
**OUR CAPITAL SPACES – DRAFT OPEN SPACES AND
RECREATION FRAMEWORK - APPROVAL FOR
CONSULTATION**

1. Purpose of report

This paper seeks Councillor's agreement:

- (a) to the Our Capital Spaces draft consultation document (appendix 1) and
- (b) that officers engage with the community on the Council's plan for open spaces and recreation.

This paper also outlines the rationale for Our Capital Spaces.

2. Executive summary

Our Capital Spaces provides a set of outcomes and areas of focus that build on the work achieved since the 1998 Capital Spaces Strategy. While that document focused on establishing and expanding the physical layout of Wellington's open spaces, Our Capital Spaces focuses on the role of open space and recreation areas. This includes getting more people active, outdoors and using our great spaces, aligning our open spaces and our recreational activities, and protecting our natural environment.

The framework will be used to determine investment priorities during the annual planning and long-term planning processes. It gives the flexibility to innovate and invest across open spaces and recreation as a whole, including an ability to consider the most cost-effective way to realise the outcomes, for example, in some cases partnering rather than direct investment.

Our Living City highlights that it is the combination of ease of access, variety, and proximity to nature that helps make Wellington such a great place to live. Our Capital Spaces lays the foundation for this with a framework designed to celebrate, use and protect our open spaces and recreation areas.

Knowing where the attractions are and configuring them so that people with busy modern lifestyles can conveniently access them, will mean that more people use them. Our open spaces and recreation areas also generate wider economic benefits.

Officers have done some research and talked to people. However, we don't have a licence on great ideas so this consultation document is important. We want to hear from our communities about what we could do better, whether we have the balance right and whether there may be smarter ways of doing things.

Our Capital Spaces suggests some new actions and the expansion of some existing actions. These may require additional Council funding over time subject to Annual Plan or Long Term Plan processes, as well as investigation of other funding options, but firstly we need to test our priorities with the community.

3. Recommendations

Officers recommend that the Strategy and Policy Committee:

1. *Receive the information.*
2. *Note that Our Capital Spaces (2013) draft incorporates refreshes and refocuses Capital Spaces (1998) and Recreation Strategy (2003).*
3. *Note that Our Capital Spaces is a key deliverable for Our Living City.*
4. *Agree that the draft outcomes of Our Capital Spaces for consultation should be:*
 - *Getting everyone active and healthy*
 - *Protecting our birds, nature, streams, and landscapes*
 - *Contributing to Wellington's outstanding quality of life*
 - *Doing it together.*
5. *Agree that our draft focus areas for consultation will be:*
 - *telling more people about our great assets*
 - *supporting sport and increasing participation, and being flexible in how we do it*
 - *maximising the usage of our spaces by increasing or diversifying the range of activities available and their appeal to a wider audience*
 - *designing future spaces to fit with the needs of busy modern lives*
 - *protecting and valuing our nature and imbedding its contribution to our city, economy and quality of life*
 - *promoting partnerships where Council shares responsibility, design and decision making with the local community.*
6. *Agree to consult on Our Capital Spaces the draft open spaces and recreation framework for Wellington: 2013-23.*
7. *Agree that officers report back to Committee on the outcome of consultation and engagement and present a final consultation document to Council for approval on 28 August 2013.*
8. *Note that no additional budget is being requested at this stage, while we test our priorities with the community. Any additional funding to implement Our Capital Spaces would be subject to normal Annual Plan or Long Term Plan processes. Officers will also investigate other funding options*

9. *Agree to delegate to the Chief Executive, the Sports and Events Portfolio Leader, and the Natural Environment Portfolio Leader, the authority to amend the proposed Capital Spaces Framework to include any amendments agreed by the Committee and any associated minor consequential edits.*

4. Background

In May 2012, officers presented a scoping paper to SPC on the rationale for an Open Spaces framework. The feedback from Councillors was that the framework needed to give tangible actions that provide direction and action for our open spaces. The direction needed to be broad and include actions that would take into account the diverse range of activities and interests in open spaces.

Given Councillor's feedback, officers reviewed our approach to open spaces and recreation. Officers concluded that combining the Open Spaces and Recreational Strategies would ensure that the outcomes sought in both strategies would be more closely aligned. Our Capital Spaces is simpler and easier to understand, and provides a clear mandate for agreeing and prioritising investment decisions for open spaces and recreation.

Officers also reviewed and identified the most important actions to focus on from other key plans including the Biodiversity Action Plan, Reserve Management Plans, Playgrounds Policy, and Open Space Access Plan. As part of this, officers ran a workshop in November 2012 to ask for Councillor views on their priorities for open spaces and recreation.

Concurrently, the Council was developing Our Living City which includes consideration of open spaces and recreation. Recognising and aligning the outcomes and areas of focus in Our Capital Spaces and in Our Living City has been a key part of the work. This work also strongly connects with work on Our Volunteer Capital, an action plan to grow the number of volunteers in the City, including community partnerships.

Evidence - The City's needs are evolving

Officers have listened to Wellingtonians through a range of focus groups. Some clear and consistent messages have been provided:

- open spaces need to be easy to find, fun to use, and appeal to a wide range of people
- our open spaces should not become a best kept secret
- people want better information about what is available, both online and through better signage
- people want to understand the skill and fitness levels needed for some activities
- struggling clubs and sporting facilities want to be able to enter into discussions with Council early to identify clear action plans
- people have many competing priorities and want to be able to fit in using our open spaces with other activities during the day

- different cultures want greater involvement in open spaces, including the promotion of cultural art and heritage (for example art displays and information on the cultural significance of spaces)
- growing the numbers of native plants and animal species and protecting key waterways and landscapes are increasingly important to people, particularly as our population grows
- community groups are becoming increasingly involved in our open spaces
- open spaces need to increasingly cater for older people as the proportion of people in our population aged over 65 grows
- people very clearly value nature in the city and its proximity to where they live.

5. Discussion

What is Our Capital Spaces?

The maps attached as appendix 2 show the large extent of public open spaces around Wellington. Our Capital Spaces is a proposed framework and plan for prioritising and delivering open space and recreation outcomes. These outcomes are:

- Getting everyone active and healthy
- Protecting our birds, nature, streams, and landscapes
- Contributing to Wellington's outstanding quality of life
- Doing it together.

Our Capital Spaces focuses on outcomes rather than being too prescriptive. This will allow the Council to be flexible and agile to ensure that we realise the full benefits that our open spaces and recreation areas can bring.

The outcomes focus on getting people active, maximising the value of our open spaces and recreation areas, and increasing our partnership with the Community. The outcomes are supported by actions that demonstrate how we will achieve each outcome and how the community will be affected.

What is new and different?

