

ORAL HEARINGS – OUR CAPITAL SPACES

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**SUBMISSION
NUMBER**

77

Mark Jones

To: Michael Oates

Subject: RE: email to council, supporting David Halliday, and concepts of dual purpose tracks in Ngaio - Crofton Downs areas

From: Graham Weir [mailto:Graham.Weir@callaghaninnovation.govt.nz]

Sent: Friday, 5 July 2013 3:38 p.m.

To: Info at WCC; Paul Andrews; Celia Wade-Brown; Andy Foster; John Morrison; Jo Coughlan

Cc: Graham Weir; ': 'Viv Chapple'; 'joostvlaar@me.com'; 'Lisa Bengtsson'; 'tim.baker.nz@gmail.com'; 'simon@kennett.co.nz'; 'trevor.l'; 'nzmangan@hotmail.com'; 'ale.mozz@gmail.com'; 'chas.dawson@gmail.com'; 'Paul & Donna Adamson'

Subject: FW: email to council, supporting David Halliday, and concepts of dual purpose tracks in Ngaio - Crofton Downs areas

Attention: Paul Andrews, Celia Wade-Brown, John Morrison, Andy Foster, Jo Coughlan

Re: Supporting the concept of dual purpose tracks in the Ngaio - Crofton Downs area

This email is in response to an invitation from the Manager of Parks, Sport and Recreation (Paul Andrews) for public feedback on the Wellington City Council's Our Capital Spaces, published in the DomPost, page A7, 28 May, 2013.

The email addresses above link to a few of the people who are involved with the construction of a dual purpose track from the end of Downing Street to the 4 wheel-drive track leading up to the Skyline track from the Crofton Downs transformer station. Only a few of the about 3 dozen volunteers who are involved in the track construction have replied specifically, so I have only attached their email addresses.

The track we are constructing has Wellington City Council support, especially from David Halliday and Andy Foster in the Council, and we are very grateful for their support. At David Halliday's insistence, we have an onsite safety officer (Magnus Bengtsson), and an MOU is being developed between the Council and the Ngaio Crofton Downs Residents Association (Viv Chapple), to cover on-going maintenance, and planting requirements. We want to make two points:

1. Can the council please ensure that the budget for maintaining and forming new tracks specifically in the Crofton Down/Ngaio region, and more generally in the wider Wellington region, be maintained. We are concerned that there was the possibility that this year's budget may have been halved.

We have benefitted greatly from input and guidance from David Halliday, who has arranged for construction of a cattle-stop and a boardwalk on our track, and who is about to arrange for delivery of gravel to the track. The local group of volunteers has built the track, has arranged funding for the compactor, and will apply the gravel to the track. We will also ensure that tree planting, and future maintenance occurs. The resources from the Wellington City Council, which has allowed construction of the boardwalk and cattle-stop, have been very important to us. Such funds will be even more important, should (hopefully when) the extended track between Downing Street and Silverstream Rd begins.

2. We have nearly completed the track from the end of Downing Street, and once this is completed, we are keen to continue to extend this track down from Downing Street to the end of Silverstream Road. This extended track will be dual purpose, and should be easy to walk or ride, or to push a buggy along. Most of the work is completed by volunteer labour, but we do hope that we can access council resources for gravel, boardwalks, etc.

24/07/2013

There is quite wide local support for a dual-purpose track, which will allow both walkers and mountain-bikers to travel easily from the end of both Silverstream Rd and Downing St, up to the ridge road leading the Skyline Track. These tracks are being constructed mostly by local volunteer labour, which reduces the total cost of construction to the Wellington City Council to about 10% of a fully costed track. The result is that the Wellington City Council will own a welcome local amenity, maintained locally by volunteer labour, which allows people from the Ngaio and Crofton Downs areas to easily access the Skyline Track, either by foot or by bicycle. Local walkers will then have available several new and attractive circular walks.

Yours sincerely,

Graham Weir
Science Development Manager

CallaghanInnovation

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www.callaghaninnovation.govt.nz

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24/07/2013

Mark Jones

From: Richard Beddie [rbeddie@gmail.com] on behalf of Richard Beddie [richard@fitnessnz.co.nz]
Sent: Wednesday, 3 July 2013 9:36 a.m.
To: BUS: Spaces & Recreation
Subject: Submission on Our Capital Spaces
Attachments: 2013-07-03 - FitnessNZ submission on Our Capital Spaces.pdf

Please find attached our submission on 'Our Capital Spaces'.

We would also like to present to councillors on 1 August 2013.

Richard Beddie
CE, FitnessNZ

--

Richard Beddie
CEO, FitnessNZ
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3rd July 2013

Submission on *Our Capital Spaces*

Made by: Fitness New Zealand Incorporated



1. Background

Fitness New Zealand (FitnessNZ) is a non profit representative organisation, whose principal objective is to ***proactively support a sustainable exercise and fitness industry in New Zealand.*** Our members include commercial facilities (eg Les Mills, Contours), non profit bodies (eg YMCA) and local government exercise facilities (eg Christchurch City Council). FitnessNZ represents over 75% of exercise facility operators in New Zealand.

We work closely with the industry's registration body, the New Zealand Register of Exercise Professionals (REPs) that registers both exercise facilities, and exercise professionals (e.g. personal trainers). It acts as an independent quality check for both facilities and exercise professionals in New Zealand. For your information, REPs is a not for profit organisation, with the primary focus on ensuring that the public of New Zealand receive safe exercise advice.

This submission is made on behalf of the 50+ fitness/exercise facilities in the Wellington region, as well as the 300+ exercise professionals that work in the greater Wellington region.

2. Our Submission

2.1 Overall feedback

In reviewing the draft plan, our view is that the key themes/goals contained in the plan are appropriate, and also provide a balanced approach to the management of open spaces.

We are particularly supportive of Goal 1 (Getting everyone active and healthy) as well as Goal 4 (Doing it together).

2.1 A key area that needs development

One area that we believe requires clarification is that the of use of public spaces such as parks by commercial operators, and in particular where these operators are providing physical activity/exercise activities. Examples of this would be personal trainers using parks to train/exercise clients, and also 'Boot Camp' style programmes where small groups of people undertake structured exercise together using an outdoor space.

There are two key drivers causing a substantial increase in the use of parks in this manner:

- 1) A greater awareness of the benefits of exercise/physical activity
- 2) A higher provision of services that meet the increased demand

Together this is leading to more individuals using parks for structured exercise, as well as more activity providers using parks and open spaces as a 'base of operations' for commercial exercise activity.

While on the whole the greater use of parks/open spaces in such a manner is a positive one, it does create it's own unique challenges, especially where the spaces being used are popular and/or are of a nature that has limited size. It also raises the question of 'exclusive use' and whether or not it is desirable to allow individuals/groups to claim the right to use a specific part of a park on a particular time/day.

We are aware of other councils proposing various restrictions on the use of parks for exercise, especially in central city areas where parks are often smaller and/or are used by a large number of individuals/groups at peak times.

An additional element that needs to be considered is that of public safety. While the majority of those delivering exercise programmes to the public do so in a safe manner, like any industry there are a small percentage that do not 'play by the rules' and as such may have staff who are not suitably qualified to deliver exercise programmes and/or may even lack some of the most basic training such as First Aid. There is also the question of public liability insurance for those that are operating a business. We believe the Council needs to play a role in ensuring only those that can deliver safe exercise should be permitted to run commercial activities in public parks.

We believe that management of such activities needs to be proactively managed, as the number and type of exercise activities offered outdoors is likely to increase.

2.3 Our proposal

That commercial activities (one where there is a payment in exchange for services) that wish to use a public space/park have quality control measures put in place, enforced by the Council. Namely that:

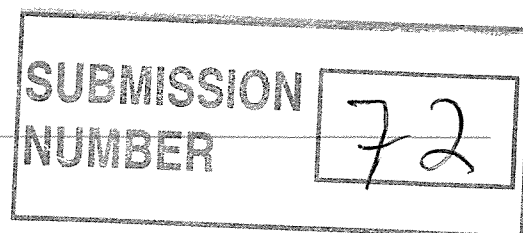
- 1) Any individual delivering exercise should be registered with the New Zealand Register of Exercise Professionals (REPs). This ensures that not only are the persons delivering the exercise appropriately qualified, but that they maintain a current first aid certificate, hold public liability insurance, and are bound by a code of ethical practice (meaning any breaches of standards can be dealt with by REPs)
- 2) That it be made clear that any use of parks is non exclusive, and spaces can not be reserved (i.e. first in first served). Any use of space by a group should be limited both in size (we believe a maximum of 30 persons) and also time (no more than 90 minutes)

Ultimately the above proposal is about maximising the number of people that can use open spaces/parks, while also helping to maintain the safety of those that use the a park space as a part of a commercial activity.

FitnessNZ would be happy to assist the council in developing any guidelines to ensure that they both assist in achieving the council's goals, as well as ensuring any administrative burden is minimised.

Note: We wish to make a presentation to the Council on 1 August.

Mark Jones



From: Michael Gibson [michaelpcgibson@hotmail.com]
Sent: Wednesday, 3 July 2013 12:03 p.m.
To: BUS: Spaces & Recreation
Subject: Submission as individual wishing to be heard

This is my submission on "Our Capital Spaces".

All land presently zoned as "Open Space" should remain as "Open Space" unless the full Council sitting as the Council decides to put an alternative out for full consultation.

This is designed to prevent special interests within the Council or its Committees from industrialising land designated as "Open Space" as is being attempted in Curtis Street, Northland.

SIGNED

**Michael Gibson
7 Putnam Street
Northland
Wellington 6012
Tel 4757545**

SUBMISSION
NUMBER

127

Mark Jones

From: Wellington City Council [webcentre@wcc.govt.nz]
Sent: Monday, 8 July 2013 10:24 p.m.
To: BUS: Spaces & Recreation
Subject: Our Capital Spaces - Confirmation

The following details have been submitted from the Our Capital Spaces: Open Spaces and Recreation Framework consultation form on the Wellington.govt.nz website:

PAGE 1 QUESTIONS:

1. First Name: John
2. Last Name: Baddiley
3. Street Address: 70 Sefton Street
4. Suburb: Wadestown
5. City: Wellington
6. Phone: 021662664
7. Email: jono@fnord.org.nz

8. I would like to make an oral submission.
(if yes, provide a phone number so that a submission time can be arranged.)
Yes Phone number for oral submission: 021662664

9. I am giving this feedback: as an individual Organisation name:

PAGE 2 QUESTIONS:

1. Do you think Our Capital Spaces sets the right priorities and actions? What other priorities or actions would you like to see included?
Unsure

Comments: Overall I think that the objectives and goals set within the framework will be good for the city. The existing trail network is a world-class resource that brings visitors to the city.

It's also a valuable resource for residents, giving us all a place that we can easily escape the noise and rush of the city and get amongst nature.

It isn't clear, however, how this resource will be extended and maintained without investment. The local mountain biking community, and other community groups do huge amounts of work building and maintaining the trail network, but the proposed 50% cut in 2014 funding for tracks will not allow the city to make the best use of the resource that it can.

2. Do you agree that we need to do more to raise awareness about local play, sport and recreation opportunities? How can we best do this?

Yes

Comments: As stated above, the trail network is a fantastic resource, that with a little bit more promotion could drive significant economic benefits to the region. Mountain bikers are (in general) well travelled, and with a high disposable income. There is sufficient variety and range of trails in the wellington region to justify a week long stay. With sufficient publicity, Wellington could drive significant economic returns from the trail network.

3. Do you support how we plan to partner with and support sports clubs as the nature of participation in sport and recreation changes?

Unsure

Comments: In principle I am happy with the plan to partner with clubs and support groups across the city, with two points.

First, it is important that parks and resources are managed in partnership with, not "owned or given to" clubs. The popularity of sports will change over time, as do club and support group memberships, and it is important that the sports and recreation facilities and resources are not bound to a particular group.

Secondly, volunteer groups will not be able to support all of their activities alone. It will be essential for the council to support (with skills, time and financial assistance, for example) the groups. This model will best leverage the investment that the council makes.

4. Do you support the concept of investing in parks, recreational and community spaces where a range of activities are possible? Do you support this even if it means limiting investment in parks that do not appeal to a wide range of people or do not have important roles for protecting nature?

Unsure

Comments: In general, I agree that the council needs to ensure that funding, resources and time are spent where there is going to be most value. I think that it is essential that the council is clear about what the de-prioritised areas are going to be, and how they might otherwise be used

5. Will the suggestions in Our Capital Spaces make it easy for you to get active? Do you have any other suggestions around this?

Unsure

Comments: In general, yes, the framework will make it easier to get out into the trails and bush around wellington.

However the council has to back it up with funding support for Tracks. Tracks and Trails represent a proven model for partnership with the community and yet we continue to have the budget put under pressure. While investment

continues to go ahead in big budget facilities such as all-weather-sports surfaces Trails are struggling every year to maintain funding let alone increase it in line with the shift to more informal recreation.

6. Do you support the focus on short local tracks that are accessible to local communities? Where in Wellington do you think we should prioritise our investment in tracks?

Yes

Comments: The unique aspect of the trail network in wellington is that it is a network - clusters of tracks that are interconnected. The connectedness between trails is unique in a large city - it is possible to get across much of wellington avoiding large sections of road.

As identified in the framework, additional trail options such as around the south coast from owhiro bay to makara will enhance the options available to wellingtonians and visitors

PAGE 3 QUESTIONS:

1. Do you think we need to continue protecting and / or acquiring new land to expand the network of open spaces as the city grows and, if so, where?

Yes

Comments: Yes, this should be an ongoing focus. Of particular interest is anywhere that an easement or ownership can be used to connect two reserves. E.g. in Miramar there is Centennial Reserve which is currently isolated from Scorching Bay Domain by Crown Land (Old Prison Land) which is in danger of being privatised and forever isolating those two WCC assets from each other. Linking together reserves and trails needs to be made a priority by the WCC.

2. Do you agree with our focus on restoring more ecological areas and encouraging native birds and other important species into every community? How can we achieve this?

Yes

Comments: An extension of the existing native seedling programme would help. The recent storms have also given an opportunity to replant exposed land with natives to replace the pine and macrocarpa that has been blown over.

3. Do you agree with how we plan to develop, celebrate and promote our natural attractions? How can we become a walking and mountain-bike destination?

Yes

Comments: Promotion of the city as a destination for mountain biking will help

significantly. Online campaigns with aspects such as video clips showing the close proximity of the city to the trails would help

4. Do you support more community involvement in, and management of, our parks, playgrounds, reserves and other open spaces? Do you have ideas about how this can best be encouraged?

Yes

Comments: Where this model has been used most successfully (such as Makara Peak or the Aro Valley trails network) has seen council financial investment leveraged with volunteer knowledge, labour and skills. But without the financial input, the ability and agility of the volunteer efforts are diminished.

Council funding at an appropriate level to support these volunteer groups is essential to the continued vibrancy of both the volunteer community and the local capital spaces

5. Do you have any other comments?

SUBMISSION
NUMBER

106

Mark Jones

From: Wellington City Council [webcentre@wcc.govt.nz]
Sent: Monday, 8 July 2013 5:06 p.m.
To: BUS: Spaces & Recreation
Subject: Our Capital Spaces - Confirmation

The following details have been submitted from the Our Capital Spaces: Open Spaces and Recreation Framework consultation form on the Wellington.govt.nz website:

PAGE 1 QUESTIONS:

1. First Name: Lou
2. Last Name: Hunt
3. Street Address: 8c 19 Maida Vale Rd
4. Suburb: Roseneath
5. City: Wellington
6. Phone: 0273421700
7. Email: travelinglou@gmail.com

8. I would like to make an oral submission.
(if yes, provide a phone number so that a submission time can be arranged.)
Yes Phone number for oral submission: 0273421700

9. I am giving this feedback: on behalf of an organisation Organisation name:
Revolve Cycling Club

PAGE 2 QUESTIONS:

1. Do you think Our Capital Spaces sets the right priorities and actions? What other priorities or actions would you like to see included?
Unsure

Comments: We are impressed with the actions list in section 4 but are concerned at the vast list seeming ambitious in terms of all the great actions appearing to be priorities. We think emphasis should be given to a top few priorities, for us Outcome 3 "Wellington is recognised as one of New Zealand's premier mountain biking destinations" should be seen as a top priority.

2. Do you agree that we need to do more to raise awareness about local play, sport and recreation opportunities? How can we best do this?
Unsure

Comments: Yes in concept, but related to the point above about having a few top priorities this may not be one. Those interested will use google, so this

should be balanced with other actions listed

3. Do you support how we plan to partner with and support sports clubs as the nature of participation in sport and recreation changes?

Yes

Comments: Absolutely, growing clubs like Revolve (with over 1400 email members and 150 paid active members) caters to specific needs of women relevant to a growing recreational sport where women's participation was historically not catered to. We're happy to help develop this further

4. Do you support the concept of investing in parks, recreational and community spaces where a range of activities are possible? Do you support this even if it means limiting investment in parks that do not appeal to a wide range of people or do not have important roles for protecting nature?

Unsure

Comments: Balanced view; some needs will be specific. We support dual use trails with walkers and support how this works at Makara. However, Polhill is not so great for mountain biking as the high use 2-way nature is somewhat dangerous and requires care to be taken to avoid collisions

5. Will the suggestions in Our Capital Spaces make it easy for you to get active? Do you have any other suggestions around this?

Yes

Comments: For Revolve the 3 actions under recognising Wellington as a premier mountain biking destination with improve use of trails and quality of lifestyle already enjoyed by members. Many of our member are mothers who could not participate if tracks were less accessible. Revolve has provided a sense of community for members and has also encouraged others from further afield to come to events we've organised on our local Wellington trails (e.g. the women's Hawkes Bay club and the Auckland Crank Sista's have attended events in Wellington)

6. Do you support the focus on short local tracks that are accessible to local communities? Where in Wellington do you think we should prioritise our investment in tracks?

Yes

Comments: Yes, we support the focus on proximity to central Wellington so there are a hub of tracks that connect. We support Polhill, Makara, Mt Vic and the development of Watt's Peninsula for biking. The more the better!

PAGE 3 QUESTIONS:

1. Do you think we need to continue protecting and / or acquiring new land to expand the network of open spaces as the city grows and, if so, where?

Yes

Comments: Watt's Peninsula for bike trails

2. Do you agree with our focus on restoring more ecological areas and encouraging native birds and other important species into every community? How can we achieve this?

Yes

Comments:

3. Do you agree with how we plan to develop, celebrate and promote our natural attractions? How can we become a walking and mountain-bike destination?

Yes

Comments: Mountain biking is growing and many in our club travel specifically nationally and internationally to destinations with good riding trails. We probably won't outdo Rotorua on scale of park (trail km's), but can in other respects: proximity; we have an international airport and trails from town. Terrain; we have great hills and could be world class at downhill trails and progression parks (where people learn to ride a series of jumps by small increments). This was done in Kamloops Canada, which now has world recognition as a mountain bike playground. Locals from Wellington pack up \$10K bikes to holiday there. We could be that good. We have trail builders in NZ who travel the world making top class tracks – we should get them building here! This isn't just about locals having fun, it fits the government BGA of growing our natural assets into big business

4. Do you support more community involvement in, and management of, our parks, playgrounds, reserves and other open spaces? Do you have ideas about how this can best be encouraged?

Yes

Comments: continuing on for the question above we also support council-private partnership to grow the vision. E.g. the skyline gondola in Queenstown as a model for the Brooklyn turbine. We're also happy to help with trails and support Makara Peak support from the council.

5. Do you have any other comments?

**SUBMISSION
NUMBER**

155

Mark Jones

From: Wellington City Council [webcentre@wcc.govt.nz]
Sent: Tuesday, 9 July 2013 1:09 p.m.
To: BUS: Spaces & Recreation
Subject: Our Capital Spaces - Confirmation

The following details have been submitted from the Our Capital Spaces: Open Spaces and Recreation Framework consultation form on the Wellington.govt.nz website:

PAGE 1 QUESTIONS:

1. First Name: Ashley
2. Last Name: Burgess
3. Street Address: 112 Grafton Road
4. Suburb: Roseneath
5. City: Wellington
6. Phone: 02102648153
7. Email: ash@bikewellington.co.nz

8. I would like to make an oral submission.
(if yes, provide a phone number so that a submission time can be arranged.)
Yes Phone number for oral submission: 02102648153

9. I am giving this feedback: on behalf of an organisation Organisation name:
Wellington Off-Road Riding Dept (WORD)

PAGE 2 QUESTIONS:

1. Do you think Our Capital Spaces sets the right priorities and actions? What other priorities or actions would you like to see included?
Yes

Comments: Yes we agree that the priorities are fantastic! Especially 'increase regular participation in recreation and sport' with youth, and 'provide recreation and sport facilities that meet the needs of communities' through integrated fields with perimeter tracks. As well as 'wellington region being recognised as one of New Zealand's premier mtb destinations.

2. Do you agree that we need to do more to raise awareness about local play, sport and recreation opportunities? How can we best do this?
Yes

Comments: Yes, the more marketing done around the wonderful outdoor spaces we have the better. The idea of a 'outdoors wellington' website (like the

former 'feeling great') would be a perfect 'one stop shop'.

3. Do you support how we plan to partner with and support sports clubs as the nature of participation in sport and recreation changes?

Yes

Comments: Absolutely! Partnership is key for participation in recreation and sport activities. Clubs have the means of communication with people...we just need a bit of help (ie.funding for trail building materials, easier event support from WCC).

4. Do you support the concept of investing in parks, recreational and community spaces where a range of activities are possible? Do you support this even if it means limiting investment in parks that do not appeal to a wide range of people or do not have important roles for protecting nature?

Yes

Comments: WORD is all about encouraging youth to mountain bike, and that starts with a basic path. We are a big fan of multipurpose tracks (like Karori Park), and just wish there were more of them. Once kids have the basics, the wide Wellington trail system is perfect for exploring. Dual use trails provide a place for recreation for all. We like sharing. We would like to see some trails (ie. Transient in Polhill)become one way for bikers and 2 way for walkers/runners). Mountain bikers are keen to go fast down, but certainly don't want to hurt/scare/inconvenience others. Creating a few key separate tracks can help alleviate this concern.

5. Will the suggestions in Our Capital Spaces make it easy for you to get active? Do you have any other suggestions around this?

Yes

Comments: For WORD the 3 actions under recognising Wellington as a premier mountain biking destination with improve use of trails and quality of lifestyle already enjoyed by participants. Many of our kids and families could not participate if tracks were less accessible. WORD is providing a sense of community for youth on our local Wellington trails. They are getting involved and loving it!

6. Do you support the focus on short local tracks that are accessible to local communities? Where in Wellington do you think we should prioritise our investment in tracks?

Yes

Comments: Absolutely! These smaller tracks are great for families to get out and enjoy the trails on their bikes. They are a fantastic introduction to mountain biking, and an easy way to get off riding on the main road. We love making journeys more fun!

PAGE 3 QUESTIONS:

1. Do you think we need to continue protecting and / or acquiring new land to expand the network of open spaces as the city grows and, if so, where?

Yes

Comments: Makara peak, Polhill and watt's peninsula for multi use trails (including mountain biking).

2. Do you agree with our focus on restoring more ecological areas and encouraging native birds and other important species into every community?

How can we achieve this?

Yes

Comments:

3. Do you agree with how we plan to develop, celebrate and promote our natural attractions? How can we become a walking and mountain-bike destination?

Yes

Comments: The trails are here...the proximity to the city is here...what we need is marketing. Wellington needs to promote itself as a mountain bike destination through images and videos in the tourism market. Yes we have great coffee, cafes, music and culture, but what makes wellington so special is it's proximity to the outdoors. There is no other capital city where you can be in your office, and 10 minutes later be biking on amazing single track trails. We need to be sharing this!

4. Do you support more community involvement in, and management of, our parks, playgrounds, reserves and other open spaces? Do you have ideas about how this can best be encouraged?

Yes

Comments: We want partnerships with council. We want to help dig, plant, maintain, but we need council support with coordination, funding and marketing.

5. Do you have any other comments?

SUBMISSION
NUMBER

161

Mark Jones

From: Wellington City Council [webcentre@wcc.govt.nz]
Sent: Tuesday, 9 July 2013 2:56 p.m.
To: BUS: Spaces & Recreation
Subject: Our Capital Spaces - Confirmation

The following details have been submitted from the Our Capital Spaces: Open Spaces and Recreation Framework consultation form on the Wellington.govt.nz website:

PAGE 1 QUESTIONS:

1. First Name: Dean
2. Last Name: Stanley
3. Street Address: 103 Oriental Parade
4. Suburb: Oriental Bay
5. City: Wellington
6. Phone: 021331609
7. Email: ceo@rpnyc.org.nz

8. I would like to make an oral submission.
(if yes, provide a phone number so that a submission time can be arranged.)
Yes Phone number for oral submission: 021332609

9. I am giving this feedback: on behalf of an organisation Organisation name:
Royal Port Nicholson Yacht Club

PAGE 2 QUESTIONS:

1. Do you think Our Capital Spaces sets the right priorities and actions? What other priorities or actions would you like to see included?
Unsure

Comments: We fully support the statement ... "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, including sportsfields, playgrounds and other recreation facilities ... 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".

We believe the strategy needs to put much more emphasis on the Wellington Harbour in general, the inner harbour in particular and the emerging 'Blue Belt' concept, as these are central to what makes the city unique. The waterfront and the harbour are key things that visitors to our city and Wellingtonians rate time

and again as being key to our uniqueness. The inner harbour is a natural arena for hosting world class ocean sport events that bring with it visitors, new business and promotion of the city. There is not enough specific mention of these areas as key sport and recreation spaces in the strategy.

We believe the statement about the goal of the strategy should be changed to ... "We propose focusing on short, accessible walking and biking tracks, well-located parks that provide a range of activities and our harbour as a key sport and recreation venue".

2. Do you agree that we need to do more to raise awareness about local play, sport and recreation opportunities? How can we best do this?

Yes

Comments: Systems such as eventfinda are very valuable for promoting sport and recreation activities such as the monthly Wellington Ocean Sports "Have a Go" days. The Apps development process could be expanded to include sport and recreation activities and providers as well as tracks and cycle ways.

3. Do you support how we plan to partner with and support sports clubs as the nature of participation in sport and recreation changes?

Yes

Comments: We fully support the statement ... "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".

In particular we believe the Wellington Ocean Sports project should be promoted and developed as a highly visible case study of how Council can work with multiple sports and Sport New Zealand to create a sportsville hub that benefits the community as a whole. We believe the Council should support this project on an ongoing basis by backing the development of the Wellington Ocean Sports Centre within the context of the Clyde Quay Boat Harbour Restoration project and by providing for the ongoing funding of an ocean sports programme manager.

4. Do you support the concept of investing in parks, recreational and community spaces where a range of activities are possible? Do you support this even if it means limiting investment in parks that do not appeal to a wide range of people or do not have important roles for protecting nature?

Yes

Comments: We fully support the focus on investing in... "some priority areas for multiple-use development". We are happy for the Council to focus on Hataitai Park, Alex Moore Park, Newlands Park and Wakefield Park but we believe the

Clyde Quay Precinct should also be a priority area with the focus on developing a multi use facility for ocean sports. We support this even if it means limiting investment in parks that do not appeal to a wide range of people or do not have important roles for protecting nature.

We fully support the focus on expanding the shared management model of sporting facilities, particularly where this involves several clubs or sporting codes using one area. We fully support the focus on linking clubs with other sports or activity-based clubs to share facilities and expertise. We have been active in this regard working across sports to establish the Wellington Ocean Sports programme in partnership with the Council and the Sport New Zealand. We welcome the inclusion of “developing ocean sports and recreation programmes and promoting opportunities” as one of the actions in the strategy but believe this should be strengthened to read “continue to develop ocean sports programmes and support their implementation through the development of an ocean sports centre and establishment of an ocean sports programme manager”.

5. Will the suggestions in Our Capital Spaces make it easy for you to get active? Do you have any other suggestions around this?

Yes

Comments: Yes to a certain extent although more focus on ocean sports would broaden the opportunities for Wellingtonians to get active.

We fully support the following statement from the strategy about this focus ... ‘ensuring that the Council’s user fees continue to be affordable and will encourage participation in sport and recreation through targeted programmes”.

We believe the Wellington Ocean Sports programme should be recongised as a targeted programme through the ongoing funding of an ocean sports programme manager

6. Do you support the focus on short local tracks that are accessible to local communities? Where in Wellington do you think we should prioritise our investment in tracks?

Unsure

Comments: Not if it is the only thing we do as a city. We really need to make the most of our harbour and should be focusing on how we can connect Wellingtonians to it. This can be done along side the focus on developing short local tracks on the land.

PAGE 3 QUESTIONS:

1. Do you think we need to continue protecting and / or acquiring new land to

expand the network of open spaces as the city grows and, if so, where?

Unsure

Comments: Not necessarily. We have a very beautiful and extensive harbour which we should do more with to make it part of our network of open spaces. The harbour in itself does not necessarily need to be invested in. What does need to be invested in is the means for connecting Wellingtonians to Wellington Harbour. The Council is part way there with its initial investment in the Clyde Quay Boat Harbour restoration project. This initiative and others like it need greater investment ahead of acquiring new land.

2. Do you agree with our focus on restoring more ecological areas and encouraging native birds and other important species into every community? How can we achieve this?

No

Comments: We think this should be expanded to include aquatic species. We believe the statement in the strategy should be changed to ... "We want to connect with and protect nature in our own backyard – making local ecosystems stronger and healthier. We will bring more of the important species of plants, birds, lizards and aquatic species into our city, our harbour and daily lives". We believe the work being done on creating an underwater garden beneath Taranaki Street wharf should be supported in the strategy. Much more emphasis needs to be given to the Harbour and in particular the inner harbour in the strategy. The strategy should also reference the work that is beginning on the 'Blue Belt' concept

3. Do you agree with how we plan to develop, celebrate and promote our natural attractions? How can we become a walking and mountain-bike destination?

No

Comments: We agree with the three focus areas identified for this goal but believe that "build on the reputation of Wellington Harbour as an ocean sports destination" should be added as a fourth focus. We believe the focus on biking is too narrow and that we should also be looking to make Wellington an ocean sports destination. We believe the statement in the strategy should be changed to ... "We want to show off all of Wellington's natural attractions, including making Wellington a premier walking, cycling, oceans sports and events destination".

4. Do you support more community involvement in, and management of, our parks, playgrounds, reserves and other open spaces? Do you have ideas about how this can best be encouraged?

Yes

Comments: We fully support the statement ... "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". The Memorandum of Understanding between the Council and Royal Port Nicholson Yacht Club should be promoted as an example of how the council can work in partnership with the wider community to develop and manage facilities and to bring and host events in the city.

5. Do you have any other comments?

Kia kaha te wairoa o te Whanganui a Tara

SUBMISSION
NUMBER

168

OUR CAPITAL SPACES SUBMISSION FORM

Absolutely
POSITIVELY
ME HEKE KI PŌNEKE
WELLINGTON CITY COUNCIL Wellington

We are keen to get your thoughts on the proposed priorities and actions outlined in this plan.

You can have your say:

- By making a submission on this form or in writing and sending it to us by post

Freepost 2199
Our Capital Spaces (COPC01)
Wellington City Council
PO Box 2199
Wellington 6140

- By making a submission online at: Wellington.govt.nz

- By sending an email to: spaces&rec@wcc.govt.nz

For more information, phone 499 4444.

Enter your name and contact details

Mr Mrs Ms Miss Dr

First name/last name* Shona McCahon

Street address* 74 Collier Avenue, Karori, Wellington 6012.

Phone/mobile 970 - 7573

Email shoram1957@gmail.com.

