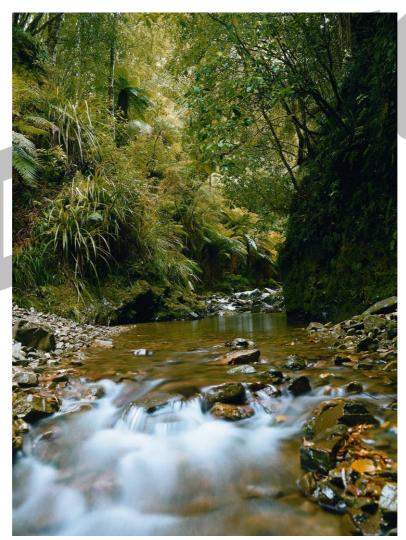


WELLINGTON REGION OPEN SPACE STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN



Otari Wilton's Bush - Photo courtesy of Wellington City Council

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The Wellington region open space strategy and action plan was adopted by the Wellington Regional Strategy Committee* on 14th October 2009.

*The Wellington Regional Strategy Committee is responsible for the governance of the Wellington Regional Strategy.

Regional representation is provided by:

Fran Wilde (Deputy Chair) Greater Wellington Regional Council

Adrienne Staples South Wairarapa District Council (representing Wairarapa councils)

Wayne Guppy Upper Hutt City Council

David Ogden Hutt City Council
Kerry Prendergast Wellington City Council
Jenny Brash Porirua City Council

Jenny Rowan Kapiti Coast District Council

There are also five independent appointees representing private sector and business interests:

Sir John Anderson (Chair) Consultant and Company Director

Professor Sir Ngatata Love
Paora Ammunson
Catherine Savage

Prof of Business Development, Victoria University
Chairperson Kahungunu ki Wairarapa Iwi Authority
Ex Managing Director of AMP Capital Investments

Major General (Ret) Lou Gardiner, ONZM Ex Chief of Army, New Zealand Defence Force

1. Executive Summary

The regional open space strategy and action plan has been developed under the auspices of the Wellington Regional Strategy. The Open Spaces Working Group is a sub-group of SORT (senior council officers' resource team). The working group is comprised of members representing the Region's territorial authorities, Greater Wellington Regional Council (GWRC), Department of Conservation, Queen Elizabeth II National Trust, and iwi representation.

A review of open space management in the Wellington Region has identified four key issues that should be addressed including a lack of integrated strategic planning, limited mechanisms to share best practice and resources, future co-management/partnership with iwi as managers and owners of open space and public access and opportunities to use open spaces across the region.

The strategy aims to ensure that Wellington Region residents and visitors have a safe, convenient, appropriately maintained, linked and integrated regional open space network that recognises the region's rural and natural open space character and ecological functions, and contributes to the wellbeing of its communities. Implementation of the action plan will result in a coordinated approach for the development, management and protection of open space across the Wellington region, collaboration across provider and partner organisations so that resources and solutions are shared and exchanged, and opportunities and mechanisms to enhance the regional network are identified across the provider organisations. Together with consistent spatial data collection and management across the region, there will be improved outcomes and greater efficiencies across the regions' open space providers, members of the public will be well informed about the Wellington regional open space network, and their needs well met.

For the first time, all public open space in the Wellington Region has been organised and mapped according to the same scale and function criteria.

2. Background

The Wellington Regional Strategy (WRS) is the sustainable economic growth strategy for the Wellington region which was finalised in 2007. The strategy was produced through collaboration by the local authorities in the region (Greater Wellington Regional Council, Wellington City, Hutt City, Upper Hutt City, Porirua City, Kapiti Coast District, South Wairarapa District, Carterton District, and Masterton District Councils) in tandem with central government and business, education, research and voluntary sector interests. The strategy focuses on regional actions that will help improve the region's economy and environmental, social and cultural conditions.

The Wellington Regional Strategy identifies three focus areas, one of which is achieving good regional form. This recognises the importance of the physical arrangements of rural and urban communities and that they link together well and thus contribute to a good quality of life. The open space project was one of the workstreams associated with this regional form focus area.



The main outcome of the open space workstream is to develop a regional open space strategy and action plan to help guide collaborative planning for the public open space network in the Wellington region. The development of the strategy and action plan was led by Victoria McGregor (Wellington Regional Strategy Office) and Greater Wellington Regional Council.

Comprising the southern tip of the North Island and bounded to the south, east and west by water, the Wellington region has been traditionally known as Te Upoko o te Ika o Maui (the Head of the Fish of Maui). It covers a land area of 813,005 hectares.

The region covers a maritime area of 786,700 hectares and has 497 kilometres of coastline.

The Wellington region open space network runs from the northern boundaries of the greater Wellington region near Otaki and north of Masterton through to the south coast of Wellington city. See Appendix 2 for a map of the Wellington regional open space network.

The communities of the region have a long history of collectively providing natural open space areas and some key 'urban spaces' for residents and visitors. The region is very well provided for in terms of the ratio of public open space to population (see Table 1 below).

Table 1: Proportion of Public Open Space to Population: Wellington Region (2009)

		Wellington region
Population (200	06 census)	448,956
Land area		813,000 ha
Public open spa	ace area	248,246 ha
(2009)		
Public open spa	ace /	0.5530 ha per capita
population		

The urban areas of the Wellington region are notable for the penetration of large tracts of public open space into the built up and developed areas. Some of this is a function of topography but there has also been a conscious programme of land acquisition over a long period of time. Increasingly each community is beginning to see these areas as not only providing for local recreation and amenity but as part of a 'network concept'. These networks are being articulated as city or district wide systems but there is also an increasing appreciation of the value of a regional system.



3. What is open space?

In the context of this strategy, open space is defined as:

"Any area of publicly-managed* land or water with recreational, ecological, landscape, cultural and/or historic values"

This assumes that legal access can be gained to such areas. In some cases, entry fees may be charged. * Includes QEII Trust covenanted land



Waitangi Park, Wellington City – Photo courtesy of Wellington Regional Strategy Office



Waikanae Park, Kapiti Coast - Photo courtesy of Kapiti Coast District Council

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4. Why is open space important?

Quality open space is identified in the WRS as a fundamental requirement for world class cities and regions. Open spaces provide a wide-ranging contribution to the promotion of individual and community health, ecosystem services and social inclusion assisting with economic prosperity.

By having great parks, well connected walking tracks, and high quality natural areas close to our population centres, the region will be better placed to ensure its success as being attractive and sustainable while meeting the needs of the community and visitors.

Four of the WRS community outcomes link to a quality regional open space network. These include:

- Healthy Community
- Sense of Place
- Quality Lifestyle
- Healthy Environment

There are a number of values¹ attached to open spaces including:

- Protecting our natural world
- Building healthy communities
- Contributing to our economy
- Reflecting our culture



Mountain bikes at Makara - Photo courtesy of Wellington City Council

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There are a number of issues significant to Maori in the Wellington region that link to the way that open spaces are established, managed, developed and protected. For Maori, open spaces are places where spirits can be uplifted in the reinvigorating of the life force or mauri ora.

The proposed Wellington Regional Policy Statement 2009, articulates the philosophy of iwi in the Wellington region to the natural and built environment:

"Tangata whenua consider that the life force – mauri exists in all things in the natural world – of natural systems needs to be protected...".

Section 7 of this document outlines opportunities public land managers and iwi can explore.