The process of reviewing and combining Capital Spaces (1998) and the Recreation Strategy (2003) has been evolutionary rather than revolutionary. There has been a lot of work done in these areas, much has been achieved, and we are continually learning as we go.

Our Capital Spaces will bring about a fresh approach to our open spaces and recreation areas that:

- focuses on telling more people about our great assets and the sporting and recreation activities on offer
- increases participation and is flexible in how we achieve this
- seeks to maximise the usage of our open spaces by increasing or diversifying the range of activities available and their appeal to a wider audience
- designs future open spaces to fit with the needs of busy modern lives
- protects and values our nature and imbeds its contribution to our city economy and quality of life
- promotes working in partnership.

The attached consultation document lists focus areas and actions that outline what and how the framework can be implemented. Our Capital Spaces is a core component of Our Living City and will leverage off that work programme.

Strategic direction

Having a single flexible agile framework improves decision making and value for money

Our Capital Spaces (2013) combines Capital Spaces (1998) and the Recreation strategy (2003). We have done this for two main reasons. Firstly, the outcomes are complementary and it makes sense to have a single framework to guide decision making. Secondly, it allows Council to better compare investment decisions and explore different ways of meeting our outcomes.

A key driver is getting the best value for ratepayers. The Council has already invested in our open spaces and it is important that people know about them and use them. Increasing participation is a key theme and it is reflected in our outcomes.

Our Capital Spaces provide a strategic context for the delivery of related policies

A key issue is how Our Capital Spaces relate to our existing policies including the Playgrounds Policy, Reserve management plans, Open Space Access Plan and other plans/policies that contribute to this plan. These plans/policies were reviewed and have informed the development of Our Capital Spaces. Our Capital Spaces will now provide direction for these policies.

How the framework will be implemented

The best way to explain this is through an example. If a playground is coming up for renewal officers would consider the best way of keeping people active and healthy. Officers would assess whether the needs of the community had changed and what the best way of meeting those needs might be. This could lead to the redevelopment of the park to appeal to a wider range of ages, where the community helps with the design. Alternatively, if use is low but the community identifies another use for the space, for example, a community garden, then Officers would work with the community to facilitate that outcome. An example of where this has worked well is at Jay Street Community Garden.

Partnerships are fundamental to our success but these take time to develop, they must be enduring, and built on trust

The Council wants to enter into enduring partnerships. To get something we need to give something. Some partnerships will require us to devolve accountability and responsibility to others. It will mean listening to communities and implementing their ideas. We need to be clear and up front about roles and responsibilities.

Working with our clubs

Participation in sport and recreation is important to our City. Council has invested in sports fields to increase usage and meet the need for good quality playing surfaces. An increasingly diverse range of sports is being played and

there has been some shift away from the traditional club based model. Some clubs and groups are thriving, while others are not.

Our Capital Spaces proposes that the Council work to identify the clubs that are starting to struggle and enter into discussions with them early about the options. Options may include advice to help them turn their club around, or assistance to consolidate with other clubs to spread their costs and keep them viable. This early intervention model worked well with the Mornington Golf Club at Berhampore.

Community facilities

Investing in and managing community facilities is a related but broader issue. The Community Facilities Policy addresses the provision and distribution of community facilities, including pools and recreation centres. Our Capital Spaces focuses on the outcomes and outputs of the facilities, including increasing participation, supporting clubs, and facilitating partnering to get the best value out of the relevant facilities.

Benefits

Widening the use and flexibility of parks and open spaces

Our Capital Spaces provides a framework to enable consideration of the benefits of any investment and to prioritise where future money is spent, how it is spent, and what the best returns are.

The framework will help us invest smartly in our parks and recreation areas so that they appeal to a wider range of people and are more flexible in the uses they can provide.

Our Capital Spaces contributes to our economy

Appealing to a wider range of people will benefit our economy. Council has had many discussions about the relationship between the environment and the economy. As evidenced through Our Living City and Destination Wellington our wonderful open spaces and recreation facilities help drive the economy. People live and work here because of them. They get people outside, active and interacting with business e.g. retail. As part of a recent study on the economic impact of Makara Peak Mountain Bike Park, research findings (qualitative and quantitative) suggests that \$450,000 pa spending in Karori is attributable to the Park.

Expectations and costs

Expectations are high and continue to grow but that comes with a cost

It is important that we meet any public expectations that are set by adopting Our Capital Spaces. It is important that we are upfront about that. Our approach seeks to leverage partnerships, increase use of existing open spaces and recreation areas, and identify where low or baseline funding can be extended to incorporate new or expanded actions.

However, there are new activities and expanded activities that will require resourcing which have been identified and that are currently not planned for.

They do not have to be met now, but Councillors need to understand that investment will be required to deliver the outcomes in Our Capital Spaces.

Funding for the maintenance and development of the open space and recreation network currently comes primarily from rates funding and user charges. Implementation of this plan will require exploration of alternative forms of revenue and capital funding to support current funding, including:

- Opportunities for generating revenue income, such as licensing, sponsorship, and activity fees. This will be developed through the future preparation of a concessions policy
- Developing partnerships with outside organisations similar to the "Growing Graduates" programme with Victoria University
- Establishing new trusts or foundations to develop long term funding streams for park maintenance and/ or development with the ability to attract external funding to support Council funding
- Increasing support for voluntary and community involvement through training and support programmes and provision of grants
- Restricted funds to support future reserve land acquisition.

5.1 Consultation and Engagement

Officers have undertaken focus group session, research and held officer workshops to help inform the draft.

The draft Framework will go out for public consultation between 28 May and 9 July 2013. Council's Strategy and Policy Committee will hear oral submissions on 1 August 2013. There will be a public meeting and public workshops to discuss the draft framework.

Officers will report back to the Strategy and Policy Committee on 22 August 2013 and seek final Council approval on 28 August 2013.

5.2 Financial considerations

At this stage no additional funding is being proposed. As part of Our Capital Spaces, officers will investigate the potential for funding to be provided through alternative models, including partnerships and philanthropic trusts. Any additional Council funding will be subject to normal Annual Plan or Long Term Plan processes.

5.3 Climate change impacts and considerations

Our Capital Spaces is part of Our Living City which incorporates the Council Climate Change Work Programme. This draft seeks to preserve and enhance our natural environment which contributes to the Councils climate change objectives.

5.4 Long-term plan considerations

At this stage no additional funding is being proposed. Any additional Council funding will be subject to normal Annual Plan or Long Term Plan processes.

Contact Officer: Mark Jones, Senior Policy Advisor, Policy.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

1) Strategic fit / Strategic outcome

Wellington 2040 Strategy: Smart Capital is the Council's overall strategy for ensuring our city's success in the future. The four goals it outlines – people-centred city, connected city, eco city and dynamic central city. Our Capital Spaces ensures that Wellington 2040's goals are translated into sector management plans and other policies that contain a large amount of detail for addressing local priorities across open spaces and recreation.