* Mandatory fields

I am making a submission

As an individual

On behalf of an organisation Name of organisation _____

I would like to make an oral submission to the City Councillors.

Yes No

If yes, provide a phone number above so that a submission time can be arranged _____

Submissions close at 5pm on Tuesday 9 July 2013.

Privacy statement

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

As well as identifying under-used sports areas etc, identify gaps in provision.

SECTION TWO - QUESTIONS

Do you think Our Capital Spaces sets the right priorities and actions? What other priorities or actions would you like to see included?

Overall, the priorities & actions make good sense. I would also like to see:
- recognition of street space as open space, and the potential to enhance street spaces as walking/cycling routes as part of networks
- priority given to acquiring at least some sections of the steep coastal esplanment around the urban coast as part of open space networks.
- thought given to what kind of quantity of open space might be needed in areas of urban intensification.

Do you agree that we need to do more to raise awareness about local play, sport and recreation opportunities? How can we best do this?

Yes, I know most of Wellington's open spaces through my work but I am often surprised at how often people are unaware of the parks and places in the city, even close to their homes. The online idea, plus media stories, plus leading by example - organising, or supporting groups to organise, activities & events in a range of open spaces.

Do you support how we plan to partner with and support sports clubs as the nature of participation in sport and recreation changes?

Yes. Multiple use of facilities makes a lot of sense and will help to focus clubs on managing what they need. I strongly advocate ensuring all facilities are shared and not allowed to be managed / used exclusively by one club or group. The city's open spaces are a shared public good and use of facilities (even when funded by clubs) should be for multiple groups & activities - for both fitness and to better adapt to changing patterns in recreational activities.

Do you support the concept of investing in parks, recreational and community spaces where a range of activities are possible? Do you support this even if it means limiting investment in parks that do not appeal to a wide range of people or do not have important roles for protecting nature?

Yes, multi-use parks / spaces has always been a good idea - it's not new. Karori Park is an excellent example that has clearly made it a community focal area as well as sports hub. Yes I agree with prioritising multi-use area investment, at least until the additional proposed hubs are developed - then review priorities.

Will the suggestions in Our Capital Spaces make it easy for you to get active? Do you have any other suggestions around this?

The suggested information & signage to raise awareness will help especially the inter-active online mapping and the street signage. Information (online & on the ground) about distances of routes would be great - as at Karori Park where it's easy to measure how far you are walking or cycling - measurable achievements for health & fitness.

1.27 The "priority and action" in this page don't seem to be entirely consistent with the same thing. The priority is 'to protect' but the action is 'to protect only views of regional attractions'. Needs clarification.

Do you support the focus on short local tracks that are accessible to local communities? Where in Wellington do you think we should prioritise our investment in tracks?

Yes, short local tracks that make a choice of neighbourhood routes possible is a good idea. They don't have to be all 'off-road' but most importantly, enable connections and circular routes. Priorities should be in areas where subdivision patterns mean poor connections within neighbourhoods (e.g. cul-de-sac type) & investing in putting through new walk & cycle links.

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

Yes. Open space acquisition should be an automatic part of urban development and should be planned to provide open space values and a framework for urban form. Prioritise, well-planned acquisition with all new urban developments, riparian land, missing connections in poorly planned existing neighbourhoods, and steep escarpment around all the coastlines, but especially the urban coasts.

Do you agree with our focus on restoring more ecological areas and encouraging native birds and other important species into every community? How can we achieve this?

Yes, agree. This is a way to implement the Biodiversity Action Plan. But it's also been shown through research that native in cities is not only good for environmental health but also tangibly contributes to people's wellbeing - simply by being close to nature. Believe it by wanting to support the groundswell of citizen support, interest & action in this that has happened in recent years.

Do you agree with how we plan to develop, celebrate and promote our natural attractions? How can we become a walking and mountain bike destination?

I agree with promoting people to experience & appreciate Wellington's natural environment. I don't agree with the overly-ambitious tourist business model at Zealandia that has, in my opinion, disenfranchised many Wellingtonians from experiencing the sanctuary, ~~not~~ with the stakeholders on page 28 that prioritises events that contribute to economic growth: economic growth in itself, may not be good - instead how about sustainable economic activity?

Do you support more community involvement in, and management of, our parks, playgrounds, reserves and other open spaces? Do you have ideas about how this can best be encouraged?

Yes, I support this but conditionally. WCC must be careful not to hand over too much responsibility because community groups are voluntary, they waxes and wanes over time, and won't necessarily keep up good work over the long term. To encourage best success, WCC needs to invest in support - advice, networks, equipment, practical help with specialist tasks, training and funding sources. WCC is expecting citizens to invest a lot of time & energy & must not expect it free. In other words, it does need to be partnership, with shared inputs.

o Also, think about opportunities on private land for public access in the future. e.g. along riparian lands.

Do you have any other comments?

- o I would like to see a bit less talked up 'hype' at the beginning and a little more discussion about what is important about open spaces - i.e. the values described on p. 5 of the Regional Open Space Strategy. Those values would then give a more obvious basis for the assumed values in the rest of the document.
- o P. 25 ref to 'national standards' - no idea what this means, so it's hard to comment.
- o Bringing together the former open space & recreation access docs is a good idea. However, I wouldn't want to see recreation given any more weight than in this draft, in comparison to Biodiversity & urban sustainability strategies.
- o The talk of partnerships is very vague (except for case studies), I would like to see this clarified and elaborated as to what it really means.

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**Fold and post this form to Wellington City Council
using the Freepost below.**

Fold here

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Freepost 2199
Our Capital Spaces (COP001)
Wellington City Council
PO Box 2199
Wellington 6140

Mark Jones

From: Ellen Blake [windynell@gmail.com]
Sent: Tuesday, 9 July 2013 3:34 p.m.
To: BUS: Spaces & Recreation
Cc: Living Streets Wellington
Subject: Submission on Our Capital Spaces
Attachments: Living_Streets sub Our Capital Spaces.doc

**SUBMISSION
NUMBER**

165

Please find our submission attached

Kind regards

Ellen Blake
Wellington coordinator
Living Streets Aotearoa

www.livingstreets.org.nz

Living Streets Aotearoa



Submission from Living Streets Aotearoa Our Capital Spaces

Contact person: **Ellen Blake**
Email: **wellington@livingstreets.org.nz**
Phone: **021 106 7139**
Date: **9 July 2013**

About Living Streets

Living Streets Aotearoa is New Zealand's national walking and pedestrian organisation, providing a positive voice for people on foot and working to promote walking friendly planning and development around the country. Our vision is "More people choosing to walk more often and enjoying public places".

The objectives of Living Streets Aotearoa are:

- to promote walking as a healthy, environmentally-friendly and universal means of transport and recreation
- to promote the social and economic benefits of pedestrian-friendly communities
- to work for improved access and conditions for walkers, pedestrians and runners including walking surfaces, traffic flows, speed and safety
- to advocate for greater representation of pedestrian concerns in national, regional and urban land use and transport planning.

Wellington is the local walking action group based in this area which is working to make city and suburban centres in the region more walking-friendly.

For more information, please see: www.livingstreets.org.nz

Submission

We understand the Our Capital Spaces policy is an overarching policy to give guidance to the management of all parks, sports fields and other open spaces managed by the Council.

1 Links to other plans

It is not clear from this draft how this plan links to other plans, such as the Town Belt Management Plan, and it is difficult to see how they all fit together if there is no stated links. For instance there are 3 priority tracks for development identified – how do these link with the existing priorities in other plans.

2 Coverage

There are some gaps in what is covered – the sea and beaches are not included yet are popular outdoor recreation areas.

Private recreation areas are not mentioned, e.g Miramar golf course, yet may provide good partnership opportunities. The application of this policy to non- Council managed areas would then need to be considered. School grounds are considered and should be promoted for child-friendly activities.

3 Outcomes

As an over-arching policy some of the outcomes seem narrowly focused.

Presumably the main outcome of these open spaces are for the enjoyment of Wellington people and our visitors, whether this is a passive or active enjoyment, and it would be useful to see this reflected in the outcomes.

While it is a worthwhile social outcome to 'get' everyone active and healthy it seems a big ask of open space, or the main purpose of open space. There are many other factors involved in personal health.

There is a lot of assumption about what will 'make' people more active without any supporting information. What will encourage people not currently active to get out into our open space?

There is a focus on formal and organised sport and recreation yet it appears that most people access our open space on foot, and in informal, local situations.

We would expect that walking to local open spaces are a key stepping stone for people to explore further and should be a priority.

4 Standards and rules

As this is an overarching policy some standards and rules applicable to all areas would be useful, in particular:

- a track standard for 'natural' areas, e.g Standards NZ HB 8630:2004 of DOC Track construction and maintenance guidelines . We would like to see walk access tracks maintained with appropriate use of steps and zig-zags, use of appropriate surface materials, consideration of slope etc.
- a standard for areas that are intended to be accessible to all, e.g. wheelchair users
- rules for vehicle use (including bicycles) in 'open space' areas, e.g. NZ Road rules apply, a 30 km/hour maximum speed limit in all areas (the speed at which pedestrians are likely to survive a collision)
- a standard approach to charging fees would be useful, e.g for closing parts of an area for exclusive use activities. Fees could then be used for maintenance of the open spaces.
- the ability to close tracks to vehicle use in certain circumstances, eg very wet weather to protect tracks – as is done with sports fields for the same reason

5 Multi use tracks

The change to multi-use tracks from the previous walk only access in our parks has meant that there are now no vehicle free spaces in Wellington. We understand that most people access open space on foot and should have the opportunity to 'get away from it all' in walk only spaces.

We would like to see on-foot only areas re-instated, particularly on some of the high use tracks such as the Mt Kaukau and Mt Victoria lookout tracks, and in a range of other areas so that people have the opportunity to relax and enjoy 'nature' without constant vigilance for vehicles. Outcome 3 should have a priority to develop on-foot areas so that Wellington can be recognised as a premier urban walking environment.

Great Harbour Way – this is a path that requires further development to ensure it is walk friendly. Currently it is not wheelchair accessible as the footpath is sub-standard.

Similarly, if beaches and the sea are included in the scope of this policy, we would expect that there should be some swim-only beaches in Wellington free from boats and other motorised craft, such as the high use areas like Oriental Bay.

6 Priority parks

There is a focus on big spaces, which ignores the effect of the multitude of small spaces on what the city feels like to people out in it. Getting people more active will mean utilising local, easy to access (and therefore free) open space where they live and work. This will often be through, and to, small spaces.

We question what it means to be an "under-used walking area" . Is there some target or level at which a space is 'properly' used. Walking routes frequently traverse out of the way spaces, and will not be monitored by formal groups. Providing a good network of the small spaces that provide routes around the city should be a major function of the open space network.

We support the idea of providing open space within a 10 minute walk for all areas of Wellington.

We support the provision of open space within new subdivisions. This should be linked with good foot access (using steps, zig-zags and other walk routes) through subdivisions to open spaces.

We would like to be heard in support of our submission.

SUBMISSION
NUMBER

184

Mark Jones

From: Michael Oates
Sent: Wednesday, 10 July 2013 8:09 a.m.
To: Mark Jones
Subject: FW: Attached" Submission to "OCS" consultation from johnsonville community Association (Inc.)

Attachments: JCA Submission to WCC Draft Open Spaces Framework Consultation (Final).doc



JCA Submission to
WCC Draft Op...

Mike Oates

Mgr Open Space & Rec Planning | Parks, Sport & Recreation | Wellington City Council P 04 803 8289 | M 021 227 8289 | F 04 801 3155 E
michael.oates@wcc.govt.nz | W Wellington.govt.nz |
<https://www.facebook.com/wellingtoncitycouncil><https://www.facebook.com/wellingtoncitycouncil> | <http://twitter.com/wgtncch><http://twitter.com/wgtncch>

-----Original Message-----

From: Myfanwy Emeny
Sent: Wednesday, 10 July 2013 8:08 a.m.
To: Michael Oates
Subject: FW: Attached" Submission to "OCS" consultation from johnsonville community Association (Inc.)

Myfanwy Emeny | Manager, Community Engagement & Reserves| Parks, Sport & Recreation |Wellington City Council | Phone: 803 8549 | Mobile: 021 227 8549| www.wellington.govt.nz The information contained in this email is privileged and confidential and intended for the addressee only. If you are not the intended recipient, you are asked to respect that confidentiality and not disclose, copy or make use of its contents. If received in error you are asked to destroy this email and contact the sender immediately. Your assistance is appreciated.

-----Original Message-----

From: Graeme Sawyer [<mailto:graeme.sawyer007@gmail.com>]
Sent: Tuesday, 9 July 2013 11:15 p.m.
To: Myfanwy Emeny

Subject: Attached" Submission to "OCS" consultation from johnsonville community Association (Inc.)

Hi Myfanwy,

Please accept (attached) the submission from the Johnsonville Community Association (Inc.) to the OCS consultation.

This consultation "officially" closed 6 hours ago, but as per or discussion 3 weeks back, We accept your kind offer to extend the deadline for acceptance of this submission from our group - thank you for that extra flexibility, we do appreciate it!

We look forward to making a a verbal submission in a few weeks.

Kind Regards,

Graeme Sawyer
for Johnsonville Community Association (Inc.) Ph 027 444 1748

Submission on “Our Capital S[paces]” Open Spaces and Recreation Framework.

Submitter Details:

Johnsonville Community Association (INC)
c/o Graeme Sawyer
10 Birch St.
Johnsonville 6027

Phone 027 444 1748

Graeme.Sawyer007@gmail.com

YES we would like to make an oral submission, please.

I am giving this feedback on behalf of an organisation representing all the residents of Johnsonville.

Submission Details:

1 Do you think Our Capital Spaces sets the right priorities and actions? What other priorities or actions would you like to see included?

- Yes
 - No
 - Unsure
- Comments

While some initiatives make obvious sense, there is a sub-text of a significant reduction in expenditure, and a likely dramatic reduction of some services or facilities. We feel it is unbalanced to ask for support for such a change without detailing if any reduction in services – both qualitative and quantitative – are planned. We think Johnsonville will benefit from Alex Moore Park becoming a multi-purpose community space. We support the linking of green space networks to create short walks and to ensure that the Johnsonville community is connected to the Skyline and other major walkways such as Te Araroa. However we would like to be consulted before decisions are made to remove small playgrounds in our community. Even if play equipment is to be removed due to a change in the demographics of the neighbourhood, we would expect that the green space is protected in keeping with Outcome 1: *Design and maintain landscaped open spaces in partnership with communities to enable personal safety, opportunities for socialising, and an active healthy lifestyle. Support the idea of greater flexibility for all ages when developing neighbourhood parks and outdoor spaces. Think about users with mobility challenges.*

2 Do you agree that we need to do more to raise awareness about local play, sport and recreation opportunities? How can we best do this?

- Yes
 - No
 - Unsure
- Comments

This question does not align well with your “have our say on Our Capital Spaces Plan” document, As your document (page 10 'awareness') puts emphasis on *passive* use of open spaces, yet this question implies emphasis on the “sport” side of recreation. [The biggest, and most “capital intensive” part of WCCs recreation resource is its reserve “green space” - parks and the tracks amongst it. Yet these are very poorly signposted, and people must go to a great deal of trouble to

Comment [Michael &1]: I am not keen on emotive or negative language in submissions. I think it reduces the impact of constructive suggestions.

even find where some of them start, let alone find how to get there.

While their use is undeniably handy for those young enough to be techs savvy, we are sceptical to read that WCC believe that developing "smart-phone apps" will increase usage of walkways, when many of us walk in the outdoors to escape technology to some extent, and a large portion of the population (the ageing) don't and may never use such "applications".

Significant investment in "old fashioned" signage, so people know what tracks and walks are there, how to get there, and how long each 'leg' will take to complete, and what options they have got linking to other tracks - is essential, and must be given a higher priority. One opportunity to raise awareness of play and sport opportunities could be to use the websites of community groups such as ours to further promote such on-line resources.

3 Do you support how we plan to partner with and support sports clubs as the nature of participation in sport and recreation changes?

- Yes
 - No
 - Unsure
- Comments

Your partnership plan is common sense & reflects what is already occurring (ie, at Alex Moore redevelopment) so we would expect you to do that anyway. The "sportsville" model in Johnsonville has been community driven, and community funded. WCC investment in it will be disappointingly low (compared to the community investment), and WCCs contribution (car-parking) is wasteful in its destruction of precious flat open sports field space, by covering it in the cheapest & easiest form of car parking (when more "space efficient" car-parking could be put along the roadside, and not detract from available open space at all).

Encouraging efficient private or community investment is all very well, but it is unfair for WCC to invest colossal sums in "low return" (high capital cost) and high maintenance cost recreational infrastructure like the Kilbirnie ASB Sports centre, as they have done recently, when our parks have had valued playgrounds decommissioned and 'dumbed down' to the point where our kids don't want to use them! We would support the Council's plan to partner with and support sports clubs, but clubs receiving this support should have to demonstrate that they are open and inclusive with affordable fees.

4 Do you support the concept of investing in parks, recreational and community spaces where a range of activities are possible? Do you support this even if it means limiting investment in parks that do not appeal to a wide range of people or do not have important roles for protecting nature?

- Yes
 - No and yes
 - Unsure
- Comments

This question ties two concepts together when they needn't be so. In the process, the leading nature of this question leaves this consultation process debased.

It also refers to "protecting" nature as a priority in an ill-defined and rather simplistic way: In some areas (where pre-European nature was obliterated in the preceding 150 years) "re-establishing nature" (rather than "preserving" it) is necessary. This language of 'preservation' could doom areas where pre-European environment has been obliterated but is in the process of recovering, like Johnsonville, to under-investment in re-establishing its natural capital while areas of undoubted 'virginal' value, are preserved as "museum pieces"

We are concerned that your 'protecting nature' view is too narrow, and focuses only on a 'museum' approach, when we could aim so much higher than that – for re-establishment of hundreds of hectares of native bush on land already designated "reserve".

Comment [Michael &2]: I don't think you can quote 'preservation' when they've actually said 'protecting'. Also they haven't defined protecting nature so how do you know they mean only pre-european bush. If that was the case they would have very little to protect. Is it actually defined in the report?

We certainly do support “multi-modal” parks, as the current situation (where overlapping uses are effectively discouraged) is illogical, and result in far less usage overall (Because, for example, families with a dog, young kids and older kids don't visit the likes of Branscombe St play area, because its small, stark, sterile, there is nothing for bigger kids to do there and it's illegal for the dog to be there. Even if he was allowed, there is no room for the dog to run around). A sensible approach would be to ensure that some parks have something for everyone (or at least more than one user group), so a whole family plus dog can all enjoy activities there together.

However we cannot agree to this if in doing so you take our feedback as approval to decrease services or amenities that our community may value more than WCC thinks we do.

The last time there was such consultation, WCC used the results to decommission two play areas in our suburb – at Meekwood reserve and Tralee place reserve – and to dramatically reduce the usable play areas (both in number and in quality) available to us overall. This reduction in amenity was justified it as being “in line with new policy” of having fewer, “better resourced” play areas. But in our opinion, no such improvement resulted, and the reduction in WCC investment was substantial, and with very negative effect.

We prefer to retain the right to be involved in any decisions about where it's appropriate to make “trade-offs” in our suburb, so we cannot reply “yes” to this question without such specific qualification. We think there is a danger in the plan to limit support to certain multi-use parks to the exclusion of other potential recipients of such investment. It is important to ensure that other parks with potential to protect nature and contribute to the greening of communities are not cast aside inappropriately amidst this change of ‘focus’

5 Will the suggestions in Our Capital Spaces make it easy for you to get active? Do you have any other suggestions around this?

- Yes
 - No
 - **Unsure**
- Comments

The plan is very vague without budget or timeframes so it is hard at this stage to see how and when it will enable people to get active. There is little that is particularly concrete in this framework, and some initiatives (like Alex Moore Park improvements) are already well advanced and their completion is not dependant on this plan being adopted. So there is little that we can point to that will actually improve the degree of “activity” for our members. However, if some of the new walking track routes (and associated plantings are completed under this new plan that may make a significant difference.

6 Do you support the focus on short local tracks that are accessible to local communities? Where in Wellington do you think we should prioritise our investment in tracks?

- **Yes**
 - No
 - **Unsure**
- Comments

Focus on tracks that make the best use of green space, and ones that provide access to developing green space so community groups are encouraged by that access to engage in developing and protect the fauna and flora. We support the focus on short local tracks and we think that Johnsonville provides an excellent starting point. We would also encourage you to think about connecting these tracks to each other, and more particularly to the Skyline and Te Araroa walkway tracks. People using these tracks will want to descend into Johnsonville to either gather supplies if they are going further, or catch public transport. The Johnsonville has a large population of young

families who wish to make use of the outdoor amenities. The opportunity to walk in a connected network of tracks is an encouragement for local families to get active. Johnsonville is a great example of an urban space largely encircled by “scrub” – slowly regenerating native bush with low species diversity and an absence of pre-European canopy species, and massive quantities of noxious weeds. More and better walkways with better access would spark more local interest in planting (indigenous canopy species) and pest control (a massive issue, due to neglect over the last 20 years....).

We strongly request that more effort and resource be invested to link existing reserves together as “walking routes”, by signposting routes and installing 'all weather’ tracks through green-spaces wherever possible, and providing more and better linkages with existing walkways. We have specific proposals in mind and are prepared to encourage community “manpower” to ensure these objectives are met.

7 Do you think we need to continue protecting and/or acquiring new land to expand the network of open spaces as the city grows and if so where?

- Yes
 - No
 - Unsure
- Comments

Just as Greenfields residential property developers have traditionally been required to donate land for “green space” as suburbs have expanded, WCC should assume responsibility for creating more green spaces within areas re-designated “medium density or “high density”.

The reasons for this are obvious and compelling: WCC changes planning rules to allow massive intensification – with decreased residents' access to “private” green space (back yard lawn/trees/garden). MDRA in Johnsonville, for example, is a residential intensification planning regime that requires Zero ground floor open space. (ie, balcony space is all the outdoor space required by law). This is not an urban environment, it is Sub-urban, and such intensification is in stark contrast to the reasonable expectations of sub-urban residents. People’s natural need for green space must be catered for. Yet, at present, it is not.

Therefore, every area designated “higher density” sub-urban space should be required to have an equal and proportionate investment in ADDITIONAL quality green space – possibly as “pocket parks” (as suggested by Boffa-Miskel report commissioned as part of WCC’s “section 32 report for District Plan change 72). Whether this is paid for by WCC directly, or by targeted development contributions from new developments is irrelevant: additional new green spaces MUST be planned for, and included in newly redeveloped suburbs as a matter of course.

As stated earlier we strongly support the continuation of the Skyline track north of Johnsonville, but we feel strongly that this should be accompanied by appropriate planting of heritage “natural capital” species.

8 Do you agree with our focus on restoring more ecological areas and encouraging native birds and other important species into every community? How can we achieve this?

- Yes
 - No
 - Unsure
- Comments

Yes. we agree with this, but rather than concentrating on 'sexy’ fauna (tui's, etc) , re-establishment of a balanced and complete “pre-European” set of flora should be the highest priority, as in time this will inevitably prove to be the most sustainable means to establishing habitat to support a full range of indigenous fauna (both “sexy” and otherwise).

Planting of native species indigenous to the region should become a priority over and above the perceived aesthetics (Pohutukawa), bird feeding potential (Banksia) and convenience (Pohutukawa

Comment [Michael &3]: Oh ! see how you're using pre-European Must be correct. I would say indigenous.

– easy and robust) of their Establishment. WCC planting of Pohutukawa (rather than, say, the locally indigenous Rata), while well meant and practical, is essentially a short-term approach to the problem which we feel should be changed.

If some trees (such as Rata, to continue with this example) are slow to establish, why not encourage an adoption program, where householders can grow a Ratas in a pot for 10 years until it's of a suitable size for landscape planting?

One main reason why more native species are under-appreciated is that most people cannot recognise or differentiate them. More signage, and more specimen plantations beside new walkways could help address that, and we are happy to help create these.

Some native species are vulnerable to introduced vermin, so vulnerable species should be planted where neighbours can be encouraged to protect them – parks could have Rata (which is susceptible to Australian Brushtail Opossum browsing) planted near residential boundaries, where neighbours could be encouraged to maintain kill traps within the reserve.

Some investment in the planning of ecological corridors is needed, both between WCC parks and reserves, and over interstitial private land. For example, if a continuous line of (say) kowhai's would facilitate bird movement between reserves (and to private back yards on the way), we would like to see those plans developed, and encourage residents to plant their yards accordingly (perhaps with WCC supplied trees) to support such. We think residents would respond well to being part of such planning.

The reserve areas around Johnsonville are potentially an incredible natural asset to the next generation, but to fulfil that potential the last generations' neglect must be rectified. Some WCC reserve areas are utterly dominated by pest species – such as Darwin's barberry in the hills above Johnsonville. No plan to improve the Wellington ecology can ignore the massive threat that this plant represents, so a plan – and some real investment in not only removing this species, but in replanting this area with natives – must be forthcoming. If it can be crowded out by planting canopy species, we may be best to try that approach – but action is needed promptly before this badly degraded environment gets beyond salvation. This is one specific example of how precious WCC Plans have failed to deliver on their promises, and we strongly encourage this new framework to acknowledge and deliver on those earlier commitments.

9 Do you agree with how we plan to develop, celebrate and promote our natural attractions? How can we become a walking and mountain bike destination?

- Yes
 - No
 - **Unsure**
- Comments

Developing conservational and educational role for our key natural attractions we support for the primary benefit of our local residents, and secondarily for other Wellington residents.

We are less supportive of using our recreational assets to boost tourism, as this is not an area where we have a “natural” advantage and the costs may outweigh the benefits (As at ASB Kilburnie). Far more important to our community is the re-establishment of our natural environment, and improved access to it for our local residents on a day-to-day basis. If we do that right, tourism and events may eventually follow, but we need to invest in the natural capital first and foremost.

Events promotion should come out of the economic development advertising budget rather than detract from planting, pest control, sports opportunities and walkways for our communities benefit.

10 Do you support more community involvement in, and management of, our parks,

playgrounds, reserves and other open spaces? Do you have ideas about how this can best be encouraged?

- Yes
 - No
 - Unsure
- Comments

Yes. We are a group committed to improving the biodiversity in our surrounds, and restoring the ecological balance of reserve spaces. While we are disappointed at the low level of investment in this area by WCC over recent years, we strongly welcome a more open and direct engagement from WCC so we may better prioritise expenditure in our region, and we are more than willing to play an active part in planting, etc, to achieve our objectives.

We are willing to coordinate with our suburb and rally support for litter removal, planting, stream clean-ups - you name it: We also wish to work with our community to ascertain their priorities in terms of improving reserves, and we hope for WCCs support in achieving those objectives.

Do you have any other comments?

Yes – several;

We are concerned and perplexed that this “OCS” Framework replaces both the Capital Spaces Strategy (1998) and Recreation Strategy (2003). Aside from the confusion arising from replacing a “Strategy” with a “framework”, we are concerned that two very important but distinctly different initiatives appear to have been cobbled together (perhaps for ease of consultation?), and we are further concerned that the time available for such a very wide-ranging consultation is so brief.

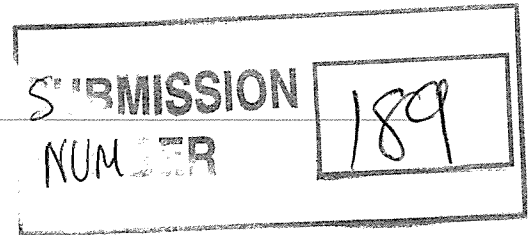
There is also no reference in any of this documentation to the operational Northern Reserves Management Plan or the Outer Green Belt Management Plan. These documents list numerous initiatives which remain incomplete (or in some cases, have had no attention to them from WCC at all since this document was written 7 years ago). We are concerned that there appears to be no stock-take of prior commitments that remain unfulfilled in these management plans: without such a reconciliation we have difficulty in accepting the possible abandonment of past commitments and without an admission of what has not been achieved (or what has not even been attempted) from previous plans, it is difficult to evaluate how achievable elements of this new “framework” might be building on previous work.

It would have been helpful to have set this consultation within the context of previous plans, and to have summarised reviews and recommendations that must surely have been carried out (have they??) on those previous strategic plans.

Without details of the cost of the “outcomes sought” it is impossible to evaluate and compare the relative merits of some of these outcomes. Nowhere is money mentioned, at all, and that is unrealistic, even for such a high level document.

Other projects are impossible to evaluate as there is no detail as to how they might be achieved, the timing for their proposed delivery. We note that several initiatives on the “Northern Reserves” and “Outer Green belt” reserves management plans were placed in the “5 to 10 year” category for implementation, yet seem to have been effectively abandoned. We remain concerned that any claims that support for the “Mom and apple pie” aspects of this framework may fail to appreciate the practical and fiscal impracticalities of actually delivering on them, and it is the prioritisation of those (possibly more “discretionary” funding options) which we wish to have closer involvement with, if you please.

Mark Jones



From: Paul Blaschke [paul.blaschke@otago.ac.nz]
Sent: Monday, 15 July 2013 4:59 p.m.
To: Mark Jones
Subject: RE: Open Space Strategy
Attachments: CSC Wellington Open Spaces Strategy submission final 15.07.13.docx

Hello Mark

I attach the final submission on behalf of the Centre for Sustainable Cities. Thank you for the opportunity to make this submission and thank you for your patience in accepting a late submission. As mentioned in the introduction we would like to speak on the submission to Councillors, and we are also happy to provide further supporting information on request.

Regards
 Paul Blaschke

Dr Paul Blaschke
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From: Mark Jones [Mark.Jones@wcc.govt.nz]
Sent: Friday, 12 July 2013 4:07 p.m.
To: Paul Blaschke
Subject: RE: Open Space Strategy

Thanks Paul,

Yes - getting the submission to me by Monday should be ok.

Mark

From: Paul Blaschke [mailto:paul.blaschke@otago.ac.nz]
Sent: Friday, 12 July 2013 4:06 p.m.
To: Michael Oates
Cc: Mark Jones
Subject: RE: Open Space Strategy

Hello Mark and Michael

Thanks for the extension of time for the Centre for Sustainable Cities to submit on the Open Spaces. I now have a draft submission but have not been able to get this draft edited or approved today. The Director of the CSC will review and approve the submission by midday Monday, I do hope that will be OK. I am sending you a DRAFT now in good faith, but would appreciate if this is not used formally, and replaced by the approved version on Monday.

Regards

Paul Blaschke

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24/07/2013

Phone 04 3855 541 X 6576 / 027 246 2848
Email: paul.blaschke@otago.ac.nz

From: Michael Oates [<mailto:Michael.Oates@wcc.govt.nz>]
Sent: Wednesday, 10 July 2013 8:49 a.m.
To: Paul Blaschke
Cc: Mark Jones
Subject: RE: Open Space Strategy

Hi Paul

This week would be the cut off for us, so if you can send something by Friday at 4pm that would be great.

Mike Oates

Mgr Open Space & Rec Planning | Parks, Sport & Recreation | Wellington City Council

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<https://www.facebook.com/wellingtoncitycouncil><https://www.facebook.com/wellingtoncitycouncil>

<http://twitter.com/wgtnc><http://twitter.com/wgtnc>

From: Paul Blaschke [<mailto:paul.blaschke@otago.ac.nz>]
Sent: Tuesday, 9 July 2013 10:01 p.m.
To: Michael Oates
Subject: Open Space Strategy

Hi Mike

With the impending start of the semester and other deadlines, I and others have been simply unable to make a lot of progress on the Centre for Sustainable Cities' submission on the Open Space Strategy and have therefore regrettably missed today's deadline.

