

General management framework,
outcomes and policies



3.1 Management framework summary

The management framework sets out how the parks will be managed and will guide decisions on future activities, facilities, development and investment in parks.

1. A parks vision identifies the key outcomes of the parks for the community.
2. The parks network guiding principles relate to values the community attribute to Greater Wellington's parks network. These principles serve as the basics for policy. All outcomes and policies in the management plan will relate to at least one, and often multiple, guiding principles.
3. Each park has its own special characteristics, which have been identified to provide guidance as to the appropriateness of new activities, facilities and developments. Park key characteristics have been expressed as "people" and "land." "Land" includes the physical landscape, either modified or unmodified, and the values attributed to the physical landscape, including ecosystem services and biodiversity values. "People" includes present activities and facilities, and historical interactions with the land which now hold heritage and cultural value.
4. The management focus provides further guidance at a park specific level, for considering proposals for new activities, facilities and developments. For each park, there is a list of actions consistent with the outcomes and policies of Part 4.

3.2 Greater Wellington parks vision

To enrich lives by connecting people with healthy natural places

This means that in our parks you will find:

- Healthy natural ecosystems and the varied landscapes that sustain them
- Heritage features that tell the stories of human interaction with our landscape
- A variety of easily accessible settings, natural and modified, for people to experience and enjoy.

The vision provides the basis for the development of this plan and the outcomes for its achievement. Achieving the vision and outcomes is dependent on the participation of the people of the region, including tangata whenua, local councils, central government, volunteers, non-government organisations and industry. It is only by working in partnership that we can realise the vision and have a parks network that continues to enrich the community for generations to come.

3.3 Guiding principles for management

The following guiding principles relate to values the community attribute to the regional parks network:

ENVIRONMENT

1 – Protect and care for ecosystems of important ecological value

Each park and forest contains important ecological areas, such as remnant forests, wetlands, streams and dunes. These will be protected and managed to maintain their important environmental values.

Water catchments will be protected and managed to ensure clean water for the region.

2 – Restore significant, degraded ecosystems to a healthy functioning state and increase indigenous biodiversity

Some of these ecosystems require restorative actions to increase the range of biodiversity features and species.

3 – Sustainably manage modified ecosystems, such as those on farms and forests

Farming and forestry will be undertaken where they contribute to integrated catchment management, maintain landscape settings, provide access for recreational activities and follow best practice principles.

4 – Protect the visual quality of significant landscapes from inappropriate development and use

Significant geological features and regionally significant landscapes that have high cultural or historic values will be protected and managed with minimal built development.

5 – Enhance ecological connections between natural areas and within catchments

The protection and enhancement of ecological corridors between natural areas will be undertaken to enhance the biodiversity of the parks network, adjoining land and the region.

6 – Mitigate and adapt to the effects of climate change through resilient ecosystems and carbon sequestration processes

The active protection and restoration of indigenous ecosystems, as well as informed management of modified ecosystems, will minimise greenhouse gas emissions.

RECREATION

7 – Provide for a range of recreation opportunities within the network that cater for varying age, ability and experience

Greater Wellington will provide for a range of outdoor recreational activities and attractions across the network that are appropriate to the park setting and reflect the needs and values of the region's diverse communities, and the environmental values of each particular park. These activities and attractions may be undertaken in partnership with clubs, events or licensees to meet community's needs.

8 – Provide for a range of settings and facilities for people to enjoy time out, explore nature and learn in a safe environment

Each park contains different attractions, which are made available through services, trails and facilities that are appropriate to an individual park or part of the park.

Risk from natural hazards to people and assets is minimised.

9 – Encourage stewardship of the resources found within the Greater Wellington parks network

Greater Wellington will promote the parks as places for the community to participate in a range of conservation projects and will support groups and events that offer participants outdoor experiences and skills enrichment in activities such as camping, mountain biking, tramping and hunting.

10 – Connect open spaces through recreation corridors such as walking trails and cycle tracks

Where feasible, access routes will be made available to offer a range of walking and cycling opportunities across the parks network to enhance understanding of ecological, landscape and heritage values.

This will be achieved in partnership with other open space providers in the Wellington region.

HERITAGE

11 – Identify and protect significant heritage features and associated history, stories and knowledge

The parks network contains sites of regional significance to tangata whenua and the wider community, eg, waahi tapu, historic places and structures. Greater Wellington will work with tangata whenua and the regional community to record, acknowledge and maintain associations with these heritage features.

12 – Provide interpretation, activities and learning experiences to enhance community understanding of the natural and cultural heritage in our parks

Where appropriate, Greater Wellington will provide information on significant ecological and heritage features, including opportunities for the regional community to experience parks through a range of educational activities and experiences.