2) LTP/Annual Plan reference and long term financial impact

Our Capital Spaces suggests some new actions and the expansion of some existing actions. These may require additional Council funding over time subject to Annual Plan or Long Term Plan processes. As part of Our Capital Spaces, officers will investigate the potential for funding to be provided through alternative models, including partnerships and philanthropic trusts.

3) Treaty of Waitangi considerations

Officers will closely consult with mana whenua to ensure that any Treaty of Waitangi implications that arise from the framework are adequately addressed.

4) Decision-making Under the Council's Significance policy, this framework has been assessed as being of moderate (and not high) significance.

5) Consultation

a) General consultation

Officers have run focus group sessions, consulted with the Council's advisory groups, other local authorities and other organisations that have an interest in our open spaces and recreation areas, including Porirua City Council, Hutt City Council, Greater Wellington Regional Council, Trails Alliance, Forest and Bird, Department of Conservation, Sport Wellington and Adventure Wellington.

b) Consultation with Maori

Mana whenua have deep spiritual and cultural ties to many of our open spaces. Officers have therefore engaged with Port Nicholson Block Settlement Trust and Ngati Toa in developing this draft framework. A Maori-specific focus group was also consulted while in the research phase of developing this framework.

6) Legal implications

Council has legal obligations on open spaces, including under the Resource Management Act 1991 and Reserves Act 1977. Officers will ensure that actions resulting from this framework are carried out consistently with relevant legislation.

7) Consistency with existing policy

The framework will drive changes to policies and reserve management plans on our open spaces and recreation areas. However, there are no significant issues of inconsistency.

OUR CAPITAL SPACES

DRAFT



AN OPEN SPACES AND RECREATION
FRAMEWORK FOR WELLINGTON: 2013–23
OUR LIVING CITY

Absolutely

POSITIVELY

ME HEKE KI PŌNEKE
WELLINGTON CITY COUNCIL **Wellington**

section 1– summary

Our plan for the next 10 years – what is different?

Our primary goal is to get more people active and enjoying the outdoors. We can do this in some simple and effective ways. We don't want our open spaces to become Wellington's best-kept secret. We will make sure people know what's available to them by developing smart and easily accessed information to tell them what's on offer.

We want to invest smartly in our parks and recreation areas so that they appeal to a wider range of people. We will focus on short accessible walking and biking tracks and well-located parks that provide a range of activities.

We plan to prioritise the development of well-located hubs that contain multiple recreational facilities in the same space. Recreational and community hubs enable people to play in a range of ways, across a range of times, and to connect with a wider community. They also have the potential to attract more local, regional and national events.

We want to connect with and protect nature in our own backyard. We will bring more of the important species of plants, birds and lizards into our city and daily lives. This will help us show off Wellington's natural attractions, including making Wellington a premier walking, cycling and events destination.

We need to manage our open spaces in partnership with the wider community. At a local level, we want to help community groups to share the responsibility for looking after our parks. In return, local communities will have a greater say on how the park will work. We will continue to partner with mana whenua, other Councils, schools and sports clubs too.

We have worked hard to establish a good, consistent level of service, but people expect more and needs change.



WE WANT TO REORGANISE OUR TRACKS, PARKS AND PLAYGROUNDS SO THAT THEY APPEAL TO A WIDER RANGE OF PEOPLE.

Our Capital Spaces gives us the flexibility to meet these changing needs. This plan will ensure decisions on funding, consider and prioritise areas where demand is high, and where activities contribute to the outcomes being sought.

This will mean we will have to do less of some things and it is important to be upfront about that. Examples of the things that could change are:

- limiting investment in parks that do not appeal to a wide range of people or do not have important roles for protecting nature. This might mean handing some of those parks to community groups to maintain. This has worked well in some places already (for example, the Jay Street Community Garden, see case study 1 on page 16).
- when parks are scheduled to be upgraded and where there is low use, we will work with communities to consider how to get the best value from the space.
- changing our focus from developing some of the longer and more remote tracks identified in the Council's Open Spaces Access Plan, to tracks that incorporate and join shorter tracks around the suburbs.



section 2– introduction

What are ‘Our Capital Spaces’?

Our Capital Spaces are our open spaces – areas of land or water with recreational, ecological, landscape, cultural and/or historic value which provide public access, and our recreation areas, including pools and recreation centres.

Why are Our Capital Spaces important?

The open spaces and natural areas of Wellington City are a key part of what makes Wellington unique. These are well used and valued by a huge number of Wellingtonians and visitors.

These open spaces and recreation areas are vital to our lifestyle, our environment and our economy. Increasingly, cities world-wide are competing for the economic benefits derived from attracting talented workers, visitors and hosting events. Good quality open spaces and recreation opportunities will make Wellington more attractive. Through our open spaces and recreation areas, we connect with our friends, neighbours and meet new people.

Open spaces protect important natural habitats and functions. Having clean water,

growing food, and caring for native plants and animals are values which run deep within the many cultures of our city. We are a sporting city and our recreational facilities provide diverse ways to get active.

Why is a plan needed?

In 1998, Council endorsed the Capital Spaces Strategy which focused on expanding the area of open spaces including the Outer Green Belt.

In 2003, Council approved the Recreation Strategy which focused on providing:

- a diverse range and an abundance of quality recreation and leisure activities that are easily accessed and affordable
- increased participation in recreation and leisure activities to enhance overall health and wellbeing



- year-round recreation activities and events to contribute to the economic prosperity and identity of Wellington
- a wide range of recreational opportunities in our open spaces that do not compromise environmental values
- good public health by encouraging health and fitness.

The Capital Spaces Strategy and the Recreation Strategy seek similar outcomes which overlap. The Council has reviewed these Strategies and looked at how open spaces are being used, and consider that these plans should be combined and updated.

How will this new plan improve our open spaces and recreation opportunities, and how did we identify the outcomes sought in the plan?

Our new plan focuses on getting more people using, relaxing in and enjoying our open spaces and recreation areas, including our sporting and recreational facilities.

This plan provides details on how the Council will make decisions on our open spaces over the next 10 years and beyond.

To get more people using, relaxing in and enjoying our open spaces and recreation areas, the new plan outlines a number of outcomes that we feel Wellingtonians would like to see achieved. We have based our outcomes on the expectations expressed in public surveys, on information provided by focus groups

and on information gained through talking to other organisations. This told us that:

- people have many competing priorities, and more often do shorter activities (of up to three hours) rather than longer activities on our open spaces
- people often have limited knowledge of the extent of opportunities available on different spaces, so more easily accessible information is needed to raise awareness



- being able to conveniently and affordably access areas, sport and recreation is important for increasing use
- people want more flexibility to do a growing range of activities at different times on sports areas, parks and other open spaces that are well-located for communities
- different cultures want greater diversity and involvement in open spaces, including the promotion of cultural art and heritage
- growing the numbers of native plants and animal species, and protecting key waterways and landscapes is increasingly important to people, particularly as our population grows
- communities are continuing to become increasingly involved in our open spaces
- we need to increasingly cater for older people as the proportion of people in our population aged over 65 grows.