We would still like to make a submission if you are able to accept it late. Mark Grams mentioned that there may be a possibility of this? I don't think we can manage to complete anything useful until the end of this week at the earliest, next week more easily. Please advise if this is possible.

Regards
Paul

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24/07/2013

**SUBMISSION ON WELLINGTON CITY COUNCIL'S DRAFT OPEN SPACES AND RECREATION
FRAMEWORK FOR WELLINGTON 2013-2023**

"OUR CAPITAL SPACES"

THE NEW ZEALAND CENTRE FOR SUSTAINABLE CITIES

15 July 2013

Contact details:

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Contact person: Dr Paul Blaschke
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Introduction

1. This submission has been prepared by Dr Paul Blaschke, Assoc Professor Ralph Chapman, Professor Philippa Howden-Chapman (Director), , and Mark Grams of the New Zealand Centre for Sustainable Cities.
2. The New Zealand Centre for Sustainable Cities is an inter-disciplinary research centre dedicated to providing the research base for innovative solutions to assist with the economic, social, environmental and cultural development of our urban centres.
3. As well as undertaking research, we make submissions from time to time to central government and councils on a range of issues relevant to cities, from climate change policy to the design and reconstruction of Christchurch. The Centre is currently running a 4-year Resilient Urban Futures Programme, funded by the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment, which began in October 2012.
4. Although the Centre's focus is national, we are also interested in specific urban areas. In the case of Wellington, the city's Open Spaces (OS) have an important part to play in Wellington's urban form, environmental and amenity values and also its resilience. To emphasise this point, as part of the University of Otago Wellington's annual Public Health Summer School in 2014, the

Centre in conjunction with Department of Public Health is planning to run a course on "Multiple Values of Urban Open Space in New Zealand".

5. We wish to briefly comment on aspects of the draft strategy and its bearing on the principles of sustainable economic, social, environmental and cultural development of Wellington. We couch most of our general comments in terms of the questions asked on the submission form, and end with some comments on specific outcomes and actions listed in section 4 of the draft strategy.
6. The Centre submitted on the Wellington Town Belt Management Plan in December 2012 and we consider that many of the points made in that submission are relevant to the city's OS as a whole. We append the Centre's submission on the draft Town Belt Management Plan.
7. Because of time constraints our submission is unreferenced; however we are aware of considerable international and New Zealand research that backs up comments made. We would be happy to provide more detailed evidence on specific points of our submission if requested.
8. We wish to make an oral submission to Councillors at the appropriate time.

Answers to general questions

A *Do you think Our Capital Spaces sets the right priorities and actions? What other priorities or actions would you like to see included?*

A1 In general the actions and priorities are supported and if implemented will help Wellington City develop its OS to contribute strongly to the City's strategic goals. Many of the important values of Wellington's Open Space network (OS network) are well recognised and provided for in the draft strategy.

A2 We have some reservations about the overall package of priority outcomes and actions because of insufficient consideration of two important principles that are salient in our thinking about resilient urban futures:

- Maximum and equitable accessibility of the OS network for all groups in society is an absolutely key principle. Although Wellington has generally good access to OS, it is likely that some people in disadvantaged groups are likely to find it difficult to access any but small very local OS. This would apply especially to old and young people, people living in low socio-economic status households and/or those in poor health. Some existing health inequalities can be addressed by increasing accessibility for disadvantaged groups. There is insufficient attention in the draft strategy to the sorts of priority actions and partnerships that are necessary to increase accessibility of OS to all groups.

- There is insufficient attention to how OS provision and management fits within a city strategy of intensification along the urban spine, which we see as a very high need and an essential part of a strategy for increasing resilience. This is also relevant to all four goals of Wellington City's "Towards 2040: Smart Capital" strategy. The existence of OS is not inconsistent with a strategy of targeted intensification – on the contrary it is an important complement to intensification of residential or commercial development so that people living in greater density still have access to open and green space. Wellington is fortunately well endowed with OS, and it is important that most parts remain as such. However, unlike

the Town Belt, there are areas which do not have high OS values (as implied by the Council's discussion of doing less of some things in areas that do not have appear to have high values (p5)). We agree with the implied prioritisation and that there may be some facilities or services that are suitable to be located on such OS areas.

A3 Integration of the strategy would be helped by the development of a set of guiding principles, analogous to those developed for the Town Belt.

A4 Integration and more informed further development of the strategy would also be aided by listing the availability of data sources used for the development of the draft. We are aware that WCC has relatively good information about the distribution and many characteristics of individual OS, but this information was not available to submitters.

A5 The strategy generally should give greater recognition to the multiple values of urban OS, which are wider than recreation, sports and natural values, which are heavily focussed on in the draft strategy and the feedback sought. In addition to the above values, OS provides amenity, historical, cultural, and many ecosystem service values, most of which can be given specific attention in management considerations. Indeed, if the multiple values of urban OS were better recognised and valued, it may be possible to attract greater investment in maintenance and enhancement of these OS, rather than the retrenchment implied in the comments on the need to prioritise and decrease investment in some OS areas (p5).

B Do you agree that we need to do more to raise awareness about local play, sport and recreation opportunities? How can we best do this?

B1 Yes we agree that more can be done to raise awareness. We have no comment about the actions suggested to do this, but we suggest the council might develop stronger partnerships with health and social service providers to link with the disadvantaged groups mentioned above. People in these groups will be unlikely to be members of sports clubs and are likely to have low awareness of council programmes. Some will not be well connected through digital media either.

B2 As an example of the information needs referred to in paragraph A4, we are aware of the power of GIS analysis of OS distribution and data according to census meshblock relating to social, economic characteristics of the population residing near to any given OS area, to provide a more in-depth analysis of recreation needs. As far as we know, this type of analysis has not been done in Wellington City. As discussed previously with Council officers, we have developed a Wellington Integrated Land-use, Transport and Environment (WILUTE) model, which we would be happy to use to develop scenarios of increasing access to OS.

C Do you support how we plan to partner with and support sports clubs as the nature of participation in sport and recreation changes?

C1 It is noted that Wellingtonians are involved in a greater range of sports and recreation than ever before and that participation is changing (p10). We agree with this, but we note that many of the priorities and actions are addressed at "traditional" sports clubs

and activities. We consider that Outcome actions should include specific provision to recognise and develop mechanisms to partner and support newly developing groups and activities. Mountain biking (as featured in case study 5) and community gardens are two contrasting examples of important recreational activities that were much less active at the time of Council's previous Open Space strategy.

D *Do you support the concept of investing in parks, recreational and community spaces where a range of activities are possible? Do you support this even if it means limiting investment in parks that do not appeal to a wide range of people or do not have important roles for protecting nature?*

D1 Yes, in general the OSN needs to be managed in a strategic way so as to maximise several values, including the values associated with higher density in parts of the city, as discussed in question 1. CBD/inner city and inner suburbs are key to active participation in OS use and can also contribute to other outcomes sought. OS areas may be relatively very small and not zoned as OS (e.g. under-utilised road reserve) but still very important in the context of OS adjacent to where many people work and live, and may offer opportunities for a degree of intensification in some instances.

E Will the suggestions in Our Capital Spaces make it easy for you to get active? Do you have any other suggestions around this?

E1 The Strategy mainly considers the OS network for its contribution to sports and recreation. As a network the city's OS also can play an important role in active transport. There is a potential for Wellington's OS to be used more systematically and extensively as active travel (walking and cycling) routes.

E2 The OS network currently provides many walking and cycling routes between different parts of the city (suburban, the CBD and the fringe). In particular some key Wellington institutions such as Wellington Hospital and University of Otago, Wellington, Victoria University of Wellington, Wellington Botanic Gardens, the Met Service research/innovation hub and a large number of schools are reached by several well-used routes though the Town Belt in particular. The amount of commuting use of OS areas to reach the CBD and these institutions is only slightly documented, but we suspect significant, with consequent benefits for health and shedding of peak time usage from both public and private road routes. For example, the City Council's 2009 survey identified that 73% of Town Belt users used the Town Belt for commuting [check!].

E3 There is need for considerably more attention to measures that increase safety and security within OS and on tracks within OS, such as better track surfaces, better lighting, and more open land around tracks. We commented in our Town Belt submission that we were aware of many tracks in the Town Belt that are not maintained in good enough condition to be used to their potential as walking or cycling routes. This statement would be even more true of the OS network as a whole, including instances where public paths and rights of way (both OS areas and Road Reserve) have been essentially privatised by adjacent property owners' development encroachments, obscuring access points, etc.

E4 Measures for security and safety are especially important for young and old users and for users with disabilities. It is especially important to enhance security for any tracks or routes

that can serve for children walking or cycling between school and home as concerns about safety are one of the biggest barriers to school children walking and cycling.

F Do you support the focus on short local tracks that are accessible to local communities? Where in Wellington do you think we should prioritise our investment in tracks?

F1. Yes we support this focus for most OS as it is more likely to make the OS network accessible for the widest range of users.

G *Do you think we need to continue protecting and/or acquiring new land to expand the network of open spaces as the city grows and if so where?*

G1. Not everywhere. The proposed hubs and expansion areas in northern growth areas of the city are important, but perhaps less of a priority in the term of the strategy because growth there is still relatively slow. The same could perhaps be said of areas in the SW of the city (Owhiro catchment westwards) where there is low development pressure. If resources are constrained, priority actions in these areas should be more focussed on preserving options for the future, while expenditure priorities should be more focussed on consolidation of OS opportunities, linkages and opportunities for integration in the central parts of the city.

H *Do you agree with our focus on restoring more ecological areas and encouraging native birds and other important species into every community? How can we achieve this?*

H1 Protecting our natural environment outcomes are very important and contribute to many values of the OS network but these values are much wider than native biodiversity protection values. The OS network is an asset for all people in the city, many of whom specifically enjoy recreation in non-native gardens, walking through exotic tree plantations, etc. Introduced biodiversity also has many important OS values, especially that associated with large, relatively old trees that contribute disproportionately highly to ecosystem services and amenity values. Research in other New Zealand cities indicates that taller and larger-diameter trees are disproportionately lost during subdivision and intensification processes, so it is vital that these types of trees within the public OS network, whether native or non-native, are retained wherever possible.

H2 The provision of ecosystem services (especially regulating services) is an important function of all urban green spaces, especially areas with relatively well-developed and extensive forest vegetation, which is currently largely non-native. Many non-native stands have reasonable native under-storey diversity and offer good habitat to a range of native wildlife. Therefore, in view of the amenity and other values mentioned above, replacement of stands of exotic trees by native-dominated vegetation (including within Zealandia Sanctuary) should be a gradual process (a period of decades), driven primarily by hazard considerations, and undertaken in a way that maintains ecosystem services.

H3 These comments do not imply that native biodiversity is unimportant. There are many OS areas that have important native biodiversity values which must be protected, maintained and, over time, enhanced.

I *Do you agree with how we plan to develop, celebrate and promote our natural attractions? How can we become a walking and mountain bike destination?*

I1 We do not have strong views on whether Wellington becomes a recreational walking and mountain bike destination, but as stated in section E, developing active transport is important; moreover, using the OS network will contribute to Wellington's reputation as a walker- and bike-friendly city, and this is likely to have spill-over benefits for active transport. Development of the Great Harbour Walkway is supported.

J Do you support more community involvement in, and management of, our parks, playgrounds, reserves and other open spaces? Do you have ideas about how this can best be encouraged?

J1 Absolutely. Maximum and equitable accessibility is an absolutely key principle. Some health inequalities can be addressed by increasing accessibility for disadvantaged groups.

J2 Council needs to develop stronger partnerships with health and social service providers to link with some of these groups. The Council may not need to actively "establish" such groups as implied on p11, but, rather, support existing groups. Many of these groups are poorly resourced and supported (even including environmental restoration groups).

Do you have any other comments?

O1. As commented in our Town Belt submission, the planning of most activities in specific types of OS needs to be done in conjunction with other public OS areas, regardless of zoning, for example in regard to planning walking or cycling routes. Ultimately what is needed is a green network through the entire urban area, of which the OS network is an integral part, providing for the whole range of OS values. This applies particularly to OS areas and Road Reserve areas, which are quite extensive in some parts of the city and which may form key links in walking or cycling routes but which are currently unavailable for a variety of reasons. The combination of OS and road reserve areas, considered together, provides opportunities for future intensification, for example by enabling key access or service routes.

Comments on specific outcomes sought (pp 24 – 29)

Outcome 1

Grow awareness of play, sport and recreation opportunities:

This requires an action of specifically supporting partnerships with health and social service providers to improve awareness of recreational opportunities.

Provide recreation and sport facilities that meet the needs of communities:

The action to install artificial sports-fields, while welcome, should not be undertaken at the expense of continuing to invest in good quality recreational surfaces of all kinds, in order to enable informal use of open space. For example, between the excellent and well-used artificial surfaces at Te Whaea and Wakefield Park, lies an extensive Town Belt and other OS network that is heavily used by walkers, runners, bikers, dog walkers, firewood collectors, frisbee throwers, and many others. In order to maximise the benefits of this OS, these groups need to be able to access and use the parts of the OS network just as much as the formal sportsfield users, throughout as much of the year as possible.

Provide a wide range of quality recreation and sporting opportunities that are easily accessed and affordable:

An important priority that is key to equitable access and use by all people in Wellington including disadvantaged and less mobile people. The principle of equitable and universal access stated on p 12 should be specifically cited here.

Increase regular participation in recreation and sport:

Target groups mentioned in the actions should specifically include vulnerable and at-risk groups in society, the disabled and ill people.

Open spaces and outdoor recreation opportunities are close to where people live and work:

We support these guidelines for accessibility being applied throughout the city, although recognising that current levels of accessible to OS in Wellington are relatively high.

Improve opportunities for people to access and enjoy open spaces in the central city:

We note that small corridors of road reserve may be key in the central city to enabling opportunities for recreation and other OS values (including ecological linkages), and therefore consider that road reserves should specifically be mentioned as complementing OS areas.

Complete the track network with a priority on connecting communities and providing short walking and cycling loops and transport connections

We note that the Te Aro/Aro Valley precincts are densely-populated precinct and heavily used for active transport and outdoor activities, but are relatively poorly provided with OS areas and good quality active transport routes. For example Aro St has moderate levels of motor vehicle traffic and it also has a significant number of cyclists (including mountain bikers who use the Polhill Reserve). Cyclists riding up Aro St are faced with a narrow road that gives them little space between both parked and moving vehicles. As uphill riders are slower, they impede more traffic as there is little space for traffic behind the cyclists to pass. The draft strategy signals protection of former Town Belt held by the Crown (outcome 2) and in our Town Belt submission we recommended this area as a priority for enhancing linkages and connectivity. We repeat this recommendation, with reference to a wider range of OS and road reserve areas, and an emphasis on attracting cyclists away from Aro St and other busy roads.

Outcome 2

Protect and restore biodiversity, and demonstrate kaitiakitanga, environmental guardianship and care:

We support almost all the actions proposed, but we do not support restricting actions only to native biodiversity. As stated earlier we consider that introduced tree-dominated forest stands have a range of very important values that cannot and should not be replaced by native biodiversity quickly. For example, the action to *manage [native] forests to maximise both their biodiversity outcomes and carbon sequestration* should most certainly NOT be restricted only to native forests.

Outcome 4

Facilitate and support community involvement in the management of open spaces:

This priority requires specific regional partnership arrangements with Sport Wellington and with regional Public Health, as implied by the discussion on p 20.

Appendix

SUBMISSION ON WELLINGTON CITY COUNCIL PROPOSED TOWN BELT MANAGEMENT PLAN

THE NEW ZEALAND CENTRE FOR SUSTAINABLE CITIES

10 December 2012

Contact details:

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Introduction

9. This submission has been prepared by Professor Philippa Howden-Chapman (Director), Dr Paul Blaschke, and Assoc Professor Ralph Chapman, participants in the New Zealand Centre for Sustainable Cities.
10. The New Zealand Centre for Sustainable Cities is an inter-disciplinary research centre dedicated to providing the research base for innovative solutions to assist with the economic, social, environmental and cultural development of our urban centres.
11. As well as undertaking research, we make submissions from time to time to central government and councils on a range of issues relevant to cities, from climate change policy to the design and reconstruction of Christchurch.
12. Although Centre's focus is national, we are also interested in specific urban areas. In the case of Wellington, the Town Belt has an extremely important part to play in Wellington's urban form and also its resilience - arguably one of the most important single components of the whole city's character and resilience. We wish to briefly comment on aspects of the proposed Management Plan and their bearing on the principles of sustainable economic, social, environmental and cultural development of Wellington.
13. Our comments are directed at principles and the introductory chapters of the proposed plan rather than the details of specific sectors, although we use some specific examples of places we know of to illustrate the principles raised.

General

14. We support the general direction of management proposed for the Town Belt. Proposed management actions are in line with the Council's adopted guiding principles which in turn reflect a balanced and sustainable approach to the maintenance of Town Belt values.
15. We have a number of general and more specific suggestions to strengthen the proposed plan, that mainly reflect two general principles that we think are important for the resilience of Wellington as a sustainable living city, and which are also consistent with the Town Belt guiding principles.
 - Strongest possible protection for current Town Belt areas and broad interpretation of criteria for addition to the Town Belt so that benefits of this vital urban open space can be maximised
 - Flexibility in specific management prescriptions to allow for environmental and social changes over the life of the Management Plan. We are in a time of significant environmental, social and economic change which has implications for many aspects of city living. For example, by the year 2025 (approximately when the new Management Plan will be reaching the end of its span), it is highly likely that Wellingtonians will be moving around the city and commuting in very different ways than they are now. It's also likely that the pattern of Wellingtonians' participation in formal sports and informal recreation activities will be significantly different to what it is now.

Protections and additions

16. We strongly support the provisions for protection of existing Town Belt areas. The plan documents the progressive encroachment and loss of significant areas of the Town Belt, which has only been partially reversed in the last couple of decades. Although no further significant loss of Town Belt land has occurred since the 1995 management plan, minor encroachment from private land is an on-going pressure. Recently the prospect of widening Ruahine St in Hataitai has raised the prospect of a significant encroachment onto the Town Belt by a state agency.
17. Policy 2.9.3 is essential because if the proposed taking of Town Belt land for the widening of Ruahine St goes ahead, this essentially constitutes a new encroachment which is defined as a prohibited activity. Quite apart from sustainable transport implications of this move, in terms of the Town Belt the only possible mitigation would be the replacement of any encroached land with land of equal or (preferably) greater landscape, ecological and or recreational value for Town Belt purposes.

Criteria for assessing land for addition

18. The criteria for addition of land to the Town Belt (policy 2.9.4) are insufficiently strong to express the guiding principles for the Town Belt. They are said to be based on what makes the Town Belt distinct and recognisable; however, they do not adequately express the given list of distinguishable features (p19), in particular "accessibility and provision of linkages to key community destinations". We therefore suggest the following additions to the list of criteria in policy 2.9.4:

- The land strengthens the visual, *ecological connectivity* [new] and/or physical continuity of the Town Belt's horseshoe shape...
- The land has...
- The land may have ecological, *historical* [new] and/or cultural features that require protection.
- The land may have been....
- *The land enhances the provision of a range of sporting and recreation activities* [new]
- *The land enhances accessibility and provision of linkages to key community destinations* [new]

19. We give two specific examples from the Aro Valley in Sector 3. The first is Ministry of Education land in Abel Smith St. One third is used by Te Aro School, and the rest forms a steep green gully portion within Aro Valley. It used to be part of the Town belt in 1873. It is a mix of exotics and regenerating natives. Under the proposed criteria we suggest that this area, because of both its ecological connectivity and access values, should rightly be considered of higher status for return to Town Belt status (rather than "Low priority for Council at market value"). The second is the Boyd Wilson Field Reserve Strip, also a well vegetated steep hillside portion. This strip provides ecological connectivity and important access between the Terrace and Boyd Wilson field. Under the proposed criteria we suggest that this area, because of both its ecological connectivity and access values, should also rightly be considered of higher status for return to Town Belt status. Alternatively, if the land were to be sold to Victoria University of Wellington or Te Aro School, that there are guarantees as to use for high quality public access, as well as maintenance for biodiversity goals.
20. Additions need to be planned in conjunction with green and or open spaces contiguous or close to the Town Belt so that areas can form part of an open/green space network. Ultimately what is needed is a green network through the entire urban area, of which the Town Belt is an important part, providing for the wide range of values of urban green spaces.

Ecology and restoration and enhancement of ecosystems

21. The objectives and policies for ecology/biodiversity are generally supported. We agree that the Town Belt has the size and location to act as a major hub for biodiversity and improve the city's resilience and connectivity. The Town Belt's potential for resilience is more than an ecological benefit. Resilience is also critical in terms of resilience to environmental change, and social resilience for recreation, active transport and emergency management needs.
22. We specifically support the objectives and policies for indigenous habitat restoration, but note that in moving to replace exotic trees by indigenous-dominated forest, the council needs to take the public with it. The Town Belt's exotic stands are valued by many Wellingtonians for their amenity, historical and cultural values and simply by being the vegetation that people grew up with.
23. Provision of ecosystem services (especially regulating services) is an important function of all urban green spaces, but especially the Town Belt, with its relatively well-developed and extensive forest vegetation.

24. Regulating ecosystem services can be largely provided from exotic vegetation, particularly the tall, old, relatively little managed gum, macrocarpa and pine-dominated stands which constitute the bulk of exotic vegetation in the Town Belt. These stands tend to have reasonable native understorey diversity and offer good habitat to a range of native wildlife. Therefore, in view of the amenity and other values mentioned above, replacement of stands of exotic trees by native –dominated vegetation should be a gradual process, driven primarily by hazard considerations, and undertaken in a way that maintains ecosystem services.

25. Although Policy 5.5.10 refers to education programmes, this policy as worded only refers to supporting community education. We think that the council should be more proactive in this regard, and suggest an additional awareness/education policy as follows

5.5.new [to follow 5.5.10] The council will work in conjunction with restoration groups and the community to raise awareness of biodiversity and ecological values of the Town Belt.

We have in mind for this policy that it would promote discussion and education not just about native biodiversity but about all biodiversity, the important and diverse relationships between native and exotic biodiversity in the Town Belt (including where exotic species are weeds and pests), and the roles of both native and exotic biodiversity in ecosystem services and resilience in urban areas.

26. We note that although streams and freshwater biodiversity values are included in some objective and policies in the chapter, these vital parts of Town Belt ecosystems are generally not sufficiently recognised in the Management Plan in general. We suggest that a section on streams and freshwater values be added to section 5.2.

27. Stormwater management and ecological management should be closely aligned. We suggest that the potential impact of utilities development on environmental values should be more specifically recognised by the insertion of additional provisions into section 9.5.4 as follows:

9.5.4 a. New utilities, replacement or upgrading of existing utilities may be permitted by granting leases or easements provided it is an essential service to the public, it cannot be reasonably located elsewhere, the recreational nature *and ecological values* [new] of the Town Belt *are* not significantly disturbed...

9.5.4 g (iv). Underground services shall be sited to minimise interference with existing features, facilities, *natural water flows, environmental processes* [new] and vegetation.

28. We note that many parts of the Town Belt can be managed to maximize carbon sequestration, not just those that are currently eligible for carbon credits. Policy 5.5.17 should recognise this as follows:

5.5.17 Manage *all* [new] forest areas, *especially those* [new] eligible for carbon credits, to maximise carbon sequestration for the city, prioritising areas of both carbon growth and biodiversity protection.

Balancing informal recreation with demands from organised sport

29. The aim of both informal recreation and organised sport on the Town Belt should be to maximise opportunities for community recreation participation of all types and at all levels, as stated in the objectives in section 6.5 (especially 6.5.1).
30. The policies and assessment need to allow for changing participation patterns. This is likely to involve more informal use, and less formal use of spaces in the Town Belt (especially if the current trend to artificial surfaces continues).
31. Sometimes the development of small “new” recreation areas may be justifiable if it serves an important recreational need. We think that within the term of the new Management Plan such new uses should be able to be accommodated within existing footprint of recreation and sports parks as implied by policies 6.6.2 and 6.6.3. However for the avoidance of doubt we recommend that the word “recreation” is added to both policies as follows:

6.6.2 Development of existing or building new sporting, *recreational* [new] and club facilities is limited to the existing footprint of sport and recreation parks and/or...

6.6.3 Applications for the development of existing or new sporting, *recreational* [new] and club facilities are subject to:

32. Conversely there are a number of developed sports playing surfaces which are in very poor condition because of drainage issues and/or little used. Examples of such areas are Alexandra Park at the north end of Sector 7 (Ministry of Education land but should be managed in complementary way to Town Belt), the top surface of Rugby league Park, and small surfaces within Macalister Park/Liardet Park (some already used primarily for dog exercise).
33. As the development of artificial surfaces increases to the point where these poor surfaces are not needed as replacement sports fields, they may be retired from sports use and instead used for dog exercise areas, passive recreation, or if appropriate on ecological grounds, restored to indigenous vegetation. On occasion they may be suitable for community gardens or orchards. We think these are good uses for such areas.

Active Transport (walking and cycling)

34. The Town Belt currently provides many walking and cycling routes between different parts of the city (suburban, the CBD and the fringe). In particular some key Wellington institutions such as Wellington Hospital and Medical School, Victoria University of Wellington, Wellington Botanic Gardens, the Met Service research/innovation hub and a large number of schools are reached by several well-used routes. The amount of commuting use of the Town Belt to reach the CBD and these institutions is only partially documented but we suspect significant, with consequent benefits for health and shedding of peak time usage from both public and private road routes. The City Council’s 2009 survey identified that 73% of Town Belt users used the Town Belt for walking and commuting.
35. The potential of the Town Belt to facilitate active transport throughout the city should be specifically recognised in the Management Plan. On the whole Chapter 6 does so adequately. However, we are aware of many tracks in the Town Belt that are not maintained in good enough

condition to be used to their potential as walking or cycling routes. We suspect that the issue is adequate funding rather than policy.

36. Nevertheless the proposed policies could be strengthened in a couple of places as follows.

37. Objective 6.5.7 is expanded [*changes in italics*] as follows:

The Town Belt makes a significant contribution to the quality of life, health and wellbeing of Wellingtonians by increasing *a range of* physical activities and providing *active transport routes and* access to natural environments.

38. Policy 6.6.7 is expanded to read:

The Town Belt will be improved by providing clearer information and signs, *and improving the surface and/or* by reducing the gradient of tracks where feasible so that...

39. The ability to add walking/cycling tracks needs to be planned in conjunction with routes and open spaces contiguous or close to the Town Belt so that tracks can form part of a network. As commented above in regard to additions to the Town Belt, ultimately what is needed is a green network through the entire urban area, of which the Town Belt is an important part, specifically providing for walking/cycling routes as well as the wide range of other urban green space values.

40. There is a particular case for easy and well signposted track access for a range of people of all degrees of fitness, to institutions such as VUW and schools. Close collaboration with Living Streets Wellington, Cycle Aware Wellington and other interested groups is warranted.

Legislative review

41. We do not have a strong view either way about the need for new enabling legislation. We note however that many rules and guidelines in the proposed plan still refer to the Reserves Act 1977 in a number of places (eg throughout criteria and guidelines in sections 9.4.4 and 9.5) and therefore if new legislation is sought the relationship of such legislation to the Reserves Act or its amendments or successors would still need to be clarified.

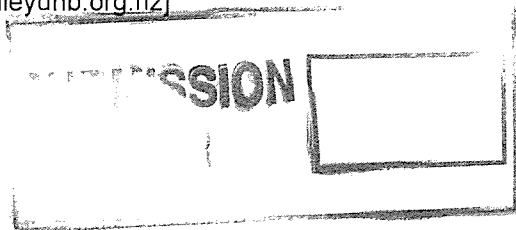
Thank you for the opportunity to make this submission.

**SUBMISSION
NUMBER**

141

Mark Jones

From: Erin Armstrong [HVDHB] [Erin.Armstrong@huttvalleydhb.org.nz]
Sent: Tuesday, 9 July 2013 10:22 a.m.
To: BUS: Spaces & Recreation
Cc: Hayley Goodin [HVDHB]
Subject: Submission on Our Capital Spaces
Attachments: OurCapitalSpacesSubmission.pdf



Please find the attached submission from Regional Public Health on Our Capital Spaces: A draft open spaces and recreation framework for Wellington: 2013-23.

Kind regards,

Erin Armstrong | Public Health Advisor | Nutrition and Physical Activity | Regional Public Health

Phone (04) 587 2819
www.rph.org.nz

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9 July 2013

Our Capital Spaces (COPC01)
Wellington City Council
PO Box 2199
Wellington 6140

spaces&rec@wcc.govt.nz

Re: Submission on Our Capital Spaces

Thank you for the opportunity to provide a written submission on Our Capital Spaces:
A draft open spaces and recreation framework for Wellington: 2013-23.

Regional Public Health serves the Greater Wellington region, through its three district health boards (DHB): Capital and Coast, Hutt Valley and Wairarapa and is based at the Hutt Valley District Health Board.

We work with our community to make it a healthier safer place to live. We promote good health, prevent disease, and improve the quality of life for our population, with a particular focus on children, Māori and working with primary care organisations. Our staff include a range of occupations such as: Medical Officers of Health, Public Health Advisors, Health Protection Officers, Public Health Nurses, and Public Health Analysts.

We are happy to provide further advice or clarification on any of the points raised in our written submission.

We wish to appear before the committee to speak to our written submission. The contact point for this submission is:

Hayley Goodin

Public Health Advisor

Email: Hayley.goodin@huttvalleydhb.org.nz

Tel: 04 587 2813

Kind Regards

Dr Stephen Palmer
Medical Officer of Health

Peter Gush
Service Manager



Introduction

The health of our communities is determined by a wide range of factors beyond the health sector including housing, safe neighbourhoods, clean air and water, access to healthy and affordable foods and easy access to transport, open spaces, recreation, education and employment.

Councils play an important role in promoting health to our communities including providing access to quality open spaces and recreational opportunities. Access to quality open spaces can provide a wide range of health and wellbeing benefits and are an essential element to making urban areas desirable and healthy places to live.

Quality open spaces are spaces that:

- are accessible for all people
- are mixed use, providing a variety of functions including opportunities for play, socialising, relaxation and exercise
- are culturally appropriate and promote cultural heritage
- enhance biodiversity
- are safe places; and are
- developed in consultation with the local community.^{1,2}

Regional Public Health **strongly supports** Council's aim to get more people active and enjoying the outdoors and commends its commitment to providing quality open spaces and recreation opportunities. Overall we support the outcomes of the framework but have provided some further comments and suggestions below.

Outcome 1: Getting everyone active and healthy

Regional Public Health **supports** outcome 1: Getting everyone active and healthy.

In healthy communities, physical activity is a normal part of everyday life. Physical activity can be informal or formal and can include sport, exercise, active travel, recreation, leisure and play. Physical activity promotes wellbeing, physical and

¹ Project for Public Spaces. (2008). *What makes a successful place?* Project for Public Spaces: New York. Retrieved from: www.pps.org/info/placemakingtools/cases_for_places/gr_place_feat

² Regional Public Health. (2009). *Healthy Open Spaces: A summary of the impact of open spaces on health and wellbeing.* Regional Public Health: Wellington.



mental health, prevents disease, improves social connectedness and quality of life, provides economic benefits and contributes to environmental sustainability³.

Physical inactivity is now recognised as the fourth leading cause of death globally⁴. The latest New Zealand Health Survey has shown that physical activity levels in the Wellington region are decreasing and are below the national average. A recent report has estimated the cost of physical inactivity to New Zealand at \$1.3 billion per annum and in the Wellington region alone this has been estimated at \$141 million annually⁵.

