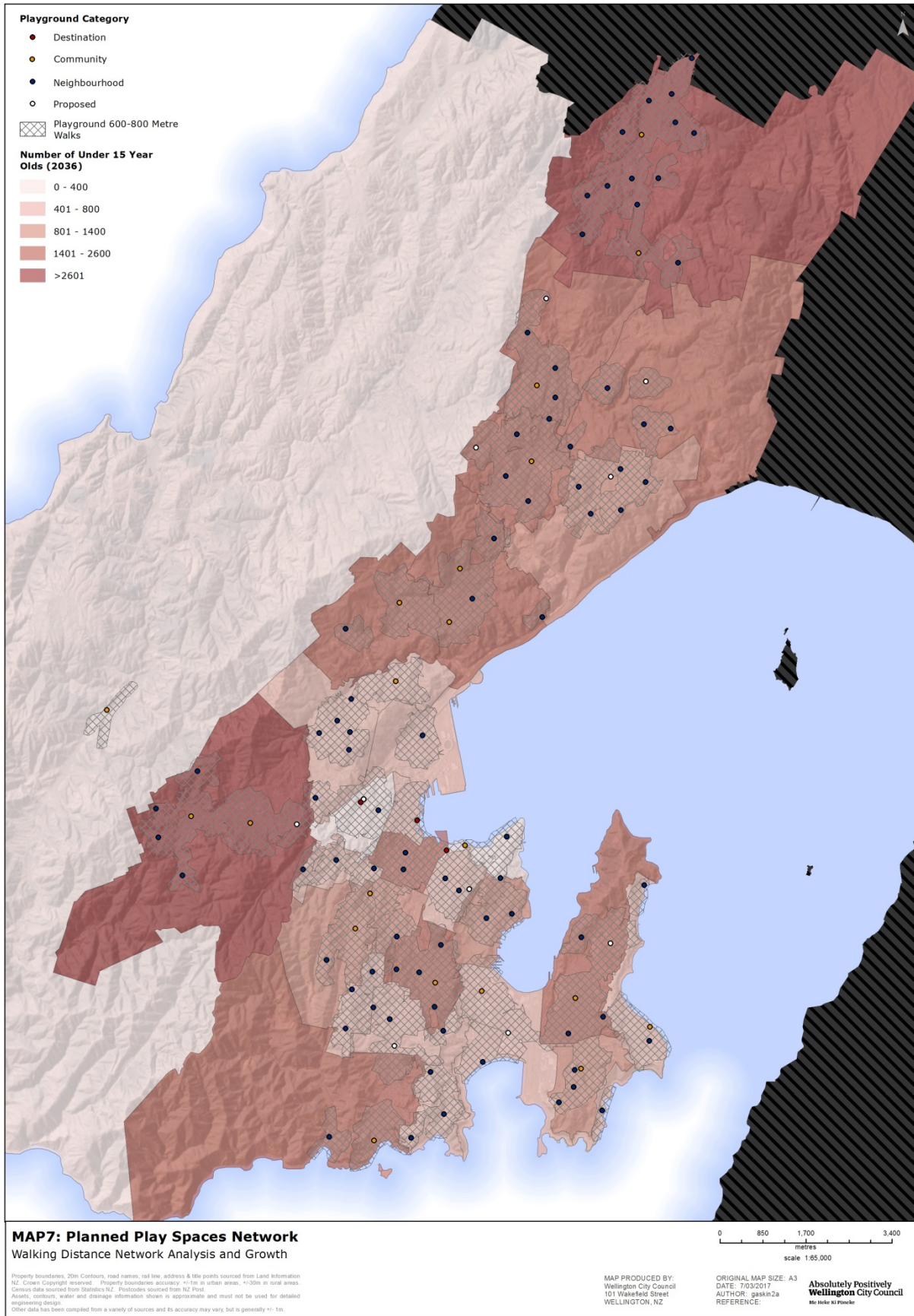
¹² From a national benchmarking database (Yardstick) – the number of playgrounds per 1000 children.

¹³ This does not equate to number of pieces of play equipment but the quality of the playspace as a whole.

¹⁴ Up 8% from 66% with the inclusion of proposed new play spaces.

- 6) Opportunities for school partnerships will be investigated alongside proposals for new or replacement playgrounds.
- 7) Other than described above, no new playgrounds are proposed with a completed network of 113 in total. There may be a need to consider new play space in the longer term as greenfield development areas in the north of the city are planned and developed and the central city strategic planning work continues..