We now want to engage more broadly with you to see whether we have got it right. Your feedback will guide the open spaces and recreation areas of the future.





**THE OPEN SPACES IN OUR
CAPITAL CITY ARE WELL USED
AND VALUED BY A HUGE
NUMBER OF WELLINGTONIANS
AND VISITORS.**

section 3 – our capital spaces (the plan)

What outcomes are we seeking and what will we focus on?

The Plan is a framework which will help the Council to make good decisions. Specifically, four outcomes and a number of areas of focus are proposed to guide decisions around funding and the use of open spaces and recreation areas. We can achieve these outcomes in many different ways. For example, by encouraging diversity of use, supporting increased participation and ensuring better use of our assets.

OUTCOME 1: GETTING EVERYONE ACTIVE AND HEALTHY

Focus: Awareness

We want to increase the use of recreational open spaces to get even more people physically active in our city.

Our open spaces can sometimes be our best-kept secret. Technology can help us spread the word about the great opportunities these spaces provide.

We are developing smart and easily accessed information to tell people about what's on offer. This includes smart-phone applications, interactive mapping of walking tracks and cycle ways, and

working with online 'meet-up' groups, such as Adventure Wellington, that plan regular small-scale events in our open spaces.

Focus: Supporting sport and increasing participation

Being close to and enjoying sport is important to Wellingtonians. We are playing a greater range of sports than ever before and participation is changing. For example, the numbers of casual participants turning up and playing sport is growing. While many sports clubs are thriving, others are struggling to retain membership.

We want to ensure that we support these changes so that sport continues to thrive in the city and participation increases. To do this we will engage early with sports clubs to provide support. This could be by linking clubs with other sports or activity based clubs to, where possible, share facilities and expertise. Where relevant, we will encourage sports clubs to broaden their community role and / or deepen partnerships with businesses.

We are also committed to ensuring that the Council's user fees continue to be affordable and will encourage participation in sport and recreation through targeted programmes.



Focus: Community and Neighbourhood spaces

We plan to focus on the development of well-located parks with a range of activities catering for the whole community. For example, a family would be able to visit a park where one child can cycle, another child can play sport, and they can all have a picnic in the same visit at the same location.

Through the development of local reserve management plans, we have identified some priority areas for multiple-use development, and will focus on Hataitai Park, Alex Moore Park in Johnsonville (see case study 4 on page 16), Newlands Park, Wakefield Park in Berhampore, and as the city continues to grow in the north, we will also focus on Grenada North Park.

As we develop the Suburban Reserve Management Plan, we would like to expand this model of providing multiple recreational facilities across the city.

We will continue to encourage and support local communities to get involved and look after local neighbourhood spaces, for example, by establishing community gardens or setting up community planting groups.

Do you support the concept of investing in recreational and community spaces with a range of activities?

Will our suggestions help make it easy for you to get active?
Do you have other suggestions around getting active?

WE'LL ENSURE THAT PEOPLE FROM ALL BACKGROUNDS AND INCOMES CAN ENJOY OPEN SPACES AND RECREATION.

Focus: Providing accessible walking and cycling tracks

Many people have limited time and lots of choices so the Council plans to develop short, easily accessible walking and cycling tracks close to where people live. If you agree the priorities (determined from our research) would be:

- short link tracks to complete the Skyline Track between Johnsonville, Tawa and Churton Park
- the Harbour Escarpment Track between Woodridge and Ngauranga, providing a range of short tracks for residents of Newlands, Woodridge and Paparangi.

This would mean that work on the coastal track between Owhiro Bay and Makara, and the connection between Otari and Makara would have a lower priority.

Focus: Equity and universal access

We will ensure that people from all backgrounds and incomes can enjoy open spaces and recreation. We will reduce barriers that prevent people from participating in activities and using facilities by incorporating their views in the Plan and engaging with them on implementation.

OUTCOME 2: PROTECTING OUR BIRDS, NATURE, STREAMS AND LANDSCAPES

Focus: Restoring local habitats and encouraging native birds into communities

We will plan, manage and develop open spaces as an integrated ecological and recreational network.

The plan is to restore more ecological areas throughout the city and encourage native birds and other important species into every community. We will do this by



continuing to grow the Council's pest management and native planting programme. For example, as part of Our Living City an impressive target of planting two million native trees by 2020 has been set.

We will also focus on creating a safe habitat around Zealandia for the native birds flying in and out of there.

Focus: Identifying important landscapes

We will protect and promote important historical sites. We will also identify landscapes to protect and/or acquire that can contribute to achieving the outcomes sought in Our Capital Spaces, including meeting the growth needs of the city.

If you agree, the priority areas identified for protection and/or acquisition would include:

- Watts Peninsula (working with the Crown)
- Belmont Gully (northern growth development contribution)
- the Outer Green Belt between Johnsonville and Tawa (through acquisition and easements)
- former Town Belt land held by the Crown.

Do you support the focus on local tracks that are accessible to local communities?

Do you think we need to continue protecting and/or acquiring new land to expand the network of open spaces as the City grows?



Do you agree with our focus on developing, celebrating and promoting these natural attractions?

OUTCOME 3: CONTRIBUTING TO WELLINGTON'S OUTSTANDING QUALITY OF LIFE

The open spaces and natural areas of Wellington City are hugely important in defining who we are and our sense of place. They help make us like nowhere else on earth, and are an important consideration in people's decision to move here and stay here.

Our open spaces provide us with places to be active, to socialise, to relax, to play, to look at, and to enjoy.

We want to:

- develop the conservation and educational role of our key natural attractions with innovative projects – for instance, the proposed children's garden in the Wellington Botanic Garden
- build on the reputation of Wellington City and region as a mountain biking and walking destination
- secure regional and national tournaments, and events that use our parks, outdoor spaces and recreation areas, such as pools and recreation centres.

We want to make sure that these attractions continue to be well promoted by the Wellington City Council and our external partners, including Positively Wellington Tourism and Greater Wellington.



THE OPEN SPACES AND NATURAL AREAS OF WELLINGTON CITY ARE HUGELY IMPORTANT IN DEFINING WHO WE ARE.