Access to usable and quality open spaces and recreation opportunities are vital to increasing physical activity levels and improving health and wellness. RPH **recommends** where possible; people have access to public open space and green areas with appropriate physical activity opportunities and facilities within a ten minute walk. People who live closer to parks and have a variety of closely located green space options tend to participate in more physical activity and are less likely to be overweight or obese⁶. A recent study by University of Auckland showed that overweight and obesity in New Zealand is costing the country between NZ\$722 million and NZ\$849 million a year in health care costs and productivity⁷.

RPH **supports** Council intention to provide multi-purpose open spaces. We **recommend** Council use a life-course approach to future planning and upgrading of open spaces that addresses the needs of children, families, adults and older adults of all cultures and abilities. Providing a variety of facilities that cater for a range of ages, cultures and abilities will increase physical activity levels and usage of our capital spaces. This variety of facilities may include:

- open green space
- outdoor gym equipment and training equipment
- play grounds and skate parks
- walking and cycle tracks
- community gardens and orchards
- places to rest and quiet areas
- places for gatherings and events
- drinking fountains

³ Global Advocacy for Physical Activity. (2010). *The Toronto Charter for Physical Activity: A Global Call for Action*. Retrieved from: <http://www.globalpa.org.uk/pdf/torontocharter-eng-20may2010.pdf>

⁴ World Health Organization. (2013). *Physical activity*. Retrieved from: http://www.who.int/topics/physical_activity/en/

⁵ Auckland Council, Waikato Regional Council & Wellington Regional Strategy Committee. (2013). *The costs of physical inactivity: Toward a regional full-cost accounting perspective*. Wellington.

⁶ Lachowycz, K. & Jones, A.P. (2011) Green space and obesity: A systematic review of the evidence. *Obesity Review*, 12(5), 183-189.

⁷ Marj Moodi, A, Ashton, T, Siahpush, M & Swinburn, B. (2012). Health care and lost productivity costs of overweight and obesity in New Zealand. *Australia and New Zealand Journal of Public Health*, 36, 550-556



- shaded areas
- public toilet facilities, and
- pathways that connect to the wider urban environment.

RPH **recommends** that Council prioritise investment toward lower socioeconomic neighbourhoods and areas with a high number of vulnerable populations. In these areas physical activity levels are often the lowest, health the poorest and individual and community needs the greatest.

People in more socioeconomically deprived neighbourhoods experience higher rates of obesity and chronic conditions⁸. New Zealand research shows quality of green space is lower in more deprived neighbourhoods⁹. Accessible, quality green spaces can improve opportunities for people on a low income to participate in physical activity when they otherwise may not be able to afford to.

RPH **strongly supports** Council's ongoing investment in community gardens and **recommends** that Council continue to encourage and support local communities to establish community gardens, particularly in our most deprived neighbourhoods.

Increasingly rates of food insecurity¹⁰ are experienced among Māori, Pacific and those on low incomes. Council could improve equity, social connection, sustainability and resilience of communities and address food insecurity by investing in community markets, orchards, fruit trees and community gardens.

RPH **supports** Council investing in more accessible walking and cycling tracks closer to where people live and **supports** the completion of the Great Harbour Way walking and cycling route. RPH **recommends** providing walking and cycling tracks not only for recreation purposes but to connect people to key destinations and are incorporated into the broader walking and cycling network. By providing walking and cycling tracks, open spaces can also be 'active connectors' within neighbourhoods and can provide many benefits including increased social cohesion and community safety.

RPH **recommends** open spaces and recreation opportunities are safely and easily accessible (including visually) by active modes of transport and public transport services, and for people with impaired mobility. RPH **recommends** adequate cycle parking facilities are provided to encourage active forms of transport.

⁸ Ministry of Health. (2008). *A Portrait of Health: Key results of the 2006-2007 New Zealand Health Survey*. Ministry of Health: Wellington.

⁹ Public Health Advisory Committee (2010). *Healthy places, healthy lives: Urban Environments and Wellbeing*. Ministry of Health: Wellington.

¹⁰ Food insecurity is an internationally recognised term which has been defined as the "limited or uncertain availability of nutritionally adequate and safe foods or limited or uncertain ability to acquire acceptable foods in socially acceptable ways". In Holben, D. (2006). Position of the American Dietetic Association: Food Insecurity and Hunger in the United States. *Journal of the American Dietetic Association*, 106(3), 446-458.



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

Regional Public Health **supports** Outcome 2: Protecting our birds, nature, streams and landscapes.

Protecting our natural environment provides opportunities for people to connect with nature and spaces of cultural significance which is essential for good health and wellbeing. Access to the natural environment is important to all cultures particularly mana whenua and provides a range of physical, mental, spiritual, social and environmental benefits¹¹.

RPH **supports** Council's continued investment in protecting and promoting local natural habitats and opportunities for people to connect to their surrounding environment.

Outcome 3: Contributing to Wellington's outstanding quality of life

Regional Public Health **supports** Outcome 3: Contributing to Wellington's outstanding quality of life.

Quality open spaces and natural areas are important assets that contribute to Wellington's quality of life and bring many wider benefits to the city and region including:

- Environmental regeneration and sustainability
- Building social capital and resilience
- Cultural identity and celebration
- Local and regional economic prosperity
- Attracting business and property development, tourism
- Opportunities for physical activity, sport, leisure and recreation
- Positive impacts on health and wellbeing.

Outcome 4: Doing it together

Regional Public Health **supports** Outcome 4: Doing it together

Open spaces are for the community and are an important community asset that can enhance community spirit and interaction. RPH **recommends** Council work in

¹¹ Deakin University. (2008). *Healthy Parks, Healthy People: A review of relevant literature*. Available at: http://parkweb.vic.gov.au/data/assets/pdf_file/0018/313821/HPHP-deakin-literature-review.pdf



partnership with lower socioeconomic communities and other partners to ensure successful planning, development and management of open spaces.

The benefits of actively involving the community in any open spaces planning and development include:

- Ensuring a range of facilities and opportunities are provided that reflect the demographics and needs of the local community
- Community involvement allows communities to be decision makers/stakeholders in their own local environment. This provides communities with a sense of place, ownership and pride and therefore resulting in increased usage, reduced crime and increased safety
- A strategic focus with communities will help to ensure that open spaces balance the needs of the community within the limited resources available, enabling both the community and Council to benefit.

A best practice local example of a Council working with a low socioeconomic community in planning a community park is described below.

CASE STUDY: Waitangirua Community Park Project, Porirua

The Waitangirua area was identified by the community and by Council as an area which had become neglected and rundown. In particular the car parking space and outside the mall had become a hot spot for rubbish dumping, graffiti and crime. In 2005, Porirua City Council and Housing New Zealand led an action research process with the community and others to identify a 'Map for the Future'. Through this process the community were able to voice their priorities about what they wanted for the Waitangirua area – particularly in regards to the mall and car park space.

From this process plans were developed for a playground space that reflected the community priorities and cultural ideals: The playground:

- reflected Māori cultural heritage
- celebrated the diversity of cultures among the residents of Waitangirua
- met the needs of all ages, abilities and cultures, and
- involved the local residents in the design, building and management of the park.

Throughout the design process the playground plans were shown to the community where they were able to see their ideas reflected – ideas such as an entrance way, carved bollards, park furniture, community picnic ground, barbeque area, a fitness



circuit, garden areas, public art panels, and shaded seating areas for the elderly.

The project was the New Zealand regional winner for Australasia of the International Association for Public Participation IAP2 Project of the Year 2011 Awards.

At the 2010 International Liveable Communities Awards, the Villages Programme won first place in the Socio Economic section of the Environmentally Sustainable Project Award. Porirua City also topped the Community Sustainability criteria in the Whole of City award.

<http://pcc.govt.nz/Community/Community-Projects/Village-Planning-Programme/Waitangirua/Waitangirua-Community-Park-Development>

Additional:

Finally, we would encourage Council to continue to provide healthy open spaces through expanding smokefree outdoor areas.

In 2011, the Government announced the goal of a Smokefree Nation by 2025.

Wellington City Council has already taken a positive step towards this goal by declaring all the city's playgrounds, sports parks and skate parks smokefree. We acknowledge and commend Wellington City Council in their stance which will provide a positive shift in the community and the region as a future without tobacco becomes reality.

We **recommend** Wellington City Council include in the Draft Open Spaces and Recreation Framework a commitment to extending Wellington's smokefree outdoor areas during the 2013-2023 period.

Enhancing Smokefree/Auahi Kore spaces demonstrates a variety of positive outcomes such as role-modelling non-smoking behaviour to children, reducing cigarette butt pollution, and removing a health hazard in crowded spaces.

RPH **recommends** all Council spaces outlined in this draft framework are declared smokefree.



Conclusion

Thank you for the opportunity to provide written feedback on Our Capital Spaces: A draft open spaces and recreation framework for Wellington: 2013-23.

Quality open spaces and recreation opportunities are fundamental to people's health and wellbeing and we support Wellington City Council's commitment to providing these for the people of Wellington.

Regional Public Health would like to offer further support to Wellington City Council to evaluate the impact of open spaces on quality of life to the people of Wellington City.

The previous Community and Market Analysis completed by Recreation Wellington in 2011 would be a useful starting point.

We look forward to continuing to work with you in the future.

For additional information on developing Healthy Open Spaces please refer to:

Deakin University. (2008). *Healthy Parks, Healthy People: A review of relevant literature*. Available at:

http://parkweb.vic.gov.au/data/assets/pdf_file/0018/313821/HPHP-deakin-literature-review.pdf

Regional Public Health. (2010). *Healthy Open Spaces: A summary of the impact of open spaces on health and wellbeing*. Available at:

<http://www.huttvalleydhb.org.nz/RPH/Resource.aspx?ID=1351>

NSW Department of Health. (2009). *Healthy Urban Development Checklist: A guide for health services when commenting on development policies, plans and proposals*. NSW Department of Health: Sydney.

Australian Local Government Association, Australian National Heart Foundation & Planning Institute of Australia. (2009). Available at:

<http://www.healthyplaces.org.au/userfiles/file/HS&P%20An%20overview.pdf>

New York City (2010). *Active Design Guidelines: Promoting Physical Activity and Health in Design*. City of New York.

**SUBMISSION
NUMBER**

90

Mark Jones

From: Wellington City Council [webcentre@wcc.govt.nz]
Sent: Monday, 8 July 2013 3:08 p.m.
To: BUS: Spaces & Recreation
Subject: Our Capital Spaces - Confirmation

The following details have been submitted from the Our Capital Spaces: Open Spaces and Recreation Framework consultation form on the Wellington.govt.nz website:

PAGE 1 QUESTIONS:

1. First Name: Tania
2. Last Name: Kopytko
3. Street Address: 69 Abel Smith St
4. Suburb: Te Aro
5. City: Wellington
6. Phone: 048020534
7. Email: execdirector@danz.org.nz

8. I would like to make an oral submission.
(if yes, provide a phone number so that a submission time can be arranged.)
Yes Phone number for oral submission: 048020534

9. I am giving this feedback: on behalf of an organisation Organisation name:
Dance Aotearoa NZ- DANZ

PAGE 2 QUESTIONS:

1. Do you think Our Capital Spaces sets the right priorities and actions? What other priorities or actions would you like to see included?
Yes

Comments: The intentions are good

2. Do you agree that we need to do more to raise awareness about local play, sport and recreation opportunities? How can we best do this?
Yes

Comments: Ensure staff have a broad understanding of recreation that includes arts and culture in all its diverse forms and that they are well networked with organisations and key people who can provide the links and ideas so they can get different perspectives

3. Do you support how we plan to partner with and support sports clubs as the

nature of participation in sport and recreation changes?

Yes

Comments: Yes but Council also needs to partner with arts and cultural organisations in the city and provide a similar degree of support and promotion service. The partnerships need to reflect the wider societies diverse interests.

4. Do you support the concept of investing in parks, recreational and community spaces where a range of activities are possible? Do you support this even if it means limiting investment in parks that do not appeal to a wide range of people or do not have important roles for protecting nature?

Yes

Comments: Yes but Council could also work with some of the less popular places to enable them to become more self sustaining - e.g. train them to develop volunteer programmes to engage people support their activities

5. Will the suggestions in Our Capital Spaces make it easy for you to get active? Do you have any other suggestions around this?

Unsure

Comments: Community spaces need to be truly multifunctional so consultation needs to be broad and across all the type of activity that the public like to do. Dance for example is the 8th most popular physical activity in NZ. The new ASB complex though wonderful proved problematic for a community dance performance as it wasn't fully equipped. This discourages alternative use of such resources and restricts it to certain activities only.

6. Do you support the focus on short local tracks that are accessible to local communities? Where in Wellington do you think we should prioritise our investment in tracks?

Unsure

Comments: Cycle tracks need to be safe for urban cyclists. then our staff might cycle to work. The tracks need to be away from cars.

PAGE 3 QUESTIONS:

1. Do you think we need to continue protecting and / or acquiring new land to expand the network of open spaces as the city grows and, if so, where?

Comments: n/a

2. Do you agree with our focus on restoring more ecological areas and encouraging native birds and other important species into every community? How can we achieve this?

Comments: n/a

3. Do you agree with how we plan to develop, celebrate and promote our natural attractions? How can we become a walking and mountain-bike destination?

Yes

Comments: by linking such diverse recreational activities together in promotions in the same way that the public are involved in a range of activities (e.g. the same person might attend or be involved in music, cycling, soccer, WOW, cricket, food fairs, cultural festivities etc)

4. Do you support more community involvement in, and management of, our parks, playgrounds, reserves and other open spaces? Do you have ideas about how this can best be encouraged?

Yes

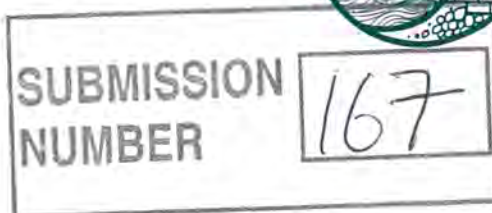
Comments: Yes, the performing arts sector need to be more engaged with sport and rec staff. The arts staff at WCC need to have good links to sport and rec and vice versa. Arts projects in parks could be much more prevalent and more interactive and parks and spaces need to be more easily accessed for this. Site specific performances should be more encouraged as part of Fringe, festivals or over summer. The interaction between the arts and sports sector needs to be on-going not related to "one-off" special projects. Also with broader interaction there should be less use of the same type of groups e.g. Zumba for exercise.

5. Do you have any other comments?

A broader cross department strategic approach to management and use of sport and recreation spaces and places, particularly indoor recreation spaces is very important to develop. The arts people needs spaces for rehearsals and practices just as sports people do, but they have had difficulty accessing spaces. This was identified 5 years ago and continues. By including performing artists in this consultation and use of facilities, the local usage will be more diverse. New opportunities may develop and more creative recreation programming might result which relate to the diverse interests of families and public.

The Wellington Civic Trust

P O Box 10183 Wgtn



Monday 8 July 2013

Our Capital Spaces (COPC01)
Wellington City Council
P.O. Box 2199
WELLINGTON 6140

e-mail: spaces&rec@wcc.govt.nz

OUR CAPITAL SPACES:
DRAFT OPEN SPACES AND RECREATION FRAMEWORK
FOR WELLINGTON 2013 TO 2023

This submission addresses the outcomes sought in section 4 of the draft. Most of the policies appear to be well crafted and rather than suggest nuanced amendments the Trust has chosen to direct our attention to the nuts and bolts of defined outcomes.

One concern is the policy of identifying parks "that do not appeal to a wide range of people or do not have important roles for protecting nature" (page 4 under the heading "We want to invest smartly..."). The Trust considers that for this policy to have credibility and majority support from the citizenry, it is important that these parks be identified and announced to the public before the policy itself is given any mandate.

Oral submission

We would like to make an oral submission when the framework is being considered in Committee by the full Council.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Toni Izzard". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial 'T' and 'I'.

Toni Izzard
Deputy Chair
Wellington Civic Trust

WELLINGTON CIVIC TRUST'S SUBMISSION
SECTION 4 – OUTCOMES SOUGHT
8 JULY 2013

Outcome 1 Getting Everyone Active and Healthy

1. Great Harbour Way Completion. This is deserving of higher priority and more resources, accompanied by a lot more publicity, domestic and international. With such emphasis it has the potential to be perceived as a major feature for locals and visitors alike. Renewed effort is encouraged to integrate the Great Harbour Way within the New Zealand Cycle Trail.

2. Under-Used Sports Areas. These need to be identified straightaway and be included as part of the overall consultation process. Otherwise the public could be put at risk of inadvertently overlooking the full implications of this policy over time.

3. Watts Peninsula. This has the potential to be a prime, recreation, heritage, and conservation area. For this to meet the needs of the community, improved coastline access for walkers and cyclists deserves to be highlighted.

4. Links to Rural South-West Peninsula. Seen from the air and from sea this is a large part of the lower North Island that remains unexplored for a large proportion of the population. Given private investment linked with widespread publicity, a three-day walkway with accommodation stretching from Owhiro Bay to Makara Beach will expand people's appreciation of what is a vast semi-wilderness landscape.

5. Regional Approach. In all its potential manifestations this non-parochial way of thinking is much to be applauded.

6. Increase Regular Participation - Clubs. The framework could give encouragement to clubs engaging joint professional financial management and secretarial support. Given the trend towards declining non-paid volunteer support, a collective approach in engaging outside professional support could assist in achieving long term sustainability as well as promoting the sharing of the lessons learnt from mistakes and successes.

7. Opportunities for Socialising. Designing children's playgrounds for active and passive recreation needs to be encouraged. Sheltered seating under roofed bowers alongside playgrounds would enhance the enjoyment of the young and not-so-young alike. This is a feature seen in many of the highly prized parks around the world.

8. Develop Well-Located Park Spaces. Although at present it is not obviously well-located, the estuary to the Kaiwharawhara Stream and the adjacent

reclamation with its north-facing beach (aka Kaiwharawhara Point) is potentially a prize to be won. Even if firstly confined to a developed recreation area and beach at the estuary, it would be a civilised amenity for vehicle owners waiting to board the inter-island ferry. In the longer term with all the interested parties being encouraged to adopt a farsighted citywide perspective, the north-facing beach has the hallmarks of becoming a valued feature within the Northern Gateway to the city.

9. Open Spaces in the Central City. The framework needs to explicitly acknowledge that there will be more young children and youths living in high rise apartments in the inner city. One of the potential new parks is the New World Supermarket site. Much of the carparking could over time be relocated underground. There is also the likelihood of primary and secondary schools being increasingly located in high rise buildings thereby increasing the need for inner city open space.

10. Greening of Taranaki Street and Kent and Cambridge Terraces. This highly desirable project needs to be underpinned by District Plan adjustments. To avoid shading and the funnelling of northwest and southerly winds, building height limits need to be set especially on the western side of both of these predominant north-south corridors. Also the District Plan provisions, by requiring verandahs, would enhance the open space experience of people walking along these arterial routes.

11. Green Roofs and Living Walls. Greater resources could be directed to engaging commercial building and high rise apartment owners in a defined programme to grow the number of natural spaces on private property. Examples of central city vertical gardens in New York and Paris could be featured in publicity material to quicken interest. These being presented as at the high cost and high maintenance end of a broad spectrum of possibilities.

Outcome 2 - Protecting our Birds, Nature, Streams and Landscapes

12. Native Planting Programme. The framework could stipulate the creation of clusters of long-enduring species. Emphasis could also be given to volunteer groups being encouraged to continue care of trees they have planted.

13. Sense of Place - Public Viewing Points. The framework could promote the need for viewing points to be roofed and sheltered. Design and detailing need to acknowledge conditions prevailing in the season of winter.

14. Protect and Maintain Physical Connections. This section of the framework needs to include the connections in the Kaiwharawhara Stream catchment from Karori and Mount Kaukau to eventually the Kaiwharawhara Estuary.

15. Restore and Protect Streams and their Catchments. The restoring of fish passages is highly commended. Also worthy of mention could be the desirability of having partially opening inner city streams. The experience of the otherwise invisible natural world could be made evident by creating iron grilled domes above light wells releasing the sight and sound of our natural water courses.

16. District Plan Protection of Hilltops and Skyline. The framework needs to have stronger unequivocal wording. Under the District Plan, building needs in most instances to be designated a prohibited activity, or in a minority of cases confined to single-storey development as a controlled activity subject to Design Guidelines..

Outcome 3 - Contributing to Wellington's Outstanding Quality of Life

17. Conservation-based Attractions. Watts Peninsula is a worthy candidate for inclusion.

18. Enviro-schools Programme. This initiative is very much supported in order that the need to value and protect open spaces is passed on to succeeding generations.

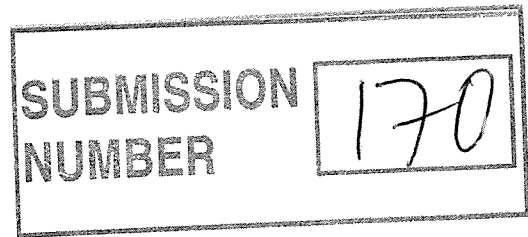
Outcome 4 - Doing it Together

19. Partner with Schools. This initiative could be expanded to address long term planning in conjunction with the Department of Statistics and the Ministry of Education. This would enable the identification of open spaces which will become more in demand particularly in the inner city and nearby neighbourhoods.

Map - Our Space. What Are We Planning to Do?

20. This map could be enlarged to include the south west coastline from Owhiro Bay to Makara.

Our Capital Spaces (COPCO1)
Wellington City Council,
PO Box 2199,
Wellington 6140



SUBMISSION ON OUR CAPITAL SPACES

Contact details : Frances M C Lee, 24 Orari Street, Wellington 6035.
Tel. 479 2600. email flee24@clear.net.nz

I am making a submission as an individual.

Depending on the time, I may wish to make an oral submission.

COMMENTS

I find the draft contains many useful and commendable principles regarding the future of Wellington's Capital Spaces – with which I agree. The sheer extent of its coverage makes it somewhat difficult to comment on many so I have limited mine to a few aspects relating to my long term involvement in such WCC policies – most of which would involve additions to the text. **It is necessary to remember that the draft covers the next 10yrs up to 2023.**

1. TRELISSICK PARK AND ENVIRONS

This park is acknowledged as an example under "Local partnerships" (p.15). The Trelissick Park Group has had a very good relationship with both WCC and GW in planning and managing the park area since the Group was formed in 1991.

I support the submission from the Trelissick Park Group.

There are some actions I would like to see included in this draft- the first three as "focus" details:

- a) a link track from Oban St, Highland Park, which has been on the 'wish list' for many years but is somewhat stymied by WCC's requirement that the Group finds funds for a bridge over the Kaiwharawhara Stream before a track can even be developed (although a route has been established for some years).
- b) link tracks with Otari, Huntleigh and Khandallah Parks need examining where feasible to avoid the current rather lengthy road walks, and make access to the Skyline more enjoyable.
- c) The Sanctuary to Sea Walkway needs extending from the Park to the harbour at Kaiwharawhara Point to gain access to the public beach on the northern side of the Point.
- d) The proposed Kaiwharawhara Catchment Plan (p.28) should contain special rules for lessening water runoff for any housing/commercial developments on the hillsides to protect the environment within the catchment. Our Park suffers from extraordinary high waterflows damaging plantings, streambeds and streambanks.

2. WATERFRONT

I refer to the central area of the waterfront extending from the port to Port Nicholson Boat Harbour which is barely mentioned in the draft yet is an integral and vital part of Wellington's "Capital Spaces". It should have priority status in this exercise.

It could be said that Waterfront Watch Inc has endeavoured to work with WCC over the years as a local partnership (p.19) to try to ensure this area is primarily used as public open

space. But its efforts have been stymied by Council decisions, some council officers and Wellington Waterfront Ltd. This draft has no doubt been drawn up by Parks staff who – one would expect – would like to see this area as an integral part of the Capital Spaces.

The current plans for Sites 9 and 10 should not be permitted to go ahead, neither should any commercial proposals for areas near Te Papa be considered for such development. So many of the principles in the draft framework apply to this waterfront area, eg protecting landscapes, promoting heritage, catering for older people, and there should be a case study for it from the environmental angle.

The whole area should become a Waterfront Heritage and Recreation Park with those open spaces that remain devoted to aspects mentioned in the text of “educational material” and sports activities. This could cover maritime heritage, climate change information, fishing, boating, biodiversity policies, gardens including a winter garden, native trees, adjoining landscapes including the harbour with relevant geological material, etc, and a general information centre. Open spaces on the waterfront are needed for a range of activities for those working and living in the CBD, for many visitors, for school activities and for hosting special occasions.

Any further development of this waterfront area fits admirably into many of the principles espoused in this text.

This area is extremely visible, so easy of access on Wellington’s land/sea edge with great possibilities for an increased range of activities for all the general public to enjoy rather than wasting it on limited commercial/residential programmes.

The draft provides an excellent opportunity for Council to move away from its current attitude/policy for the area and cease stating that commercial developments are necessary to fund any open space changes.

3. GREAT HARBOUR WAY.

I support the inclusion of the Great Harbour Way for completion (p.24), The proposed route from Kaiwharawhara to Port Nicholson Boat Harbour needs priority action as some developments being considered for this section could overtake its creation.

4. WALKERS VERSUS CYCLISTS

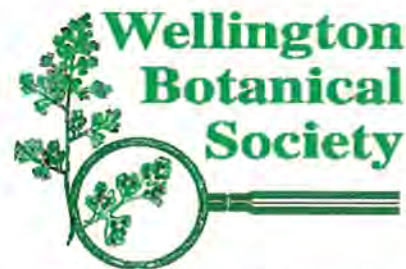
As a walker/tramper over many years in the area, the draft appears to portray/fund greater action for cyclists rather than walkers – who are much greater in numbers – and with tracks providing great exercise possibilities for a range of ages.

I support more publicity given to walking track linkages by districts. Some years ago the Ngaio Progressive Assoc. produced a brochure on Ngaio tracks which was most informative.

9 July 2013

Sub 45

PO Box 10-412
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New Zealand



24 June 2013

Charities Commission Registration CC10518

Submitter: Wellington Botanical Society
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OUR CAPITAL SPACES

INTRODUCTION

1. The Wellington Botanical Society appreciates the opportunity to comment on "Our Capital Spaces". We would like to present key points from our submission to Council at any hearings.

FIRST IMPRESSIONS

2. We found the text easy to read.
3. The case studies were inspiring.
4. The four outcomes were clear:
 - Getting everyone active and healthy
 - Protecting our birds, nature, streams and landscapes
 - Contributing to Wellington's outstanding quality of life
 - Doing it together.
5. We were reassured by the statement "continue to grow the Council's pest management and native planting programmes". We hope we share the same wide definition of 'pest management' — control of animal pests (carnivores, omnivores and herbivores), pest plants, other weeds and plant diseases.

OUTCOME 2

6. The Society's mandate is aligned most closely with Outcome 2, (Protecting birds, nature, streams and landscapes).
7. We recommend adding the word "coasts" to this outcome. Wellington's varied coastal places are an important component of our open space and they offer a range of recreational opportunities.

8. We also recommend adding the word “wetlands” to this outcome because Wellington's few substantial wetlands are an important component of .Wellington's range of indigenous ecosystems. We are aware of four wetlands, Makara Estuary wetland, Opau Stream wetland on Makara Farm, the Hawkins Gully wetland on Johnny Bowen's farm at Makara Beach, and the wetland in the Takarua Gorge Rd in Ohariu.
9. We are generally supportive of the seven priorities under Outcome 2, but would suggest some changes as outlined in the following table.

Current wording	Proposed wording	Reasoning and related comments
<p>Create ecological networks and connections for key species to ensure their movement across the City using the reserves network, road reserves, future Greenfield sites and space within the CBD.</p>	<p>Create ecological networks and connections for key species to ensure their <u>safe</u> movement <u>throughout the city</u> using the reserves network, <u>private gardens</u>, road reserves, future greenfield sites and space <u>within the wider city</u>.</p>	<p>We think Council should focus on improving the ecological connectivity of the green dots and corridors throughout the wider city. Initiatives to get key species, such as birds, lizards and eels into the CBD should be part of this wider initiative.</p> <p>We would like Council to explain how the proposed initiative will contribute to the protection of birds given risks in the CBD such as high density traffic, windows, pylons and aerals.</p> <p>If these networks are established, we recommend placing physical barriers at key points such as across the Evans Bay – Lyall Bay isthmus to reduce the risk of possums and rats using these networks to invade or reinvade other parts of the city such as the Miramar Peninsula.</p>
<p>Protect and maintain physical connections between different types of spaces, (e.g. hills to reserves, parks to coast and to central city, and the opportunities they provide.</p>	<p>Promote and facilitate the protection of open space.</p>	<p>Our alternative wording comes from the proposed action statement which lists locations where Council proposes to promote and and facilitate the protection of open space.</p>

10. If Council agrees to add “coasts” and “wetlands” to outcome statement 2, another priority and set of action statements will be required. We suggest that the priority could be “Protect the best of Wellington's remaining natural coastal and wetland ecosystems.”

- Possible action statements include:
 - building on the contents of the Cook Strait Ecological District 39. 02
 - identifying and protecting vulnerable coastal plant communities such as the remnant mat plants on the the raised gravel beach at Makara, the mānuka/kānuka forest on private land north of Makara Beach, and the few remaining *Muehlenbeckia astonii* plants west of Sinclair Head
 - continuing to invest in the restoration of coastal plant communities at sites on the south coast such as Te Raekaihau Point and the sand-dune communities at Island Bay
 - supporting awareness-raising venture such as the marine education centre at Island Bay, the Taputeranga Marine Reserve, and opportunities to see seaweeds in the inner harbour courtesy of Steve Journee.
11. A separate priority and set of action points are probably required to guide decision-making about the management of the South Coast. This valued stretch of open space already caters for a wide range of people, both locals, and people from further afield. Many of the locals regard the south coast as their local park, but its natural character is being becoming increasingly fragmented and downgraded by carparks and other developments including housing. The current Management Plan was approved in 2012. We think it's time for Council to think seriously about its approach to the future management of this area taking into account factors such as:
- the damage done to coastal infrastructure including sea walls, roads and carparks, during the storms of June 2013
 - growing awareness of coastal processes including the likelihood of sea level rise in the medium to long term
 - the natural contours at Te Raekaihau Point which are being uncovered by the accelerated erosion that has been taking place since last year; the June storm highlighted its increasing reach further inland, well beyond the wildest storm surge last year
 - the progress being made by council and community groups in restoring coastal vegetation on the coast and the headlands
 - the settlement of Treaty claims
 - the challenge of managing traffic and the insatiable demand for carparking along the coast road, particularly at weekends
 - increasing recreational use as a result of factors such as Kilbirnie as a growth centre and improved road access to that part of Wellington in the medium term
 - the proposal to develop a major marine education facility on the old quarry site decision following the decision not to build a major marine education facility on Te Raekaihau Point.
12. We suggest adding a priority to Our Capital Spaces, Outcome 2 such as to "review the Management Plan for the South Coast". Contributing actions could include preparing a report on progress made against the current management plan and a discussion paper on issues and opportunities for the future.
13. We support most of the Outcome 2 action statements but have the following concerns and queries:
- We question the value for money of creating a comprehensive database of all central city green assets (including public gardens, road reserves, street trees, rain gardens) if the only purpose of the database is to identify opportunities for creating

networks to ensure the movement of unspecified key species across the central City.