COMMUNITY

13 – Base relationships with tangata whenua on good faith, cooperation and understanding, with an emphasis on areas of mutual interest

Tangata whenua will be involved in areas of mutual interest.

14 – Promote community participation and sense of ownership

Greater Wellington will encourage and engage in partnerships with different interest groups and organisations, to accomplish mutual goals for the benefit of the parks and ecosystems of the region. Greater Wellington will support volunteers and community groups and work co-operatively with leaseholders to enhance park visitor experiences.

15 – Ensure the Greater Wellington parks are accessible to all

Greater Wellington recognises the diversity of ages, abilities and interests of people visiting parks and will provide appropriate opportunities to youth, the elderly, those with disabilities and different ethnicities.

MANAGEMENT

16 – Manage all activities in parks to ensure that they do not compromise what makes parks a special place for visitors

Greater Wellington will manage activities in parks to make certain that traditional informal activities are retained and that restricted activities, such as large events, and leases on land, do not impact on park values and the quality of visitor experience (outlined in the park characteristics).

Farming and forestry will be used to provide an income stream, manage rural settings and recreation opportunities and settings, where appropriate.

17 – Ensure decisions about the future of the Greater Wellington parks network are based on up-to-date quality information

Decisions will be better informed through the use of research and monitoring; input will be sought from the public, interest groups and existing stakeholders and partners.

18 – Promote in conjunction with other organisations and landholders, a variety of open space settings that meets the needs of the community for current and future generations

The lands owned or managed by Greater Wellington will contribute to and enhance the open spaces provided in the Wellington region.

4 General management outcomes and policies

4.1 Biodiversity and ecosystems

Outcomes

Outcome 1: Ecosystems of important ecological value are protected and cared for.

Outcome 2: Significant, degraded ecosystems and indigenous biodiversity are restored to a healthy functioning state.

Outcome 3: Ecological connections between natural areas and within catchments of regional parks and adjoining lands are enhanced.

Policies

4.1.1 Indigenous plants and fauna

Policy 1: To protect significant indigenous ecosystems and biodiversity based on an assessment of:

- a. Representativeness (regionally or nationally) rarity or vulnerability
- b. The current or potential degree of threat.

Policy 2: To enhance or restore areas that:

- a. Have the potential to be significant areas of indigenous vegetation or are significant habitats of indigenous fauna
- b. Will increase resilience, or prevent the isolation or fragmentation of the ecosystem
- c. Have special features such as unique species to the area, geological features or, cultural or spiritual values that make the area specifically valuable.

Policy 3: To consider and actively pursue when assessing and implementing enhancement and restoration projects:

- a. The level of public support and opportunities for involvement
- b. Opportunities for planting species that may be used for social and cultural purposes (eg, medicinal use, weaving)
- c. The contribution the project could make to ecological corridors / connections
- d. The opportunity for involvement of community, industry and not for profit organisations.

Policy 4: To enable the return of native fauna where:

- a. The species have previously been recorded or there is evidence of the species being present in the area
- b. Conditions can be controlled to provide a high chance of their survival in the area
- c. Appropriate translocation approval and permits have been obtained from the Department of Conservation
- d. Best practice is followed for the release and post-release monitoring.

Policy 5: To allow for natural regeneration of modified or degraded native ecosystems where they are likely to regenerate without active intervention, ie, where there is a local seed source and the ecosystem has the capacity to restore itself.

4.1.2 Removal of natural materials

Policy 6: To provide for the use and removal of natural materials (such as plants, animals, soil and rocks) from parks for Greater Wellington management purposes, subject to the relevant policies in this plan and relevant legislation, eg, - Reserves Act 1977.

Policy 7: To allow for the removal of natural materials, under the following circumstances:

- a. By tangata whenua for customary purposes
- b. By members of the community for scientific research, cultural or social purposes, or conservation and ecological restoration projects; and
- c. Where a permit has been authorised by Greater Wellington (refer to Rule 7.3).

Policy 8: To leave fallen indigenous trees in situ for ecological purposes, unless removal is required for management purposes or public safety.

Policy 9: To provide for the removal or trimming of vegetation by network utility operators, subject to conditions and in consultation with Greater Wellington.

Policy 10: To consider, when assessing applications for the use or remove of materials from a park:

- a. The legal status of the land and species concerned
- b. The ecological effects of the activity including effects on populations habitats and functioning of the ecosystem over time
- c. The impact on ecological diversity and connectivity
- d. The public good benefit for any commercial activity
- e. The impact on existing users of the park
- f. The availability of alternative opportunities
- g. The effect the removal would have on any historic and cultural site or other values.