OUTCOME 4: DOING IT TOGETHER

Focus: Local partnerships

The Council can't do everything to implement this Plan alone. Partnerships with organisations such as Wellington Zoo, Zealandia, Basin Reserve Trust, and Westpac Stadium are critical for our success. Community groups are also asking for more involvement in planning and managing our open spaces. Since 1998, the number of community groups involved in restoration and track building has grown from four to 71. As well, many sporting groups manage facilities and sporting activities. Examples of great community partnerships include: the Makara Peak Mountain Bike Park, the Berhampore Golf Course, community gardens and orchards in public open spaces, and the restoration of Trelissick Park.

Our focus is to encourage more partnerships like these by:

- establishing community gardens and restoration projects in every community that wants one
- expanding the shared management model of sporting facilities, particularly where this involves several clubs or sporting codes using one area
- working with schools to better use their outdoor areas outside school hours. We already have some great examples of this with the development of community playgrounds at Amesbury and Westpark Schools, and the artificial sportsfields at Wellington College and St Patrick's College Wellington.



Focus: Regional partnerships

We recognise that we are part of a regional open-space and recreation network that crosses territorial boundaries. We want to ensure consistent standards and complementary experiences for users across the region. We propose several regional initiatives including:

- continue working across the region to ensure equitable access, fees, and levels of service
- developing Spicer Forest Recreation Park with Porirua City Council to provide an extensive outdoor recreation destination for activities such as walking, biking, dog walking and horse riding
- working with the Crown to establish a heritage park on Watts Peninsula to protect and showcase the important Māori and military history of the site and allow recreational use of the area
- a regional approach to future growth in outdoor sport by developing a long-term plan for future sportsfield development between Kapiti, the Hutt Valley, Porirua and Wellington.

Focus: Strong relationships with Māori

We will encourage Treaty partners and the wider Māori community to determine how this plan can be implemented, including:

- working in partnership with mana whenua to manage the Town Belt, and co-managing reserve land vested in mana whenua (for example, Oruaiti Reserve).

Do you support more community involvement and ownership in the open-space network? Do you have ideas about how this can best be encouraged?



WE WILL ENCOURAGE TREATY PARTNERS AND THE WIDER MĀORI COMMUNITY TO DETERMINE HOW THIS PLAN CAN BE IMPLEMENTED.



case studies



Newlands/Paparangi community collaboration

In the Newlands area a number of groups are working closely together and with Council to achieve a shared objective – the enhancement of their local reserves for biodiversity and recreation, for the enjoyment of all. Seton Nossiter Park Working Group, Woodridge Planters and Nga Hau e Wha o Paparangi all have strong, supportive working relationships with each other. These groups also work with the Jay Street Community Garden, which houses a native plant nursery run by the community. Plants from this project are planted back into the local reserves. They also support local schools and retirement homes to get involved with the restoration of their local reserves.

Together these groups share resources while maintaining their individual identities, and they include all the wider community on many varied levels. They are a great example of community collaboration.

Friends of Tawa Bush

The Friends of Tawa Bush Reserves Inc. is a local community based environmental care group. This group was formed to promote and enhance the conservation and long-term preservation of bush reserves situated in the Tawa Basin. To achieve this, this group liaises with the Wellington City Council. Formed in 2002, the group has over 50 family and individual members.

In the past they have worked on projects such as repairing boundary fencing, signage,

track development and maintenance, pest plant control, possum control and tree planting. Currently the group carry out weeding, planting, track development and maintenance in six reserves in the Tawa area.

Since the formation of the group, and especially the possum control programme, there has been a notable improvement in the condition of the forests and an increase in the range and numbers of native birds.



Berhampore Golf Course

The Mornington Golf Club, based at Berhampore Golf Course has moved to the former Berhampore Bowling Club building on Duppa Street. One bowling green has been converted to a practice golf green and one green has been retained for bowls. In addition, it is home to the Special Olympics bocce team – a cross between petanque and bowls. Since their move, club membership has doubled.

The club has a Memorandum of Understanding to work in partnership with the Council and assist with some tasks associated with the maintenance and running of the Golf Course.



Alex Moore Park Sporting hub

Council has been working with five sports clubs (Olympic Harriers, Johnsonville Cricket, Johnsonville Softball, North Wellington Junior Football and North Wellington Senior Football) based at Alex Moore Park since about 2009. Collectively these clubs have over 2000 members.

As with many sporting organisations in New Zealand, these clubs have experienced rising utility and maintenance costs, poor utilisation of facilities, increased administration and fewer volunteers.

The clubs have formed an entity called “Alex Moore Park Sport and Community Inc.” and have a vision to fund a new purpose-built shared facility at Alex Moore Park – commonly referred to as a “sportville” model.

Council is planning to construct an artificial sportsfield, a perimeter walking and cycling track, biodiversity and amenity landscaping, and additional car parks during 2013/14, to compliment this facility

The Wellington Mountain Bike Club – Brooklyn Trail Builders

Brooklyn Trail Builders were established in 2010 and work closely with the Council to enhance recreational activities and assist in the habitat restoration work within Polhill Reserve and Te Kopahou Reserves. These include:

- building multi use tracks and mountain bike priority tracks
- maintaining built tracks
- assisting with enhancing the habitat within the area including weed removal, rubbish removal and tree planting

The club has already completed the 3.8km Transient Track between Brooklyn and Aro Street, and will shortly start work on two more tracks in the area.



Oruaiti Reserve – partnership with Mana Whenua

On the 4th August 2009 the Port Nicholson Block (Taranaki Whanui ki Te Upoko o Te Ika) Claims Settlement Act was enacted vesting Point Dorset Recreation Reserve in Port Nicholson Block Settlement Trust. Wellington City Council was appointed to co-manage the land under the Reserves Act.

Over the next three years, both parties worked closely together to develop the management plan and later the development plan for the reserve.

The 10 hectare reserve on the western side of Wellington Harbour entrance has great significance to Iwi as the site of Oruaiti Pa. This defensive

Pa was later used by the NZ Defence force as a military base and coastal defence site. The challenges were to develop a plan for public use that protected the ecological and cultural values of the site and allow for increased visitation.