- We question the value for money of mapping and identifying “key walking and cycle links between different types of green open spaces, in particular between inner city suburbs and the CBD”. To be effective in ensuring that recreational activities will not compromise the biodiversity values of our capital spaces, the maps also need to show data about biodiversity values. At that point, some form of analysis will be required to identify sites/routes where there are current or potential compromises. Before commencing this initiative, it may be wise for Council to consider what actions it may be prepared to take if the analysis shows that biodiversity values are being compromised. For example, would Council be prepared to close or re-route tracks permanently?
- We support the action statement “ensure that trail use and development does not impact on biodiversity values”. A key issue for the Society is the potential for contractors and volunteers to destroy locally or regionally important plants and their microhabitats (e.g. seepages) because they do not recognise their significance. (“It’s just some shrubby thing”. “It was just a tiny fern”). We suggest extending the action statement with an example that illustrates how Council intends to manage such risks.
- We note Council’s intention to review the Biodiversity Action Plan. We think the action statement should be reworded to include a commitment to preparing and releasing a technical report summarising the information and achievements of the first Biodiversity Action Plan. Access to a progress report of this kind will enhance the knowledge available to staff, stakeholders and decision-makers as the next plan is prepared.

TWO MILLION TREES

14. We support Council’s intention to plant two million trees by 2020, and look forward to seeing more details of this initiative, particularly if it differs from previous approaches to planting programmes.
15. Early planning will ensure that the Berhampore Nursery will have the right plants ready at the right time. We offer the following comments to assist with the design of this initiative:
 - We urge Council to identify specific objectives for this initiative which may relate to ecological, landscape, amenity values, or social development goals.
 - We expect Council to continue to plant other types of plants, e.g. grasses, sedges, rushes, ferns and ground covers, and that these will be in addition to the 2 million trees.
 - We urge Council to identify sites that provide opportunities to improve the ecological health of Wellington’s rare ecosystems, e.g. coastal forests, podocarp forests, mānuka/kānuka forests, sand dunes, escarpments.
 - We urge Council to allocate some of each year’s 2 million trees budget to Otari-Wilton’s Bush so that staff can increase the number of species in the collections through a combination of trips to collect seeds/cuttings, in-house propagation and purchases from specialist nurseries. Otari currently has about half of New Zealand’s 2,400 species of trees, ferns and flowering plants.

TE KOPAHOU RESERVE

16. We support the proposal under Outcome 1 to develop a long-term master plan for Te Kopahou Reserve and links to the rural south-west peninsula. Our expectation is that the master plan will recognise the reserve's natural values, and will set out an effective management regime for protecting the best of what remains of its indigenous biodiversity, and starting to restore other elements.
17. Twenty years ago, Isobel Gabites wrote eloquently in *Wellington's Living Cloak: A Guide to the Natural Plant Communities* about the plants growing in gullies in this reserve. The book was published by the Society.

“There's almost an identity crisis occurring here, for fragments of coastal forest saved from eradication by the moist, protected confines of the gullies, mingle with shrubs of exposed coastal cliffs. For example, in the Te Kopahou Stream we can find old, stolid tree hebe, Tararua lacebark, kowhai, ngaio, five finger and mahoe. Incongruous though it seems so close to the rugged coast, delicate common maidenhair ferns find shelter in the streambed. The untidy moss, *Fissidens rigidulus* grows half in, half out of the water. Yet we also see the coastal plants – Spaniard, tauhinau and coastal tree daisy, *Coprosma propinqua*, small-leaved pohuehue and New Zealand climbing spinach, coastal koromiko and the little lily, *Arthropodium candidum*. It seems as if all the scramblers have reason to grow here; native jasmine, bush clematis, the exquisitely scented *Clematis forsteri*, bush lawyers, *Scandia geniculata*, pohuehue and even the regionally threatened leafless clematis, which virtually grows as a shrub here.”
18. Gabites encouraged people to visit these gullies in early summer to see clematis flowering en masse. She added “You may not be aware of it, but as you go you will be passing thirteen regionally or nationally threatened species.”
19. These tributary gullies of Waipapa Stream, referred to as “Te Kopahou Stream” by Gabites, are owned and managed by the Wellington City Council.

STRATEGIC CONTEXT AND VISION

20. The regional context for Our Capital Spaces includes the Wellington Region Open Space Strategy and Action Plan 2009 which aims to ensure that Wellington region residents and visitors have a safe, convenient, appropriately maintained, linked and integrated regional open space network. This strategy has a vision:

The Wellington region will provide its residents and visitors with a safe, convenient, appropriately maintained, linked and integrated regional open space network. This regional open space network will provide opportunities for a wide range of leisure activities for residents and visitors, recognise the region's rural and natural open space character, Māori cultural values and ecological functions, and contribute to the wellbeing of its communities.
21. Our Capital Spaces does not have a vision. We understand that it is part of the “Our Living City” programme which is being designed to improve the quality of life in Wellington by strengthening urban-nature connections and building economic opportunities from a healthy environment.
22. We think a vision may be helpful.

ISSUES OF SCOPE

23. Given the extensive research conducted during the preparation of “Our Capital Spaces”, we were surprised that the framework did not identify:

- the important contribution that Wellington's coastal fringe makes to open space and recreation objectives (e.g. the waterfront, the South Coast, beaches such as Makara, and associated recreational facilities such as boat ramps and jetties)
- the non-physical motivations people may be seeking from using open spaces, for example, access to a sunny place in the CBD to eat a sandwich at lunchtime, access to natural quiet where solitude provides opportunities for reflection, introducing children to the wonders of the natural world
- the need to manage tensions and safety issues between walkers and the sub-set of mountain bikers who are "thrill-seekers"
- the sorts of open space recreational experiences residents may have to go beyond Wellington City's open spaces to experience, for example, overnight camping, multi-day walks, BBQs and swimming in freshwater
- the role of open spaces in ecosystem services. The list prepared by Blaschke and Livesey that was distributed at the Natural Environment Forum could be used to identify a wider range of the services that are provided to the city and its people by our open spaces. In addition, Council may need to identify areas where additional open space may assist in reducing risks to property and people associated with aging infrastructure and increasingly severe or frequent storm events.

STRONG RELATIONSHIPS WITH MAORI

24. We suggest Council ask mana whenua if the framework should refer to the mauri of all things in the natural world, and the importance of protecting mauri during the implementation of the framework.
25. Council proposes to "encourage Treaty Partners and the wider Māori community to **determine** how this plan can be implemented". We question the use of the word "determine" which could be interpreted as Council deferring or transferring decision-making responsibility for some or all aspects of implementation to Treaty partners and the wider Māori community.

Mark Jones

From: Wellington City Council [webcentre@wcc.govt.nz]
Sent: Monday, 8 July 2013 10:38 p.m.
To: BUS: Spaces & Recreation
Subject: Our Capital Spaces - Confirmation

The following details have been submitted from the Our Capital Spaces: Open Spaces and Recreation Framework consultation form on the Wellington.govt.nz website:

PAGE 1 QUESTIONS:

1. First Name: James
2. Last Name: Burgess
3. Street Address: 1 Innes Way
4. Suburb: Newlands
5. City: Wellington
6. Phone: 021565633
7. Email: jim.burgess@gmail.com

8. I would like to make an oral submission.
(if yes, provide a phone number so that a submission time can be arranged.)
Yes Phone number for oral submission: 021565633

9. I am giving this feedback: as an individual Organisation name:

PAGE 2 QUESTIONS:

1. Do you think Our Capital Spaces sets the right priorities and actions? What other priorities or actions would you like to see included?
Yes

Comments: I'm particularly keen on the development or reclassification of tracks to provide biking routes between suburbs and around the northern suburbs - especially if they could form good commuting links too, like the Transient track does.

2. Do you agree that we need to do more to raise awareness about local play, sport and recreation opportunities? How can we best do this?
Unsure

Comments:

3. Do you support how we plan to partner with and support sports clubs as the nature of participation in sport and recreation changes?

Unsure

Comments:

4. Do you support the concept of investing in parks, recreational and community spaces where a range of activities are possible? Do you support this even if it means limiting investment in parks that do not appeal to a wide range of people or do not have important roles for protecting nature?

Yes

Comments:

5. Will the suggestions in Our Capital Spaces make it easy for you to get active? Do you have any other suggestions around this?

Yes

Comments:

6. Do you support the focus on short local tracks that are accessible to local communities? Where in Wellington do you think we should prioritise our investment in tracks?

Unsure

Comments: Tracks should link suburbs and communities. Short loop tracks are not so useful - linking tracks are good for recreation and for transport.

PAGE 3 QUESTIONS:

1. Do you think we need to continue protecting and / or acquiring new land to expand the network of open spaces as the city grows and, if so, where?

Yes

Comments: To join existing parks and tracks - 'filling in the gaps'.

2. Do you agree with our focus on restoring more ecological areas and encouraging native birds and other important species into every community?

How can we achieve this?

Yes

Comments:

3. Do you agree with how we plan to develop, celebrate and promote our natural attractions? How can we become a walking and mountain-bike destination?

Yes

Comments: Filling in the gaps between the CBD, trail areas, and other suburbs and providing funding and support for volunteer trailbuilders.

4. Do you support more community involvement in, and management of, our parks, playgrounds, reserves and other open spaces? Do you have ideas about how this can best be encouraged?

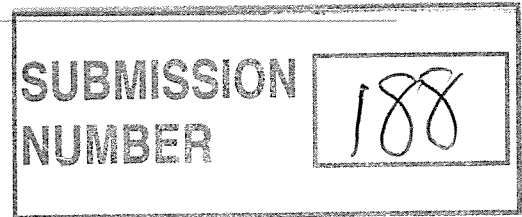
Yes

Comments: Providing funding and support for volunteer trailbuilders.

5. Do you have any other comments?

Mark Jones

From: Ensiyeh Ghavampour [eghavampour@gmail.com]
Sent: Monday, 15 July 2013 3:37 p.m.
To: Michael Oates
Cc: Mark Jones
Subject: Re: Submission
Attachments: Ensiyeh Ghavampour submission 15072013.docx



Dear Michael and Mark

Here is my suggestion for oral submission.

Cheers, Ensiyeh

On Fri, Jul 12, 2013 at 11:49 AM, Michael Oates <Michael.Oates@wcc.govt.nz> wrote:
that's fine. I am on leave next week so can you email it directly to Mark.jones@wcc.govt.nz

regards

Mike Oates

Mgr Open Space & Rec Planning | Parks, Sport & Recreation | Wellington City Council
P 04 803 8289 | M 021 227 8289 | F 04 801 3155
E michael.oates@wcc.govt.nz | W Wellington.govt.nz |
<https://www.facebook.com/wellingtoncitycouncil>
<http://twitter.com/wgtnc>

From: Ensiyeh Ghavampour [mailto:eghavampour@gmail.com]
Sent: Friday, 12 July 2013 11:42 a.m.
To: Michael Oates
Subject: Re: Submission

I am interested to have oral submission. As I undrestood I need to send a written submission first and then would have 5 minutes time to speak.

For now I am working on it. Will try to keep it short, less than one pags, and send it to you by 15th July.

Is that all right?

On Fri, Jul 12, 2013 at 11:27 AM, Michael Oates <Michael.Oates@wcc.govt.nz> wrote:
Hi Ensiyeh

Yes I have but your oral submission is to speak to and emphasise the key points of your written submission. After our discussion I understood you would be making a written submission ?

Mike Oates

Mgr Open Space & Rec Planning | Parks, Sport & Recreation | Wellington City Council

P 04 803 8289 | **M** 021 227 8289 | **F** 04 801 3155

E michael.oates@wcc.govt.nz | **W** Wellington.govt.nz |

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From: Ensiyeh Ghavampour [<mailto:eghavampour@gmail.com>]

Sent: Friday, 12 July 2013 10:24 a.m.

To: Michael Oates

Subject: Submission

Hi Micheal

I just wonder if you have recieved my email regaring to in person submisson? Could you please confirm me.

Cheers, Ensiyeh

Small parks in the Inner city

Name: Ensiyeh Ghavampour

PhD student at Victoria University of Wellington, under the supervision of Brenda Vale

Email: eghavampour@gmail.com

Sustainable and liveable cities are those which contribute to the wellbeing and social life of people through offering psychological and social services to residents. Public spaces are valued for their role in people's life and their multidimensional benefits. They bring meaning to people through their function and this can deepen their role in people's lives. Their scale and their function could range from being a big place for an extended activity like sport to a convenient small park used for everyday needs, like having lunch or getting fresh air during a short work break.

The most popular public spaces are those which attract people and fulfill the needs of residents. Over time the wants and needs of user populations change and designs based on the results of market surveys put public space in need of continual regeneration. However the result of my PhD study of small public parks in Wellington city centre shows although needs change there is a long standing desire for use of nature in public urban open space. Results of a survey of 320 users of pocket parks emphasise the importance for people of incorporating natural elements in small urban public spaces. The research also shows well-designed small public parks in the inner city contribute to the social life of the city. So open spaces do not have to be large or include sport or recreational facilities to contribute to the social life of Wellington residents and visitors. My studies of people's behavior in four small urban parks in Wellington (Midland Park, Glover Park, Te Aro Park and Civic Square) provide evidence that what is wanted are convenient places with use of appropriate design elements, creating flexible and friendly environments. Such places have sufficient seating, grass areas, natural shade, and include different subspaces, providing users with different sitting options. Such small public spaces have sustained used and involve a diverse range of people and activities compared with greened left-over blocks between buildings. The research also emphasis that uses of natural design elements contributes to the sustained use of small parks. This leads to the following suggestions:

- 1- My study emphasises the need for research to define the rules for design of public space in the Wellington context to avoid a green, unused block like Post office Square.
- 2- Significant use is made of small inner city pocket parks by a wide variety of people for diverse activities. During my behavior mapping study Midland Park attracted more than 1000 users in one week day. It therefore seems a pity that no provision is made for increasing the number of these spaces within the CBD. The inner city needs more green space. (Although adding a new park in the inner city is recommended as an existing programme in outcome 1, the definition of open spaces given and the emphasis on large scale parks, sports clubs, and green belt, as made in "capital city space", does not seem to indicate this will be a pocket park).

2013-06-11

SUBMISSION
NUMBER

7

OUR CAPITAL SPACES SUBMISSION FORM

Absolutely
POSITIVELY
ME HEKE KI PŌNEKE
WELLINGTON CITY COUNCIL Wellington

We are keen to get your thoughts on the proposed priorities and actions outlined in this plan.

You can have your say:

- By making a submission on this form or in writing and sending it to us by post

Freepost 2199
Our Capital Spaces (COPC01)
Wellington City Council
PO Box 2199
Wellington 6140

- By making a submission online at: Wellington.govt.nz

- By sending an email to: spaces&rec@wcc.govt.nz

For more information, phone 499 4444.

Enter your name and contact details

Mr Mrs Ms Miss Dr No Answer

First name/last name* BERNARD OISHAKHNESSY

Street address* 139 a Daniell ST
NEWTON WELLINGTON

Phone/mobile 021.1888-289 Email BernardCaton@yahoo.co.nz

* Mandatory fields

I am making a submission

As an individual

On behalf of an organisation Name of organisation _____

I would like to make an oral submission to the City Councillors.

Yes NO

If yes, provide a phone number above so that a submission time can be arranged 021.1888-289 **!**
but e mail me first!

Submissions close at 5pm on Tuesday 9 July 2013.

Privacy statement

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

SECTION TWO - QUESTIONS

Do you think Our Capital Spaces sets the right priorities and actions? What other priorities or actions would you like to see included?

SORT OF.

Do you agree that we need to do more to raise awareness about local play, sport and recreation opportunities? How can we best do this?

NO - LESS RUGBY

MORE ART.

Do you support how we plan to partner with and support sports clubs as the nature of participation in sport and recreation changes?

SORT OF

Do you support the concept of investing in parks, recreational and community spaces where a range of activities are possible? Do you support this even if it means limiting investment in parks that do not appeal to a wide range of people or do not have important roles for protecting nature?

NO

Will the suggestions in Our Capital Spaces make it easy for you to get active? Do you have any other suggestions around this?

SILLY - NO

Do you support the focus on short local tracks that are accessible to local communities? Where in Wellington do you think we should prioritise our investment in tracks?

- ① YES
② SOUTH COAST
③ NOT MIRAMAR IDOTS!

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

NO

① Do you agree with our focus on restoring more ecological areas and encouraging native birds and other important species into every community? How can we achieve this?

- ① YES
② MAKE VIC ~~UNITY~~ UNI & MARTY MORGAN PAY FOR CAT FREE KARORI

① Do you agree with how we plan to develop, celebrate and promote our natural attractions? How can we become a walking and mountain bike destination?

STOP HAVING DOUBLE QUESTIONS IN SURVEYS!

① YES

- ② SUPPORT MORE BIKE RACES
BECOME "THE COOLEST BIKE CAPITAL IN THE WORLD"

Do you support more community involvement in, and management of, our parks, playgrounds, reserves and other open spaces? Do you have ideas about how this can best be encouraged?

WHAT STUPID QUESTIONS

Do you have any other comments?

YES - MANY

I HOPE REAL WELLINGTONIANS

DON'T VOTE FOR JONNY
"NO" MYSTERY MORRISON!

I'M SURE THEY WILL SEE PAST
THE NATIONAL FRONT.

Fold here

Fold and post this form to Wellington City Council
using the Freepost below.

Fold here

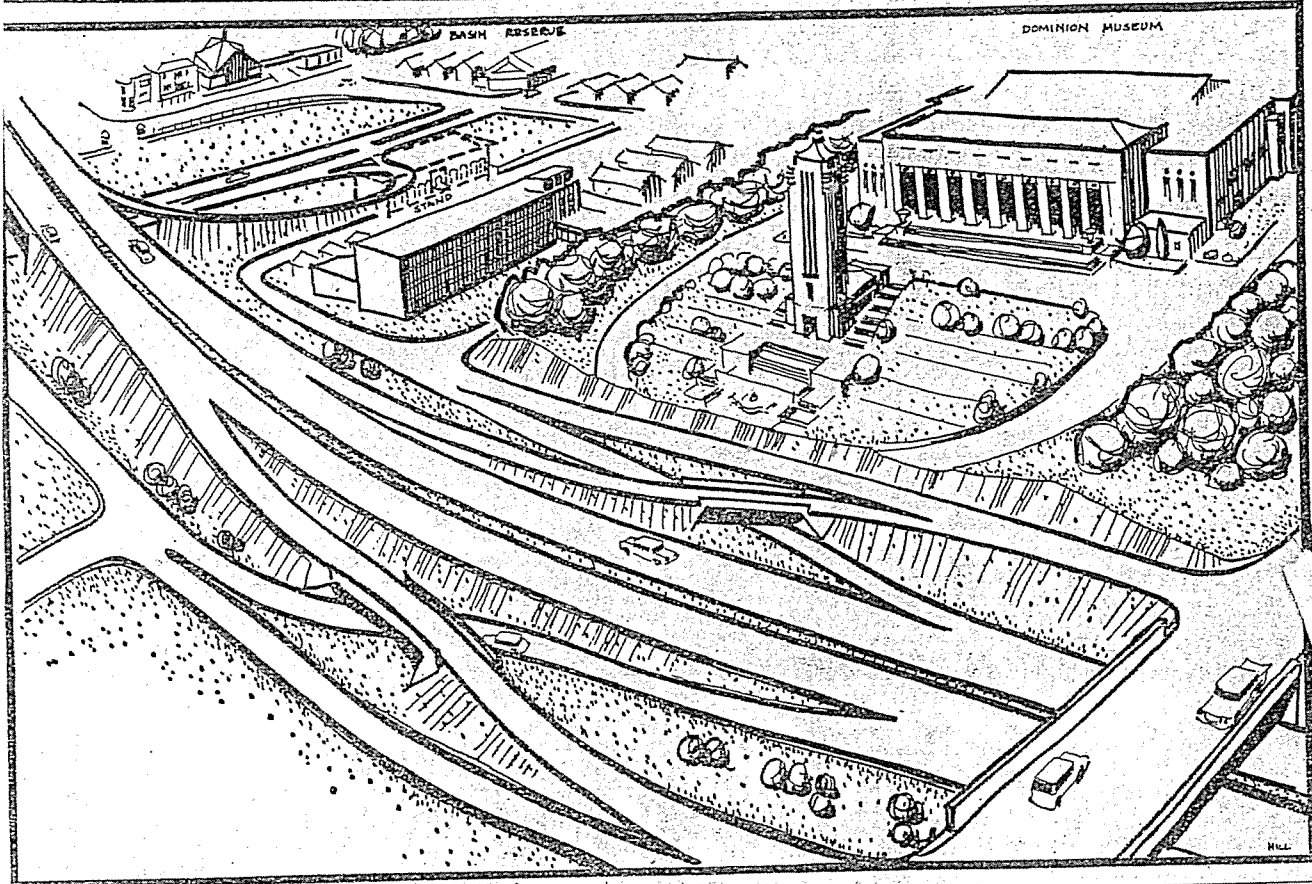
Freepost Authority Number 2199



Freepost 2199
Our Capital Spaces (COP001)
Wellington City Council
PO Box 2199
Wellington 6140

WELLINGTON TOWNSCAPE

as seen through architects' eyes



If expressways in cities are to be there at all then a number of complicated intersections are inevitable. The placing of one in the middle of the Basin Reserve has already brought sufficient protest to have this area reconsidered.

It is hoped the roading outside the Dominion Museum will also be greatly changed at the same time.

The sketch above gives some idea of the visually chaotic conditions that were originally proposed.

The road makes nonsense of the museum, a building which has already been unhappily sited away from the people it serves.

As with the Bolton Street Cemetery, a dignified and easy pedestrian access is essential. If this cannot be obtained then the museum should be re-sited.

This is an example of how necessary it is to consider the needs of the city as a whole rather than in isolated pieces that inevitably conflict.

Law

29.5.65

VOTE O' for Mayor

O' is for:

OPTIONS

OBJECTIVITY

OPPORTUNITIES

OCCUPATION

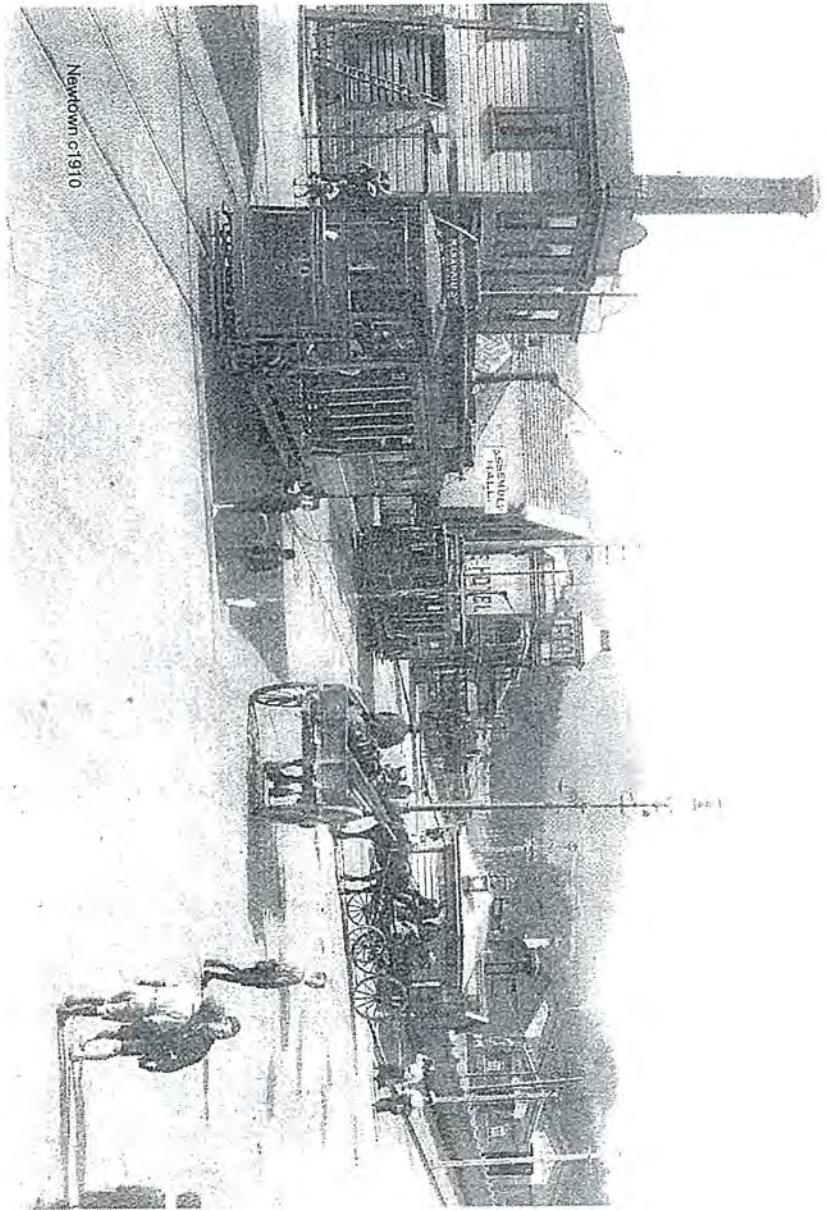
OCEAN

Vote: Bernard O'Shaughnessy for Mayor

If I was standing for Mayor I would:

- 1) Gain unity between the Councillors to move Wellington forward.
- 2) Hold rate increases to 2.2% (Get a fair deal for ratepayers)
- 3) Protect the Waterfront from high rise buildings
- 4) Support No Flyover - No Basin Reserve
- 5) Stop ratepayers paying for expensive CBD projects
- 6) Make CBD Smokefree between the hours of 7am and 7 pm.
- 7) Improve road management projects &
car free CBD in peak bus times
have smaller buses in CBD
immediately have more bike lanes
- 8) support Cuba St carnival
- 9) support J.Mall and Karori shopping centre re development
- 10) extend Airport runway and have State and private enterprise develop it
- 11) educate more to conserve water, but no domestic meters
- 12) let Wellingtonians decide on Regional Governance
- 13) reduce license fees for dogs
- 14) Plan for light rail being:
From the Ferry terminal, along waterfront, Kent Tce, East of Hospital,
using some of the G.General's land, parallel to Mein St, earth cutting to
Gobham Dr, then to the airport.
- 15) Liquor Ban on all suburban shopping centres
Reinforce liquor bans with more publicity
Greater fines for breeching
24 hour move on (trespass) notice
- 16) Build more Social Housing Units
- 17) No deep sea oil drilling or fracking.

Bernard O'Shaughnessy (Bernardcat011@yahoo.co.nz)



Newtown c1910

SUBMISSION NUMBER 171

Mark Jones

From: Deb Ward [dward@rnzfb.org.nz]
Sent: Tuesday, 9 July 2013 4:28 p.m.
To: BUS: Spaces & Recreation
Subject: Submission to Wellington Capital Spaces
Attachments: RNZFB comments Wellington Open Spaces proposal July 2013 final.doc

Hello
Please find attached the Royal New Zealand Foundation of the Blind's submission regarding the Wellington Capital Spaces draft plan.
Many thanks
Deb Ward

Deborah Ward
Communications Manager

Royal New Zealand Foundation of the Blind
Te Tuāpāpā o te Hunga Kāpō o Aotearoa

4 Maunsell Road, Parnell, Auckland
09355 6923
0272819590

www.rnzfb.org.nz



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#####



SUBMISSION
NUMBER

174

ROYAL NEW ZEALAND
FOUNDATION OF
THE BLIND

TE TUĀPĀPĀ O TE HUNGA KĀPŌ O AOTEAROA

Submission on Wellington Capital Spaces Draft Plan

08 July 2013

Introduction

This is the Royal New Zealand Foundation of the Blind (RNZFB)'s submission regarding the Wellington Capital Spaces (WCS) draft plan. The RNZFB appreciates the opportunity to comment on the strategy and welcomes any opportunity to participate further.

Our Capital Spaces Submission Form

Enter your name and contact details

Ms

First name/last name: Deborah Ward

Street address: Royal New Zealand Foundation of the Blind, 4 Maunsell Road, Newmarket, Auckland 1149

Phone/mobile: 09 355 6923

Email: dward@rnzfb.org.nz

I am making a submission

1 As an individual

2 **On behalf of an organisation** Name of organisation: Royal New Zealand Foundation of the Blind #

I would like to make an oral submission to the City Councillors.

Yes

If yes, provide a phone number above so that a submission time can be arranged

Submissions close at 5pm on Tuesday 9 July 2013.

Privacy statement

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

Section two – questions

Do you think Our Capital Spaces sets the right priorities and actions? What other priorities or actions would you like to see included?

We acknowledge the intent to make the spaces available and accessible to all people. The evolution of the plan needs to include more specific detail about how this will be done including ensuring all information and spaces are accessible to everyone

Do you agree that we need to do more to raise awareness about local play, sport and recreation opportunities? How can we best do this?

Yes - and providing accessible information and ensuring facilities are accessible for everyone, not just participants but supporters and whanau - will help to achieve this objective.

Do you support how we plan to partner with and support sports clubs as the nature of participation in sport and recreation changes?

We don't have a particular opinion on this specific objective.

Do you support the concept of investing in parks, recreational and community spaces where a range of activities are possible? Do you support this even if it means limiting investment in parks that do not appeal to a wide range of people or do not have important roles for protecting nature?

We support the investment in ensuring the public spaces are accessible to all. The investment should also ensure a wide range of activities which cater for all abilities within the same area and are not segregating.

Will the suggestions in Our Capital Spaces make it easy for you to get active? Do you have any other suggestions around this?

The intent of the draft plan suggests that it will be easier for people who are blind or have low vision to be active however the plan needs to include significantly more detail. This includes, accessibility of information, accessibility of the spaces and facilities themselves and appropriate public transport and pedestrian facilities so that people can travel to and from the spaces safely and efficiently.

Do you support the focus on short local tracks that are accessible to local communities? Where in Wellington do you think we should prioritise our investment in tracks?

Yes, in line with the comments above, that these tracks are accessible and therefore safe for people who have sight loss to use.

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

We don't have an opinion on the acquisition of land, but do note that if it takes place, the land must be easy and safe to access via public transport.

Do you agree with our focus on restoring more ecological areas and encouraging native birds and other important species into every community? How can we achieve this?

We don't have an opinion on this initiative.

Do you agree with how we plan to develop, celebrate and promote our natural attractions? How can we become a walking and mountain bike destination?

We don't have an opinion on this initiative.

Do you support more community involvement in, and management of, our parks, playgrounds, reserves and other open spaces? Do you have ideas about how this can best be encouraged? As long as those who are managing the spaces adhere to the principles and guidelines of accessibility.

Do you have any other comments?

Yes please find below additional commentary from the Royal New Zealand Foundation of the Blind.

RNZFB

The RNZFB is New Zealand's main provider of sight loss services to people who are blind or have low vision. The RNZFB's vision is empowering and supporting New Zealanders who are blind or have low vision to ensure that they have the same opportunities and choices as everyone else.

The RNZFB advises government, business and the community on inclusive standards to ensure that people who are blind or have low vision can participate and contribute equally. The RNZFB also provides its members with the adaptive skills they need to lead independent lives.

Besides the direct benefit to the RNZFB's membership, building an inclusive, accessible District for blind people and those with low vision will benefit a much wider population. VISION 2020 NZ's recent Clear Focus estimated that in 2009, almost 125,000 New Zealanders aged 40 years or over had vision loss, including around 12,000 who were blind. This is estimated to increase to 174,000 people with vision loss by 2020, including 18,300 blind people.

RNZFB overview of the WCS draft plan

This submission by the RNZFB highlights recommendations to ensure that the WCS draft plan and its initiatives include the needs of Wellingtonians and visitors to the city who are blind or have low vision.

The RNZFB is supportive of WCS's approach and acknowledges the strategic intent to provide facilities and information which accommodate the needs of people who are blind or have low vision, with particular acknowledgement of those members of the

population who are aged 65 or over, however notes that at this early stage there is very little detail in the plan about how that will be achieved.