Note: Refer to Part 7 (Rules) for more information on removal of natural materials as a managed activity.

4.1.3 Introduced plants

Policy 11: To give primacy to planting and replanting indigenous vegetation over introduced plants.

Policy 12: To plant introduced plants only where:

- a. They have a specific purpose (eg. nitrogen fixing, flood protection, amenity value, carbon sequestration) in accordance with the management outcomes of the area
- b. The area has low indigenous values
- c. They pose a low threat to the indigenous ecosystem.

Policy 13: To remove introduced plants for ecological purposes, except where they:

- a. Contribute towards the key characteristics of the park
- b. Have a high amenity value
- c. Are of historical or cultural significance
- d. Are acting as a “nurse crop” for native species
- e. Are necessary for viable farming or plantation forestry activities
- f. Provide another important function such as erosion control, carbon sequestration or protection of heritage features.

4.1.4 Pest plants and pest animals

Policy 14: To actively control pest plants and pest animals to assist the recovery of indigenous ecosystems and sustain their life-supporting capacity.

Policy 15: To provide additional levels of pest management in specified areas, and to protect sites or features of significant ecological value such as those developed as mainland islands.

Policy 16: To base pest plant and animal control programmes on the:

- a. Vulnerability and ecological value of the ecosystem under threat
- b. Nature and extent of the threat posed
- c. Distribution and size of the pest population
- d. Impact of any adverse effects of methods employed
- e. The most efficient and cost effective techniques available.

Policy 17: To take all practicable steps to prevent new pest plant and pest animal infestations by:

- a. Minimising opportunities for introduction (eg. specifying cleaning requirements for didymo during sporting events)
- b. Surveying for new infestations (including the location, nature and extent)
- c. Proactively containing and eradicating at the early stage of detection.

Policy 18: To control pest plants and animal impact by:

- a. Using the most effective and efficient techniques available
- b. Measuring the effectiveness of each process
- c. Observing non-target species, the environment and human health for adverse effects
- d. Collaborating with adjoining property owners on pest programmes and control methods.

4.1.5 Water

Policy 19: To maintain aquatic ecosystem values by:

- a. Collecting information about and monitoring the health of our wetlands
- b. Protecting wetlands, and restoring damaged wetlands to a healthy state⁶
- c. Employing riparian management as a tool for rehabilitating any degraded aquatic habitat in the stream catchment
- d. Ensuring fish passage is not impeded when constructing tracks and culverts, and constructing fish passages where required
- e. Where possible, developing fish passage over obstructions within the park.

Policy 20: To minimise threats to the water quality and quantity in streams, rivers, lakes and wetlands by preventing activities within the park that would compromise the ability of freshwater systems to function.

Policy 21: To manage current and future water supply catchments to ensure their potential as a source of secure, sustainable, fresh and clean water for the region.

METHODS

The following methods may be employed to achieve the outcomes and policies in this section:

- Riparian management
- Ecological restoration
- Fire control
- Environmental monitoring
- Pest plant/animal control
- Permits
- Resource consents.

⁶ Within Greater Wellington parks a number of major wetlands exist, including Queen Elizabeth Wetlands, Battle Hill Wetland, Draper's Flats Swamplands, Martins River Swampland, Pakuratahi Ladle Bend Wetland and the Parangarahu Lakes [Source: Wetlands Action Plan, Greater Wellington, 2003].

4.2 Landscape and geological features

Outcomes

Outcome 4: The integrity of important landscapes and geological features are protected from inappropriate development and use.

Policies

Policy 22: To identify:

- a. The diverse range of distinctive landscapes and geological features of each park
- b. Areas of particular significance to tangata whenua
- c. Significant modified landscapes or features that have high historic or cultural value.

Policy 23: To protect identified landscapes and geological features from inappropriate development and use.

Policy 24: To give weight to the values of identified landscapes and geological features in considering what management methods are appropriate.

Policy 25: To consider the impact of any new proposals or activities on important landscapes and geological features including the views of these from within the park.

Policy 26: To manage land use, developments or other activities to ensure that park values are not compromised. This includes:

- a. Managing the scale of development so it is appropriate to its setting
- b. Ensuring any tracks or access ways are constructed to minimise visual effects on landforms
- c. Minimising the intrusion of any built structures on the landscape.

METHODS

The following methods may be employed to achieve the outcomes and policies in this section:

- Design guidelines
- Education
- Research and inventory.

4.3 Cultural heritage

Outcomes

Outcome 5: Significant heritage features and associated histories, stories and knowledge are identified and protected.

Outcome 6: The cultural heritage in Greater Wellington parks is enhanced through cultural awareness and appreciation.