The completion of the redevelopment in late 2011 brought the whole community together to celebrate the new relationship and the opening of a unique reserve. The final award winning design has exceeded expectations, raised the profile and use of the reserve, enhanced the new partnership, and is a model for the wider reserves network.



section 4 – outcomes sought

N = New initiative

E = existing

Ex = expand existing programme

Outcome 1 – Getting everyone active and healthy

PRIORITIES	ACTIONS
<p>Grow awareness of play, sport and recreation opportunities</p>	<p>Develop smart and easily accessed information, including smart phone applications, interactive mapping of walking and cycle ways (My Parx) and implement regionally (Ex)</p> <p>Implement integrated and consistent signs for parks, sport and recreation facilities (Ex). In particular:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Road signs for major facilities • Walking and cycling access from the CBD to the Town Belt and inner suburbs
<p>Provide recreation and sport facilities that meet the needs of communities</p>	<p>Provide playing and training facilities for sport as part of a coordinated regional network. Particular priorities for investment and/or support are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • complete the programme to install artificial sportsfields throughout the network (E) • work with the key sporting groups to develop Hataitai Park, Wakefield Park and Alex Moore Park as recreational and sporting hubs (Ex) • work with the Wellington Hockey Association on the redevelopment of the National Hockey Stadium (N) • Complete the Great Harbour Way walking and cycling route (E) • Identify any sports areas or facilities that are under-used and can be used for other purposes (E) • Develop the Spicer Forest Recreation Park in conjunction with Porirua City Council (N) • Review the potential of Watts Peninsula as a recreation and heritage park in conjunction with the Crown (N) • Develop a long-term master plan for Te Kopahou Reserve and links to the rural south-west peninsula (Ex) • Develop ocean sports and recreation programmes and promote opportunities (E)
<p>Provide a wide range of quality recreation and sporting opportunities that are easily accessed and affordable</p>	<p>Continue to ensure that the Council's user fees are affordable and encourage participation in sport and recreation through targeted programmes</p> <p>Ensure a consistent regional approach to fees and affordability (N)</p>

<p>Increase regular participation in recreation and sport</p>	<p>Work with Sport Wellington to monitor participation in physical activity and barriers to participation across the wider region (E)</p> <p>Draw on wider research, such as work done by Sport New Zealand, to identify the needs and barriers for young people, people aged over 65, cultural minorities and those on low incomes (E)</p> <p>Encourage more people to walk and cycle to work and identify how the open-space network can promote off-road commuting (Ex)</p> <p>Work with health and fitness providers across the region to encourage recreation as part of green prescription programmes (E)</p> <p>Youth</p> <p>Partner with Sport Wellington, primary and college sport to build links between clubs and schools to increase youth participation (Ex)</p> <p>Clubs</p> <p>Partner with Sport Wellington to organise and promote sport and recreation development opportunities for clubs (including greater partnerships with businesses and the community and marketing the activities on offer) (Ex)</p> <p>Regularly monitor the health of sports clubs to ensure that more clubs are sustainable over the long-term. This includes assessing individual clubs to identify if any changes need to be made to how they are managed or operated to avoid difficulties (E)</p> <p>Identify opportunities for clubs to amalgamate and share facilities or services (E)</p>
<p>Open spaces and outdoor recreation opportunities are close to where people live and work</p>	<p>Review the provision of open spaces in suburban areas based on guidelines of 600 metres or 10 minutes walk to one or more neighbourhood park, play space, or other outdoor recreation opportunity such as track links ¹ (N)</p> <p>Design the open space network in ‘greenfield’ subdivisions to provide a significant majority of residential dwellings with access to neighbourhood parks or other outdoor recreation opportunities within 600 metres or 10 minutes walk (E)</p> <p>Adopt and implement national standards for park categories and corresponding levels of service² (N)</p>
<p>Our landscaped open spaces are designed and maintained in partnership with the community to enable personal safety, opportunities for socialising and an active and healthy lifestyle</p>	<p>Incorporate Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) and universal accessibility principles into new spaces and modifications of existing spaces (E)</p> <p>Encourage greater, flexible and more creative play for all ages (including young adults and the elderly) when developing neighbourhood park spaces (Ex)</p> <p>Ensure users with mobility challenges (eg with wheel chairs, push chairs, or people with sight-impairments) can access an adequate range of spaces and opportunities (Ex)</p>

WE WANT TO ENCOURAGE GREATER, FLEXIBLE AND MORE CREATIVE PLAY FOR ALL AGES

<p>Develop and enhance well-located park spaces as local destinations that provide a range of activities and experiences</p>	<p>In consultation with communities, develop, review and implement suburban reserve network plans⁴ to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • identify priority parks for investment (N) • ensure that frequently used spaces provide high quality amenities and activities for local communities (eg shelter, toilets and eating areas) (Ex) • identify spaces for alternative uses (eg for kick-about spaces, community gardens etc) (N) • Develop Newlands Park (N) and Alex Moore Park (E) into multi-purpose community spaces • Explore the potential of developing a sport and community hub in Grenada North as the built urban environment spreads north (N)
<p>We improve opportunities for people to access and enjoy open spaces in the central city</p>	<p>Implement the open space components of the Central City Framework (E) in particular:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Memorial Park • a new park in the inner city • Victoria Streetscape • green roofs guidance and living walls
<p>Complete the track network with a priority on connecting communities and providing short walking and cycling loops and transport connections</p>	<p>Complete the Skyline Track and the Harbour Escarpment Walk and links to adjacent suburban communities (N)</p> <p>Review local track networks as part of the development of the Suburban Reserves Management Plan (N)</p>
<p>Support community initiatives to increase local self sufficiency with a greater amount and variety of food grown in our open spaces</p>	<p>Provide Council grants and guidance for community gardening and promote education programmes (E)</p> <p>Partner with communities to convert areas of open spaces (such as under-used parks or walking areas) into community gardens and orchards (E)</p> <p>Identify spaces for temporary and permanent community gardens in the central city (Ex)</p>

Outcome 2 – Protecting our birds, nature, streams and landscapes

PRIORITIES	ACTIONS
<p>Protect and restore biodiversity, and demonstrate kaitiakitanga, environmental guardianship and care</p>	<p>Review the Biodiversity Action Plan to continue to ensure the viability of naturally occurring local populations of species, and the resilience of the range of habitats and ecosystems that makes Wellington unique (N)</p> <p>Continue to grow the Council’s pest management and native planting programme and work with our partners to try to plant two million trees in the city by 2020 (Ex)</p> <p>Manage native forests to maximise both their biodiversity outcomes and carbon sequestration (Ex)</p>