The draft plan does mention access throughout however does not identify the physical (and other formats) accessibility requirements nor a commitment to ensuring that all people of all abilities can get to and utilise the areas and facilities. As people who are blind and have low vision often rely on public transport to travel to and from places, good links are important.

Outcome 1: Getting Everyone Active and Healthy

The RNZFB is committed to encouraging people who are blind or have low vision to get active and healthy, and welcomes the WCS's draft plan intentions.

Awareness: In order to ensure that people who are blind or have low vision are able to be equally aware as others of the WCS's environments and activities, the technologies being used to do so need to be accessible. For example, websites need to adhere to accessibility standards as noted below, information needs to be in accessible formats (such as correctly-formatted word & pdf documents, audio, captioned video, braille etc) and any apps need to also be in an accessible format.

Supporting sport and recreation and increasing participation: the RNZFB recommends ensuring that sports facilities are easy to access through public transport and have clear and well-placed signage.

Community and neighbourhood spaces: the RNZFB applauds the suggestion of providing multiple recreational facilities across the city and recommends that the parks and other open spaces are easy to access through public transport and have clear and well-placed signage.

Providing accessible walking and cycling tracks: the RNZFB provides opportunities through our recreation services team for people who are blind and low vision to take part in walking and cycling activities. In order for us to achieve this walking and cycling tracks must be accessible with wide enough flat surfaces, clear and well-placed signage, good public transport links and so forth.

Equity and universal access: the RNZFB welcomes the initiative to involve people in the evolution of WCS's plan, and would welcome the opportunity to participate in further planning stages.

Recommended resources:

Accessible website www.webtoolkit.govt.nz

Clear Print Guidelines <http://www.e-bility.com/roundtable/guidelines.php>.

Accessible signage guidelines for blind and low vision

<http://www.rnzfb.org.nz/about/business-services/environmental-design-advisory/accessible-signage>

NZ Standard 4121: 2001 Design for access and mobility – buildings and associated facilities <http://www.standards.co.nz/4121+access+mobility+design>

NZTA RTS 14 – Guidelines for facilities for blind and vision impaired pedestrians (note still in review) <http://www.nzta.govt.nz/resources/road-traffic-standards/docs/draft-rts-14-revision-2007.pdf>

NZTA Pedestrian Planning and Design Guide

<http://www.nzta.govt.nz/resources/pedestrian-planning-guide/>

NZTA and Auckland Transport Bus Shelter Guidelines 2009

[http://www.aucklandtransport.govt.nz/about-](http://www.aucklandtransport.govt.nz/about-us/publications/ManualsandGuidelines/Documents/AT-ARTA-Guidelines-Bus%20Stop%20Infrastructure%20Guidelines%202009.pdf)

[us/publications/ManualsandGuidelines/Documents/AT-ARTA-Guidelines-Bus%20Stop%20Infrastructure%20Guidelines%202009.pdf](http://www.aucklandtransport.govt.nz/about-us/publications/ManualsandGuidelines/Documents/AT-ARTA-Guidelines-Bus%20Stop%20Infrastructure%20Guidelines%202009.pdf)

Please note there are some aspects of this guideline that do not meet best layout or design practice for those who are blind or have low vision. We recommend consulting with the RNZFB to ensure fully accessible steps for our members.

Summary

While the RNZFB supports the general intent of the WCS draft plan it recommends that to ensure participation by people who are blind or have low vision:

- appropriate and adequate inclusive physical facilities are in place
- people can get to the various public spaces by various modes of public transport safely and efficiently
- information regarding WCS is provided in accessible formats.

RNZFB recommends adherence to the accessible information guidelines and guidelines for buildings, public spaces and transport which are all listed above. The RNZFB further recommends consultation with our staff to provide the best possible access to Capital Spaces for people who are blind or have low vision.

It is not just those who are blind or have low vision who benefit from inclusive design - parents, children, friends and those who have temporary impairments also benefit.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit our recommendations. We welcome the opportunity for further involvement and to present our submission.

Further Information

The RNZFB would welcome opportunities to provide more information if required. Please direct any questions to:

Deborah Ward

Communications Manager

Telephone: +64 9 355 6923

Email: dward@rnzfb.org.nz

Royal New Zealand Foundation of the Blind

Private Bag 99941

Newmarket, Auckland

SUBMISSION
NUMBER

83

Mark Jones

From: Wellington City Council [webcentre@wcc.govt.nz]
Sent: Sunday, 7 July 2013 9:22 p.m.
To: BUS: Spaces & Recreation
Subject: Our Capital Spaces - Confirmation

The following details have been submitted from the Our Capital Spaces: Open Spaces and Recreation Framework consultation form on the Wellington.govt.nz website:

PAGE 1 QUESTIONS:

1. First Name: Craig
2. Last Name: Starnes
3. Street Address: 19 Forsyth Grove
4. Suburb: Brooklyn
5. City: Wellington
6. Phone: 0292782736
7. Email: craig.starnes@msd.govt.nz

8. I would like to make an oral submission.
(if yes, provide a phone number so that a submission time can be arranged.)
Yes Phone number for oral submission: 0292782736

9. I am giving this feedback: on behalf of an organisation Organisation name:
Brooklyn Trail Builders

PAGE 2 QUESTIONS:

1. Do you think Our Capital Spaces sets the right priorities and actions? What other priorities or actions would you like to see included?
Yes

Comments: Brooklyn Trail Builders have taken a lead in designing and building quality tracks that appeal to a very broad user group. The popularity of the Polhill Reserve tracks (and further south) have been mind blowing and it seems obvious that the priority should go to where the most users benefit. The master plan that we developed for Polhill several years ago will take us about a decade to complete at our current rate. It would benefit the community for the WCC to assist us to get the tracks completed sooner. The proximity to town makes Polhill a great 'destination' in its own right. Anecdotally, the tracks are assisting in the health and well being of the users.

2. Do you agree that we need to do more to raise awareness about local play, sport and recreation opportunities? How can we best do this?

Yes

Comments: Schools are an obvious place, eg Brooklyn School started a mountain bike elective in Term 4 last year and use the local tracks for this. The 'build it and they will come' philosophy can also play an important aspect in getting people active. The green spaces are riddled with tracks but they are often disjointed, the steps form barriers to use, they aren't in high use so some safety concerns may discourage use. A 3m wide path (Grade 1/2) that connects and activates the TB from Wakefield Park to Central Park would form a spine that the other existing tracks are fed from. The main track can be used for off road commuting.

3. Do you support how we plan to partner with and support sports clubs as the nature of participation in sport and recreation changes?

Yes

Comments: Clubs have a vested interest and have 'skin in the game' in their area of interest. They are often the best 'experts' and collaboration with them makes sense. For example, the Wgtn Mountain Bike Club set up a web page after the recent storm and co-ordinated volunteers to clear tracks of storm debris and pass on info to WCC to act on.

4. Do you support the concept of investing in parks, recreational and community spaces where a range of activities are possible? Do you support this even if it means limiting investment in parks that do not appeal to a wide range of people or do not have important roles for protecting nature?

Yes

Comments: The idea is to create interest and appeal so people are attracted to the spaces and activate them.

5. Will the suggestions in Our Capital Spaces make it easy for you to get active? Do you have any other suggestions around this?

Yes

Comments: Making the most of the amazing asset we have in the open spaces is key. Removing barriers to use and improving the entry points to make the spaces more appealing. BTB has focused the native planting at the entries to assist this point. WCC could assist with water, map boards, interpretive signs etc.

6. Do you support the focus on short local tracks that are accessible to local communities? Where in Wellington do you think we should prioritise our investment in tracks?

Yes

Comments: The tracks we have created in Polhill are an excellent example of the short tracks accessible to nearby residents and they use them a lot. As

mentioned earlier, there are numerous more tracks that can be built in Polhill. I think the highest priority is the Wakefield to Central Park spine track - it passes a large population base and doubles recreation with commuting. Getting a gentle gradient along the track route is key to getting the greatest use out of it (and return on investment). This could form the start of a 'City Trail'. It could then extend up to Mt Albert and along to Mt Vic. Master planning the route is very important (utilising existing tracks may work if the grade is appropriate (think that young kids should be able to use it in both directions). Short tracks wont necessarily help with making Wgtn a bike destination so tracks further out should also remain a priority (eg masterplanning the development of Te Kopahau - this is something BTB want to be involved with).

PAGE 3 QUESTIONS:

1. Do you think we need to continue protecting and / or acquiring new land to expand the network of open spaces as the city grows and, if so, where?

Yes

Comments: The protection of access to create linkages is very important, eg access thru Maori Gully makes sense but the clean land fill lease obstructs this. Having the ability to do day long rides is fundamental to making Wgtn a destination. Access out Sth Karori Rd and Sth Makara Rd to the coast. Over the West Wind Farm and around the coast to Makara. Note that some land already owned could be developed into a world class area, eg Te Kopahau.

2. Do you agree with our focus on restoring more ecological areas and encouraging native birds and other important species into every community?

How can we achieve this?

Yes

Comments: Pest and weed control combined with native planting. The BTB example of partnering with a local school could be rolled out elsewhere.

3. Do you agree with how we plan to develop, celebrate and promote our natural attractions? How can we become a walking and mountain-bike destination?

Yes

Comments: Ensure the linkages between areas are logical and the end game is master planned. As mentioned, Te Kopahau is a ready example. Start with Grade 3 tracks in Spooky Gully and Waipapa Stream with a spur track up to the old submarine lookout (historic reserve and baches along coast). More demanding tracks can come off or join into these tracks. Te Kopahau is a logical extension of the tracks that we have built from Aro St to the Tip Track. Our proven record of track building makes us the obvious partner for developing Te Kopahau area.

4. Do you support more community involvement in, and management of, our

parks, playgrounds, reserves and other open spaces? Do you have ideas about how this can best be encouraged?

Yes

Comments: The community has good ideas so consultation is impt. Its graet to get a community sense of ownership in projects and spaces. Public art is an example - something like the Brooklyn Bus Stop pop up art.

5. Do you have any other comments?

It costs money to maintain a quality track network and open spaces so cutting the budget for this while developing a 10 yr plan is at odds, ie allocate more budget. Building resilience and sustainability so future maintenance is minimised just makes sense. I'm keen to be involved in future planning so feel free to contact me.

Mark Jones

From: Wellington City Council [webcentre@wcc.govt.nz]
Sent: Sunday, 7 July 2013 10:50 p.m.
To: BUS: Spaces & Recreation
Subject: Our Capital Spaces - Confirmation

The following details have been submitted from the Our Capital Spaces: Open Spaces and Recreation Framework consultation form on the Wellington.govt.nz website:

PAGE 1 QUESTIONS:

1. First Name: Russel
2. Last Name: Garlick
3. Street Address: 43 Argentine Ave
4. Suburb: Miramar
5. City: Wellington
6. Phone: 0275371377
7. Email: secretary@wmtbc.org.nz

8. I would like to make an oral submission.
(if yes, provide a phone number so that a submission time can be arranged.)
Yes Phone number for oral submission: 0275371377

9. I am giving this feedback: on behalf of an organisation Organisation name:
Wellington Mountain Bike Club Inc.

PAGE 2 QUESTIONS:

1. Do you think Our Capital Spaces sets the right priorities and actions? What other priorities or actions would you like to see included?
Yes

Comments: The club is generally in support of the plan. We are pleased to see that mountain biking has been recognised within the plan, we believe that this is long overdue given the recent explosion in new people taking up the sport and riding in areas such as the Town Belt.

2. Do you agree that we need to do more to raise awareness about local play, sport and recreation opportunities? How can we best do this?
Yes

Comments: The council has means far beyond an individual club for promotion. We would like to see the council come to us as a club and discuss the

opportunities to promote the sport of Mountain Biking and by extension the club, whether it be by content on the council website, better signage and maps for the trail network or by conventional advertising.

3. Do you support how we plan to partner with and support sports clubs as the nature of participation in sport and recreation changes?

Yes

Comments: Yes, and our club would like to see greater engagement with the council and other clubs, not just in the same sport but across the disciplines. We would like to see the council taking a lead to help facilitate collaboration between clubs. Whether that be at an engagement level, by making introductions and holding forums where we can all meet, through to the operational level, by making available facilities and rooms for meetings and workshops.

As a group that puts thousands of hours each year into the dual use and single use tracks around the city, we are particular keen to see the council support both the Ranger and Walkway's teams. We can provide labour, but we need the council to make ensure they make budget available for the types of maintenance work we can not do on council land (for example use of chainsaws to clear trees).

4. Do you support the concept of investing in parks, recreational and community spaces where a range of activities are possible? Do you support this even if it means limiting investment in parks that do not appeal to a wide range of people or do not have important roles for protecting nature?

Yes

Comments: Broadly speaking yes. The club supports a multi use trail network, with the provision for alternate descending tracks for mountain bikers in areas where it makes sense.

We also note that facilities such as BMX tracks, pump tracks and 4X courses whilst nominally single use are used widely by the general public for informal recreation. We see this as multi use, and as such would like to see the council continue to work with the club and other entities to invest in these facilities.

5. Will the suggestions in Our Capital Spaces make it easy for you to get active? Do you have any other suggestions around this?

Comments:

6. Do you support the focus on short local tracks that are accessible to local communities? Where in Wellington do you think we should prioritise our investment in tracks?

Yes

Comments: Our club supports an diverse, integrated track network. Our club members would like to see tracks of different lengths, style and grade that can be linked together to create both short and long rides.

Volunteers from our club have been behind recent trail developments in Polhill, Mt Vic and Miramar. Polhill and Miramar in particular are areas where no tracks existed before our volunteer efforts. These tracks are now hugely popular. So we agree that short local tracks should be part of the plan. We would like to see what opportunities there are north of the CBD for similar tracks. Many of our members note that there are very few areas between the CBD and Johnsonville/ Tawa that offer easy access to tracks.

There are two areas we would like to see the council focus their investment:

1) Development of Grade 2 Beginner tracks. These need to be digger built and given the topography of Wellington are massively time consuming for volunteers to build.

2) Providing materials and expertise for track building that cannot be expected of volunteers. This includes bridges, retaining, sign-age, gravel and arborist services.

PAGE 3 QUESTIONS:

1. Do you think we need to continue protecting and / or acquiring new land to expand the network of open spaces as the city grows and, if so, where?

Yes

Comments: To meet the goal of local tracks close to where people live, the northern suburbs need space for track development. Our membership has told us that they would like us to explore opportunities in this area.

The club is also very interested in Watts Peninsula. This area has massive recreational potential, including one of the few areas in Wellington that a genuine beginner loop could be built on the ridge line.

2. Do you agree with our focus on restoring more ecological areas and encouraging native birds and other important species into every community? How can we achieve this?

Yes

Comments:

3. Do you agree with how we plan to develop, celebrate and promote our natural attractions? How can we become a walking and mountain-bike destination?

Yes

Comments: We agree that promotion is needed.

There is next to no promotion of Wellington's trail network. The mountain biking in Wellington is fantastic. New Zealand as a whole is becoming a major mountain biking destination for riders from around the world. Rotorua and more recently Queenstown, are now rated as amongst the best riding areas in the world. These regions have seen what promotion of and investing in mountain biking can do for their areas, not only with tourists but with people looking to live in these areas to enjoy the riding. Wellington shares this potential and currently it is being left to a small number of very small commercial operators and volunteers. The council needs to step up in this area. When riders get here, infrastructure such as signage and maps are required so that riders can find the trails outside of Makara Peak.

Our club agrees that Makara Peak is an asset to the city, but it is also located on the outskirts and only represents a small portion of the available riding in the city. Our club would like to see the council increase its investment in signage and facilities for riders in other key hubs such as Aro Valley (Polhill), Mt Vic and Miramar.

4. Do you support more community involvement in, and management of, our parks, playgrounds, reserves and other open spaces? Do you have ideas about how this can best be encouraged?

Yes

Comments: Our club is building a strong and successful relationship with the council, in particular the Ranger team. We see this as a model that can be used as an exemplar for other groups. However to grow our potential further, we will need more support from the council. A strong and well resourced Ranger team is essential to support our volunteer efforts.

Our club would also like to see the council facilitate collaboration between volunteer groups. Volunteering should not be seen as a side project or just the domain of the community. The council needs to be aware that for the most part what clubs such as ours can provide is labour, what we need from the council are resources. This includes not only materials and tools, but assistance with safety equipment such as gloves. The needs are modest to support the thousands of track network users. We question whether the same value can be gained from installing another artificial turf.

5. Do you have any other comments?

Mountain biking is a young sport and one where the majority of participants do not need to be members to enjoy the benefits and thrills of riding a bike on Wellington's extensive trail network. Our club represents not only our members, but also the interests of these informal users. As our sport grows, there will be more demand for tracks, and heavier use of existing tracks. The council needs to respond to these trends.

SUBMISSION
NUMBER

174

OUR CAPITAL SPACES SUBMISSION FORM

Absolutely
POSITIVELY
ME HEKE KI PŌNEKE
WELLINGTON CITY COUNCIL Wellington

We are keen to get your thoughts on the proposed priorities and actions outlined in this plan.

You can have your say:

- By making a submission on this form or in writing and sending it to us by post
Freepost 2199
Our Capital Spaces (COPC01)
Wellington City Council
PO Box 2199
Wellington 6140
- By making a submission online at: Wellington.govt.nz
- By sending an email to: spaces&rec@wcc.govt.nz

For more information, phone 499 4444.

Enter your name and contact details

Mr Mrs Ms Miss Dr

First name/last name* TREVOR LLOYD

Street address* 11 WAIKOWHAI ST, NGAIO, WGTN

Phone/mobile 4795438

Email _____

* Mandatory fields

I am making a submission

As an individual

On behalf of an organisation Name of organisation _____

I would like to make an oral submission to the City Councillors.

Yes No

If yes, provide a phone number above so that a submission time can be arranged

4795438

Submissions close at 5pm on Tuesday 9 July 2013.

Privacy statement

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

SECTION TWO - QUESTIONS

Do you think Our Capital Spaces sets the right priorities and actions? What other priorities or actions would you like to see included?

I am in broad agreement with one reservation. The emphasis is on recreation for the fit and able. My concern relates to one small park that is ideal for the elderly and mothers with small children, Cummings Park, Ngāio. Its suitability is however being severely jeopardised by its use as an off-leash dog exercise area that has caused severe damage to the grass.

Do you agree that we need to do more to raise awareness about local play, sport and recreation opportunities? How can we best do this?

Yes. Good signage. Eliminating conflicts of usage such as occurs at Cummings Park. The use of this park for dog exercising is contrary to Council's guidelines.

Do you support how we plan to partner with and support sports clubs as the nature of participation in sport and recreation changes?

Broadly, yes.

Do you support the concept of investing in parks, recreational and community spaces where a range of activities are possible? Do you support this even if it means limiting investment in parks that do not appeal to a wide range of people or do not have important roles for protecting nature?

Yes, but activities must be compatible. Dog exercising and recreational use of a small, confined area like Cummings Park are not compatible.

Will the suggestions in Our Capital Spaces make it easy for you to get active? Do you have any other suggestions around this?

No. See above. There are many people who cannot use most walking tracks who could get much enjoyment from Cummings Park.

Do you support the focus on short local tracks that are accessible to local communities? Where in Wellington do you think we should prioritise our investment in tracks?

Yes. Completion of existing networks such as the proposed Silverstream Road (Crofton Downs) to the Skyline walkway. There is a tendency for Council to prioritise cycle tracks but this sometimes conflicts with the interests of recreational walkers.

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

I am not aware of specific needs.

Do you agree with our focus on restoring more ecological areas and encouraging native birds and other important species into every community? How can we achieve this?

Strongly agree. Consolidate bird corridors.

Do you agree with how we plan to develop, celebrate and promote our natural attractions? How can we become a walking and mountain bike destination?

Broadly, but the interests of the large walking community should have priority over bikers.

Do you support more community involvement in, and management of, our parks, playgrounds, reserves and other open spaces? Do you have ideas about how this can best be encouraged?

Yes. Involvement of residents associations such as the Ngāio Crofton Downs Residents Association.

**SUBMISSION
NUMBER**

156



**Cycle Aware
Wellington**

Cycle Aware Wellington
Inc.
PO Box 27 120, Wellington
Tel: 04-463 5785
info@caw.org.nz
http://www.caw.org.nz

Submission to Wellington City Council – Our Capital Spaces

Contacts:

- Brian Wolfman (bdwolfman@gmail.com)
- Eleanor Meecham (eleanor.meecham@gmail.com)

We wish to make an oral submission. Please contact Brian Wolfman to arrange a time.

Cycle Aware Wellington (CAW) is a voluntary, not-for-profit organisation aimed at improving conditions for existing cyclists and encouraging more people to bike more often. We are the local advocacy group for cyclists who use their bikes as a means of transport. Since our inception in 1994, we have worked constructively with councils on a wide variety of cycle projects. Cycle Aware Wellington represents 600 members and supporters.

Tēnā koutou councillors,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit our opinions on Our Capital Spaces.

Key points of our submission

- Cycling tracks and shared paths are low-cost projects with huge benefits for recreation, tourism, safety, and transport.
- Cycling tracks and shared paths are consistent with council policies.
- Parks and Transport staff can work together to create and upgrade tracks.
- Children are poorly served by current cycling tracks and we recommend this is fixed.

Making the best use of open spaces

We support your aims of getting everyone active and healthy, protecting our environment, contributing to our quality of life, and doing it all in partnership with communities. Specifically, we are pleased to see the plans for more cycling tracks close to where people live, plans for the development of multi-use parks, and a focus on making these accessible to people from all backgrounds and incomes.

We are also pleased to see that you want to build on Wellington's reputation as a mountain biking destination. There are obvious tourism and business benefits.

We note that volunteer track builders + council land + modest budgets = fantastic amenities for Wellington. Crews of volunteers are busy each week building and maintaining tracks, clearing storm damage, and looking after the bush at Makara Peak, Brooklyn Trails, Miramar Track Project and more. It's a popular model of community / council / business partnership.

In addition to the proposals listed in your plan, here are our ideas for how you could encourage greater use of open spaces around Wellington.

More off-road routes for commuting by bike

We support WCC's aim to "develop short, easily accessible walking and cycling tracks close to where people live". As the city's cycling network expands, we would like to see on-road cycle routes become more integrated with off-road routes through the greenbelt. We believe this would make cycle-commuting more appealing to people who already ride recreationally, and vice versa. It would also give cyclists more choices about whether or not they mix with car traffic.

To encourage cycle commuting through open spaces, WCC needs to make sure that a few key tracks are well-maintained, have a high-quality gravel surface (or perhaps asphalt or concrete), are clearly signposted, and are perhaps lit at night. Some existing routes that could be better maintained for commuting include:

- Hataitai–City Walkway
- Hataitai–Newtown Walkway
- Transient (Brooklyn to Aro Valley)
- Wakely Road Track (Newlands to Ngauranga Gorge).

Other routes that could be designated as 'shared paths' and upgraded for cycling are:

- Aro Street to Palmer Street to Abel Smith Street
- Botanic Gardens (uphill only)
- Bolton Street Cemetery up to Anderson Park (uphill only)
- Puketiro Avenue to Grant Road (through Stellin Memorial Park)
- Frank Kitts Park (Jervois Quay side, including a short section of footpath)
- John St to Dorking Rd (steep, but traffic-free, and mostly sealed already).

New paths that could be created to link up neighbourhoods are:

- south end of Rintoul Street to Dover St
- through Wakefield Park
- through MacAlister Park
- through Trellisick Park.

We would like to see the Parks and Transport sections of the council working together to ensure that both on-road and off-road routes are integral parts of the growing cycling network. This may require a specific budget, managed by Parks, to maintain off-road commuting routes. While

some of these routes would attract smaller numbers of commuters than on-road routes might, they would be comparatively cheaper to develop and maintain.

More bike tracks for children in multi-use parks

We support the proposed development of multi-use parks. In particular, we would like to see more bike tracks for children (like the one at Karori Park) added to the perimeter of fields that are already well used for team sports.

A basic children's cycling track in each suburb would make it easier for low-income families (especially those without cars) to get their kids cycling regularly and safely. Such tracks, if wide enough, could also be used by parents with prams, people in wheelchairs, and people on mobility scooters. This would tie in well with WCC's desire to "ensure that people from all backgrounds and incomes can enjoy open spaces and recreation" and to "reduce barriers that prevent people from participating in activities and using facilities".

Pump tracks at multi-use parks would also be welcome. Pump tracks require little space but are invaluable for helping kids to gain the bike-handling skills necessary for riding on Wellington's many mountain bike tracks, or for commuting to school (and one day to work) through the city's greenbelt.

Nā mātou noa, nā Cycle Aware Wellington
8 July 2013

SUBMISSION
NUMBER

73

Submission: Draft Open Spaces and Recreations Framework 2013-23

Mark Jones: Senior Policy Advisor,
Wellington City Council,
Freepost 2199,
PO Box 2199,
Wellington.
DRAF

Final DRAFT

9th July 2013.

I make this submission as an individual and do wish to be heard for 10 minutes.

I have read the Draft Open Spaces and Recreations Framework 2013-23 (aka Capital Spaces) and note that this policy appears to be a complete review of earlier policies with a distinct **change of emphasis which I do not support** however there are some changes that I do support. To avoid confusion kindly note this distinction.

I further note that there appears to be only a cursory reference to the City's main Capital Space: the Waterfront from Ngauranga Gorge – Jervois Quay – Evans Bay – Miramar Peninsula – Lyall Bay – Owhiro Bay. Our waterfront is the City's main accessible recreation area and should be included in this document which I see as being complementary to the Town Belt, South Coast Management and Northern Management Plans etc.

Nomenclature does matter and that used in this proposal may cause confusion. Many people have no idea where some of the destinations named are eg: Watts Peninsular>Miramar, Fort Dorset> O-rua-iti, Dennis Duggan Park > Waihinahina. A generational change may allow the new names to be adopted but at present a simple street survey will show that most people have not idea where any of these places are let alone Te-ahu-Mairangi! In the meantime present names should be bracketed with Maori names. **People will not use places that they cannot find on a map or by quizzing locals.**

Background:

"I walk the land and it embraces me". All of my walking is for pleasure, I am challenged by the exciting terrain offered by this magical place and am always rewarded with views that thrill me and the soul food of the dappled light, shelter and shade afforded by healthy vegetation. Distance is irrelevant suffice to say that I have explored with relish most parts of the Wellington region.

Please note that I have rheumatoid arthritis and have to take special care as my feet are "disarticulated" which means that my toes have no means of

gripping surfaces this I correct with good shoes, insets and the aid of walking poles consequently I find it easier to walk on uneven natural surfaces rather than on smoothed gravel or treacherous asphalt; steps give me purchase and can be managed. Vegetation besides tracks give me hand-holds and stable land to ascend/descend.

Submission:

My priority actions for "Capital Spaces" are:

1. The installation of more locational and directional signs in places easily visible to passers-by and the erection of many more "story boards" detailing historic, heritage and geological information.
2. The provision of "short, accessible walking and bicycling tracks but not at the cost of the creation and maintenance of the many longstanding routes, trails, tracks and paths around Wellington.
3. A brochure showing wheel and pushchair accessible routes should be available in hard copy from information centres. As there are many groups of variously "challenged" people already using some of the existing routes, trails, tracks and paths no further provision is required.
4. All information on routes, trails, tracks, paths should be available in "hard copy". In that form the information is easily accessible and transportable by those seeking new places, experiences and without expensive electronic equipment. Electronically available information is expensive to print-out.
5. Walkers and other pedestrians are the majority and despite their free and independent nature should have their needs respected. The goal and eventual outcome of a renewed Capital Spaces must be to the benefit of the majority.
6. I support the proposed not-for-profit evolution of Wakefield, Hataitai, Alex Moore, Newlands, Grenada North parks. My preference would be to put the emphasis on the latter three and the linkages between Waihinahina, Gilbert's Reserve, Paparangi and Seton Nossiter Park form the basis for the Harbour Escarpment Track as proposed 15 years ago.
7. Short link tracks must also include those too and from Johnston's Hill (Karori) with its network of northerly/southerly tracks leading to and from Karori Cemetery and also to Percy Dyett via Karori Park. Wright's Hill to Campbell Street via Burrows Avenue Park. Tapu Te Ranga marae from the City-to-Sea route also offers some short routes suitable for the more energetic.

8. Partnerships with not-for profit organisations and interested individuals should be encouraged but not be used as a means to exploit their goodwill or as a means to avoid WCC having to employ staff from rate income and thereby fulfilling its social contract with the community.
9. Protecting our birds, nature, streams and landscapes from human intervention must be the priority. WCC must forbid the use of chemicals to control habitats and the felling of healthy trees because they do "fit". Nature will take its course and in the meantime provide habitat, erosion control, shelter, shade and aesthetic delights.
10. However, judicious trimming of overhanging vegetation may be carried out and the removal of wind-blown trees is all that is needed. But never poisons that enter the water-table and leave residues whilst killing the surrounding flora and fauna.
11. WCC should plant flowering and fruiting evergreen and deciduous hedges to protect from erosion whilst providing habitat and wind protection within an aesthetic environment.
12. Environmental impacts (EI) apply almost everywhere on our route, trail, track network both formal and informal. Grazing of cattle, sheep, churning the soil and defecating freely are matters that impinge on our health and safety.
13. Community gardens and orchards should be developed in all suburbs and on any vacant and public land (including grass verges) as local centres of activity eg: Jay Street, Berhampore Golf Course East etc.
14. Mountain Bikers are highly organised and consequently are an effective lobby group recently awarded an additional \$250,000 Capex not submitted on in the DAP.
15. Most cyclists are considerate of other track users. However walkers and other pedestrians need protection from those who are inconsiderate and create physical and environmental hazards in including the "churning" of trails.
16. "Downhillers" are unlikely to welcome or conform to any means of restricting their speed and present a hazard to other track, trail and path users.
17. Walkers generally seek shelter (from wind and rain) and shade (from sun). Mountain bikers want vegetation removed, exposed "gnarly" vertical trails and sharp ("switchbacks") to hurtle, skid down. Walkers/trampers like me want steep inclines with vegetation alongside to cling on-to or rocky hills that require one to challenge oneself and ones fears, before reaching a summit.

18. Formalised activities appeal to an increasingly small segment of the population with the funds available to subscribe. Organised groups must be either entirely self-sufficient or openly subsidised (eg: St.Pat's artificial field at \$900,000) with any such decision left to the DAP process.
19. If WCC is to subsidise activities then communities must be part of the that decision to serve a need of a community socially, culturally and environmentally therefore subsidies must be for a variety of activities eg: community gardens and croquet clubs.
20. Funds given for an artificial sportsfield must be matched by a similar subsidy given to a botanical society or an organisation such as Waterfront Watch that lobbies for the use of the waterfront.
21. Fees are generally considered a deterrent to participation. Charges applied to recreation fields will be to the detriment of many recreation and sports groups. WCC must ensure that no group is penalised by fees that a local community cannot meet. Discrimination on the grounds of cost is reprehensible and not in the public interest. It should be noted that some years ago WCC tried charging for the use of public recreation spaces the policy was quietly dropped as few "sports groups" could afford to comply.
22. Lavatories in public spaces should have open access perhaps by card-keys provided to all ratepayers.
23. Regional partnerships are laudable and should be based on mutual trust and confidence working together to the benefit of the community as a whole recognising that we all have a contribution to make.

Conclusion:

Thank you for this opportunity to submit at this "high level" I look forward to further opportunities to engage in the evolution of our entire Capital Space including the waterfront from Petone to Owhiro Bay inclusive; the eastern hills (Te Ararua) to Chastudon (Linden) and the western hill to Belmont Park.