Policies

4.3.1 Protection and management

Policy 27: To identify and protect significant historic and cultural features (including built heritage) taking into account:

- a. Historic values (as they relate to themes, events or people in the past)
- b. Social values (sentiment, recognition)
- c. Tangata whenua values
- d. Physical values (archaeological, architectural, technological, integrity, age and any “collective” or “group values” (ie, contributes to the heritage values of a wider group of features, places or setting)
- e. Surroundings, rarity and representativeness.

Policy 28: To manage historic and cultural heritage features, taking into account their significance and any potential future threats (due to such things as visitor pressures, competing land use, natural processes and information loss, impact of activities, and proposed use or works).

Policy 29: To manage sites of significance to tangata whenua in a manner determined through consultation, taking into account nationally and locally established protocols relating to the management of cultural artefacts or human remains and tangata whenua requirements for the disclosure and non-disclosure of sites and information.

Policy 30: To adhere to nationally established procedures where historic and cultural heritage features or artefacts are unearthed (refer to Historic Places Act 1993 or Antiquities

Act 1975) or sites discovered during day to day park operations noting that:

- a. Work should cease in the vicinity of the discovery, and the Greater Wellington Accidental Discovery Protocol (2008) followed
- b. Tangata whenua be informed of any discovery of Māori artefacts in parks and their advice sought on appropriate protocols for the care or repatriating artefacts, where appropriate.

4.3.2 Information gathering and interpretation

Policy 31: To encourage greater awareness of the range and significance of the cultural heritage values and features of the regional parks within the community.

Policy 32: To present and interpret significant heritage values to the community, except where:

- a. Cultural heritage features may be at risk from damage or vandalism through increased knowledge or access
- b. Cultural heritage features may be in particularly sensitive areas such as grave sites or wāhi tapu, for which greater information and public access could degrade the areas physically or spiritually.

Policy 33: To work with relevant tangata whenua, community groups and historical societies to identify, assess and interpret historical and heritage sites.

Policy 34: To identify, protect and preserve information and knowledge related to significant heritage sites and values of the parks according to national standards and tangata whenua tikanga while having regard to relevant privacy issues.

METHODS

The following methods may be employed to achieve the outcomes and policies in this section:

- Management guidelines
- Conservation plans
- Research and inventory
- Interpretation
- Programmes and events.

4.4 Land management

Outcomes

Outcome 7: Modified ecosystems (such as farming and forestry) are good examples of sustainable management.

Outcome 8: The risk from natural hazards to people, assets and the environment are minimised.

Outcome 9: Resilient ecosystems and carbon sequestration processes mitigate effects of climate change.

Outcome 10: Any impacts of public utilities and community infrastructure are minimised.

Policies

4.4.1 Farm and plantation forestry

Policy 35: To protect soil resources by:

- a. Minimising use of any chemicals necessary for land management
- b. Using appropriate methods to minimise erosion
- c. Retiring land with significant risk of erosion.

Policy 36: To ensure that farming and forestry practice minimise sediment and nutrient discharges and downstream effects on catchments by:

- a. Encouraging indigenous vegetation along riparian margins
- b. Using setbacks when replanting riparian areas with plantation forestry (minimum 20 metres from the bank of rivers wider than 3 metres, lakes and wetlands)
- c. Using setbacks when replanting riparian areas with plantation forestry (minimum of 10 metres from the bank of streams wider than 1 metre)
- d. Rationalising exotic forest boundaries
- e. Utilising existing access arrangements through plantation forestry areas.

Policy 37: To allow pastoral farming where it:

- a. Contributes to the public use, enjoyment and educational potential of regional parks and forests
- b. Remains reasonably accessible to the public, allowing for integration of recreational activities
- c. Is managed consistently with the outcomes for the protection of the natural and cultural resources of the park
- d. Does not adversely affect significant ecosystems or historical and cultural heritage features
- e. Is in accordance with, and models, good land management practices and animal husbandry.

Policy 38: To maintain current forestry where on assessment it:

- a. Will not degrade the quality and quantity of future water supply
- b. Provides a commercial return to Greater Wellington (including revenue from emission trading units) and an economic contribution to the region
- c. It is more than or as effective as indigenous vegetation in protecting unstable slopes
- d. Provides a recreational asset.

METHODS

The following methods may be employed to achieve the outcomes and policies in this section:

- Riparian management
- Sustainable farm management plans
- Sustainable forestry management plans
- Pest plant and animal control.

4.4.2 Natural hazards

Policy 39: To avoid, where possible, locating facilities or structures in identified high hazard zones such as floodplains, dune systems or erosion prone or unstable land.