<p>Create ecological networks and connections for key species to ensure their movement across the City, using reserves network, road reserves, future greenfield sites and space within the CBD</p>	<p>Create a comprehensive database of all central city green assets (including public gardens, road reserve, street trees, rain gardens) (N)</p> <p>Agree on key plant and animal species to be supported through the ecological network (N)</p> <p>Identify existing green spaces (including road reserve) that form part of the ecological network, and protect and manage these. Identify gaps and seek to address these through habitat creation or enhancement (Ex)</p> <p>When using native plants in Council amenity plantings, select native species that fit with good design practice, provide structural diversity, and promote the planting of threatened native species where possible (E)</p>
<p>Develop a halo (or ecological buffer zone) around Zealandia</p>	<p>Enhance safe breeding habitats for birds disseminating from Zealandia, Wellington's 225ha sanctuary, by</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • intensifying predator management in key areas of potential habitat for birds such as Robins, Saddlebacks, Whiteheads and Kakas (Ex) • restoration planting to provide food and nesting areas for birds (E)
<p>Celebrate Wellington's sense of place through protection of key landscapes, our bush clad hills and coastal edge</p>	<p>Recognise the importance and examine opportunities for protected public viewpoints to major regional attractions, including views of the ocean and the Wellington skyline (Ex)</p>
<p>Protect and maintain physical connections between different types of spaces (eg hills to reserves, parks to coast and to central city) and opportunities they provide</p>	<p>Promote and facilitate the protection of open space including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • working with the Crown on Watts Peninsula and Palmer Head (Ex) • Belmont Gully (through development contributions) (E) • the Outer Green Belt between Johnsonville and Tawa through acquisition and/or easements (E) • former Town Belt land, held by the Crown
<p>Restore and protect streams and their catchments</p>	<p>Include monitoring of biodiversity health in the existing water quality monitoring programme for streams and receiving environments (Ex)</p> <p>Continue to develop and implement integrated catchment management plans such as the Porirua Harbour and Catchment Strategy, Kaiwharawhara Catchment, and Owhiro Catchment (E)</p> <p>Restore fish passages to priority streams (N)</p>
<p>Ensure that recreation activity does not compromise the biodiversity values of our capital spaces</p>	<p>Ensure that trail use and development does not impact on biodiversity values (Ex)</p> <p>Promote and require responsible pet ownership to protect wildlife in our open spaces (Ex)</p> <p>Map and identify key walking and cycle links between different types of green open spaces, in particular between inner city suburbs and the CBD (N)</p> <p>Provide for appropriate protection of physical landscape connections where necessary, including District Plan protection of hill-tops and skyline (E)</p>

Outcome 3 – Contributing to Wellington’s outstanding quality of life

PRIORITIES	ACTIONS
Our conservation-based attractions showcase our environment and conservation values	Otari-Wilton's Bush, Wellington Botanic Garden, Wellington Town Belt, Zealandia and Wellington Zoo continue to showcase Wellington as an eco-city (Ex)
Raise awareness of opportunities to visit, connect and contribute to Wellington’s natural attractions	<p>Develop and implement education programmes, improve signs and information on biodiversity (Ex)</p> <p>Promote community involvement in ecological restoration programmes (Ex)</p> <p>Continue to support enviro-schools programmes (E)</p>
The open-space network provides a range of venues for community, national and international events	<p>Work to secure regional and national tournaments and events that use our parks, outdoor spaces and recreation facilities, particularly where this generates sizeable economic growth (E)</p> <p>Identify and maintain key facilities to host national and international sporting events (E)</p> <p>Make more open spaces suitable to host events, including having suitable infrastructure and flexibility of use (Ex)</p>
The Wellington region is recognised as one of New Zealand’s premier mountain biking destinations	<p>Maintain, operate and develop Makara Peak Mountain Bike Park in partnership with Makara Peak Supporters (E)</p> <p>Review the opportunities to increase mountain-biking activities and use through the development of Spicer Regional Park and Watts Peninsula (N)</p> <p>Coordinate mountain-biking activities and facility development on a regional basis (Ex)</p>



Outcome 4 – Doing it together

PRIORITIES	ACTIONS
<p>Facilitate and support community involvement in the management of open spaces</p>	<p>Target consultation to encourage more people to participate in the management and design of open spaces, eg suburban parks and reserves plans (E)</p> <p>Partner with community and environmental groups (Ex) to manage:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ecological restoration projects • Track development • Facilities such as the Berhampore Golf Course and Makara Peak Mountain Bike Park <p>Develop and implement further volunteering initiatives to help promote involvement and management of our open spaces (Ex)</p> <p>Collaborate with and support the growing online meet-up groups that get people active in our open spaces (Ex)</p> <p>Support outdoor events and other community initiatives by providing advice, training, grants, and subsidies for venues and equipment (E)</p>
<p>Partner with landowners to improve access to and use of open space</p>	<p>Partner with schools to identify opportunities to use their open spaces and facilities for sporting and recreational activities (Ex)</p> <p>Work with landowners on the Outer Green Belt to negotiate access along the Skyline Walkway (E)</p> <p>Support the development of a heritage park on Watts Peninsula in conjunction with the Crown (N)</p>
<p>Work in partnership with mana whenua</p>	<p>Co-manage reserve land vested in mana whenua (E)</p> <p>Work in partnership with mana whenua to manage the Town Belt (E)</p>
<p>Work together as a region</p>	<p>Ensure a coordinated approach for the development, management and protection of open spaces across the Wellington Region, consistent with the Wellington Regional Open Space Strategy (E)</p>

¹ Review already completed for the some of the northern suburbs.
² New Zealand Recreation Association's Parks Categories and Levels of Service.
³ Work will be carried out during the development of the Suburban Reserves Management Plan, which includes parks and reserves between Khandallah and Miramar.
⁴ Wellington Regional Open Space Strategy.