Policy 3 – Skate and scooter facilities

A network of six formal skate and/or scooter facilities will provide a spread across the city, ideally located within or near to community reserves where there are other recreation opportunities available (see Map 5). They are further spread apart as they serve a smaller user group than playgrounds and users can and do travel to a quality facility. The network will provide a good range of skate opportunities for different types of skating and different skill levels at each site.

Actions:

- 1) Further engagement with the skate community will be carried out to plan, prioritise and consider funding for skate facilities in Wellington with the key issues summary used to inform the scope of this project..

Policy 4 – Outdoor informal court space

The outdoor court network for informal play is also well spread around the city, providing a range of court spaces set in a variety of environments from suburban to inner city (see Map 5). As with skate/scooter facilities, there are fewer of them in total but they are well maintained and located within spaces that have other facilities for play and/or informal recreation.

Opportunities for an alternative location for the half court at Johnsonville will need to be explored when the existing one is removed as part of the proposed library development plans. There is no outdoor facility in Karori. The need and feasibility of a new one will also be considered. In both cases school partnerships will be considered.

Actions:

- 1) A new half court will be provided in Karori (potentially through community or school partnership).
- 2) Consider the need for an alternative outdoor court space when the Johnsonville Wanaka Street site is closed.
- 3) The fenced court space at Nairnville Park will be resurfaced and basketball hoops installed to broaden use of that space for informal play, particularly for youth.

Policy 5 – Bike skills areas

The bike skills areas provide for learn to ride spaces and are located as shown on Map 5. Any new projects will be led by community initiatives or the Bikes in Schools Programme. The Open Space Access Plan outlines new initiatives for easy mountain bike tracks.

Actions:

- 1) The Council will continue with the Bikes in Schools programme partnerships, subject to securing ongoing funding.
- 2) A new skills area is already proposed at Karori Park (close to the Mud Cycles shop) to support other track developments at Karori Park and Makara Peak.

Policy 6 – Nature play trails

The Mount Victoria/Matairangi nature play trail will be a different experience to the traditional playground and will foster and encourage nature connection through play for a range of age groups.

Actions:

- 1) Construction of the Mount Victoria/Matairangi nature play trail will begin in 2016/2017.

- 2) Work with the Tanera Park Gully restoration group to develop a Children’s Wilderness Area community initiative

Strategic Priority 2: Provide high-quality, fit-for-purpose play space

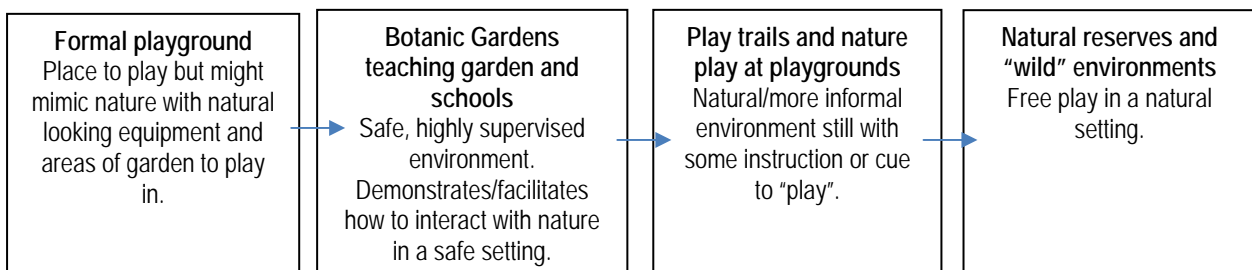
High quality fit-for-purpose play space will be delivered through general play space improvements being completed at the same time as play equipment renewal and all play space projects (new and renewals) following Principles, Categories and Standards as set out below. This is in line with community expectation and will achieve a higher return on the investment already made in these spaces across a much broader range of outcomes (use and appeal of each site, breadth and depth of play value, inclusiveness, social benefits, environmental stewardship and health and wellbeing of children, carers and wider communities).