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5 Wellington region open space network - key open space providers and strategy implementation partners

There are a number of key providers and strategy implementation partners associated with open space across the Wellington region (see Appendix 1 for details). These include:







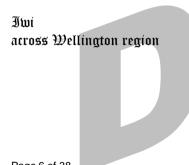


















Nga Kairauhi Papa

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6 Vision and outcomes

6.1 Vision

A vision for open spaces to 2025 has been developed by the key open space providers in the Wellington region. This vision will guide the future provision and management of open space.

The vision reads:

"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."

6.2 Outcomes of strategy

The Regional Open Space Strategy will help to ensure:

- There is a coordinated approach for the development, management and protection of open space across the Wellington region
- There is collaboration across provider and partner organisations so that resources and solutions are shared and exchanged
- Opportunities and mechanisms to enhance the regional network are identified across the provider organisations
- There are improved outcomes and greater efficiencies across the regions' open space providers
- There is consistent spatial data collection and management across the region
- Members of the public are well informed about the Wellington regional open space network
- The needs of the Wellington community are well met

7. Challenges and opportunities facing open space providers in Wellington region

7.1 Lack of integrated strategic planning

Along with the abundance of public open space in the region, we have a number of providers, each with different roles and individual approaches to managing those spaces. To compound this situation, the territorial authority GIS databases usually stop at their city or district boundaries, sometimes dissecting areas of open spaces that clearly cut across jurisdictions. With no clear understanding of or mandate to consider the regional network, authorities have not "joined up" with other providers in planning for future open space.

Another issue to be resolved is the inconsistent way of organising open space across region. For example, there are a number of classification systems such as the Reserves

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Act classification and District Plan zoning (see Appendix 5). Without a consistent way of organising open space across the Wellington region, there is only limited understanding of open space provision across the region at the different scales, functions and types of open space. This restricts the ability of open space providers to strategically plan for future acquisition and disposal of open space land.

Without a regional vision and a desire for a change of approach for open space providers, agencies will continue to focus on their own areas and not on the well-being of the region as a whole.

7.2 Limited mechanisms to share best practice and resources

As agencies have traditionally worked alone, there are few mechanisms available to encourage them to share best practice and resources, or to articulate the value of open space to decision makers. These developments need to be embedded in the way that the providers work, to encourage inter-agency sharing of experience, knowledge and information.

7.3 Future co-management/partnership with iwi as managers and owners of open space

The region's open space providers currently work closely with iwi in the management of public land. The Treaty settlements being negotiated between some of the region's iwi and the Crown highlight the need and opportunity for open space providers to comanage large areas of public open space in partnership with iwi throughout the region.

The future of both public and private open spaces throughout the Wellington region is of interest to tangata whenua. Opportunities that public land managers and iwi can explore are incorporated in the action plan (see Section 10), and includes actions such as recognising, maintaining and enhancing *mauri* throughout the regional open space network, and increasing the "cultural capital" across the Wellington region.

7.4 Public interface – access and opportunities to open spaces across the region

To learn about our region's open space and recreation opportunities the public need to visit the websites of the various open space providers or read the relevant literature. Having a widely recognised "one-stop shop" for this information would be a significant improvement over the fragmented and inconsistent communication channels we use today.

8. Wellington region open space matrix

A matrix has been developed to provide for a consistent framework for the organisation of open space across the Wellington region (see Appendix 4 for details of matrix and Appendix 2 for regional open space network map). A regional matrix helps to identify future requirements for open space provision and the identification of gaps and opportunities across agencies.

A summary of the components of the matrix are below.

8.1 Open space scale

The matrix assesses the different scales of open space across the Wellington region. The three levels of scale are:

- Regional
- City/district
- Local/suburb

Criteria have been developed to assist in determining the scale of each open space and include:

- Uniqueness of the location for the activity or event e.g. can the activity be undertaken anywhere else in the region or is the event unique to one location
- Uniqueness of the values of the open space e.g. are these values found elsewhere in the region, the city/district or are the values unique to one location
- Where visitors come from e.g. from within city/district, or from outside of region
- Statutory significance e.g. is the feature recognised in the Conservation Management Strategy (CMS) for Wellington region (DOC), Regional Policy Statement, and/or District Plan
- Primary funding source e.g. central government funding, regional, local rate

8.2 Open space functions

The matrix identifies primary and secondary function/s of open space across the Wellington region. These criteria are categorised into three groups. These three function groups are subdivided into activity/facility types in order to assist in identifying the primary and secondary functions in a systematic way across the region (see below).

This information has been recorded in a regional GIS system held by Greater Wellington Regional Council. Visual maps have been developed from this data. It is anticipated that the database will be continually updated as regional scale new open space areas are added or deleted from the regional open space network.

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This information will also be used by open space providers and implementation partners to assist with strategic planning purposes (see Section 10 for action plan).

Informal recreation/leisure

- Off-leash dog exercise area
- > Beach
- Picnic area
- Multi use track/walkway providing for walking, running, mountain biking etc
- > Formed garden
- > Play equipment area
- Skate parks
- Boat ramp
- General kick-about area
- ➤ Horse riding trail
- Camping ground/huts/lodges
- Bicycle facility
- Hunting
- Walking and tramping

Organised sports/activities

- Sports playing field
- Outdoor formed court/track
- ➤ 4WD track/park
- Golf course
- Events civic and festival

Environmental/heritage

- Ecological areas/remnant
- Landscape area
- Cultural sites important to iwi
- Historical site
- Riparian or marginal strip
- Water collection area
- Retired land (slip prone)



Photo courtesy of Greater Wellington Regional Council



Photo courtesy of Greater Wellington Regional Council



Photo courtesy of Wellington City Council

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9. Summary of action plan

Below is a summary of the eight workstreams that the open space providers and strategy implementation partners in the Wellington region intend to implement over the next 1-3 years (2009-2012) to address the challenges and opportunities identified in section 7.

Various actions have been grouped under each workstream and ordered from highest to lowest priority over the time period 2009-2012. Lead and support agencies have been identified for each action, along with target start and completed dates. To deliver the workstream outcomes, each lead agency/s will set up a sub-group drawn from representatives of open space providers and partners across the region along with other relevant stakeholders. See Section 10 for details of strategy action plan.

9.1 Network development

This workstream focuses on analysing the regional open space network in order to identify gaps and opportunities, missing links and cross boundary issues. There is provision for ongoing meetings of open space providers to discuss planning, development, maintenance and marketing across the region.

9.2 Skills development, information exchange and reporting

The main outcome of this workstream is commitment by open space providers and strategy implementation partners to an annual open space forum. Mechanisms have been identified to encourage the sharing of information and training opportunities across agencies. Reporting to central government on regional issues around open spaces has also been included, as well as understanding the differences and commonalities between iwi and other open space providers.

9.3. Community engagement

This workstream will investigate good practice principles of effective engagement with the community, volunteer and interest groups and alternative funding opportunities.

9.4. Policy development

This workstream promotes information exchange around the development of planning and policy documents. Investigating the development of regional criteria and principles around acquisition and improvement of public open space land will be a key focus..

9.5 Marketing and communication

This workstream focuses on the development of a regional information portal for public open spaces.

9.6 Collaboration

The main outcome of this workstream is to encourage collaboration across open space providers and partners. It will be achieved through maintaining a regional database of future projects, holding updated regional GIS data layers for open spaces and investigating ways to align asset management systems across the region.

9.7 Biodiversity and climate change

This workstream focuses on investigating consistent approaches to carbon credit schemes on reserve land and opportunities around the linking of catchments and green corridors throughout the Wellington region.

9.8 Strategy and action plan implementation review

This workstream focuses on a review of progress towards the action plan in 2011 and the effectiveness of the strategy and action plan in 2012.



