



Managing Wellington’s Regional Parks

Parks Network Plan Review 2017-2019

October 2017

GWRC manages a network of regional parks and forests for the community’s use and enjoyment and for preservation of important natural and cultural values. Our parks are managed with the support of mana whenua, community groups and others.

Regional parks and forests provide for a wide range of healthy outdoor recreational activities which enable Wellington region residents and visitors to connect with nature and enjoy being outdoors. They offer diverse landscapes ranging from lush native bush to open grasslands, farm lands with stock, rugged coastal headlands and long sandy beaches.

Trail based activities are the most popular – walking, dog walking, running, mountain biking and horse riding. Picnics and camping are also popular along with hunting and 4-wheel driving in some parks. Park management activities and rules help to ensure that the different types of visitor activities can take place with minimal impact on the environment and others.

Management plan

An overarching plan for the park network supports the management of regional parks. The ‘Parks Network Plan’ (PNP), approved by Council in 2011, outlines an overall vision, management principles and policies and rules for use and development. It also identifies a range of actions for future works such as creating trail connections where there are gaps, revealing park stories through heritage interpretation and improving amenity areas or making parks more accessible.

The PNP also specifies requirements for proposals about new activities in parks so that important values are protected and preserved.



Wellington’s Regional Parks offer a diversity of landscapes and interesting places to visit.

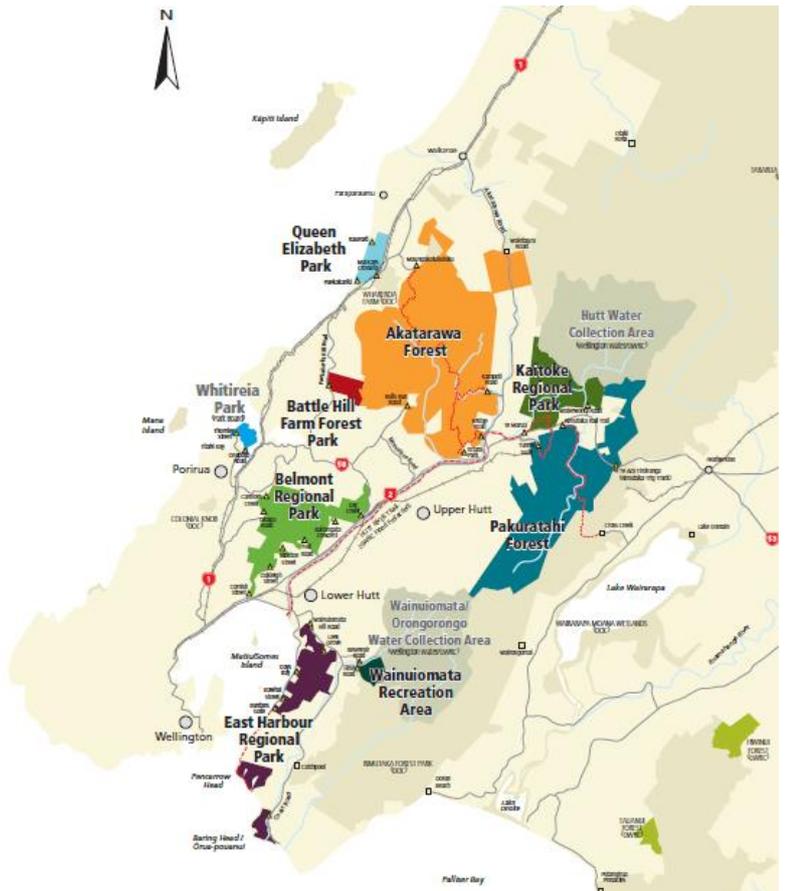
Recreation activities change over time. Increasing use of battery powered toys and equipment are one of the changes our rangers see occurring in parks.

The PNP is a composite plan encompassing eight parks and forests. Whitireia Park is co-managed with Ngati Toa Rangatira and has its own management plan, as do the two water collection areas.

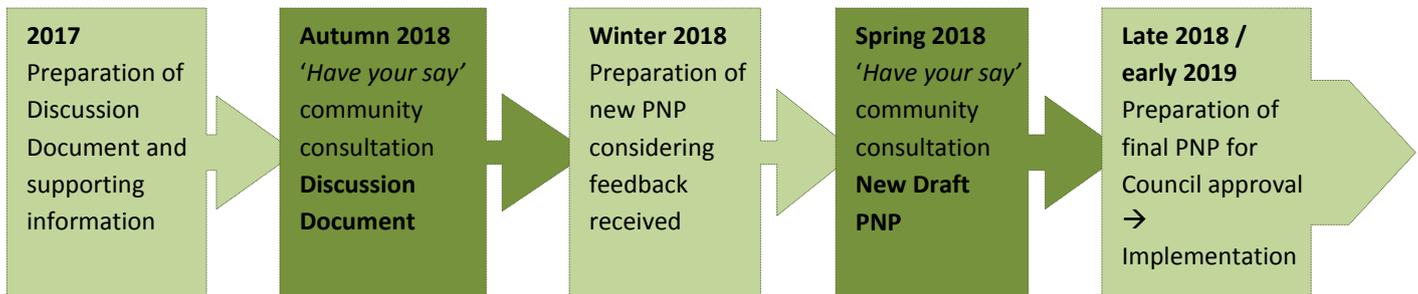
The Reserves Act (1977) applies to many regional parks and requires that administering bodies (GWRC) keep management plans under continuous review (section 41), adapting to changing circumstances and increased knowledge.

The current PNP was finalised in 2011 and has had three amendments since then in 2012, 2014 and 2016 - so it remains relatively current. However the directions of other new policy documents such as the GWRC Proposed Natural Resources Plan should be reflected in the plan. GWRC considers it appropriate to commence a review of the PNP and develop a new one.

The time frame for the review below allows for two periods of community consultation.



PNP review timeline



Many people assist us in managing parks and there will be opportunities throughout the PNP review process for discussions and feedback about issues and opportunities.

It is important that we hear from people with a variety of viewpoints because whilst parks are provided for the whole community to use and enjoy, park visitors have different needs and preferences for activities, facilities and services.

Once completed and approved by Council, the new PNP will guide management of the regional park network for the next ten years, with future PNP amendments undertaken as the need arises.

The current Parks Network Plan can be reviewed and downloaded from the GWRC website www.gw.govt.nz or for more information about the planning process please contact parksplanning@gw.govt.nz



A range of consultation activities will take place to make it easy to have your say on future directions for Wellington's regional parks