Policy 1 - Play space principles

Wellingtons outdoor play spaces are:

- expertly designed and firmly grounded by play theory to inform age appropriate equipment and space
- designed to reflect the site context expressing iwi/cultural, environmental or other community stories and values – contribute to “sense of place”
- accessible and inclusive
- multifunctional space whenever possible and may not incorporate a formal playground or play equipment
- high quality, well built and well maintained
- fun, varied and interesting with opportunity for age appropriate risk
- designed and built to encourage nature connection whenever possible
- found in a range of settings, from remote, natural parks to neighbourhood parks and suburban streets to the inner city streets and urban spaces
- evenly spread around the whole city
- well promoted and easy to find
- adequately funded.
- designed to consider the needs of parents/caregivers so as to create an attractive, comfortable environment.

The Council will promote nature connection in play spaces, recognising the continuum of opportunity and making the most of opportunity whenever possible to deepen the benefits of the play experience.



Policy 2 - A guide to dedicated play space categories

The Council will provide three categories of dedicated play space (playground) spread throughout the city, as illustrated on Map 7. Appendix 2 lists the playgrounds by category. The following table provides a guide to the considerations for each type that will inform development of the play space.

	Play equipment	Types of informal play opportunities	Types of visitor and caregiver amenities	Catchment areas
<p>Destination play space</p> <p>A premium playground that attracts residents, visitors and tourists. Users may stay for 2 hours or more</p>	<p>Play opportunities for multiple age groups</p> <p>Regionally unique and a celebration of place</p>	<p>Kick-about area</p> <p>Spaces to gather and meet</p> <p>Informal court space (eg basketball half court)</p> <p>Natural landscape features</p> <p>May have art installations or hard landscape features that offer opportunities for play</p> <p>Located in spaces where there are opportunities for informal and incidental play and interaction with the natural environment</p>	<p>Picnic tables and seats</p> <p>Drinking water</p> <p>Lighting</p> <p>Rubbish bins</p> <p>Central city location</p> <p>Shelter/shade over some of the play equipment and other areas of the play space provided by structures and/or trees</p> <p>Car parking</p> <p>Toilets</p> <p>Signs and interpretation</p>	<p>The whole city and Wellington Region</p> <p>Centrally located and easy to get to with connections to public transport routes, and linked to pedestrian pathways and cycle ways where possible</p>
<p>Community play space</p> <p>Enough activities to keep children and/or youth aged people entertained for at least an hour</p>	<p>Play opportunities for a range of age groups</p> <p>Unique or with a point of difference to other community playgrounds around the city</p>	<p>Kick-about area</p> <p>May have informal court space (eg basketball half court)</p> <p>Spaces to gather and meet and to engage in different types of play (eg both active play and relaxation/quiet contemplative play)</p> <p>Natural landscape features</p> <p>Where possible, designed to encourage exploration of the natural environment such as steps to a stream or a path to the bush or the beach</p> <p>Amenity planting and planted areas that are designed and located to be played in or on</p> <p>Include opportunities for nature play</p>	<p>Picnic tables and seats</p> <p>May have a barbecue</p> <p>Drinking water at park or nearby</p> <p>Security lighting where appropriate</p> <p>Rubbish bins</p> <p>Shade/shelter over some of the play equipment and other areas of the play space provided by structures and/or trees</p> <p>Car parking</p> <p>Toilets at park or nearby (may have limited open hours)</p> <p>Paths to connect to the wider neighbourhood and provide access to the play equipment area</p> <p>Signs and interpretation</p>	<p>Service the immediate neighbourhood and local community within approximately 800-metre walking distance</p> <p>Ideally located in community parks or near neighbourhood centres.</p>
<p>Neighbourhood play space</p> <p>Handy place for a quick play</p>	<p>Play opportunities for at least one age group (ideally junior children as a minimum). Size of site may constrain the amount of equipment</p> <p>Nature play and kick-about space will be considered to broaden play experience</p>	<p>Natural landscape features and opportunities for nature play</p> <p>Amenity planting and/or semi-natural areas that are designed and/or managed for play</p> <p>Spaces to play in groups, as individuals or for a common</p>	<p>May have shade provided by trees</p> <p>Seats</p> <p>Paths to play equipment where possible</p>	<p>Service local neighbourhood within approx. 600-metre walking distance</p> <p>Likely to be located in</p>

alongside swings/ slides for
example

purpose. May have kick about
area

neighbourhood
parks

Policy 3 – Standards for all dedicated play space (playgrounds)

The following standards will apply to all Wellington playgrounds to ensure they are high quality and fit for purpose:

- NZS 5828: 2015¹⁵, Playground Surfacing and Equipment is adhered to
- CPTED principles are incorporated in design and location decision making and upgrade project briefs
- dogs are not allowed
- smoking is not permitted within 10 metres of playgrounds or as determined by the Smokefree Environment Policy
- whenever practicable they are inclusive, enabling children and young people of different abilities and with different types of impairment¹⁶ to play with and alongside other children
- new playgrounds and upgrades aim to reduce and eliminate social and physical barriers to access for children and their caregivers, considering people with disabilities as well as parents with children in prams and older people with an age-related decrease in mobility or sensory abilities
- they are creatively and professionally designed and built with a point of difference that makes them unique
- they are well managed and maintained.

Policy 4 – Dedicated play space renewal and new development (playgrounds)

There are four issues to consider when planning for renewals: how often each space is renewed, growth in the network (eg an increase from 107 to 113 over the next 10–20 years), how much each renewal will cost, and order of renewal.

The Council will renew playgrounds based on an average lifespan of equipment of approximately 25 years. While this is longer than the regional comparison of 15 years, a focus on spending more at each renewal rather than shortening renewal times will enable each site to be developed as a high-quality play space. A 25-year renewal cycle for 113 playgrounds will deliver approximately 4–5 renewals per year.

Critical to getting the most from the newly improved play spaces is establishing the appropriate maintenance regime, in particular for amenity planting and nature play areas.

Actions:

- 1) The playgrounds network will be renewed based on a 25 year lifespan at approximately 4–5 per year. Renewals order will be determined by regular inspection as it is anticipated that some may last longer than 25 years and others will be shorter depending on design, use and environmental conditions.
- 2) Each renewal will include play equipment as well as other necessary improvements (for example, drainage, fencing, paths, earthworks, kick-about area, hard and soft landscaping and nature play areas) to broaden the play experience at each site and as described by the playground category guide.

¹⁵ At the time of writing the Draft Play Spaces Policy the current standard is NZS 5828:2004 however on 9/12/2016 NZS 5828: 2015 will supercede the 2004 version.

¹⁶ 'Impairments' include physical, sensory, neurological, psychiatric, intellectual & any other impairment & encompass people with permanent, intermittent, temporary and perceived impairments (excerpt from WCC Accessible Wellington Action Plan 2012–2015).

- 3) The need for public toilets at or near Monorgan Road play space as part of the Strathmore facilities review in 2017/18 will be investigated, in light of this being in the community play space category.
- 4) Order of renewal will be determined by the regular inspections regime as it is anticipated that some play space may last longer than 25 years and others less (in a coastal environment or high use space for example).

Policy 5 – Skate and scooter facilities management

The number and mix of type of skate facilities across the city is currently suitable to cater for the needs of the skate community. Diversifying the use and improving the quality of the network over time will maximise use of these facilities.

Actions:

- 1) Further engagement with the skate community will be carried out to plan, prioritise and consider funding for skate facilities in Wellington with the summary of key issues used to inform the scope of this project.

Policy 6 – Outdoor informal court space management

The range and number of court facilities (including planned improvement to the network discussed above) is considered appropriate for the needs of Wellingtonians. The existing network of outdoor court space for informal use will be good quality and fit for purpose.

Policy 7 – Bike skills management

The Bikes in Schools programme includes ongoing management and maintenance by the schools. The Council's bike skills areas are managed and maintained as part of the public tracks network.

Policy 8 – Nature play trails management

The Mount Victoria/Matairangi nature play trail is a new initiative and one that has not been provided by the Council before as part of the network of play spaces throughout the city.

Action:

- 1) The success of the new play experience will be monitored. Any future nature play trails will be subject to consideration during future long-term plan or annual plan process.
- 2) Work with the Tanera Park Gully restoration group to develop a Children's Wilderness Area community initiative
- 3)

Strategic Priority 3: Community and school partnerships

Schools play a key role in the provision of additional dedicated formal and informal play space but are not a substitute for fully publicly accessible playgrounds.

Schools do not have a mandate to provide their grounds or their play equipment to the general public (although most currently do and encourage after hours use). The potential for closure or limits to public access to schools is also a risk in relying on schools as providers of open space.

The Council has entered into three partnerships with schools to build new playgrounds that benefit the school and the wider community.