10. Wellington region open space strategy action plan 2009-2012

Category	#	Action	Lead agency	Support agency	Start date	Completed by date
1. Network development	1a	Utilising the regional matrix undertake a regional-wide assessment of the different scales and functions of open space across the region – analyse provision of open space across the region, gaps, missing links, opportunities, cross boundary issues	Wellington City Council / Porirua City Council	GW, DOC, all other TAs, QEII	October 2009	April 2010
	1b	Organise a six-monthly meeting of open space providers to discuss the planning, development, maintenance and marketing of cycle & walkways and other open space functions as identified in the regional matrix Develop processes across open space providers to ensure that cycle & walkways planned, developed, maintained and marketed where they are on adjoining land parcels	Greater Wellington Regional Council Regional Active Transport Forum WRS office	DOC, TAs, Iwi, Phoenix Trust, Rotary Clubs, Bike NZ, other interest groups	October 2009	August 2010 and Ongoing
	1c	Investigate ways of applying consistency of NZ track standards, descriptions and format e.g. grade, length across the region	Hutt City Council	GW, DOC, TAs, Iwi, Phoenix Trust, Rotary Clubs, Bike NZ, other interest groups	August 2010	August 2011 and ongoing
	1d	Undertake an assessment of the provision of high demand informal recreation provision to identify possible areas throughout the region and avoid overlap between TAs, and maintain a database of future opportunities. Some activities/facilities to consider may be downhill mountain biking, 4WD, horse trekking, motorbikes etc	Greater Wellington Regional Council	TAs, DOC, Regional Active Transport forum	May 2011	October 2011
2. Skills development, information exchange and reporting	2a	Develop and maintain an up to date database of future projects across open space agencies in the Wellington region	WRS office / Greater Wellington Regional Council	DOC, TAs	October 2009	Ongoing and updated annually
	2b	Establish a sub-group to organise annual regional open space forum	WRS office	TAs, DOC, GW, QEII, Iwi	October 2009	December 2009 and ongoing
	2c	Develop a regional open space providers email forum – initiate "hot topic" conversations	WRS office	TAs, DOC, GW, QEII, Iwi	October 2009	Ongoing
	2d	Develop mechanisms for the sharing of resource and best practices around the region - may include ranger qualifications, compliance, dealing with difficult people, statutory training e.g. Local Government Act, Reserves Act implementation	WRS office in conjunction with annual regional open space forum	TAs, DOC, GW	October 2009	March 2010 and ongoing
	2e	Provide ongoing updates to the region's iwi (Ara Tahi) through implementation of strategy actions. Respond to advice given by Ara Tahi.	WRS Office	WRS office	October 2009	Ongoing
	2f	Develop mechanisms to enable the sharing of visitor monitoring results and awareness of what monitoring is coming up across agencies	Wellington City Council	Jointly with WRRIG, GW, DOC, TAs	April 2010	Ongoing
	2g	Develop list of training opportunities amongst open space providers and keep this	WRS office	TAs, DOC, GW	April	Ongoing and

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Category	#	Action	Lead agency	Support agency	Start date	Completed by date
		up-to-date (may link to NZRA, NZPI etc) - discuss at annual regional open space summit			2010	updated annually
	2h	Through an appropriate forum (e.g. annual regional open space summit) share regional best practice on open space initiatives including the exploration of the differences and similarities in Maori and pakeka approaches to open space management		TAs, DOC, QEII	June 2010	Ongoing - annually
	2i	Hold a regional hui to understand the relationships and opportunities between iwi and open space providers (e.g. co-governance opportunities, co-practices, open space provision, opportunities to enhance <i>mauri</i> , understanding iwi/hapu values in open spaces, opportunities for iwi to work with private landowners and QEII Trust to encourage land to be covenanted) - this may be part of the regional open space summit	Greater Wellington Regional Council / iwi	TAs, DOC, GW, QEII	June 2010	Ongoing - annually
3. Community engagement	3	Share regional best practice principles around how to effectively and consistently engage with community, volunteer and interest groups on open space initiatives – this may include investigating ways to better align funding opportunities with non local government agencies and groups	Greater Wellington Regional Council	TAs, DOC, QEII, Iwi, other stakeholders	October 2009	March 2010 and ongoing
4. Policy development	4a	Circulate draft management planning documents to all agencies for comment	All agencies		October 2009	Ongoing
	4b	Provide advice to central government and other agencies on regional open space matters as required	WRS office	TAs, GW, DOC, QEII, Iwi	October 2009	Ongoing
	4c	Investigate the development of regional criteria/principles around acquiring and disposing of public open space land	Kapiti Coast District District	TAs, DOC, GW, QEII, Iwi	April 2010	October 2011
	4d	Investigate funding mechanisms e.g.development levies for the acquisition and improvement of land	Kapiti Coast District District	TAs, DOC, GW, QEII, Iwi	April 2010	October 2011
5. Marketing and Communication	5	Develop a regional information portal to include marketing of individual agency summer programmes and events across the region	Greater Wellington Regional Council	Jointly with WRRIG, TAs, DOC, Iwi	July 2011	August 2012
6. Collaboration	6a	Maintain up to date GIS layers as part of regional portal: location based and activity based – incorporate relevant cultural information/iwi values and ensure these layers reflect land ownership/control changes as a consequence of Treaty settlements	Greater Wellington Regional Council / Wellington City Council	TAs, GW, DOC, QEII, Iwi	October 2009	Ongoing - updated annually
	6b	Investigate asset management system alignment across region – provide opportunity for conversations and the sharing of information	Porirua City Council	TAs, GW, DOC	April 2010	October 2011
	6c	Develop and maintain a register of available open space suppliers across the region including an outline of their skill and product base, and an indication of which	WRS office	TAs, DOC, GW, QEII, Iwi	August 2010	August 2011 and updated

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Category	#	Action	Lead agency	Support agency	Start date	Completed by date
		Councils have used these providers				annually
	6d	Investigate better ways to align GIS open space data across the region (including data significant to iwi). This may include reference to land that has been subject to Treaty of Waitangi settlements	Greater Wellington Regional Council / Wellington City Council / iwi	TAs, DOC	April 2010	October 2011
	6e	Investigate opportunities around standard specifications	WRS office / all agencies (forum subgroup)		August 2011	Ongoing
	6f	Investigate the opportunity for shared contracts across agencies within similar geographical areas e.g. lawn mowing, cleaning, asset maintenance, security, graffiti clean-up, signage	Upper Hutt City Council	TAs, GW, DOC	August 2011	August 2012
7. Biodiversity and climate change	7a	Assess cross agency opportunities around the linking of catchments and green corridors throughout the Wellington region	Hutt City Council	GW, TAs, adjoining lessees, DOC, QEII (in conjunction with landowners)	July 2010	April 2011 and ongoing
	7b	Review whether there is merit in adopting a consistent regional approach to carbon credit schemes for reserve land	Wellington City Council	TAs, DOC, GW, QEII, Iwi	August 2010	Ongoing
8. Strategy and action plan implementation review	8a	Review progress on workstreams within action plan (see section 11 of strategy)	WRS office	All providers and partners	March 2011	June 2011
	8b	Review overall effectiveness of strategy and action plan (see section 11 of strategy for process and review criteria)	WRS office	All providers and partners	June 2012	December 2012

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11. Implementation of open space strategy and action plan

The Wellington region open space strategy will be implemented through voluntary participation of provider organisations namely: Greater Wellington Regional Council, Wellington City Council, Porirua City Council, Hutt City Council, Upper Hutt City Council, Kapiti Coast District Council, South Wairarapa District Council, Carterton District Council, Masterton District Council and with support from Department of Conservation.