Rosamund Averton.

Rosamund Averton
12/17 Brougham Street,
Mount Victoria,
Wellington 6011.

Phone: 3851 495.

NB. Please acknowledge by e.mail and then all correspondence should be by post in hard copy as I visit my in-box fortnightly.

Mark Jones

From: Wellington City Council [webcentre@wcc.govt.nz]
Sent: Thursday, 4 July 2013 1:25 p.m.
To: BUS: Spaces & Recreation
Subject: Our Capital Spaces - Confirmation

The following details have been submitted from the Our Capital Spaces: Open Spaces and Recreation Framework consultation form on the Wellington.govt.nz website:

PAGE 1 QUESTIONS:

1. First Name: Anthony
2. Last Name: Leaupepe
3. Street Address: 17 Tobago Gresent
4. Suburb: Grenada North
5. City: Wellington
6. Phone: 0221360276
7. Email: aleaupepe@hotmail.co.nz

8. I would like to make an oral submission.
(if yes, provide a phone number so that a submission time can be arranged.)
Yes Phone number for oral submission: 0221360276

9. I am giving this feedback: as an individual Organisation name:

PAGE 2 QUESTIONS:

1. Do you think Our Capital Spaces sets the right priorities and actions? What other priorities or actions would you like to see included?
Yes

Comments:

2. Do you agree that we need to do more to raise awareness about local play, sport and recreation opportunities? How can we best do this?
Yes

Comments: work in partnership with the community not just the same old sports club example rugby, soccer, netball and the same old sport we are use too but the need for new reative activities from community a space for culture out door activities.

3. Do you support how we plan to partner with and support sports clubs as the nature of participation in sport and recreation changes?

Yes

Comments: yes but we need to widen to sports and cultural to include cultural outdoor activities

4. Do you support the concept of investing in parks, recreational and community spaces where a range of activities are possible? Do you support this even if it means limiting investment in parks that do not appeal to a wide range of people or do not have important roles for protecting nature?

Yes

Comments: for park no not appeal to a wide range of people need to be consider remove or re plan it usage example from kids play ground to a reaseve it depent on its safety, time have change

5. Will the suggestions in Our Capital Spaces make it easy for you to get active? Do you have any other suggestions around this?

Yes

Comments: fund the write group to oporate for year activitie and advertice through the council web

6. Do you support the focus on short local tracks that are accessible to local communities? Where in Wellington do you think we should prioritise our investment in tracks?

Yes

Comments: around wellington lookout to the city from mt vic to khandallar and make it easy for the olderly to walk arroud it, similar to the walk at mt whaganui 40-1 hr walk not too long but you can see the hold of Wellington

PAGE 3 QUESTIONS:

1. Do you think we need to continue protecting and / or acquiring new land to expand the network of open spaces as the city grows and, if so, where?

Comments:

2. Do you agree with our focus on restoring more ecological areas and encouraging native birds and other important species into every community? How can we achieve this?

Yes

Comments:

3. Do you agree with how we plan to develop, celebrate and promote our natural attractions? How can we become a walking and mountain-bike

destination?

Yes

Comments: easy access, safe car park and cater for all age

4. Do you support more community involvement in, and management of, our parks, playgrounds, reserves and other open spaces? Do you have ideas about how this can best be encouraged?

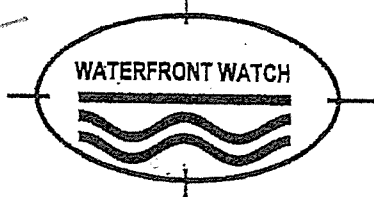
Yes

Comments: yes it a must take the community feedback

5. Do you have any other comments?

SUBMISSION
NUMBER

94



WATERFRONT WATCH INC

PO Box 19045, Courtenay Place, Wellington

Founded in 1995 : 6149

waterfrontwatch@xtra.co.nz

7th July 2013

Mark Jones – Senior Policy Advisor
Wellington City Council
Freepost 2199
P O Box 2199
Wellington.

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

I am making this submission on behalf of Waterfront Watch Inc and depending on hearing dates may wish to be heard.

As an organisation we note that there appears to be no reference to the inner city's Capital Space our Waterfront from the City Port to Port Nicholson Boat Harbour. Our waterfront is the City's main easily accessible recreation area and should have been included in this document as being complimentary to the Town Belt and the Great Harbour Way.

We would refer you to an earlier document Open Space Concept under Recreation where it is stated that the city is a prime recreation hub for leisure, entertainment etc. With a steady trend towards inner city residents (which we are constantly being told is growing) often in apartments with little or no private outdoor space, the city's open spaces also serve as "local neighbourhoods"

Over many years Waterfront Watch has continued to advocate for Wellingtonians who love the waterfront and there is consistent support for maintaining the waterfront as a major open space with frequent connections to the city, significant green space easily accessible to walkers, families with prams, scooters, wheel chairs etc and recreation facilities and concerts and family events. In this respect would refer you to the consultation in November 2010 on Wellington 2040 "The future of our central city": where it said Wellington has a fantastic harbour setting and on Page 8 we were asked as the central city grows we need to consider:

- The role and purpose of the waterfront and the activities it accommodates
- Whether the waterfront should retain its own distinct identity?
- What future demand there will be on the waterfront..

In this regard would like once again to quote American Architect, Cathy Simon when she presented two lectures in 2008 and made the point what an asset our waterfront is and should be the major "green" space in Wellington.

Earlier than this in 1996 Ann Breen and Dick Rigby of the Washington DC Waterfront Centre recommended to a waterfront forum in Wellington that Wellington had reached a critical point in deciding what to do saying "you have a chance to create a superlative waterfront and some suggestions were

- Interior winter garden so residents could enjoy the harbour views during the winter
- Displays on the Maritime heritage of the harbour – facilities to house environmental and maritime education programmes (as you are aware Martin Jenkins has been promoting this idea for 13 years or more.)
- New and extended play ground area.

The last bullet point was also addressed by Jan Gehl, the Danish consultant who was invited by the City Council twice and on Page 26 of his report he commented "A **significant recording is that the highest number of cultural activities and children playing are found on the waterfront where the space is wide enough for children to run around freely. As such the Waterfront is the playground of Wellington**"

We would like to quote Richard Marshall, Urban design director, who in 2000 led a Harvard University study of Hong Kong Harbour. Waterfronts are cherished assets which Hong Kong did not realise that as shipping moved from the downtown wharves to purpose built ports, cities discovered that their waterfronts could be reworked into the sort of environment that would attract tourists and creative minds. From Boston to Bilbao, Singapore, San Francisco to Sydney even Liverpool, city planners have remade harbours into lively, people friendly places.

In conclusion we agree with the statement on page 3 Report 2 9th May 2013 under **Evidence – The City's needs are evolving** – and we agree with all the bullet points especially the following..

Open spaces need to be easy to find, fun to use and appeal to a wide range of people
People have many competing priorities and want to be able to fit in using our open spaces with other activities during the day (a good example is exercise classes at Frank Kitts Park at lunch time and school bus trips to the Museum of City and Sea and the students enjoying their lunch and recreational activities afterwards)
Open spaces need to increasingly cater for older people as the proportion of people in our population aged over 65 grows.

Yours sincerely



Pauline Swann and Waterfront Watch committee

"home phone"
4728417

Mark Jones

From: Wellington City Council [webcentre@wcc.govt.nz]
Sent: Monday, 8 July 2013 8:43 p.m.
To: BUS: Spaces & Recreation
Subject: Our Capital Spaces - Confirmation

The following details have been submitted from the Our Capital Spaces: Open Spaces and Recreation Framework consultation form on the Wellington.govt.nz website:

PAGE 1 QUESTIONS:

1. First Name: Janet
2. Last Name: Miller
3. Street Address: 13A Travancore St
4. Suburb: Island Bay
5. City: Wellington
6. Phone: 3838107
7. Email: janet.miller6@gmail.com

8. I would like to make an oral submission.
(if yes, provide a phone number so that a submission time can be arranged.)
Yes Phone number for oral submission: 3838107

9. I am giving this feedback: as an individual Organisation name:

PAGE 2 QUESTIONS:

1. Do you think Our Capital Spaces sets the right priorities and actions? What other priorities or actions would you like to see included?
Yes

Comments: Wellington has great green spaces and as guardian of the cities green spaces the council is in a unique position to enhance those green spaces and offer residents opportunities to get out and get fit while enjoying those spaces. Council has an important role to play in providing residents opportunities for recreation and I am really pleased that Council recognises that cycling tracks enhance our city and are a great way for local residents to explore their city. I consider it appropriate that council build more tracks and in particular, cycling tracks that are appropriate for children so that families can exercise in their local green spaces. In particular I would like to see a kids bike track built in Island Bay and I am currently working with a group of parents to prepare a proposal for council on this issue.

2. Do you agree that we need to do more to raise awareness about local play,

sport and recreation opportunities? How can we best do this?

Yes

Comments: I'm particularly interested in getting families out cycling and consider that holding fun and accessible events is a good way to get people to "have a go" at cycling and it is an opportunity to show them what tracks Wellington has. I think that involving local schools, playcentres or kindy's as a is a good way to approach people as these are forums with which families are already familiar.

3. Do you support how we plan to partner with and support sports clubs as the nature of participation in sport and recreation changes?

Unsure

Comments: I wonder how much an outside body such as council can really know about the inner workings of a small club. Rather than council having a monitoring role - I'd think it more effective for council to have a small support service for clubs to call on where they have difficulties.

4. Do you support the concept of investing in parks, recreational and community spaces where a range of activities are possible? Do you support this even if it means limiting investment in parks that do not appeal to a wide range of people or do not have important roles for protecting nature?

Yes

Comments: My family really enjoy Karori Park with all the different things going on there - however if everyone in Wellington is all heading to the one location it will become crowded and be a less enjoyable place to visit. I think it is important to have local green spaces available in locations all over the city - and some of those spaces can be a good recreation area without requiring massive investment surely?

5. Will the suggestions in Our Capital Spaces make it easy for you to get active? Do you have any other suggestions around this?

Unsure

Comments: To get active I need to find activities that are fun and easily accessible. I need activities that appeal to my young children as well as myself. Kids love biking because it is fun! I'd like a local biking track so that my kids can learn to cycle in a safe environment so that we can all get out on our bikes together. It appears I am not alone in this desire as our proposal to build an off-road kids track in Island Bay has received considerable support (nearly 300 facebook "likes" in less than three weeks). There are very few facilities appropriate for kids to learn to cycle on in Wellington and no suitable off-road facilities for kids in my neighbourhood. Research suggests that active kids are more likely to become active adults so there are real long term benefits from investing in kid friendly cycle tracks(see "Why bike" paper sent by email - that I would like attached to this submission) As mentioned previously I am working with a group of parents to build such a track and we are about to approach

council on this matter.

Another point worth noting is that all the research indicates that the exercise must be regular in nature for health benefits to accrue. I have written a short paper on the health benefits of cycling and sent it by email to council to be attached to this submission. Cycling for transport is an excellent way to make exercise part of ones daily routine. I live in Island Bay and there is no off-road track that my family can use to cycle into town. We as a family sometimes ride into town on the roads when there is little traffic around but in order for us to exercise in this way regularly we really need an off-road cycle track. For that reason I suggest that Council build such a track.

6. Do you support the focus on short local tracks that are accessible to local communities? Where in Wellington do you think we should prioritise our investment in tracks?

Yes

Comments: As discussed above I would like to see more tracks that allow cycling for transportation to occur. In particular a track built between Island Bay and surrounding suburbs - and that this track be usable by families if at all possible. There are a large number of cyclists in the Island Bay area and the roads into town are very narrow.

In general I support tracks that get people to where they want to go - like to school etc

PAGE 3 QUESTIONS:

1. Do you think we need to continue protecting and / or acquiring new land to expand the network of open spaces as the city grows and, if so, where?

Yes

Comments: I think it would be a good investment for council to buy land that allows for off-road tracks from suburbs into town - or to other places where people want to get to. This would enable more people to cycle for transportation. As mentioned I'm particularly interested in such a track in the Island Bay area.

2. Do you agree with our focus on restoring more ecological areas and encouraging native birds and other important species into every community? How can we achieve this?

Yes

Comments: I support moves to make a habitat for native birds however I am also keen for more food producing plants to be planted in our green spaces. Though I have no expertise in this matter I'd assume that birds can live happily in fruit bearing trees such as apples as well as indigenous bush. I think it would enhance our green spaces for people to be able to pick an apple off an apple tree when out walking in the local green spaces.

3. Do you agree with how we plan to develop, celebrate and promote our natural attractions? How can we become a walking and mountain-bike destination?

Yes

Comments: Despite the many work opportunities in Auckland my family is very keen to stay in Wellington - and one of the reasons for this is the fantastic mountain biking tracks that we have. Keep them and build more such facilities for kids - hold events on these facilities. Sounds like loads of fun and will be a drawcard for people from all over.

4. Do you support more community involvement in, and management of, our parks, playgrounds, reserves and other open spaces? Do you have ideas about how this can best be encouraged?

Yes

Comments: I think it is a great idea. As I'm part of a group working to make a kids bike track happen I'd say my experience is that there is a bit of a leap between someone having an idea - and actually making it happen. One problem can be the requirement that groups must have legal personality in order to access council funding. Maybe the council could have a ideas facilitator and regularly seek local ideas for local developments.

5. Do you have any other comments?

Mark Jones

From: Mark Jones on behalf of BUS: Spaces & Recreation
Sent: Wednesday, 10 July 2013 4:18 p.m.
To: Mark Jones
Subject: FW: Janet Miler submissopm
Attachments: Why a Bike track.docx; Some Benefits of Cycling.docx; EDRMS_n10937646_v1_2013-07-08_SUB_116_-_Janet_Miller.msg

From: Janet Miller [mailto:janet.miller6@gmail.com]
Sent: Tuesday, 9 July 2013 2:23 p.m.
To: BUS: Spaces & Recreation
Subject: Janet Miler submissopm

Please find attached two documents that I wish to be added to my online submission made last night. they are word documents with footnotes.

Kind regards
Janet Miller
13A Travancore St
Island Bay

(This is an excerpt from a draft proposal for a kids bike track in Island Bay written by Janet Miller)

South Coast Kids Track

Background and Vision

Kids love riding bikes! We are a group of parents who live in Island Bay and believe that cycling is a great way to exercise and have fun at that same time. We want to build an off-road bike track in Island Bay so that all the kids who live on the South Coast can get out on their bikes and master basic cycling skills in a safe and fun environment. We believe our proposed bike track will be a community asset and that it aligns with many aspects of Council policy. We would really like to work with the Council to make our dream a reality.

Why a Bike track?

"Cycling is sooo coool." Douglas Miller aged 7.

Cycling is a fun activity that kids of all ages and skill levels can participate in alongside their friends and family. Kids can develop cycling skills at their own pace and experience a real sense of achievement in mastering cycling. A bike then becomes something kids and their families can get out and enjoy Wellington on. Council has indicated in its Recreation Strategy that a city where the residents are active is a more pleasant environment in which to live and this bike track will help Council achieve that for Wellington.

In addition to being fun, cycling helps create a healthy community. A Danish study found that regular cyclists experienced a 39% lower mortality rate than sedentary persons.¹ The benefits of physical activity in general are well documented and include substantial reductions in the risk of experiencing obesity, heart disease, colon cancer and type II diabetes along with a reduced risk of stroke, breast cancer, prostate cancer and depression.² In addition, increased happiness and better sleep are positively correlated with physical activity.³

Even preschoolers benefit from exercise with studies showing enhanced motor skill development in those who exercise⁴ alongside a range of health benefits⁵. More importantly for our purposes, active

¹ Andersen, L. B., Schnohr, P., Schroll, M., & Hein, H. (2000). All-Cause Mortality Associated With Physical Activity During Leisure Time, Work, Sports, and Cycling to Work. *Archive of Internal Medicine*, 160 (2000) 1621-1628.

² See for example, Cavill, N., Kahlmeier, S., & Racioppi, F. (eds). (2006). *Physical activity and health in Europe: evidence for action*. Copenhagen: World Health Organisation.

³ Genter J. A., Donovan S., Petrenas, B., & Badland, H. (2008). *Valuing the health benefits of active transport modes* (Research report 359). Wellington: New Zealand Transport Agency (citing Taylor, 2000 and Kubitz, 1996)

⁴ Fisher A, Reilly JJ, Kelly LA, Montgomery C, Williamson A, Paton JY, *et al*. Fundamental movement skills and habitual physical activity in young children. *Med Sci Sports Exerc* 2005; **37**: 684-688

⁵ See Oliver M, Schofield G. Physical Activity in Auckland Preschoolers: Amount Association and Accounts. *Report to Sport and Recreation New Zealand*.

children are more likely to become active adults (and childhood inactivity may last through to adulthood).⁶

Kids who cycle are more likely to become adults who cycle, and this has other benefits for our community. An increase in people choosing bikes over cars leads to less air pollution, reduced congestion costs and climate change mitigation costs as well as generating savings in national expenditure on fuel.⁷ Other less obvious benefits include a more pleasant environment due to less vehicle traffic and more community interaction in terms of people on the street.⁸ Council has indicated its desire for Wellington to be a low carbon Eco-city (Wellington City Smart City 2040) that is easy to move around in and has recognised the role of cycling in achieving these objectives in the Long Term Plan and Cycling Policy.

The Council has committed to support safe and sustainable transport such as cycling (Long Term Plan – Transport section) and the purpose of this track is to allow children and those new to mountain biking an easily accessible off road section in which to practise their skills in a safe environment.

In the short term, the building of the track will be a community project which means that ties within the community will be strengthened – thus contributing to the Council’s focus on community resilience (Priority Two, Long Term Plan). In the longer term the easy accessibility of the track will encourage families to get out and enjoy exercising in their community – again enhancing community ties and community resilience. As a community generated project the building and maintenance of the track will provide opportunities for greater community cooperation and involvement.

As guardian of the cities green spaces the council is in a unique position to enhance those green spaces and offer residents opportunities to get out and enjoy those spaces. In approving the building on this track the Council will be providing a great gift to the families of Wellington both in terms of providing a facility that will be enjoyable to use and good for the health of those who use it. Council has an important role to play in providing residents opportunities for recreation and it is great to see that Council recognises that cycling tracks enhance our city and are a great way for local residents to get around (see Cycling Policy 2008, Long Term Plan, and Recreation Strategy, Open Spaces Strategy).

⁶See for example: Janz KF, Dawson JD, Mahoney LT. Tracking physical fitness and physical activity from childhood to adolescence: The Muscatine Study. *Med Sci Sports Exerc* 2000; **32**: 1250-1257; or Malina RM. Physical activity and fitness: Pathways from childhood to adulthood. *Am J Hum Biol* 2001; **13**: 162-172.

⁷ Lindsay, G., Macmillan, A., & Woodward, A. (2009, May 11-12). *Health Co-benefits of Greenhouse Mitigation: a case study in Transport*. Paper presented at the Shanghai Forum, Fudan University, Shanghai, China.

⁸ MOT. (2008b). *Raising the Profile of Walking and Cycling in New Zealand*. Wellington: Author.

Some Benefits of Cycling

Cycling for transport has been recognised by the World Health Organisation (“WHO”) as having “an important role in promoting daily physical activity because non-motorized transport offers opportunities for regular physical activity that can easily be integrated into daily life at minimal cost” (Dombois et al., 2006, p. 8). Research shows that the health benefits of regular cycling are substantial. A Danish study found that, compared to a sedentary control group, “even after adjustment for other risk factors, including leisure time physical activity, those who did not cycle to work experienced a 39% higher mortality rate than those who did” (Andersen, Schnohr, Schroll, & Hein, 2000, p. 1628).

A large body of research examines the benefits of physical activity more generally, and this research is also relevant to my discussion of the health benefits of cycling. A good summary of this is found in a publication by the WHO (Cavill, Kahlmeier, & Racioppi, 2006) which states that “physical activity has major beneficial effects on most chronic diseases” (p. 5) including:

- 50% reduction in the risk of developing heart disease (Berlin & Colditz, 1990);
- 40% lower risk of colon cancer (Colditz, Cannuscio, & Frazier, 1997);
- 30% lower risk of developing type II diabetes (Tuomilehto et al., 2001);
- Reduced risk of stroke;
- Reduced risk of breast cancer (Latikka, Pukkala, & Vihko, 1998);
- Reduced risk of prostate cancer (Giovannucci et al., 1998);
- Reduced risk of depression (Dunn, Trivedi, & O’Nea, 2001);
- Enhanced musculoskeletal health;

Regular exercise has been found to halve the likelihood of experiencing obesity which is itself a cause of significant ill health (Dora & Phillips, 2000, citing Vuori & Oja, 1998). In addition, increased happiness and better sleep are positively correlated with physical activity (Genter, Donovan, Petrenas, & Badland, 2008, citing Taylor, 2000 and Kubitz, 1996). Mills (2007) suggested that physical exercise, along with other healthy lifestyle factors, is associated with increased productivity at work and less absenteeism of employees. Both the breadth of conditions covered and the extent of the benefit to health are impressive, though this condition specific research does not take into account the risk of mortality or morbidity due to experiencing a crash when cycling.

In recent years, increasing attention has been directed towards the difficult task of valuing the health benefits of cycling (Genter et al., 2008). Assessments of this nature are highly influenced by the assumptions underpinning them, though methods will evolve as better evidence on the health benefits becomes available¹ (Genter et al., 2008) and the methods of quantification become more standardised (Cavill, Kahlmeier, Rutter, Racioppi & Oja, 2008). In the international literature Cavill et al. (2008) conducted a review of cost:benefit analyses of cycling and walking infrastructure and found that the median benefit to cost ratio was 5:1. The health benefits were an important factor in producing the high benefit to cost ratios. In New Zealand, Lindsay, Macmillan, & Woodward (2009) conducted a valuation of the health benefits of increased cycle use in place of car use, and reported that “the health benefits heavily outweigh the costs from road crashes, at all levels of substitution”

¹ Due to a lack of robust evidence, Genter et al. 2008 chose not to include information on the health benefits of active transport in regards to both productivity and reduced exposure to air pollution.

(p. 5). Similarly, in the course of valuing the health benefits of active transport for governmental cost benefit analyses, Genter et al. (2008) noted that “the negative impact of active-mode injury risk does not outweigh the health benefits of increased activity, particularly when compared to private vehicle travel” (p. 32). In New Zealand it has been calculated that an increase in the use of bikes instead of motor vehicles for short trips² would generate net cost savings to the health system of \$192 million per year (Lindsay et al., 2009) and similar conclusions have been reached in Australia³. It has also been noted that an increase in the number of regular cyclists would be likely to lead to an even greater increase in the net health benefits of cycling⁴ due to per cyclist crash rates reducing with increasing numbers of cyclists on the roads (Lindsay et al., 2009, citing Jacobsen, 2003). This research indicates that the overall health benefits of cycling outweigh the risks, with both the individual and the wider community benefitting from increased levels of cycling.

Other benefits from an increase in cycling for transportation include lessening of the burden of air pollution, congestion costs⁵ and climate change mitigation costs as well as generating savings in national expenditure on fuel (Lindsay et al., 2009). Other less obvious benefits that occur with an increase in cycling include a more pleasant environment due to less vehicle traffic and more community interaction in terms of people on the street (MOT, 2008b). There are substantial benefits to be gained from increased use of cycles both at an individual level and as a society and it seems that increasing the safety of cyclists on the road may tip the balance even further in favour of cycling.

² The calculations presumed an increase in cycling, instead of using a motor vehicle, representing 5% of vehicle kilometers travelled (Lindsay et al. 2009).

³ In Australia, Bauman et al. (2008) estimated that the avoidance of ill health through cycling in 2006 generated cost savings for the Australian health system of \$227.2 million.

⁴ At 20% of trips taken by cycle instead of car the ratio of health benefits to disbenefits is 30:1 (Lindsay et al. 2009).

⁵ The effect of cycling on congestion will depend on the local infrastructure and the extent to which cyclists impede motorists. It is relevant that in many cases the use of a cycle replaces the use of a car and therefore lessens congestion.

Mark Jones

SUBMISSION NUMBER	191
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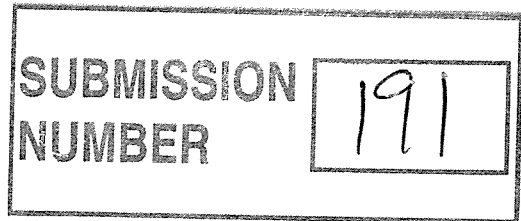
From: Chris Horne [jchorne@clear.net.nz]
Sent: Saturday, 20 July 2013 2:26 p.m.
To: Michael Oates; Mark Jones
Cc: Barbara Mitcalfe
Subject: WCC.Our Capital Spaces.July 2013.doc
Attachments: WCC.Our Capital Spaces.July 2013.doc

Dear Mike and Mark

Our submission is attached.

Chris Horne & Barbara Mitcalfe

J Chris Horne
28 Kaihuia Street
Northland
WELLINGTON 6012
Ph 475 7025



Barbara Mitcalfe
15 Boundary Road
Kelburn
WELLINGTON 6012
Ph 475 7149

20 July 2013

Our Capital Spaces (COPOO1)
Wellington City Council
PO Box 2199
WELLINGTON 6140

**SUBMISSION: OUR CAPITAL SPACES – A draft open spaces
and recreation framework for Wellington: 2013-23**

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the document. We
would like to speak in support of this submission.

As frequent visitors to the city's network of reserves and Town Belt,
over many years, we welcome Council's decision to replace and
update the *Capital Spaces Strategy* (1998), and *Recreation Strategy*
(2003).

Comments

SECTION 1 - SUMMARY

Page 4

Para 3: We recommend deleting “smart and”, because the words are superfluous to the meaning.

Para 5: We recommend replacing “smartly” with “wisely”, because we feel it is more appropriate for the purpose

Para 7: We recommend amending the second sentence to read “ ... We will bring more native species of plants, birds, lizards, invertebrates and aquatic fauna into our city and daily lives. ...”.

Page 5

We recommend changing the title to read: “We want to invest wisely in our parks ...”. See reason given above for replacing “smartly” in para 5.

Para 2: We recommend amending the sentence to read “ ... people expect more, and people’s needs change”.

Para 4 – bullet point 1: We recommend amending it to read “limiting investment, e.g. in maintenance, in parks that do not appeal ...”.

Para 4 – bullet point 3: We do not support the abandonment of “ ... the longer and more remote tracks identified in the *Open Spaces Access Plan* ...”. We urge council to include in the planning process the following potential longer and more remote tracks:

1. **Coastal track** from Owhiro Bay, via Cape Terawhiti, to Makara Beach. This route is mainly of unformed legal road, and towards the north end, on Department of Conservation land. This route was proposed by Wellington Regional Council some years ago. Ultimately, it should be extended to the Porirua City boundary on the coast south of Titahi Bay.
2. **The Old Māori track.** This historic two-way route linked the former Pipitea Pā in Thorndon, to Makara Beach / Owhariu Bay. It traversed Te Ahumairangi,

descended to Otari-Wilton’s Bush, traversed the Outer Green Belt via Te Wharangi ridge, descended to near the junction of Takarau Gorge Road and Makara Road, then down the valley of Makara Stream, to the coast.

3. **“Snowdon’s Road”**. This unformed legal road begins at Council’s Cliff Gaskin Reserve, Makara Village, and leads to Te Ikaamaru Bay, on the west coast of the Wellington peninsula. When surveyed and opened, it would connect with the **coastal track** described in 1, above.
4. **Karori Stream valley**. This unformed legal road begins at the south end of South Makara Road, and leads to the south coast, where it joins the unformed legal road noted in 1 above.

The above four routes would be attractive to trampers , walkers and runners. With signs at each end of each of these tracks, advising people of the need to take clothing, food and equipment needed to deal with the terrain and possible adverse weather, each route would make a fine addition to the range of outdoor recreational possibilities in the city.

SECTION 2 – INTRODUCTION

Page 6

Para 1: We recommend inserting “reserves, Town Belt”, between the words ‘including’ and ‘sportsfields’.

Page 8

Bullet point 1: this appears to be lacking the word ‘for’, between ‘areas’ and ‘sport’.

SECTION 3 - OUR CAPITAL SPACES (THE PLAN)

Page 10

Outcome 1: We support this outcome.

Para 3: For reasons explained above, we recommend deleting ‘smart and’.

Page 11

Para 2: We support this paragraph, but recommend that sportsfields with artificial turf *not* be fenced to prevent walkers traversing them, unlike Wakefield Park which at present is fenced. Parks are, after all, *public* places.

Para 4: We strongly recommend that Council give those in charge of ‘community planting groups’ *precise* instructions to plant only locally appropriate indigenous species on the sites which they are restoring / revegetating.

Page 12

We recommend amending the heading to read: “We’ll do our best to ensure ...”. (It is not possible to *ensure* that people from all backgrounds and incomes can enjoy open spaces and recreation).

Focus: we support the provision of accessible walking and cycling tracks, but **not** to the exclusion of establishing the four longer tracks listed in our comments on the document’s page 5, i.e. the coastal track, the old Māori track, “Snowdon’s Road”, and Karori Stream track. We consider that Council should lead the work to survey and complete these routes.

We look forward to the completion of the Skyline Track, between Johnsonville, Tawa and Churton Park, along “Tōtara Ridge” from Spicer Forest, and the completion of the Harbour Escarpment Track. The latter route passes through a significant area of native forest, worthy of appropriate interpretive signage. This route should include links to Wakely Road, Miles Crescent, and Black Rock Road.

Focus: Equity and universal access.

We support this intent.

OUTCOME 2

We recommend that this statement be amended to read:

“PROTECTING OUR NATIVE PLANTS AND ANIMALS, THEIR HABITATS, AND NATURAL LANDSCAPES”.

Focus: We support “Restoring local habitats and encouraging native birds into communities”, provided that:

- Council, and groups doing revegetation and restoration plantings on public land, use only locally occurring, eco-sourced native plants. “Public land” as used here refers to all WCC-managed lands, including road reserve. “Eco-sourced” as used here, means seeds, or cuttings, used for planting, being obtained from naturally occurring indigenous plants in, or adjacent to, the area being planted, or as close to it as possible. This will ensure that every effort is made to reflect accurately the genetic composition of the naturally occurring, indigenous plant communities in the vicinity.

We support Council’s plan to continue, “to continue to expand ... pest management ...” provided that strong emphasis is given to the removal of pest *plants* and other weeds, as well as pest animals. Sadly, Wellington’s public lands are often so weed-infested as to prevent the natural regeneration of indigenous plant communities.

Page 13

We support the HALO project to encourage people living within 1 km of the Karori Sanctuary fence to do pest animal and pest plant control on their properties.

Focus: We support identifying important landscapes, but with the proviso that we consider all natural landforms to be important.

We support the protection and / or acquisition of the five listed areas. We recommend that “Belmont Gully” be defined in the document as the valley which runs from Horokiwi Road, via Woodridge, Newlands, Paparangi, Grenada Village, and Glenside, where the stream joins Porirua Stream.

We recommend that Council, in consultation with iwi, apply to the NZ Geographic Board, for an appropriate name for the stream.

Note: The unofficial name for the stream running parallel to Hill Road, Belmont, is known, unofficially as ‘Belmont Stream’. It is a tributary of Speedy’s Stream, a tributary of the Hutt River.

Page 14

OUTCOME 3

We recommend that this outcome be reinforced by adding at the end, “sense of place”.

We recommend amending the second bullet point to read “build on the reputation of Wellington City and region as a walking and mountain-biking destination”. We have changed the order of the words, because walking, or being wheeled in a pram, or riding in a wheelchair, are *fundamental* means of human locomotion.