Policy 40: To treat coastal erosion as a natural process, favouring dune restoration solutions over structural interference.

Policy 41: To manage erosion or other hazard risks in a way that preserves the ecological and landscape values.

Policy 42: To limit and/or manage public access (either temporarily or permanently), to facilities or structures that pose a risk to health and safety as a result of a hazard.

Policy 43: To prevent and manage fires to preserve historic flora and fauna values and minimise risk to life and property.

METHODS

The following methods may be employed to achieve the outcomes and policies in this section:

- Hazards register
- Signage
- Relocation or removal of structures/access.

4.4.3 Climate change

Policy 44: To respond to the impacts of climate change by improving ecosystem resilience and increasing the capacity of parks to sequester carbon through:

- a. Identifying and implementing reversion and planting opportunities for increasing carbon sequestration
- b. Restoring ecosystems and assisting natural regeneration of the native ecosystem by controlling browsing animals and weed pests.

Policy 45: To improve the resilience of the parks network against the likely impacts of climate change through:

- a. Better understanding specific risks to each park
- b. Improving the ability of natural ecosystems to adapt through appropriate planting and management
- c. Ensuring new park infrastructure is appropriately located and designed.

METHODS

The following methods may be employed to achieve the outcomes and policies in this section:

- Sustainable farm management plans
- Pest plant and pest animal control
- Riparian management.

4.4.4 Park closures

Policy 46: To temporarily restrict or close access to a park, or part thereof where:

- a. There is a danger to public and/or animal health and safety
- b. Where continued access will cause further environmental or cultural degradation to a particular site
- c. An event or activity has been granted the right to restrict public access as part of its approval conditions
- d. Park operations require temporary closure including but not limited to park maintenance, pest control, farming and forestry operations, and water collection and distribution
- e. Restricting access is an obligation under a specific Act, such as the Biosecurity Act, Forest Rural Fire Act or the Public Health Act.

Policy 47: To ensure that the public are adequately informed regarding closures, using signage or other media, including an explanation of reasons and the length of time an area will be closed.

4.4.5 Utilities

Policy 48: To recognise and provide for the operation and maintenance of existing network utilities within regional parks as allowed activities.

Policy 49: To comply with relevant legislation and regulations for the operation and maintenance of network utilities, including:

- a. Maintaining safe distances from network utilities for activities and developments, eg, when tree planting
- b. The removal or management of vegetation near utilities including transmission lines, underground services and pipelines, subject to consultation with Greater Wellington (except in cases of emergency where Greater Wellington will be informed as soon as practical).

Policy 50: Applications for the development of additional network utilities within the parks will be considered as restricted activities and assessed according to the process set out in Part 7 (Rules).

Policy 51: Additional utility facilities approved under Policy 50 and Part 7 (Rules) will be subject to a licence or an easement where:

- a. They cannot be reasonably located outside park land, or if specifically provided for, as a purpose for which the park is held
- b. It is consistent with policies in this management plan and they are of a scale, nature, colour and intensity of use that relates to, and is integrated with, the existing landscape
- c. Public access to utilities is to be denied only where necessary for the protection of public safety or the security or competent operation of the activity concerned
- d. They are located in, or added to, an existing structure or facility and use existing access options wherever possible
- e. The works are of national interest.

Policy 52: To consider a fee or require a bond where appropriate for the construction of utilities, or other mitigation or compensation measures where public network utilities occupy or cross the park.

Policy 53: Where work is undertaken Greater Wellington may require site restoration or maintenance after the completion of work.

Policy 54: To require that power cables and telephone lines be placed underground, where possible.

Explanation: *Network utilities such as water, gas, electricity supply, and telecommunications have an important role in contributing to the health, safety and well-being of our region. As parks are places of public recreation, it is important that Greater Wellington is informed about planned works so that public health and safety issues can be managed. Refer to the National Environmental Standard on Electricity Transmission Activities*

for more information relating to the use, operation, maintenance, upgrading, replacement and relocation of transmission lines and the use of access tracks.

4.4.6 Renewable energy generation

Policy 55: To require the Greater Wellington Regional Council to review each proposal on a case by case basis, taking into account land status⁷, the effect on park characteristics and all other relevant policies and outcomes within this plan.

Policy 56: To require any proposed development to take into account the appropriate design principles outlined in part 5.6.1.

Explanation: *Renewable energy generation could be created by wind turbines, solar panels, hydro turbines and/or bio energy. The Wellington region has been recognised for its wind energy resource and there are potential wind energy sites on Greater Wellington land.*

A number of streams and rivers flow through Greater Wellington's parks. Some of these may provide opportunities for small hydro power developments, particularly in association with any new water source developments. The Wellington Regional Council (Water Board Functions) Act 2005 allows for the construction and operation of electrical installations or works for renewable energy in forest and water collection areas. For further information on renewable energy and regionally significant infrastructure, refer to the Regional Policy Statement.