Queen Elizabeth II Trust is a strategy implementation partner with a focus on working with private landowners. Most of QEII covenanted land is in private ownership or management and this falls outside the majority of the councils and DOC open space areas considered in the strategy document. However, the links between QEII land and other public open space land have been recognised as part of this strategy and identified on the public open space network map (see Appendix 2).

Iwi of the region are also a strategy implementation partner as they are currently not open space providers in the region. In the future, however, through treaty recognition of their status as kaitiaki, iwi will be more actively involved in the management of open space, and we want to ensure that there are mechanisms within the action plan going forward to provide for this.

The WRS Committee will be responsible for the implementation of the Wellington region open space action plan through the coordination of the regional open space working group.

12. Action plan and strategy review process

By 30 June 2011, progress with the action plan will be reported to the WRS Committee. This will include a summary of progress made towards meeting the milestones and timeframes identified in the action plan, a review of the action plan priorities and resourcing of the workstreams.

By 31 December 2012, a full review of the effectiveness of the regional open space strategy and action plan (2009-2012) will take place and be reported to the WRS Committee.

Led by the WRS office, the review process will be the responsibility of the WRS open space working group comprised of members of all partner organisations.

The regional open space action plan (2009-2012) will be reviewed and evaluated based on the following criteria:

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- There is good evidence that progress has been made towards achieving the outcomes of the Wellington region open space strategy
- The action plan and workstreams are relevant to the issues and needs of the region
- Identification of ongoing and new workstreams to meet the outcomes of the strategy
- The workstreams are delivering recognizable value to the partners and are contributing to the resolution of issues
- There is a recommendation to the WRS Committee highlighting the value of developing a regional open space action plan beyond 2012



Otari Wilton's Bush - Photo courtesy of Wellington City Council

13. Commencement and duration of open space strategy

The Open space strategy for the Wellington region became operative on that the Wellington Regional Strategy Committee adopts the strategy. The strategy will cease to have effect:

- a) If the Strategy is revoked following a review (see section 12) or:
- b) In 2025
- c) which ever occurs first.

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Appendix 1: Wellington region open space providers and partners

Department of Conservation

The Department of Conservation is the central government organisation charged with conserving the natural and historic heritage of New Zealand on behalf of, and for the benefit of, present and future New Zealanders. This role is reflected in the Department's Mäori name – Te Papa Atawhai. Te Papa signifies a box or container (for the taonga or treasures) and atawhai the act of caring, nurturing or preserving. The Minister of Conservation is the responsible Minister, and the Department's work is funded through Vote Conservation.

Much of the Department's work takes place on the more than 8 million hectares of protected land and 32 marine reserves that it manages. The protected land makes up about one-third of the country, and includes national parks, forest parks, offshore and sub-Antarctic islands and literally thousands of other places, such as historic sites and walkways.

The Department is responsible for fostering recreational opportunities on the lands and waters it manages. To that end, it provides and manages visitor facilities, including walking tracks, huts, campsites and visitor centres.



Photo courtesy of Department of Conservation

Some of the Department's functions go beyond the boundaries of public conservation lands and waters. It works to protect indigenous freshwater fisheries, and recreational fisheries and freshwater habitats, and is responsible for conserving indigenous wildlife wherever it lives. It advocates generally for the conservation of natural and historic resources, provides conservation information, and promotes the benefits of conservation.

The Wellington Hawke's Bay Conservancy manages approximately 192,000 hectares of public conservation land within the boundaries of the Wellington region. This includes Kapiti Island Nature Reserve, Matiu Somes Island Scientific and Historic Reserve, Castlepoint Scenic Reserve, Lake Wairarapa Wetlands and the Aorangi, Tararua and Rimutaka Forest Parks including the Hawke's Bay and Chatham Areas.

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Greater Wellington Regional Council

Greater Wellington Regional Council owns and manages approximately 50,000 hectares of land, parks, water collection and forest areas and river corridor areas including East Harbour Regional Park, Kaitoke Regional Park, Battle Hill Farm Forest Park, Belmont Regional Park, Queen Elizabeth Park. Current and future water collection areas include Akatarawa Forest, Pakuratahi Forest, Wainuiomata, Orongorongo, Hutt. The objective is to protect the rich variety of plant, fish, insect and bird species that make up the ecosystems; and strips of land along main rivers (Hutt, Waikanae, Otaki).



Camping at Kaitoke Regional Park -Photo courtesy of Greater Wellington Regional Council

The majority of regional park tracks are multi-use (ie pedestrians, cyclists, horses), and Akatarawa Forest is open for motorised recreation. As at 2009, there is a total of 715km of tracks, which comprise 24% walks, 35% tramps, and 40% routes. Other recreation facilities include camping, picnicking, toilets, on-park signs and information. Some space is dedicated to exclusive use eg pony clubs, go kart track, rifle range, tram museum.

Associated services include rangers to educate visitors and maintain assets, information e.g. brochures, website; concessions for externally organised activities and events; programmes such as the summer Regional Outdoors Programme, buggy walks and planting days. Together these spaces, facilities and services offer scope for activities for all ages and levels of ability, which may be undertaken individually, in groups or as part of large scale events or festivals. While walking, running, cycling, camping and picnicking are "mainstream", parks also provide opportunities for horse-riding, swimming, volunteer work or photography.



Mountain biking at Belmont Regional Park - Photo courtesy of Greater Wellington Regional Council

Greater Wellington's owned and managed land is governed by a variety of legislation which sets legislative parameters around how the land is managed, developed, enhanced, acquired and

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disposed of. All parks, forests, reserves, recreation areas, soil conservation areas and water catchment areas within Greater Wellington's ownership or management are overlaid by the Local Government Act 2002 (LGA 2002). In addition to the LGA 2002, three parks are also managed under the Reserves Act 1977 legislation. The current and future water catchment areas are governed by the Wellington Water Board Act 1972 and subsequent amendments.



The key management documents include a Parks network plan, Forest lands plan, Wainui water access plan, Parks and forests asset management plan and other management plans for individual parks.

A parks and forests network strategy is being prepared at the time of writing this document. The aim of this strategy is to articulate the fundamental purpose for holding regional parks and forests, and to develop a vision for their future.

Kaitoke Regional Park - Photo courtesy of Greater Wellington Regional Council

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lwi of the Wellington region

² Reserves Act Guide

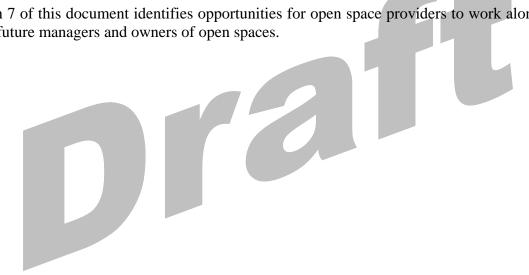
The iwi of the region include Ngati Toa Rangatira, Te Atiawa, Ngati Raukawa, Rangitaane and Ngati Kahungunu.

Open space providers are required to continue meeting their obligations as treaty partners under the Treaty of Waitangi. The role of each Iwi in this strategy is as "implementation partner."

Reserves managed under the Reserves and Conservation Acts are subject to Section 4 of the Conservation Act meaning that the administration of those lands must give effect to the principles of the Treaty of Waitangi, in so far as these principles are not inconsistent with the Act².

Many open spaces within the region have cultural significance for iwi and while others might have the property rights for these open spaces, Treaty of Waitangi principles ensure iwi hold interests.

Section 7 of this document identifies opportunities for open space providers to work alongside iwi as future managers and owners of open spaces.