Partnerships Policy

The network of existing and planned playgrounds is now at a point where there is a good spread across the city. Any new partnerships with schools will be where there is an existing school and

Council playground close by and there is an advantage in combining the playground either on the reserve or at the school. Partnerships will not be considered that result in additional playgrounds.

School partnerships will also be considered where there is opportunity for shared outdoor court space for informal play, particularly for youth. Any partnership will again be where there is an existing Council reserve nearby or adjacent.

There is the potential for other community groups to play an ongoing role in the care of play space and wider park environments, as some already do. Health and safety requirements for play equipment installation and maintenance will limit community involvement in the actual play space equipment.

Action:

1. The community will continue to contribute to development plans for new playgrounds and renewal plans.
2. Work with individuals, communities, schools and specialist sport and recreation groups to promote and advocate for the value of play and the play spaces across Wellington¹⁷.

Strategic Priority 4: The city as a play space

Opportunities to encourage incidental play throughout the city are considered in planning, design, construction, upgrade and management of all public space. This includes:

- park space
- road corridors
- inner city public places, such as Civic Square and laneways
- the waterfront.

All upgrades to public space should consider opportunities for incidental play space and celebrate the notion of the city as a play space. The nature of incidental play is that it occurs in places not specifically dedicated for play and is engaged in by all ages. Often a playful design theme or subtle cue is all that is needed to encourage play.

Suburban areas also have opportunities for incidental play space including along the road reserve network – particularly on routes where children walk to school. Generous road corridor width with a high proportion of road reserve space as compared to formed road surface can sometimes provide an opportunity for safe use of this space. Road corridors also offer opportunities for street planting that provides seasonal interest or sensory stimulus (touch/smell/sound).

A key part of prioritising the city as a play space will be through programming and advocacy with events, information and temporary installations that encourage people to use spaces in different ways. Parkour is an example of an activity that has developed on this premise. High quality public space provision and design will support multiple values – including play for all ages.

Action:

- 1) Support community initiatives that encourage play alongside primary use of existing spaces and facilities. For example hop scotch on pavements, painted numbers on steps, slack lining between trees, temporary cricket pitches mown into grass areas.

¹⁷ This is in the context of play space and not formal recreation activities and facilities.

Strategic Priority 5: Programming and advocacy for outdoor play

Delivery of programmes (by the Council and in partnership with other groups and agencies) and advocacy that promotes the value and importance of outdoor play will help get more children and young people outdoors, active and healthy and using the range of play spaces the city has to offer. Programming and advocacy will help deliver on broadening the opportunities for play in Wellington making the city more child and youth friendly¹⁸.

Providing children and young people with the space and time to play outdoors is a key message.

Actions:

- 1) The Council will explore the following initiatives to promote the value of play and what Wellington has to offer as a play space:
 - supporting community groups in development of initiatives (eg play streets, nature play groups, community sensory/edible gardens, wayfinding for new users)
 - temporary interventions (eg pop-up streets, engagement events, tactical urbanism, nature play networks, art installations)
 - promotion of skating and parkour as activity that benefits participants and the city
 - providing City Housing and apartment residents with information about their local play spaces, eg a local play spaces map in their tenancy pack
 - making playable space a consideration in the design of every new project (eg civic spaces, neighbourhood parks, streetscapes) to help make Wellington a child and youth friendly city
 - providing good quality easy to access, digital, print and on-site information about play spaces across the city
 - explore emerging play experience opportunities, such as digital playgrounds for example, where it provides high quality play experience and can sustain high levels of public engagement
 - supporting schools and parents of new entrants – could emphasise the value of free and outdoor play and where they can do it in their neighbourhood and wider Wellington
 - promote unstructured/free play in open spaces across the city for all ages and opportunities for caregivers to play alongside their children.
 - supporting schools through knowledge sharing around playground best practice design and management and to improve the play opportunities network across Wellington.
- 2) Work with Sport New Zealand to assist them in their role to advocate at central government level on the value of play and associated cross sector benefits – health, education, social for example.
- 3) Update Councils website to include information to enable people to make an informed choice according to their needs and/or the needs of those they care for. Officers will work with Councils Accessibility Advisory Group on this project as a high priority.

¹⁸ Wellington City Council is a signatory to the Child & Youth Friendly Cities initiative.