4.4.7 Mineral exploration, prospecting and mining

Policy 57: To prohibit mineral exploration, prospecting and mining in the regional park network.

⁷ Note: The provisions in the Wellington Regional Council (Water Board Functions) Act 2005 which covers some lands within the Greater Wellington Parks Network allows for the development of alternative energy generation on forest lands.

4.5 Visitor services

Outcomes

Outcome 11: Public experiences in parks are safe, enjoyable and informative.

Outcome 12: Parks can be accessed by all sectors of the community.

Policies

4.5.1 Education and promotion

Policy 58: To encourage responsible behaviour and good stewardship, including but not limited to a “leave only footprints” approach⁸.

Policy 59: To promote parks as places to learn about the environment, cultural heritage, native ecosystems and best practice in the sustainable management of land.

Policy 60: To increase understanding of parks’ key characteristics and improve park management through:

- a. Information gathering, research and monitoring by Greater Wellington
- b. Incorporating Māori knowledge and values
- c. Facilitating research that might be utilised by Greater Wellington.

Policy 61: To develop relationships with other agencies and the community that will increase community awareness and facilitate learning through hands-on experiences and interpretation of the natural and cultural heritage of parks, eg, ecology, farming and history.

Policy 62: To work along side other agencies and the community to utilise the Greater Wellington parks network to encourage healthy lifestyles and develop conservation and outdoor skills.

Policy 63: To deliver quality information to the public about the opportunities available in parks, targeting particular groups to increase their access to them (by knowing what is available and suitable for them).

METHODS

The following methods may be employed to achieve the outcomes and policies in this section:

- Ranger service
- Marketing
- Interpretation and signage
- Programmes and events
- Community partnerships
- Education.

⁸ Note that all park visitors are required to remove any rubbish they bring to or generate in the park, except at designated campgrounds, where limited rubbish facilities will be provided.

4.6 Park infrastructure

Outcomes

Outcome 13: People of different age, ability and interests can access parks (where appropriate).

Outcome 14: Recreation corridors such as walking trails and cycle tracks connect parks.

Outcome 15: Opportunities and settings for sustainable activities and uses that are consistent with this plan and the management focus of parks are provided.

Policies

4.6.1 Design principles

Policy 64: To concentrate intensive use and development of park facilities at existing developed areas and main park entrances, wherever possible.

Policy 65: To ensure any new park infrastructure (facilities, buildings and other structures):

- a. Meets any national design standards relevant to the structure and use
- b. Fits with the focus for the park
- c. Recognises and reflects the park's key characteristics and is in keeping with the setting of the park, utilising materials which reflect the natural or historical context
- d. Takes into account the needs of people, including safety, security, disabilities and/or limited mobility
- e. Does not detract from or adversely affect the existing heritage of the area, including archaeological sites
- f. Minimises displacement of other activities and park users
- g. Has considered alternative locations and alternative means of meeting the intended purpose, including using or adapting existing infrastructure
- h. Where practical and appropriate, group built structures together to minimise vegetation clearance and visual intrusion on the landscape.

Explanation: The parks provide open space settings with low to moderate levels of development and built structures.

Policy 66: To provide amenities and vehicle parking areas which take into account the type of recreational activity and uses as well as the desired level of public use in each location.

Policy 67: To provide signs and track markers for visitor information and interpretation to help promote the safe and enjoyable use of parks, considering:

- a. Appropriate location to entrance points and car parking areas
- b. Grouping signs or using other techniques to minimise visual clutter.

4.6.2 Access

Policy 68: To maintain a variety of recreational opportunities throughout the network that recognises the diversity of cultures, ages, fitness levels and physical abilities. Not all opportunities will be available in all parks.

Policy 69: To develop new outdoor recreational opportunities or provide for recreational needs suitable for the particular park (outlined in Part 6).

Policy 70: To separate or limit recreational activities and uses, where necessary, to protect health and safety, environment or heritage values or to prevent conflict.

Policy 71: To specifically focus on developing easy to moderate trails close to park entrances giving increased opportunities for the elderly, disabled and children's buggies.

Policy 72: To develop better linkages between existing areas or potential areas of open space by:

- a. Working with private landowners, councils, eg, where subdivision is proposed, other agencies and community groups to link open space through trails
- b. Liaison with adjoining private landowners
- c. Advocating for public transport and non-vehicular links to parks.

Policy 73: To maintain a network of tracks and other facilities that provides a range of recreational activities and experiences.