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Wellington City Council



Otari Wilton's Bush, Wellington City - Photo courtesy of Wellington City Council

Wellington City is framed by the harbour and south coast and has two major green belts. The Outer Green Belt follows the ridges to the west of the city from the South Coast to Spicer Forest in Porirua. The Town Belt surrounds the inner suburbs. In total, Wellington City Council manages approximately 3800 hectares of open space, including over 250 parks, reserves, sports grounds, foreshore, beaches and coastal escarpments. It owns and manages Wellington Botanic Garden and Otari Wilton's Bush, two nationally significant botanic gardens and has over 250 km of tracks and walkways.

Management of Wellington City's open space network is guided by Capital Spaces, Open Space Strategy for Wellington (1998) and the Biodiversity Action Plan (2007). Reserves are managed under management plans for instance South Coast, Wellington Town Belt, Northern Reserves and Wellington Botanic Garden. There are 137 leases with sports and community groups or reserve land managed under the Leases Policy for Community and Recreation Groups.



Summer City concert, Wellington Botanic Garden, Wellington - Photo courtesy of Wellington City Council

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Porirua City Council



Camborne Walkway – Photo courtesy of Porirua City Council

Porirua lies around 54kms of coastline, including Porirua Harbour and Pauatahanui Inlet and is enclosed by a large rural hinterland. Porirua City Council manages approximately 640 hectares of open space, including its premier sports ground Trust Porirua Park. Porirua Scenic Reserve and its adjacent reserves create the western spine of the City, while Aotea Lagoon is a small park that is very popular with all ages. Ngati Toa Domain is a large multi-purpose coastal reserve with significant historic values, and with sports fields, a marina and beach picnic areas.

The management of reserves is guided by General Policies (2003) and the Leisure and Recreation Plan (2004-2014) and management plans for some, but not all, reserves. A reserves management plan to cover all Porirua reserves is currently in development. This will include a review of current plans and general policies.

A Recreation and Open Space Zone has been proposed as a plan change to the District Plan. This is intended to ensure that publicly-owned and managed recreation and open space areas are clearly identified and zoned for those purposes and that public recreation and open space areas are specifically recognised and provided for within the District Plan.



Photo courtesy of Porirua City Council

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Hutt City Council

Three major river valleys, ridges and 49 kilometres of coastline characterise the form of landscape within the boundaries of Hutt City. 20,000 ha of this landscape are managed as public open space.

Hutt City Council is responsible for approximately 4,000 hectares of this (1900 properties). Over 90% of Council's open space network is described as conservation land and is primarily managed for its ecological and landscape values. Citywide this contributes to the ecological benefits generated by other public agencies on nearby sites.



Photo courtesy of Hutt City Council

Much of this conservation land is accessible and provides for a wide range of outdoor recreation opportunities. Hutt City is especially proud of their lowland coastal forest. Key sites include:

- o Eastern Hills
- o Two lowland wetlands in Wainuiomata
- o Waiu Street Mountain Bike Facility.

Other areas provide developed open space and contribute to the amenity values of urban and suburban areas. These reserves provide for sports grounds, swimming pools, gardens, playgrounds and community buildings. Key sites include: Hutt Park, Williams Park, and Petone Foreshore.

Hutt City Council's Reserves Strategic Directions, 2003 guides the development and management of its open space network. This is supported by other polices and plans such as the Reserves Acquisitions and Disposal Policy, Urban Forest Plan, Making Tracks and several reserve management plans. Approximately 60% of Council's open space network benefits from the protection of the Reserves Act 1977.



Photo courtesy of Hutt City Council

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Upper Hutt City Council



Photo courtesy of Upper Hutt City Council

Upper Hutt City Council holds a total area of approximately 430 hectares as parks and reserves. This comprises 26 senior and 48 junior sports fields, 3 regional and 33 neighbourhood playgrounds and 12.06km of walking and cycling tracks. 194.3ha of Council land is bush covered, of which 12.7ha is fenced for conservation purposes. Public gardens include 5.4ha on road reserves and 6.9ha on parks and reserves. Council owns and maintains 24 public toilets throughout the city.

Key attractions include Trentham Memorial Park, Maidstone Park and Harcourt Park. In addition, a network of smaller parks throughout the city provide space for organised sport and casual recreation, as well as bush cover and walking tracks. The Hutt River area, a popular space for informal recreation, is under the control of Greater Wellington Regional Council. Upper Hutt City Council also maintains parts of the riverside, including Moonshine Park, on behalf of the Regional Council.

The Parks and Reserves division is responsible for managing the city parks, reserves and public gardens for now and the future, to:

- meet the recreational needs of the public, including sports groups and all other park users;
- > provide an attractive open space environment; and
- provide a selected range of top quality attractions for locals and visitors to Upper Hutt.



Photo courtesy of Upper Hutt City Council

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Kapiti Coast District Council

Kapiti Coast District Council manages 63 designated parks and reserves (approximately 1,000 hectares) including a variety of wetland, scenic, recreational and local purpose reserves. There are currently 13 designated recreational reserve areas within the Kapiti District providing for active/contact sports with operative management plans.

In 2009 there is a review of the 2003 Open Space Acquisition Strategy and the Walkways, Cycleways and Bridleways Strategy.



Campbell Mills Road, Kapiti Coast – Photo courtesy of Kapiti Coast District Council



Paraparaumu Beach, Kapiti Coast – Photo courtesy of Kapiti Coast district Council

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South Wairarapa District Council

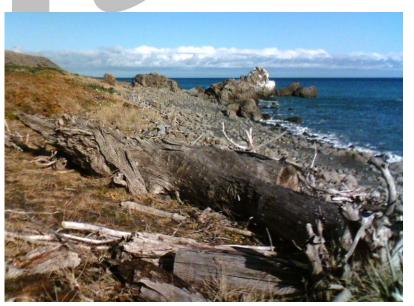
The South Wairarapa District Council has approximately 260 hectares of council reserves and areas of open space and large additional areas of regionally owned land and forest parks. Each township (Greytown, Featherston and Martinborough) are supported by a small number of urban reserves and sports grounds, with the majority of reserves being within the rural area. Each urban reserve is subject to an individual reserves management plan (all at various stages of preparation and development), while the rural reserves are subject to a single "Rural Reserves Management Plan".



Greytown Park, Greytown - Photo courtesy of South Wairarapa District Council

A major feature of the rural reserves is that nearly all of them are located along the District's 124 km coastline in three distinct geographical areas: Lake Ferry; Palliser Coast (from Whatarangi to Cape Palliser); and the Tora Coast (from Cape Palliser to Glendhu). It is a diverse and appealing landscape ranging from the wide open expanse of Palliser Bay in the south-west to the rugged and varied coastline in the south-east consisting of vertical cliffs, boulder beaches and narrow rock platforms.

Many of the reserves are also adjacent to nationally important areas managed by Department of Conservation, such as the Pinnacles, and land owned by Maori who have taken measures to bring recreation issues control. A number of the reserves contain archaeological sites and important heritage sites.



Shag Rock, South Coast – Photo courtesy of Kapiti Coast District Council

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Carterton District Council

Carterton District Council manages approximately 31 hectares of parks and reserves. The main urban parks include:

- > Carrington Park (5.82 ha in area)
- ➤ Howard Booth Park (8.81 ha in area including Holiday Park)
- ➤ Memorial Square (0.2322 ha in area)
- ➤ Millennium Park (0.0928 ha in area)
- South End Park (Formerly known as the BMX Track 1.01 in ha)



Sports Park, Carterton – Photo courtesy of Carterton District Council

Carterton District Council manages its parks and reserves under the Reserves Management Act (1977) which requires Council to preserve and manage for the benefit and enjoyment of the public land for recreational use whether active or passive.

