



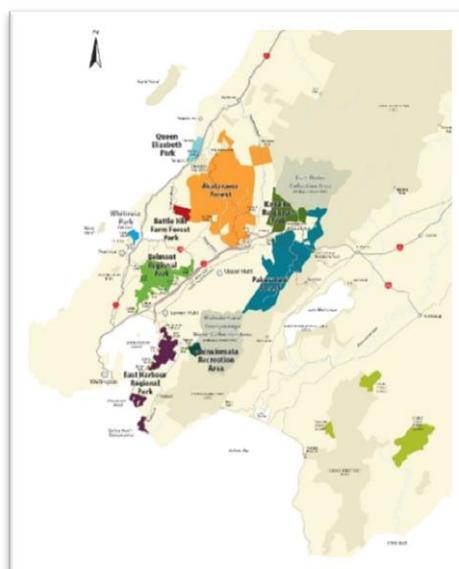
## Frequently Asked Questions - Parks Network Plan review May 2018

### 1. What is the purpose of Parks Network Plan?

The Parks Network Plan (PNP) provides directions for how eight regional parks and forests are managed. It sets policy directions, a vision for each park, actions for implementation over a then year period and also rules for use and development of parks. The composite plan ensures our management directions are consistent across regional parks.

### 2. Which regional parks and forests are managed under the PNP?

- Akatarawa Forest
- Battle Hill Farm Forest Park
- Belmont Regional Park
- East Harbour Regional Park
- Kaitoke Regional Park
- Pakuratahi Forest
- Queen Elizabeth Park
- Wainuiomata Recreation Area



The PNP does not cover:

- Whitireia Park
- The Hutt and Wainuiomata/Orongorongo Water Collection areas
- The Hutt River Trail
- Wairarapa Moana.

These areas are managed under separate plans available on Greater Wellington's website [www.gw.govt.nz](http://www.gw.govt.nz)

### 3. Why is the PNP being reviewed?

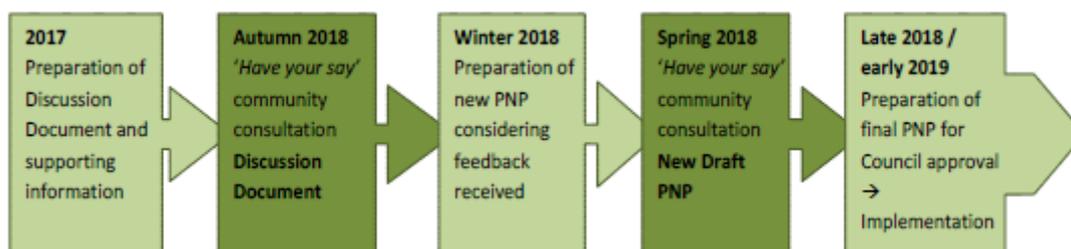
Under the Reserves Act management agencies are required to keep management plans current and up to date. Many of the regional parks are managed under the Reserves Act. The plan remains relatively current with three updates undertaken since it was developed in 2011. However an overall review of the plan is now required so that it includes directions from new Greater Wellington plans. For example, the Proposed Natural Resources Plan is now providing directions for how we manage land in the parks and Key Native Ecosystem operational plans are also in place. The management plan needs to reflect current practice as well as considering changing community uses of parks.

### 4. How can provide feedback about regional parks?

From 21 May to 29 June we are seeking your comments and suggestions about regional parks. You can review our 'food for thought' consultation documents on Greater Wellington's website, fill in our online feedback form, post written comments to us at "Parks Network Plan Review, Freepost 3156, PO Box 11-646 Wellington 6142", or email your comments to [parksplanning@gw.govt.nz](mailto:parksplanning@gw.govt.nz).



We will consider all feedback and suggestions before we commence preparing a new draft Parks Network Plan. Hearings will not be held at this information gathering stage of planning. There is information about the planning process on the website.



