

Draft Greater Wellington Park Network Plan Consultation Plan

May 2010

1. Introduction

This consultation plan relates to the Draft Greater Wellington Park Network Plan.

2. Legal obligations

The Council is required to follow the Reserves Act provisions for the review of management plans for land reserved under that Act. As most of our regional parks contain land that is held pursuant to the Reserves Act, and for reasons of consistency, the Reserves Act process for developing management plans is used to guide the public consultation process.

Under the Act there has been an initial (pre-draft) opportunity for the public to submit. Officers have taken these submissions into account when developing the draft.

3. Key messages

The objective of the consultation is to raise awareness of the draft park network plan review and ensure that Greater Wellington receives a high level of feedback/input from all stakeholders.

This consultation plan aims to ensure good level of awareness of the draft parks plan amongst stakeholders, interested parties and the general public. It also seeks to provide the opportunity for those interested parties to provide formal input into the finalisation of the draft plan.

The key messages are:

- The Draft Parks Network Plan has incorporated the many plans currently in place for each of the council's parks and forests
- The integrated plan will enable the parks to more readily be managed as a network
- There is a strong emphasis on the characteristics of each park and clarification of the focus for the ongoing management and use of the individual parks
- The processes for assessing and approving new activities have been clarified and made more explicit

- There is an increased emphasis on ecological corridors and recreational links between the parks and on open space land adjoining the parks, reflecting the relationship the regional parks have with local and national parks.

4. Spokespeople

- Subject-matter expert – Jane Davis
- Chair of Regional Sustainability Committee – Cr Chris Laidlaw

5. Key stakeholders

- Landowners with our parks (DOC and the Hutt and Wellington City Councils)
- Other city and district councils in the region
- Historic Places Trust, NZ Walkways Commission, QEII Trust
- Ara Tahi and iwi
- Friends of Parks groups
- Other environmental and recreational groups that use our parks
- Individual park users (eg, walkers, cyclists)
- Concession holders
- Other groups or individuals with an interest in our parks
- Individuals and groups who made submissions during the pre-draft consultation
- Regional ratepayers.

6. Consultation elements

6.1 Direct communication with key parties

Letters will be sent to the key stakeholders listed above (including individuals and groups who made submissions during the pre-draft consultation) inviting submissions on the draft plan. Invitations will also be made for officers to attend meetings with groups if they wish.

6.2 Public notices

Public notices (call for submissions and hearing notices) will be placed in the Dominion Post and all local community newspapers.

Notices will also be posted on regional parks' community noticeboards.

6.3 Web pages

Copies of draft plan will be posted on the GW website, along with other relevant documents (including the current parks' plans). The plan and maps will be able to be downloaded.

The web page will include a link to the online submission form.

6.4 Media coverage

Media coverage will increase the draft plan's profile and with that, debate over its merits. The following media activity is planned to increase public awareness and to encourage feedback on the draft plan:

- a) A media release will be issued when the draft plan is released for consultation. The media release will include direct quotes from the Sustainability Committee Chair.
- b) Opinion pieces may be prepared for the Dominion Post and community papers for publication if deemed necessary.
- c) Articles will be included in GW's "Our Region" publication in the 'what we're consulting on' section.

During the consultation process media coverage is likely to involve letters to the editor, news stories and opinion pieces prompted by various advocates. These will be monitored and responded to as appropriate.

6.5 Meetings with Councils and other interested parties

The project team will make themselves available to talk with any interested parties or Councils during the consultation period. An offer will be extended to the region's Councils for the project group to attend Council meetings, should the respective Councils want this to occur.

Community meetings will be investigated for Lower Hutt, Kapiti, Porirua and Wellington (although these traditionally don't attract high numbers).

A meeting in one central venue (probably in Porirua) for all Friends groups will also be offered to Friends groups.

6.6 Public access to physical copies of the consultation documents

The draft plan will be available from the offices of Greater Wellington, public libraries throughout the region and any other relevant locations.

7. Timeframe

Timeframe	Action
18 May 2010	Draft Greater Wellington Parks Network Plan approved by Council for public consultation
May – 23 July 2010	Submissions period
10-13 August 2010	Public hearings and sub-committee deliberations
14 September 2010	Consideration of recommendation from Sub-committee
28 September 2010	Plan confirmed by Council
Early 2011	Minister of Conservation approval