Carterton District Council's parks and open spaces contributes to the wellbeing of the community through:

- Providing pleasant parks and reserves that assist in promoting the district and CBD area
- Providing play equipment which meet New Zealand Standards
- Providing facilities to enable people to participate in physical and sporting activities
- Providing access for all people to good quality public parks and reserves
- Promoting sustainable use and development of the district's parks and reserves



Millenium Square, Carterton – Photo courtesy of Carterton District Council

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Masterton District Council

Masterton District lies between the Tararua Ranges in the West and approximately 45km of coastline to the East including Castlepoint and Riversdale Beach resorts. Carterton District lies to the South and Tararua District to the North.

Masterton District Council manages two premier parks, Henley Lake and Queen Elizabeth Park, along with ten Feature and Playground Reserves and eight sportsfields. The balance of 200 hectares of managed open space is made up of neighbourhood open spaces, natural bush reserves and beach esplanades.

The management of reserves is guided by the Reserves and Recreation Strategy, Asset Management Plans and Reserve Management Plans, which are at various stages of draft and development.

See Appendix 3 for a stocktake of open space providers and strategy partners (including proposed strategies, initiatives over the next 3-5 years).

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Queen Elizabeth II National Trust

The Queen Elizabeth the Second National Trust (QEII) is an independent statutory organisation, set up in 1977 to encourage and promote for the benefit of New Zealand, the provision, protection, preservation and enhancement of open space. QEII helps private landowners in New Zealand to protect significant natural and cultural features on their land in perpetuity.

The Trust's core activity is to secure long-term protection of natural and cultural features on private land, usually by the legal mechanism of an open space covenant.

The vast majority of QEII covenanted land is in private ownership or management, therefore falling outside those public open spaces of councils and DOC as considered in this strategy. QEII's role in this strategy will be as an "implementation partner" primarily with the role of protecting open space on private land.



Taupo Swamp – Photo courtesy of Queen Elizabeth II Trust

At 30 June 2009, there were 255 registered QEII covenants protecting 5,400 hectares in the Greater Wellington Region. Features protected include landscapes, forest remnants, wetlands, grasslands, threatened species habitats, and cultural and archaeological sites.

QEII owns two wetland properties in the Greater Wellington Region protected in perpetuity with open space covenants: Taupo Swamp (Plimmerton) and Te Harakeke Swamp (Waikanae). QEII is keen to work with local councils to open these spaces to public access, through the development of joint management plans with councils.

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Other partners / links to open space strategy

Reference has been made to the following partners/ groups that link to the outcomes of the regional open space strategy and action plan.

Regional Public Health

Wellington Regional Recreation Initiatives Group (WRRIG)

The Wellington Regional Recreation Initiatives Group (WRRIG) was created to discuss initiatives for improving recreation provision across the greater Wellington region. The WRRIG represents the first steps towards achieving a 'working together' sport and recreation agenda in greater Wellington. This will in turn assist in meeting national strategies and statutory requirements.

A significant project of WRRIG to date has been the development of the 'At the Heart' Wellington Urban Region Physical Activity Strategy. Much of WRRIG's work is focused on the implementation of this strategy. It also includes an Aquatic Managers Forum and the Wellington Regional Strategy Open Space Project.

WRRIG incorporates TAs across the eastern sector of the Wellington region (Upper Hutt City Council, Hutt City Council, Porirua City Council, Wellington City Council), Greater Wellington Regional Council and Sport Wellington Region. WRIGG works closely with the Hutt Valley and Capital & Coast District Health Boards and Sport and Recreation New Zealand (SPARC).

Regional Biodiversity Monitoring Group

The aim of this group is to align monitoring techniques across the Wellington region. Lead by Department of Conservation, membership includes Greater Wellington, TAs and the Karori Sanctuary Trust.

Wairarapa and Wellington Land Protection forums

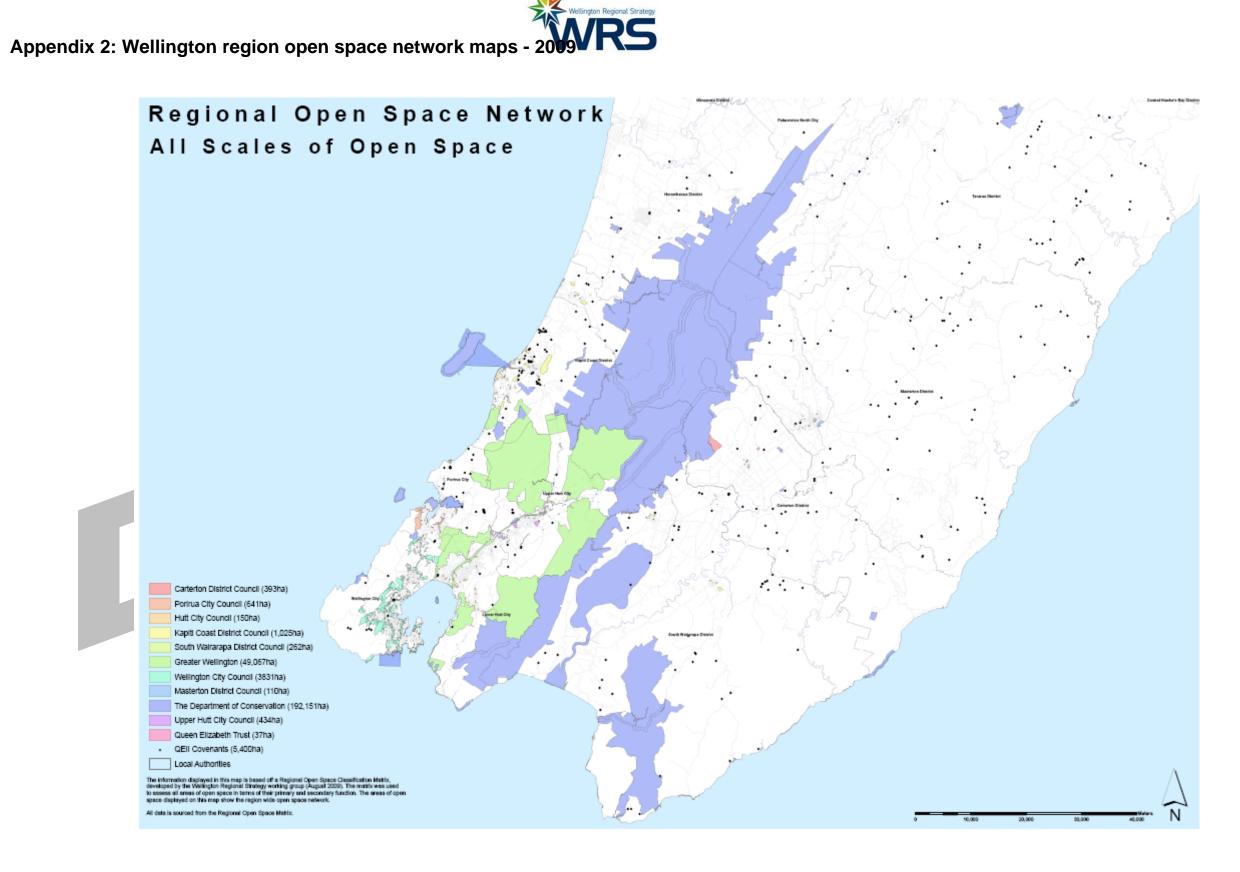
The aim of these forums (one in Wellington and one in the Wairarapa) is to gather biodiversity practitioners together to share information. Membership is open to Queen Elizabeth Trust, Federated Farmers, Iwi, Greater Wellington and TAs across the region.