Page 19

OUTCOME 4

Focus: Local partnerships

We are impressed by the increase in the number of community groups doing revegetation and restoration projects on public land. However we continue to be concerned at the apparent lack of direction and monitoring of the activities of those groups that are *not* planting only locally appropriate, eco-sourced, native plants.

People need to be *taught* that there are important ecological principles which must be put into practice in order for us to care for our indigenous ecosystems to the best of our ability.

We continue to be concerned at the work by community groups building tracks on public land, sometimes without Council approval, and designed primarily for mountain-biking. The reasons for our concern include:

1. the loss of regenerating indigenous plant species during track construction.
2. the damage to indigenous plant communities on either side of tracks caused by the “edge effect”. This results from increased wind speeds in the adjacent indigenous ecosystem drying them out, thus inhibiting, or preventing, the natural functioning of the ecosystem.
3. the potential for easier infestation of indigenous ecosystems by invasive weed species.
4. the impact on the adjacent indigenous ecosystem of soil compaction caused by the pressure on the ground caused by mountain bikers.
5. the potential for increased run-off, soil erosion and slips, especially where tracks are cut across steep slopes.
6. the risks, or perceived risks, to walkers and runners

on tracks used by mountain-bikers.

7. the loss of freedom from wheeled vehicles that walkers and runners experience, in the presence of mountain bikes.

Page 20

Focus: Regional partnerships

We support the focus and the bullet points.

Regarding Watts Peninsula, where we have walked and botanised twice this year, we recommend that:

1. all agencies concerned promptly begin intensive control of weed species, including head-high broom, fennel and other invasive species which detract from the amenity, and add to the risk of a devastating fire on this magnificent headland.
2. all NZ Defence Force signs be removed.
3. Council ask Greater Wellington Regional Council to install bus stop signs on either side of Main Road, near the gates of the former prison. This will enable walkers and runners to use the no. 24 Miramar Heights bus service to gain access to Watts Peninsula.

Focus: Strong relationships with Māori

We support this focus.

Page 23

Case study 5

In our comments on page 19 of the document, we expressed our concerns about the increasing, adverse impacts on indigenous ecosystems, and on walkers, of the expansion of Wellington's track network, mainly by

mountain bikers for mountain-biking purposes. When we are in the hills, just one of the aspects of tramping, walking and botanising which we value highly, is the freedom from wheeled vehicles. For example, as we were tramping and botanising along the Highbury Fling track and Transient Track, when mountain bikers passed us, sometimes they approached from behind without warning, at speed. This was disconcerting, to say the least.

We believe the public should have the opportunity to comment on the two tracks which Brooklyn Track Builders will soon start to construct. Similarly, the public should have the opportunity to comment also on plans for tracks that other community groups in Wellington plan to build.

Case study 6

Having had the privilege of attending the dawn ceremony celebrating the opening of Oruaiti Reserve, we congratulate Port Nicholson Block Settlement Trust and Council for the quality of the work done to protect and display the ecological, cultural and historical values of the land.

SECTION 4 – OUTCOMES SOUGHT

We recommend that the priorities be numbered, and the actions in each priority be given letters, for ease of reference.

Page 24

Outcome 1

Page 24

We support the priorities listed, subject to our previous recommendations for changes to wording, and other comments.

We support:

- completion of the Great Harbour Way
- returning to open space, any sports areas or facilities that are under-used, for revegetation and walking
- developing Spicer Forest Recreation Park
- preparing Watts Peninsula as a recreation and heritage park, in conjunction with the Department of Conservation, Ministry of Arts, Culture and Heritage and NZ Historic Places Trust
- developing a long-term master plan for Te Kopahou Reserve, links to the rural south-west peninsula, and including in it the land between Hāpe Stream / ‘Spooky Gully’ and Happy Valley Road.

Te Kopahou Reserve

In our experience, the catchments of Waipapa Stream and Hāpe Stream have highly significant indigenous plant communities which should not be disturbed by the construction of more tracks.

Page 26

We support:

- completion of the Skyline Track
- construction of the Harbour Escarpment Walk, with links to / from Wakely Road, Miles Crescent and Black Rock Road
- review of local track networks
- work on establishing the coastal track from Owhiro

Bay to Makara Beach, the old Māori track from Otari to Makara Beach, the track from South Makara Road to the coast, and “Snowdon’s Road” from Makara Village to Te Ikaamaru Bay.

Outcome 2

Page 27

We recommend that the first priority be amended to read “Protect and restore indigenous biodiversity ... “, and that the first actions include:

- Educate the community about indigenous biodiversity, and the threats to it.
- Educate the community about the difference between revegetation and restoration.

We recommend that the second priority be amended to read “Create ecological networks and connections for key indigenous species ... “.

We ask if “a comprehensive database of all central city green assets ...” could assist in the review of the *Biodiversity Action Plan 2007*?

We recommend that the actions for the second priority be amended to read “Agree on ecologically appropriate species ... “.

We recommend the addition of two extra actions:

1. Identify connections to and along the coast”.
2. Develop Council mechanisms, either in the District Plan, or by private covenant under the Reserves Act, for the protection of indigenous

ecosystems on private land.

We recommend the addition of another action to the third priority:

For residents within the Zealandia Halo, produce and distribute a brochure similar to Otari's *Good Neighbour* brochure.

We recommend amending the fourth priority to read “Enhance Wellington’s attractiveness by protecting its landscapes, bush-clad hills and coastline”.

We recommend amending the fifth priority to read “Protect and maintain physical connections between spaces such as the hills, reserves, parks, coast and central city”.

Our previous comments on Watts Peninsula, Belmont Gully, Outer Green Belt and the Harbour Escarpment apply here.

We support the return by the Crown of former Town Belt land at the Correspondence School site, and near Te Aro School.

We recommend adding two more actions:

1. deciding what reserves contributions Council wants from developers
2. purchasing land deemed to be of value to the city’s reserves network.

We recommend amending the sixth priority to “Restore and protect streams, wetlands, estuaries and their catchments”.

We recommend amending the first action to “Include monitoring indigenous biodiversity health ...”.

We recommend adding an extra action:

“Promote the restoration / revegetation of stream banks with ecologically appropriate indigenous species”.

We recommend amending the seventh priority to read “Ensure that recreation activity does not compromise the indigenous biodiversity values of our capital spaces”.

We recommend replacing the word “trail” with the word “track” in the first action.

Outcome 3

Page 28

We recommend the addition of an extra priority:

“Wellington city is recognised nationwide as having a great variety of walking opportunities within easy reach of residents and visitors”.

We recommend adding extra actions:

“Before any track construction is undertaken, a detailed botanical survey of the proposed route is made, so that steps can be taken to avoid any loss of indigenous biodiversity”.

“The needs of walkers and runners will take priority in the design and use of any new track, whether it is built by Council or community groups”.

Outcome 4

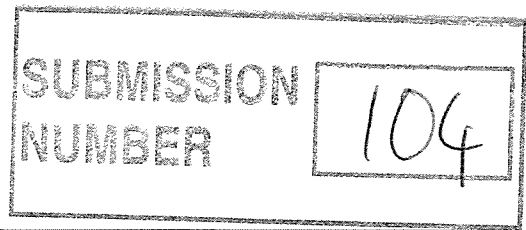
Page 28

We recommend that the first priority's second action be amended to make it clear that Council is the lead partner, with full control of what is to be done by community groups involved in planting and track construction.

We support the other priorities and the actions.

Yours sincerely

Chris Horne & Barbara Mitcalfe



Mark Jones

From: Wellington City Council [webcentre@wcc.govt.nz]
Sent: Monday, 8 July 2013 4:58 p.m.
To: BUS: Spaces & Recreation
Subject: Our Capital Spaces - Confirmation

The following details have been submitted from the Our Capital Spaces: Open Spaces and Recreation Framework consultation form on the Wellington.govt.nz website:

PAGE 1 QUESTIONS:

1. First Name: Ben
2. Last Name: Wilde
3. Street Address: 157 Totara Road
4. Suburb: Miramar
5. City: Wellington
6. Phone: 021845991
7. Email: ben.r.wilde@gmail.com

8. I would like to make an oral submission.
(if yes, provide a phone number so that a submission time can be arranged.)
Yes Phone number for oral submission: 021845991

9. I am giving this feedback: on behalf of an organisation Organisation name:
Wellington Trails Alliance

PAGE 2 QUESTIONS:

1. Do you think Our Capital Spaces sets the right priorities and actions? What other priorities or actions would you like to see included?
Unsure

Comments: Overall the Wellington Trails Alliance (WTA) is supportive of intent of the Our Capital Spaces but has serious concerns that the Council's near term actions are out of step with the proposed policy document and with the growth in informal recreation in the city. The focus of the WTA is on supporting and developing the world class asset that Wellington has in the form of it's trail network for walking, running and mountain biking; and on the world class partnerships that the Wellington City Council has established with groups such as the Makara Peak Supporters and Wellington Mountain Bike Club.

Both the trail network and the partnerships that make it possible are at risk due to severe and sustained budget cuts being made to various Reserves and Tracks related budgets.

For example, for the 2013/2014 the Capital budget for Tracks is to be cut by 50% to a mere \$154K. In the past seven years it has been slashed from \$400K, at the same time the level of use of key trail assets such as Aro Valley have sky rocketed.

Mountain Biking, Walking and Running in our open spaces has never been as popular as it is now and yet the WCC is continuing to cut these already small budgets.

The WTA would like the WCC as a priority to reverse this decision and shift funding if necessary from formal recreation towards supporting informal recreation. For Example, while Haitaitai Park and Mount Victoria represent excellent opportunities for local residents to take their children cycling it is unlikely that residents of the Miramar Peninsula will find it easy to travel to Haitaitai to take their kids cycling. Putting some resource into the suburbs directly, e.g. Miramar park, would present opportunities for more local options to get Children and their Families active.

2. Do you agree that we need to do more to raise awareness about local play, sport and recreation opportunities? How can we best do this?

Yes

Comments: Yes, much more can be done to promote the assets that Wellington has in terms of its open spaces. Not just for quality of life (Wellington as a great place to live) but also as part of the overall tourism mix. For example, while few visitors currently come to Wellington for the primary purpose of mountain biking or trail running, it can be and should be part of the mix of what makes Wellington a great place to visit. The WTA would like to see more investment in this area and has started working with PWT and Tourism NZ on this. We would like to see the WCC do more to partner with the mountain bike community to get more children and young people active as well as position Wellington as a destination for active recreation as part of a wider mix of reasons to visit.

3. Do you support how we plan to partner with and support sports clubs as the nature of participation in sport and recreation changes?

Unsure

Comments: We agree with the approach in principle however it is important that the WCC does not simply 'hand over' assets to Community Groups without ensuring there is supporting Funding and internal Resource to support a partnership model. The Mountain Biking community has one of the most advanced relationships of any sporting group in the City in terms of our engagement with the City Council. We have deep experience in partnering to deliver significant recreational and conservation outcomes and we are united in our concern at the lack of funding being put forward to sustain these partnerships. It is NOT enough to simply 'hand over' a Reserve to a community group.

4. Do you support the concept of investing in parks, recreational and community spaces where a range of activities are possible? Do you support this even if it means limiting investment in parks that do not appeal to a wide range of people or do not have important roles for protecting nature?

Unsure

Comments: The WTA has concerns that there needs to be a clearer definition of what a 'range of activities' is. For example, while Karori Park is one example (formal recreation + walking and cycling + play area) so is Cennennial Reserve in Miramar where there is Dog Walking, Running, Walking, Children / Family Cycling, Downhill Mountain Biking, Cross Country Mountain Biking and Dirt Jumps. There is a wide range of users in an asset that was created through partnership with the local community and the Wellington Mountain Bike Club. These types of projects need to be encouraged in addition to more formal projects such as the Karori Park facility.

Further, the WTA wants to see suburban recreational opportunities rather than a focus only on provision of multi-use facilities for ""Northern, Western, Southern and Eastern"" groupings of Suburbs. that they are overlooking multi-use of trails as multi-use. Their definition here is ""Karori Park"" which is a track around a sports field with some play areas nearby. Council should make sure that they are flexible in their definition of a 'range of activities' and not back a small number of winners."

5. Will the suggestions in Our Capital Spaces make it easy for you to get active? Do you have any other suggestions around this?

Unsure

Comments: Yes however WCC has to back it up with funding support for Tracks. Tracks and Trails represent a proven model for partnership with the community and yet we continue to have the budget put under pressure. While investment continues to go ahead in big budget facilities such as all-weather-sports surfaces Trails are struggling every year to maintain funding let alone increase it in line with the shift to more informal recreation.

6. Do you support the focus on short local tracks that are accessible to local communities? Where in Wellington do you think we should prioritise our investment in tracks?

Unsure

Comments: The accessibility of trails close urban and suburban areas is a key feature of Wellington life for a significant number of us who love living here.

In the experience of MTB groups around the city, trails that are in close proximity to residential communities such as in Aro and Miramar lend themselves to active participation of those local communities in the development and maintenance of the area.

The Miramar Track Project, for example, has built over 5 km of trails and planted approximately 2500 plants over the past 4-5 years as well as working with youth offenders and removing rubbish from the area. The vast majority of work has been done by locals in Miramar or the wider Eastern Suburbs. The trails are easily accessible by bike or car and are so able to be quickly developed or as has been the case of after the recent storm, repaired by volunteers. These types of suburban networks are very important to the quality of life of those that live in and around them.

However there needs to be investment to coordinate these projects and build links. For example, the Aro Valley trails now incorporate tracks, some of which were developed independently over the years, into a world class ride from Aro Valley right near the city up to the top of Hawkin's hill and then down to the Coast. Those trails have been built in partnership between the local community, local sports Clubs (both Mountain Bike and Running) and the Wellington City Council. They have required significant capital investment by the City Council in the form of bridges, trail surface and retaining BUT even larger investment by the volunteers and privately funded contractors who have built the majority of the trails. These tracks are but one example of a community partnership that has shown significant return to the WCC but which are not at risk due to funding cuts.

PAGE 3 QUESTIONS:

1. Do you think we need to continue protecting and / or acquiring new land to expand the network of open spaces as the city grows and, if so, where?

Yes

Comments: Yes, this should be an ongoing focus. Of particular interest is anywhere that an easement or ownership can be used to connect two reserves. E.g. in Miramar there is Centennial Reserve which is currently isolated from Scorching Bay Domain by Crown Land (Old Prison Land) which is in danger of being privatised and forever isolating those two WCC assets from each other. Linking together reserves and trails needs to be made a priority by the WCC.

2. Do you agree with our focus on restoring more ecological areas and encouraging native birds and other important species into every community? How can we achieve this?

Yes

Comments: Each community will be different but the first step has to be to get more people to engage with their local environment. Walking and cycling on local trails and larger trail networks represents a growth opportunity for engaging residents with their environment. It is essential that the Council continues to support community projects through supplying appropriate plants, supervision as required and funding for trails to better access and maintain the reserves and open spaces.

3. Do you agree with how we plan to develop, celebrate and promote our natural attractions? How can we become a walking and mountain-bike destination?

Unsure

Comments: The WTA has significant concerns about the level of investment being made into the Trail network of Wellington. In the past 7 years the Capital budget for Tracks has declined from \$400,000 down to a planned \$150,000 for 2013 / 2014. At the same time the use of the trails in our city have sky rocketed with more mountain bikers, walkers and runners enjoying our wonderful trail network. The funding is grossly inadequate, in particular when compared to the level of investment that continues to be made into formal recreation (rugby, football etc.) which are not enjoying the same level of growth as cycling and other informal recreation modes.

4. Do you support more community involvement in, and management of, our parks, playgrounds, reserves and other open spaces? Do you have ideas about how this can best be encouraged?

Yes

Comments: Yes. But the WTA believes this must be a partnership with the community rather than an 'offloading' of responsibility. The areas in Wellington where partnerships have worked well, Aro Valley, Makara Peak, Miramar for example have all involved financial and labour (time from the WCC team) as well as significant volunteer investment of time. With budgets being cut the council will have fewer opportunities to partner with community groups and that is a real concern. The WTA is a strong proponent of the partnership model and a first step to encouraging this further is to look at the budget situation and reverse the decline.

5. Do you have any other comments?

We are very concerned that this policy document, which has very good words, is not matched by actions in the budgeting process. This must be addressed in order to keep WCC step with changes in the recreation patterns of the residents of Wellington.

Our Capital Spaces - Submission

Name and Contact Details

First name Peter
Last name Hunt
Address Chairperson Wellington Branch Forest and Bird
P O Box 4183
Wellington 6140
Phone 04 232 5726 / 027 446 7686
Email Wellington.branch@forestandbird.co.nz

**SUBMISSION
NUMBER** 186

I would like to speak at a submission hearing Yes

I am making this submission on behalf of an organisation I Yes

Name of Organisation Wellington Branch Forest and Bird (the branch)

INTRODUCTION

Forest & Bird's purpose is to take all reasonable steps within its power to preserve and protect the indigenous fauna and flora and natural features of New Zealand and in doing so take full account of their intrinsic values and benefits to communities and future generations. We all benefit when we have a healthy and functioning natural environment. Our organisation has over 80,000 members nationwide and is New Zealand's largest independent environmental voice. The Wellington Branch has over 2,000 of these members plus young people in Forest & Bird's Kiwi Conservation Club (KCC).

The Branch's priorities are to advocate and do whatever we are able, in our volunteer capacity, to enhance biodiversity and promote ecological connectivity, clean and healthy waterways and harbour and also to promote and support initiatives that reduce the city's impact on global warming, like efficient public transit, green streets, use of renewable energy and less reliance on motorised transport. Its initiatives enjoy levels of volunteer and community support beyond branch membership.

THIS SUBMISSION

The branch is generally supportive of the proposal presented by Council's ***Our Capital Spaces*** consultation document (the document) but point out that a potential weakness from a reader's perspective is that the document's initiatives are presented in isolation from higher level policy principles and the wider strategy commitments.

As stated above our mandate is to speak for nature and we have therefore restricted our comment to matters that, in our view, pertain to the environment and activities and initiatives that materially impact environmental outcomes. In this context we consider education and public access to open space as important as planting and pest control.

Our feed-back is organised around the document themes:

OUTCOME 1: GETTING EVERYONE ACTIVE AND HEALTHY

Open spaces and outdoor recreation opportunities are close to where people live and work.

- Wellington waterfront and the Wellington harbour are two prominent open spaces. Both of these locations are of high recreational value to the city and have been key factors in its recent renaissance and vibrancy as one of New Zealand's most visited cities. Beach recreation and water quality is mentioned but the harbour deserves more prominence in this document.
- An environmentally enhanced waterfront and a cleaner harbour should be a priority. Frank Kitts Park could benefit from a more innovative display of native plants than at present taking a lead from the Te Papa example. The harbour is the defining feature of Wellington and should

be centre stage of an open spaces document. The harbour is the jewel of Wellington and its health central to a living city. We would like to see provision in the document for actions to eliminate storm-water sourced pollution, make all our harbour beaches clean and safe for swimming year round and reduce the impact of sedimentation.

- We acknowledge these are challenging targets, however to do nothing is not an option. As a first step we propose the inclusion in the document of the harbour and foreshore as separate but integral parts of Wellington's open space. They are where a great deal of recreation and sporting activities occur, including swimming, boating, scuba diving and jogging. Giving the health of the harbour and foreshore status in the open space document will elevate its importance to the city. Taking action to reduce pollution and clean up the seabed will result in increased marine life above and below the water.

Any such plan would need to be a whole harbour approach requiring co-operation with Hutt Valley authorities, the Regional Council, community organisations and current polluters of the harbour.

Open spaces reflect urban densities. Urban form that allows people and wildlife to move across the city

- We endorse the need to expand the amount of open space commensurate with the increase in population and the increased central city and inner suburb housing densities. These open spaces will help compensate for the reduced size of individual properties and the resultant, more confined, living space. We therefore expect adequate open space provisions to continue to be an integral part of our built environment and agree that they must be within easy walking distance for local residents.
- Setting aside a portion of such open space for native trees and understory will encourage native birds and other wildlife into the urban landscape and in this way make nature accessible to more people. We assume that this is what is meant in the document Section 1 – Summary, when it states:

“...We want to connect with and protect nature in our own backyard – making local ecosystems stronger and healthier. We will bring more of the important species of plants, birds, and lizards into our city and daily lives...”

- We support the provision of open spaces in suburban areas and green field sub-divisions based on guidelines of 600 metres or 10 minutes walk to a park, play area, or other outdoor recreation site including a stream-side setting and nature's spaces.

Support community initiatives to increase local self-sufficiency with a greater amount and variety of food grown in our open spaces

- The Council already supports community gardens and community led revegetation projects, and is an activity that we endorse, but with these cautions:
 - That community gardens are adequately monitored and tended to prevent invasive plants e.g. blackberry from being grown.
 - That community gardens do not encroach on or replace natural habitat or regenerating bush.
 - That native plant restoration be encouraged in open spaces that are being set aside for community gardens.
- That community restoration planting is appropriate to the location and that plants are eco sourced, also that community groups are given assistance and guidance not only on plant selection and the planting plan but also the aftercare requirement which may include weed and pest control.

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

Protect and restore biodiversity, and demonstrate kaitiakitanga, environmental guardianship and care

- Much of the document's discussion reflects a perspective of parks as places for walking, cycling and engaging in sporting type activities. The measures used to determine their value are based on the degree to which they are used or visited by people.
- We feel that the intrinsic value of open spaces in their natural form eg. forest, foreshore, wetland, streams etc. have been overlooked. In the appropriate location these places offer an escape for our emotional needs and offer solitude, peace, tranquility, spiritual awareness and sense of harmony with nature. A place to relax and contemplate. A place to record nature through photography and other medium.
- We would like to see under **Outcome 3 Contributing to Wellington's outstanding quality of life**, the inclusion of a priority to restore and protect natural habitats for their intrinsic value. Such areas would have biodiversity and ecosystem enhancement as their priority but still retain a degree of accessibility.
- It is these places, away from the noise and bustle of city life and close to open streams, that birds and other wildlife prefer and can be experienced in their natural setting. Such places will appeal to a relatively small number of people compared to a sports facility but will nevertheless make a significant contribution to making nature accessible to the wider community.
- We acknowledge there is provision for funding open space "for protecting nature". Our concern is that under the funding priority measures of "high demand", "appeal to a wide range of people" and "low [people] use" an open space for its intrinsic value will have a low funding priority.
- Much of our native flora was destroyed by previous generations and, to some extent, recent development resulting in very little remnant and 'high value' ecology remaining. Our concern is that where regeneration is occurring or could occur it is regarded as low value since it currently does not have "*an important role for protecting nature*". We would like assurance that these sites are to be valued for their future role. In view of this concern we would like clarification on how the statement in the section 1 summary (repeated below) is to be interpreted with respect to a natural habitat:

"...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 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..."

- We see an imbalance between funding recreational facilities eg sports grounds and funding native habitat improvement. We therefore propose that for open space not measuring up to the key criteria mentioned above, and therefore under review for change of use, consideration be given firstly for managed reversion and appropriate infill planting which would serve to elevate its value as a restored habitat and ecological link. This priority would not necessarily rule out the inclusion of a small community garden being included in the restoration plan.

Complete the track network with a priority on connecting communities and providing short walking and cycling loops and transport connections

- Many of our members participate in regular walking programs and we welcome the proposed additional tracks that will complete the Skyline Track between Johnsonville, Tawa and Churton Park and the harbour escarpment track between Woodridge and Ngauranga.
- We also welcome the initiative to pursue the creation of a coastal track between Owhiro Bay and Makara, a track between Otari and Makara, and the one along Karori Stream. These initiatives have great potential. We support them with the expectation that:
 - The tracks will be enhanced with appropriate native plantings to extend the natural habitat of our native species such that they act as ecological corridors.
 - There will be adequate safeguards and maintenance to prevent the spread of invasive weeds along these tracks.

- That a pest management program is included in the ongoing upkeep of these tracks.

Restore and protect streams and their catchments

- Wellington is well endowed with natural waterways currently being used as extensions to our roadside drains. These waterways if they were cared for and free of pollution would be highly valued for recreation, whether picnicking, walking, cycling or kids paddling (it should be apparent that our streams at present are a health hazard to our children).
- We therefore request that Council cease the practice of discharging 'stormwater' directly into our streams but view them as a valuable open space contribution when approving new subdivisions. This would require a change to the practice of piping streams and instead make them a feature of parks and recreational areas. A clean stream with its riparian planting is a magnet for birds and other life-forms and a perfect play space for children and ideal natural pathway for walking.

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

- We support the conscious integration into the design of recreational facilities, features that specifically benefit our wildlife. This is particularly important for our expanding populations of native birds and in turn will enhance the connection of our citizens and visitors to nature.
- The resolve to restore ecological areas throughout the city is commendable however we are aware that not all of our native species adapt well to an urban landscape and are vulnerable to mammalian predation. We would therefore encourage the Council to:
 - Step up its program of pest management with a clear objective to rid the whole of Wellington of possum and systematically reduce the population of mustelids and other known predators.
 - Increase the invasive weed eradication program
 - Encourage landowners by example and education to grow species native to Wellington and to provide a suitable habitat for lizards and other ground living species.
 - Educate and encourage plant retail outlets to promote native plants
 - Expand the concept of ecological buffer zones beyond the 'safe habitat' being proposed for the area immediately surrounding Zealandia. Our birds and wildlife have a preference for native bush. Over time what is now 'scrub' will mature into 'bush' and increasingly become home to more birds and other species. We therefore encourage Council to think beyond Zealandia and adopt and promote a city wide 'safe habitat' ethos.

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

- We support the long term protection of prominent landscapes from development and agree with Council the importance of the sites listed below. :These sites are of value to the network of ecological corridors being created across Wellington.
 - Watts Peninsula [as a link to East Harbour, Harbour Escarpment and the Wellington Town Belt
 - Belmont Gully [as a link between the Outer Green Belt north of Mt.Kaukau, the Korokoro stream to Hutt Valley and Cannons Creek to Porirua Harbour]
 - Outer Green Belt between Johnsonville and Tawa [to connect Otari-Wilton Bush to Spicer block, Colonial Knob and beyond]
 - Harbour (Hutt Road) Escarpment.[as a link between Belmont Park, Ngaio Gorge and Otari-Wilton Bush
 - Former Town Belt land [to increase green space within the central city]

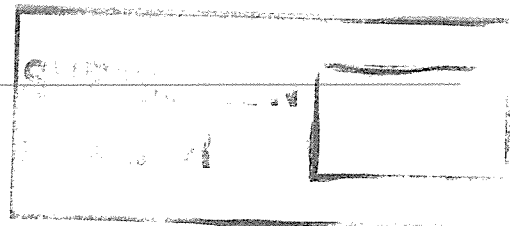
OUTCOME 3: CONTRIBUTING TO WELLINGTON'S OUTSTANDING QUALITY OF LIFE

Raise awareness of opportunities to visit, connect and contribute to Wellington's natural attractions

- We concur that our natural attractions are "like nowhere else on earth". New Zealand is home to an extraordinary array of endemic species and Wellington is uniquely placed to show case many of these to the world. Otari -Wilton Bush, Karori Wildlife Sanctuary and Matiu-Soames island are just some of these attractions where people can experience wildlife in its natural habitat; all accessible by public transport.
- We endorse initiatives that bring our children into contact with nature In its natural setting. Those mentioned above are examples that demonstrate to children and adults alike the value of conservation. The educational value of Wellington's natural attractions is understood by many of our schools already so initiatives by Council to enhance this activity are welcomed.

Mark Jones

From: Jack Marshall [jackmarshallnz@gmail.com]
Sent: Tuesday, 9 July 2013 5:13 p.m.
To: BUS: Spaces & Recreation
Subject: Wellington City Youth Council, Our Capital Spaces Submission.
Attachments: Our Capital Spaces.docx



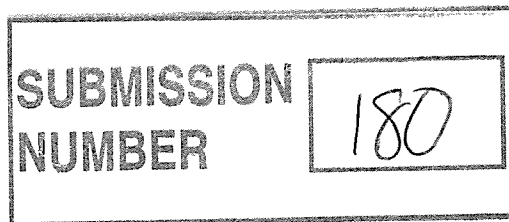
To whom it may concern,

Attached is the Wellington City Youth Councils "Our Capital Spaces Submission".

The Youth Council also wishes to make an oral submission to Councillors.

Thank you,

Jack Marshall,
Chair of the Wellington City Youth Council.



**SUBMISSION
NUMBER**

180

Dear Sir/Madam,

The Wellington City Youth Council also wishes to make an oral submission to the Wellington City Council.

Contact:

Jack Marshall, Chair, Wellington City Youth Council

Phone: 021 186 6186

Email: jackmarshallnz@gmail.com

Yours Sincerely,

Oliver Michie

Deputy Chair, Wellington City Youth Council

Leader, Our Capital Spaces Working Group, Wellington City Youth Council

1. Introduction

The Wellington City Youth Council supports the Wellington City Council's proposals in the Our Capital Spaces Framework. We feel that the draft plan has suitable long-term outcomes that will still be relevant in ten years time. We feel that the framework in its current form fails to address certain issues that the youth council feel are critical in order for this framework to be effective. We also feel that the Council should consider the options for an "adult playground", as it promotes the Council's goal of getting everyone active and healthy.

2. Getting everyone active and healthy

The Youth Council supports recreational and community parks. There still need to be a focus on smaller parks as children need a park that is close to home, and that their parents are able to let them on their own as they know that the park is safe.

The Youth Council does support the Council's proposals to create bigger, well-located parks; we feel that these hubs are suitable for encouraging multiple uses concurrently. While we support this plan, we feel that the council should ensure that suburban parks are maintained for casual use by young people. This is because these 'hubs' may be inaccessible to young people due to lack of transport. The Council should also look to approach institutions like schools for use of their sports and play facilities during the weekend.

3. Safety

The Youth Council feels that safety is the most important aspect of parks in Wellington. The Youth Council feels that the council must place an emphasis on the safety of Wellingtons open spaces. Wellingtons open spaces should be and feel safe. They must be a place that parents feel comfortable with allowing their children to use, as well as this, other users must feel safe while using our capital spaces, whether this use is recreation, or simply, using the open space as a thoroughfare. We feel that this emphasis needs to be placed upon safety in order for Our Capital Spaces to be fully utilised by the community. We strongly believe this is important aspect of young people using parks and the Council should focus on opening up access pathways and parks themselves to create a more friendly feeling, and safe open spaces.

The council should incorporate this into the Our Capital Spaces policy.

4. Interactive applications

The Youth Council fully supports the interactive mapping and smartphone applications the Council is proposing to create. We feel this is the right take on the use of technology in parks, as technology is developing every day, and in ten years time, we will be relatively, more reliant on technology. Our capital spaces should be a place where people go to participate in active recreation, so we congratulate the Council on this initiative as it will encourage users to Wellingtons open spaces by making information about various open spaces readily available.

5. Adult Playground

The Wellington City Youth Council has previously submitted to the Wellington City Council that there is a need, and a desire from Wellington residents for an Adult Playground. This Adult Playground could have oversized play equipment, with an emphasis on health and recreation. An

Adult Playground would be in line with outcome one of the Our Capital Spaces policy, "Getting everyone active and healthy." It would also encourage participation in recreation across all ages, another area which the Our Capital Spaces policy focuses on.

6. Conclusion

The Wellington City Youth Council supports the general idea of the proposed Our Capital Spaces strategy. We feel there are some areas of the framework require amendment, such as the focus on hubs, sacrificing suburban parks in the process. We also feel that the Wellington City Council should place a focus on safety in Wellingtons open spaces.