Appendices

Appendix 1 - Play spaces theory and age appropriate activity guide

Play types	Description
Cognitive play	Include activities that challenge the intellect; games of strategy exploration and observation, and games that use and develop language.
Creative play	Creative play includes sand play, play in dirt, play with loose and found objects, play with art materials, making music, cubby building and construction activities.
Social/dramatic play	Social play includes role-play, imaginative play, small and large group activities, "hanging around" and talking, and traditional games.
Physical active play	Active play includes running, hanging, climbing, experiencing height, agility/gymnastics activities, sliding, jumping, balancing, swinging, crawling, bouncing, spinning, rocking, ball games, skipping and perceptual motor activity ¹⁹ . Age appropriate opportunities for risk taking.

Age appropriate activity guide

Age group	Play space activity
Toddlers (approx. 0–3yrs)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Play centres around the carer • Crawling • Running and rolling down gentle slopes • Climbing on very low level changes • Gentle rocking • Manipulation of tactile materials such as sand • Interaction with natural elements and wildlife (eg birds)
Junior children (approx. 3–7yrs)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Play is more child directed mainly with adults in attendance • Climbing • Running • Agility skills • Skipping and ball play • Settings for dramatic play and/or imaginative use of loose materials, eg sand , water, vegetation • Collecting things • Small-scale areas for riding bicycles and skateboards and mastering other skills

¹⁹ Play Category information taken from 'Palmerston City Council Playground Strategy' September 2010, SLI consulting group – based on The Playgrounds and Recreation Association of Victoria (PRAV) "Play Area Development Policy for Local Government in Victoria" (June 2011).

<p>Older children (approx. 8–12yrs)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Highly varied play, potentially unsupervised • Desire for physical challenges • Spaces for riding bicycles and skateboards and mastering other skills • Social gathering spaces and places for games with made up rules • More complicated manipulation of the natural environment
<hr/>	
<p>Youth (approx. 13–24)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Great desire to master new skills and games • Testing physical challenge • Competition • Thrill seeking • Parading and socialising • Mucking around • “Play” on equipment not designed for play or use of play equipment in ways it was not designed for²⁰

²⁰ Adapted from ‘The Royal Parks Play Strategy 2015-2020’.