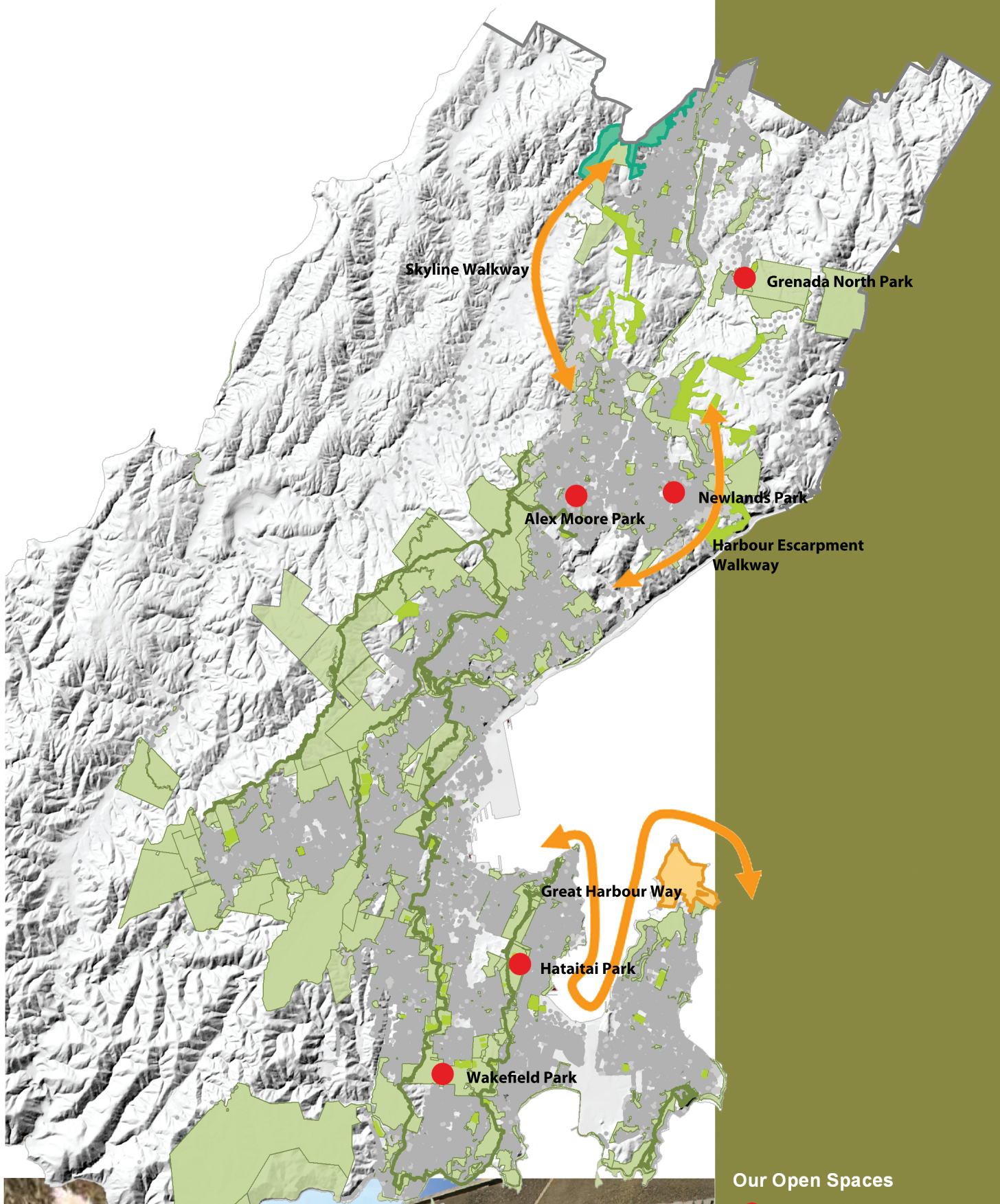
WE WANT TO PARTNER WITH LANDOWNERS TO IMPROVE ACCESS TO AND USE OF OPEN SPACE LAND.



OUR SPACE

WHAT ARE WE PLANNING TO DO?

APPENDIX 2

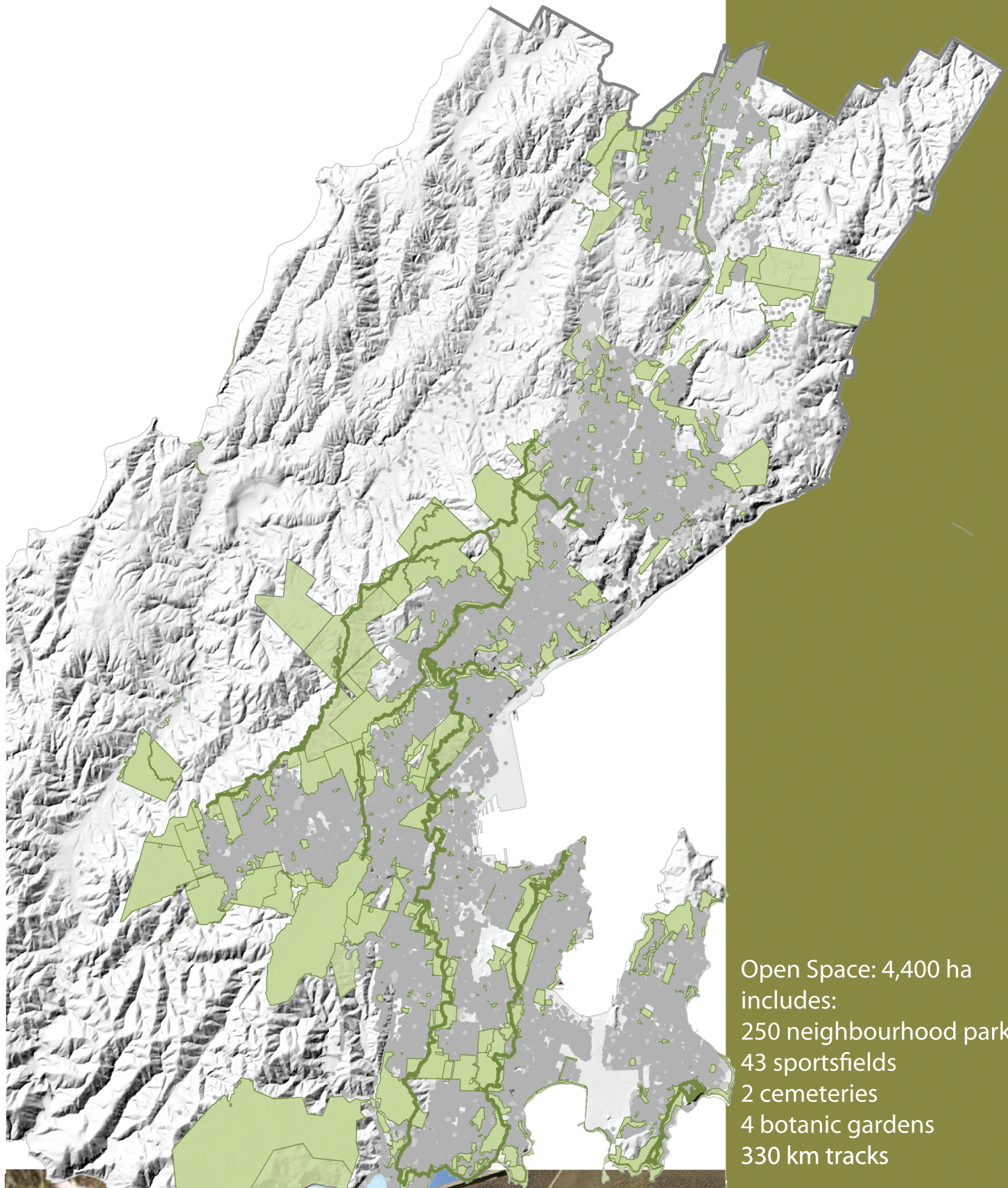


Our Open Spaces

- Sports Hubs for Development
- Existing Major Tracks
- Proposed Open Space
- Proposed Heritage Park
- Proposed Recreation Park
- Sportsfields
- Open Space Now

OUR SPACE: WHAT HAVE WE GOT?

APPENDIX 2



Open Space: 4,400 ha
includes:
250 neighbourhood parks
43 sportsfields
2 cemeteries
4 botanic gardens
330 km tracks

Our Open Spaces

- Existing Major Tracks
- Open Space Now