## 5. What consultation information is available?

We have explored many of the issues and opportunities facing parks in three documents:

A **Discussion document** explores a range of different topics relevant to parks such as trails, climate change, farming in parks, and many other things we consider to be issues or opportunities, including preliminary proposals for work in parks which we would like feedback on. We present this information as ‘food for thought’ and encourage you to read about and comment on the topics that you are most interested in.

**External influences on Parks** is a supporting document which provides an ‘environmental scan’ of the social and economic context for management of parks. Here we explore influences on parks such as population trends, climate change, public health and parks, tourism and technology.

**Farming in Regional Parks** is a supporting document about grazing activities in parks. Here we discuss why and how we use farming as a management tool for maintaining some of the open space areas of regional parks. We also explore alternative options for managing these areas. It provides a lot of detail for those interested in this topic including case studies from other park agencies.

Printed copies of all these documents can be obtained by emailing: [parksplanning@gw.govt.nz](mailto:parksplanning@gw.govt.nz)

## 6. Is Greater Wellington proposing more funding for the Parks?

Funding for parks is identified in the Ten Year Plan and Annual Plans, not in the PNP. Greater Wellington is currently developing a new Ten Year Plan, and whilst there is no significant increase to base funding for parks, the plan does identify a range of priority projects. These include:

- Upgraded swing bridge at Kaitoke Regional Park near the camping area to increase capacity and accessibility
- New Top Terrace camping facilities at Kaitoke Regional Park
- A new toilet at Tunnel Gully, Pakuratahi Forest
- A new loop track connection from Wainuiomata Recreation Area’s historic lower dam to the pa harakeke and Sledge track
- Conservation work on historic bridges in Pakuratahi Forest
- Conservation management plan for the Belmont Regional Park WW2 munitions bunkers



7. What is Greater Wellington doing to minimise and mitigate the effects of climate change on the parks?

We must adapt and plan for ongoing changes in the climate and effects on park assets. This includes working on heritage and other built assets to make them more resilient, moving assets away from the coast where significant erosion is taking place, and making sure that we can respond effectively to more frequent significant weather events. In the **External Influences on Parks** supporting document we have identified climate change projections by catchment in the Wellington region. We have also detailed opportunities for restoration plantings in parks and forests to absorb carbon dioxide and act as carbon sinks.

8. What trails will be improved in parks?

Section five of the discussion document identifies a range of proposals which we would like feedback on, and we are also seeking general feedback about improvements or changes we should make to trails and other recreation facilities.

9. How does Greater Wellington intend to manage large open space areas in future? Will grazing activities continue?

We explore issues and opportunities relating to grazing in detail in the Farming in Regional Parks document. In many parks stock grazing has been a cost effective and positive way to manage large open space areas, but we are gradually retiring areas from grazing and undertaking native vegetation restoration works as resources permit. We plan to develop Park Environmental Plans to guide operational work relating to grazing and land retirement and restoration. These plans will focus on minimising impacts of grazing and staged restoration over longer periods. This includes fencing streams, seeps and wetlands, best practice farming methods, protecting ecologically valuable areas and minimising soil compaction.

10. How will Greater Wellington protect ecological values in the parks?

We will continue protecting areas of high ecological value through our Key Native Ecosystems (KNE) programme which is in accordance with the provisions in the Proposed Natural Resources Plan. The KNE programme focuses on threat management - protecting the parks' wetlands and waterways from pest plant and animals. We will also continue to work with the community to protect ecological values in the parks.

11. There are no regional parks in the Wairarapa, so why do Wairarapa residents have to pay rates for regional parks?

We survey Wairarapa residents every year about regional parks. On average approximately 52% of respondents indicated that they regularly visit regional parks; with Pakuratahi Forest and Kaitoke Regional Park the most visited. The parks network is a regional asset which provides benefits for everyone as well as important ecological links between large natural areas. In the Wairarapa, Wairarapa Moana is the equivalent of a regional park but managed by DOC.