Appendix 2 - Play spaces by category

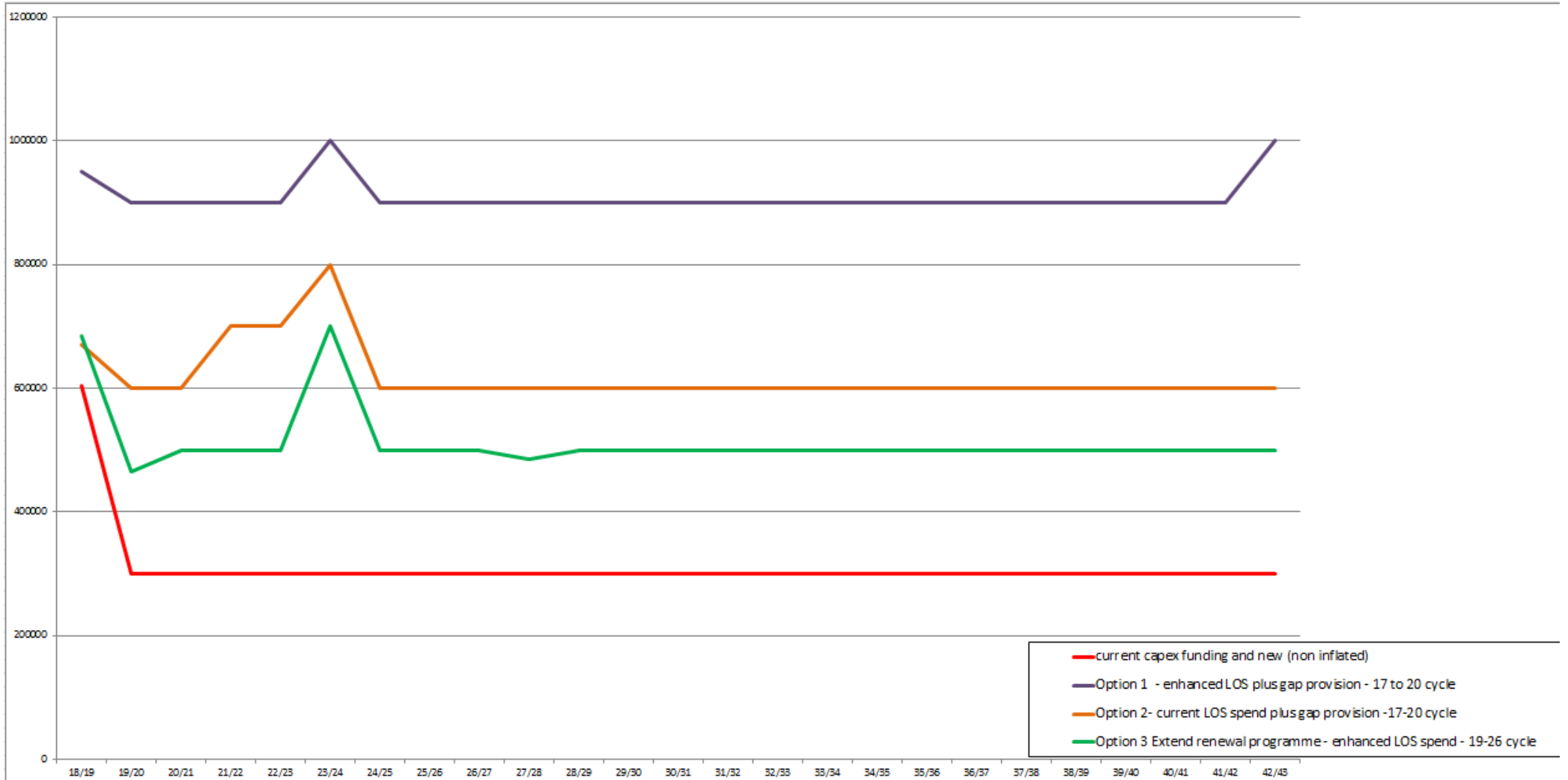
Destination play space	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Wellington Botanic Garden
Community play space	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Frank Kitts ParkWaitangi ParkGrasslees ReserveWillowbank ParkChurton Park and Play AreaNewlands Park (proposed)Johnsonville Memorial ParkKhandallah Park/Johnsonville Park Play AreaCummings ParkNairnville ParkWadestown Play Centre Play AreaMakara School Play AreaKarori ParkBen Burn ParkFreyberg Pool & Beach Play AreaCentral ParkBrooklyn Community Centre Play AreaCarrara ParkWakefield Park (proposed)Shorland ParkKilbirnie ParkMonorgan Road Play AreaChurchill ParkChelsea Street Play AreaMiramar Park (proposed)
Neighbourhood play space	<ul style="list-style-type: none">All others

Appendix 3

Advisory groups and useful information

WCC Accessibility Advisory Group
Public Health Association and academic institutions
Autism New Zealand
CCS Disability Action Group
Playcentre
Websites and online forums (eg citywrigglers)

Suburb area (stats nz areas)	Current population of 0-14 yr olds	Predicted population of 0-14yr olds by 2036
Highest relative growth (top 3)		
Wellington Central	95	598 (530%)
Te Aro	358	1562 (337%)
Mount Cook	468	842 (80%)
Highest growth in number		
Te Aro	358	1562 (+1205)
Grenada Village - Paparangi - Woodridge	1267	2074 (+ 807)
Tawa - Grenada North - Takapu Valley	3131	3790 (+ 659)
Highest child population		
Tawa/Grenada Nth/Takapu Valley	3131	3790
Karori	3161	2885
Johnsonville	2203	2426
Highest relative decline in number		
Northland/Wilton	943	582 (38%)
Wadestown	734	473 (35%)
Southgate - Houghton Bay - Melrose	791	554 (30%)
Highest decline in number		
Kaiwharawhara/Khandallah/Broadmeadows	2186	1532 (- 654)
Island Bay/Owhiro Bay	1908	1460 (- 448)
Miramar/Maupuia	2383	1946 (- 437)



5. Public Excluded

Resolution to Exclude the Public:

THAT the City Strategy Committee :

Pursuant to the provisions of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987, exclude the public from the following part of the proceedings of this meeting namely:

General subject of the matter to be considered	Reasons for passing this resolution in relation to each matter	Ground(s) under section 48(1) for the passing of this resolution
5.1 Health and Safety Report	7(2)(b)(ii) The withholding of the information is necessary to protect information where the making available of the information would be likely unreasonably to prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied or who is the subject of the information.	s48(1)(a) That the public conduct of this item would be likely to result in the disclosure of information for which good reason for withholding would exist under Section 7.