Wellington Active Transport Forum

This forum is coordinated by Greater Wellington, with membership open to all TAs, government agencies including NZTA, New Zealand Police, NGO's, Regional Public Health, other interest groups and clubs across the region. The forum meets quarterly and aims to provide opportunities for coordination of active transport, events, networking, information sharing and promoting best practice, and the opportunity to provide feedback on plans and policy documents. The forum supports the active transport components identified in the Regional Land Transport Strategy.

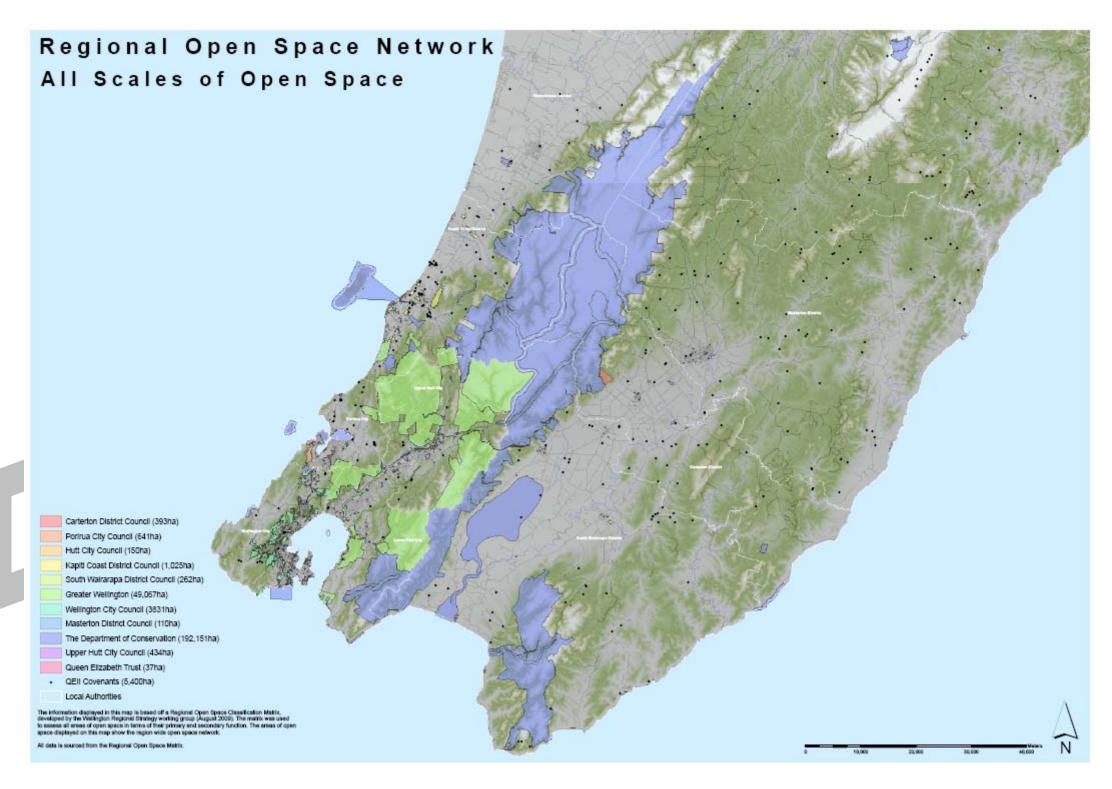
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Appendix 3: 2009 Stocktake of current public open space providers

	Greater Wellington Regional Council	Department of Conservation	Wellington City Council	Hutt City Council	Porirua City Council	Upper Hutt City Council	Kapiti Coast District Council	South Wairarapa District Council	Carterton District Council	Masterton District Council
	Manages approximately 50,000 hectares of land. Regional Parks - East Harbour, Kaitoke, Battle Hill, Belmont, Queen Elizabeth Current and future water collection areas - Akatarawa Forest, Pakuratahi Forest, Wainuiomata, Orongorongo, Hutt (WBACT, forestry) Strips of land along main rivers (Hutt, Waikanae, Otaki) ~ walkways and 'Friends of'	The Wellington Hawke's Bay Conservancy manages approximately 192,000 hectares of public conservation land within the boundaries of the Wellington region. This includes Kapiti Island Nature Reserve, Matiu Somes Island Scientific and Historic Reserve, Castlepoint Scenic Reserve, Lake Wairarapa Wetlands and the Aorangi, Tararua and Rimutaka Forest Parks, including the Hawke's Bay And Chatham Areas	Manages approximately 3,800 hectares of open space including bush and shrubland, general purpose grassed areas, sports turfs, of maintained tracks, children's play areas, annual bedding, gardens, shrub areas, beaches, foreshore and coastal escarpments.	Over 300 Reserves totalling approximately 4,228 hectares – 20,000 hectares public open space within city boundary – DOC responsible for the bulk of it, GW approx 100ha East Harbour and 1,000 hectares Belmont	Approximately 640 hectares of open spaces including Porirua Harbour and Pauatahanui Inlet	65 local reserves approximately 440 hectares in total 3 regional, 33 neighbourhood playgrounds, 12 km walking/cycling tracks, 194 hectares bush covered council land	63 designated reserves – approximately 1,000 hectares. A variety of wetland, scenic and recreational reserves. Pharazyn Reserve, Mazengarb Reserve, Kaitawa Reserve, River corridor - recreational, local purpose	Approximately 260 hectares council reserves and areas of open space	Approximately 31 hectares of parks and reserves - mainly urban parks Main urban parks include Carrington Park (5.82 ha), Howard Booth Park (8.81 ha), Memorial Square (0.2322 ha), Millennium Park (0.0928 ha) and South End Park (Formerly known as the BMX Track - 1.01 ha) The Kaipatangata Water Collection area (designated area) accounts for 362 hectares of open space	Approximately 120 hectares including premie parks, 10 feature/playgroun reserves, 8 sportsfields, 200ha neighbourhoold parks, natural bush and beach esplanade
	Majority of regional parks are management agreements with DOC, Hutt City and Wellington City		Inner Town Belt		QEII own Taupo Swamp	Surrounded by GW land	River Corridors e.g. Waikanae, Otaki			
NERSHIP	Reserve forests in Wairarapa – Stony Creek		Outer Green Belt		Ontrack – Escarpment	Transit corridors – River Road	GW land KCDC authority		QEII covenants	
CURRENT OPEN SPACES TYPE AND OWNER	Water Supply eg Kaitoke – open space		South Coast		Transit Motorway land - significant areas leased as reserves (e.g. Bothamley Park)	DOC owned land - Trentham Scenic and Kaitoke	Walkways, cycleways and bridleways			
3PACES 1	Walkways under Walkways Act (mostly Belmont Regional Park)		Urban Parks and sportsfields		Joint land – Spicer Tip and Sewerage plant	Hutt River Trail – backbone of walkway network	Heritage protection in District Plan			
OPEN S			Botanic gardens		GW/Ngati Toa – Whitireia Park	Privately owned open space inc. ridge tops etc				
SURRENT					DOC/PCC Porirua Scenic Reserve and Colonial knob					