Policy 74: To give priority when developing new tracks to linkages, circuits and loop tracks.

4.6.3 Naming and commemorations

Policy 75: To promote awareness of, and respect for, Māori language and place names within parks.

Policy 76: To consider when naming areas, tracks or features, giving preference to names that reflect:

- a. Tangata whenua values
- b. Natural and physical features
- c. Local history and heritage
- d. Cultural and community associations
- e. An individual or organisation that significantly contributes to the park or facility through gifting or sponsorship or personal commitment of time and energy.

Policy 76: To require the approval of Greater Wellington Regional Council when naming or renaming parks, forests or significant features, following appropriate consultation with tangata whenua, the public and interest groups.

Policy 78: To manage plaques, memorials and commemorative structures as restricted activities. These will only be approved where:

- a. The person(s) has contributed in a significant way to the regional parks network or to the structure on which the plaque is placed
- b. It relates to significant historical, environmental, or cultural events within the park, or the opening or naming of a park or a major facility in the park
- c. The design and location does not detract from the park's key characteristics or cause the displacement of other park activities.

Policy 79: To only maintain or replace plaques, memorials and commemorative structures where there is agreement between the contributing party and Greater Wellington.

Policy 80: To permit commemorative tree planting in designated areas only.

Policy 81: To prohibit the spreading or burial of ashes and the burial of body parts within parks, with the exception of reinterment of koiwi.

METHODS

The following methods may be employed to achieve the outcomes and policies in this section:

- Design guidelines
- Concept plans
- Advocacy/monitoring.

4.6.4 Use and development

Policy 82: To provide for sustainable activities and uses that are consistent with the outcomes of this plan and the management focus and key characteristics of the park.

Policy 83: To manage and maintain discretion over specified activities to ensure appropriate allocation of park resources.

Policy 84: To maintain discretion over other activities (including new activities and utilities) to avoid or limit impacts on the environment and key park characteristics, as well as ensure the safety of park users.

Policy 85: To follow a process for determining whether new activities and development are appropriate for the park (refer to Rules Part 7).

Policy 86: To prohibit activities that are inappropriate for the park setting or outside the specified location (refer to Rules Part 7).

Explanation: *The details for managing use and development within parks are set out in Rules Part 7, which is the method for implementing these policies.*

4.7 Partnership in parks

Outcomes

Outcome 16: Relationships based on good faith, cooperation and understanding to achieve the outcomes of this plan and contribute to a sustainable region are maintained and enhanced.

Outcome 17: Where areas of parks or features are owned or under the control of tangata whenua or other organisations, a joint management regime is in operation.

Outcome 18: The management of parks reflects the needs of park users.

Outcome 19: Community participation and sense of ownership are promoted.

Policies

Policy 87: To develop and maintain relationships with tangata whenua through:

- a. Ensuring their traditional guardianship role and interests in respect of their lands, forests, fisheries and other taonga are actively recognised and provided for
- b. Providing opportunities to participate in traditional guardianship roles, the maintenance of mauri, and the management and protection of wāhi tapu
- c. Customary use of natural resources within the context of sustainable management
- d. Participation in: identification of the cultural importance of areas, the information provided to the public, and the interpretation of tangata whenua history
- e. Promoting awareness of, and respect for, tangata whenua culture, interests, heritage, language and place names within parks
- f. Consulting with tangata whenua on the planning, development and management of parks.

Explanation: Greater Wellington has responsibilities under the Local Government Act 2002 regarding consultation with tangata whenua. In the development of this plan and future plans, settlements as a result of Treaty of Waitangi claims have been and will be considered. Note that a number of other parts of this plan have provisions also relating to tangata whenua, both within general policies and park-specific policies (part 6).

Policy 88: To work with the Department of Conservation, neighbours, and local authority landowners to ensure that:

- a. Issues of interest and concern are addressed in the development of management plans and ongoing management
- b. The enhancement of the environment and recreational amenities in the parks network is achieved.

Policy 89: To encourage and support community group involvement in parks using a variety of mechanism such as:

- a. Park friends groups, volunteer programmes
- b. Collaboration in running events
- c. Consultation and engagement over park issues, including development and/or planning.

Policy 90: To promote and provide opportunities for tangata whenua, individuals, volunteers, private sector, businesses and community groups to be involved in park activities that support the outcomes and policies in this plan, such as:

- a. Environmental and heritage protection and enhancement
- b. Recreational amenity development and maintenance
- c. Communication between different groups with an interest in a particular park
- d. Research on park issues and values
- e. Volunteering specialist knowledge for education and interpretation.