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	Greater Wellington Regional Council	Department of Conservation	Wellington City Council	Hutt City Council	Porirua City Council	Upper Hutt City Council	Kapiti Coast District Council	South Wairarapa District Council	Carterton District Council	Masterton District Council
	Key management documents: - Parks network plan - Forest lands plan - Wainui water access plan - Parks and forests asset management plans - Other management plans for individual parks e.g. East Harbour, Kaitoke, Queen Elizabeth Park, Belmont, Battle Hill - Biodiversity Implementation Plan	Conservation management strategy – currently under review and on hold (led by conservation board)	Key management documents: - Capital Spaces (1998) - Biodiversity Action Plan (2007) - Pest Management Plan (2004) - Open Space Access Plan (2008)	Hutt City Council Reserves – Strategic Directions October 2003 is guiding document	A number of reserve management plans. An Omnibus Reserves Management Plan for all Porirua reserves in development.	5 'approved' management plans	Operating Management Plans for 13 major reserve areas	Reserve management plans (Tonkin and Taylor are contractors)	No strategy	Reserves and Recreation Strategy
/STRATEGIES	Management/control agreements	Conservancy Recreation opportunity review October 2004	Combined management plans for specific areas: - Outer Green Belt - Wellington Town Belt - Wellington Botanic Garden combined management plan - Otari Wilton's Bush - Cemeteries - Northern Reserves - South Coast		Porirua Growth Development Framework	Policy plans	LTCCP		Management plans for some parks and reserves	Asset Management Plans
SPACE PLANS	Water Board Act	Conservation action plan – describe a 5-year plan of conservation action for each area office	Plans still to be prepared for suburban reserves from Miramar to Khandallah	Parks and Reserves Bylaws 2007	Recreation and Open space zones (District Plan change #8)	Public Places Bylaw 2005	Coastal Strategy		Subdivisions processes eg: Flat Point etc – esplanades and wetlands.	Reserve Management Plans
CURRENT OPEN SPACE PLANS / STRATEGIES	Soil Conservation Act			Draft Environmental Sustainability Strategy 2009-14 (biodiversity, water, urban form, transport)	Leisure and recreation plan 2003	Upper Hutt Urban Growth Strategy September 2007 'An Outstanding open space network'	Walkways, cycleways and bridleways strategy (reviewed 2009)			
, and the second	Draft Parks, Forests and Reserves Bylaws 2008				Wellington Region Physical Recreation Strategy		Beach Bylaw 2009			
	Recreational Wellington Region 1994-2004						Open Space Acquisition Strategy (2003) to be reviewed in 2009			
	LTCCP functions of GW parks: Manage regional parks and recreation areas and promote community use									

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	Greater Wellington Regional Council	Department of Conservation	Wellington City Council	Hutt City Council	Porirua City Council	Upper Hutt City Council	Kapiti Coast District Council	South Wairarapa District Council	Carterton District Council	Masterton District Council
			The quality of local parks and their distribution - developing a quality park assessment model.	Relies on good will of landowners	Belmont Regional Park – not good links to PCC, isolated		Resistance to 7.5-10% reserves contributions	Camping on coastal reserves		
Ω				Good amount of info on quantity but not quality	Classification and record issues - incomplete and missed classification; incorrect recording by LINZ.			Urban – sports fields		
ISSUES IDENTIFIED					Some inaccuracies in identified ecological sites due to a mostly desk-top exercise.			Non urban conservation		
OACHES SIGNALLED (IF ANY)	Parks Strategy – Visionary document (due Nov 2009) Parks Strategy – Review of role and function of parks owned and managed by GW (due June 2010)	Conservation management strategy – currently under review and on hold (led by conservation board) Conservation action plans – describe a 5-year plan of conservation action for each area office	Land acquisition now focussed on areas of growth funded through Development Contributions Policy. In particular Belmont Gully and Marshalls Ridge in the north.	Opportunities to merge with UHCC on studies	Leisure and recreation plan 2003 review 2009		Review of 2003 Open Space Acquisition Strategy in 2009			
FUTURE APPROACHES		Strategy/ Destination Management Framework (draft under development)								

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Appendix 4: Wellington region open space network matrix

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	SPOR	RTS/AC	TIVITIES	S I					INFO	RMAL	RECR	RECREATION/LEISURE								ENVIRO/HERITAGE														
OPEN SPACE NAME	Sports Playing Field	Outdoor Formed Court/Track	4WD Track/Park	Golf Course	Civic events and festivals	Off-leash Dog Exercise Area	Beach	Picnic Area	Multi Use Track/Walkway providing for walking, running, mountain biking etc Formed Garden	Play Equipment Area	Skate Parks	Boat Ramp	General Kick-about Area	Horse Riding Trail	Camping Ground, huts and lodges	Bicycle facility	Walking and tramping only	Hunting	Ecological Areas/Remnant	Landscape Areas	Cultural Sites Important to iwi	Historical Site	Riparian or Marginal Strip	Water collection area	Retired land (slip prine)		FINAL ASSESSMENT	Uniqueness of the location for the activity or event - e.g. can the activity be undertaken anywhere else in the region, or is the event unique to one location?	eness of the values of th gion, the city/district or a ory significance – e.g. is	Primary funding source - e.g. central government funding, regional, local rates	Where do visitors come from – e.g. from within city/district, or outside of region?		Total	
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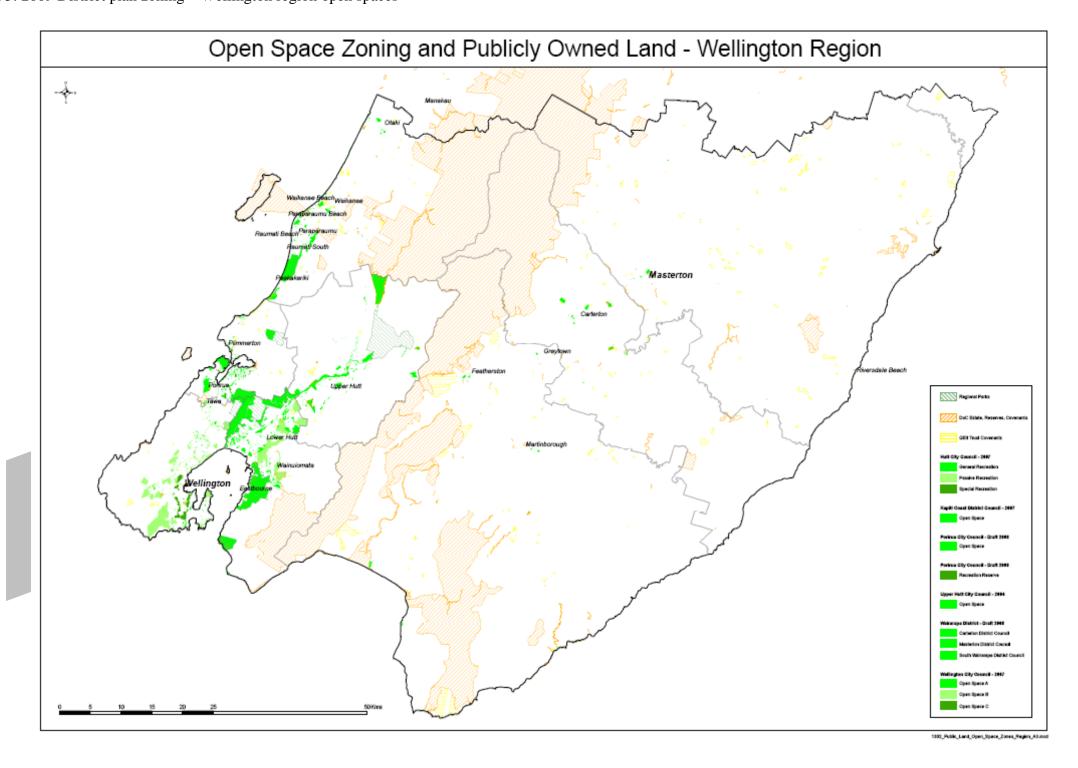
P = Primary function

S = Secondary function

Note: A full copy of the completed matrix is available from the Wellington Regional Strategy office.

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