Policy 91: To establish, where appropriate, formal agreements with all groups, volunteers and/or organisations who contribute to parks in an advocacy, restoration and/or education role.

METHODS

The following methods may be employed to achieve the outcomes and policies in this section:

- Partnerships
- Programmes and events
- Consultation
- Joint administration of land
- Sponsorship
- Voluntary involvement.

4.8 Research

Outcome

Outcome 20: Up-to-date, quality information on which to make decisions about the future of the parks network is provided.

Policies

Policy 92: To undertake, allow for (as a managed activity) and support research which:

- a. Increases knowledge and understanding of the significance and condition of natural and cultural heritage, as well as recreational values
- b. Increases the ability to effectively manage these resources and any threats to these
- c. Does not detract from park visitors' use and enjoyment of parks or adversely impact the key characteristics of the park.

Policy 93: To assess changes over time in the park environment and visitor/non-visitor needs and preferences.

4.9 Land tenure, acquisition and disposal

Outcome

Outcome 21: To provide a variety of open space settings that meets the needs of the community, for current and future generations.

Policies

Policy 95: To give primacy when making decisions, to the land tenure and associated provisions in legislation for an area within the park. In particular, the provisions of the Local Government Act 2002, Reserves Act 1977 and the Wellington Regional Water Board Act 1972⁹.

Policy 96: To negotiate, where appropriate, for the lease, acquisition, right-of-way, caveat, disposal, purchase or gifting of land under public and private ownership within or adjacent to parks. When acquiring or disposing of land, to consider how the proposal will:

- a. Enhance the benefit, enjoyment and use of parks by the public
- b. Improve public access to or use of open space
- c. Further protect the character of existing parks
- d. Protect the important environmental and cultural heritage values
- e. Enhance or add to existing recreational opportunities
- f. Rationalise boundaries so as to achieve better linkages to other open space areas and benefit the future management of the park
- g. Enhance or add to ecological corridor opportunities
- h. And that no other mechanism (such as a management agreement by another agency) can achieve the purpose.

⁹ Also the Wellington Regional Council (Water Board Functions) Act 2005

Policy 97: To consider the acquisition of new parks where:

- a. There is a deficiency in large open space (greater than 150 hectares) within the area and acquisition has the potential to provide a variety of recreational opportunities that will benefit the region
- b. The open space is accessible from urbanised areas or areas of significant project growth
- c. It will provide protection to areas that have regionally or nationally significant ecological, landscape or heritage values
- d. It does not replace, but complements, other open space opportunities in the area, such as local parks.

Policy 98: To manage any land acquired using the outcomes and policies of this plan alongside relevant legislative requirements.

5

Monitoring and review of this plan

Outcome

Outcome 22: The plan is reviewed regularly to ensure it meets changing circumstances and is responsive to increased knowledge.

Policies

5.1 Plan review

Policy 100: To review the plan at least every 10 years, unless a review or variation is initiated by:

- a. Results from monitoring that indicate the need for a change or review
- b. The identification of new management issues, problems or activities that are not addressed in the plan but for which policy is required
- c. Changes in national policy including new or amended laws, regulations or other actions which may render the plan inoperable or illegal
- d. Policy changes made by Greater Wellington that affect the way parks are managed
- e. New parks purchased or land placed under the control of Greater Wellington
- f. Treaty of Waitangi settlements that require changes in the way that management occurs or decisions are made.

Explanation

A scheduled review provides the opportunity to assess park management in the light of new issues and circumstances to ensure that the management plan continues to be relevant and provides clear direction to guide park management into the future.

Policy 101: To follow the procedure set out in Section 41 of the Reserves Act 1977, as applicable.

5.2 Plan monitoring

Policy 102: To undertake data collection and analysis that accurately measures the effectiveness of management plans, policies and rules at least every three years.

Policy 103: To monitor the use and development of parks and the resulting effects using, but not limited to, the key indicators in Table 1.

Table 1 - Monitoring methods

KEY INDICATORS	
Biodiversity and ecosystems	Ecosystem health
	Viability of populations of threatened species
	Changes in animal and plant pest populations over time
	Environmental enhancements
Landscape and geological features	Landscape quality changes
Cultural heritage	Cultural heritage resource conditions
Land management	Sustainable land use of farmed areas
	Forestry, farming practices
Visitor services	Recreational assets condition
	Recreational activity participation
	Park user satisfaction
	Community partnerships

Explanation: *Greater Wellington will monitor the park environment, the effect of land use and developments and visitor experience, as necessary, to assess the appropriateness and effectiveness of this plan. Monitoring programmes will be identified and implemented through Greater Wellington's annual planning process. Monitoring techniques may change over time in response to changing circumstances and developments in monitoring tools.*