

2016-2026

RESERVES STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS

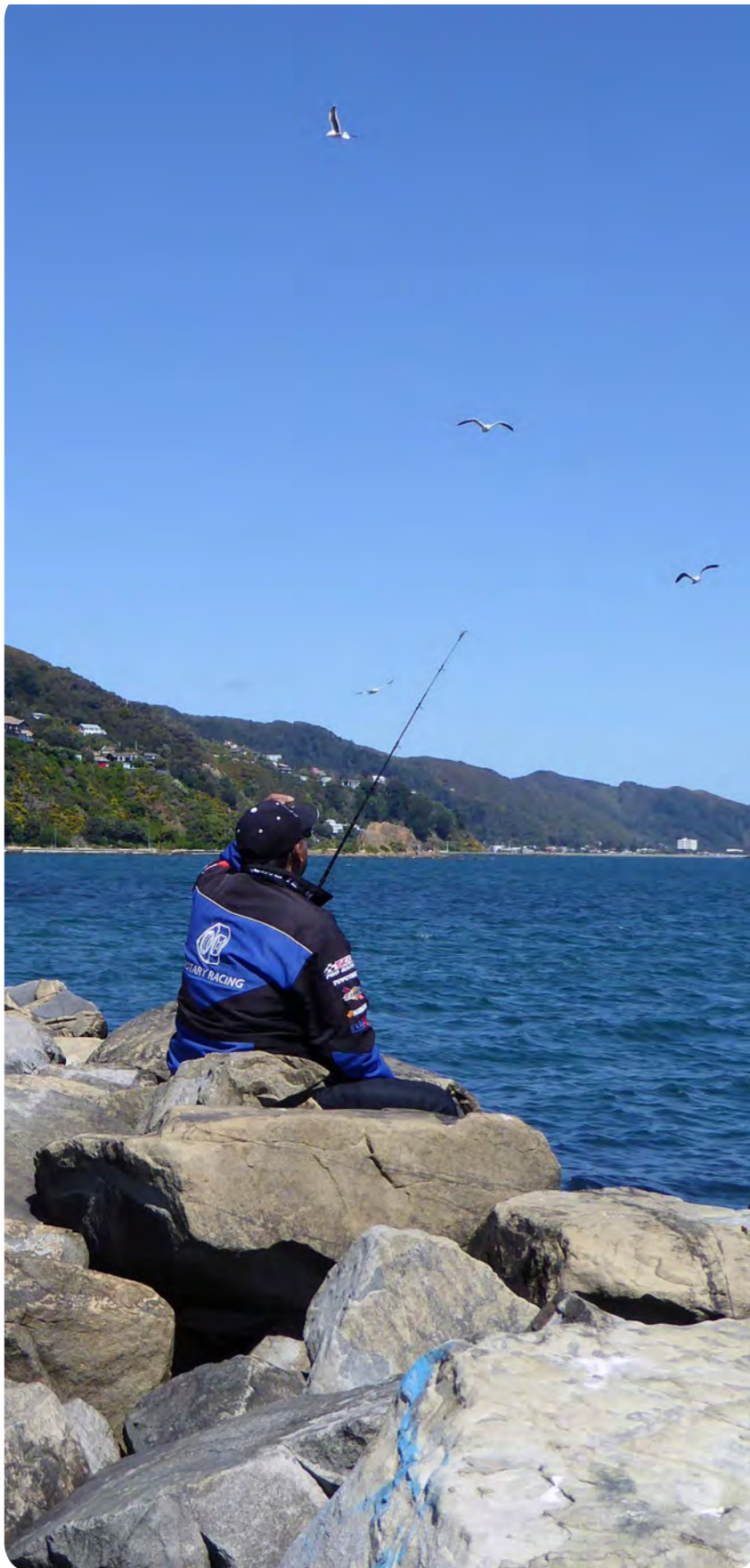


Walter Nash Park

RESERVES STRATEGY 2016-2026

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Whiorau Reserve

READING THIS DOCUMENT

In the introduction, we look back at what we have achieved over the last twelve years. We clarify what we mean by reserves, the types of reserves we have and why these reserves are important. We outline what is changing in the demographics of our city and what this means for our reserves. We also identify where this strategy fits within national, regional and city legislation, plans and strategies.

We identify 5 key strategic directions and priorities. From there we identify four landscape identity areas, summarise population demographics, how these may change, implications for development and management of reserves and actions that we believe will achieve the strategic directions when implemented over the next 10 years.

The final section has policy for acquiring reserve land to add to the reserve network. It also has policy to guide Council when making decisions on reserve land that no longer adds value to the reserve network. The appendix shows the criteria Council uses to assess reserve values when making these decisions.

The Reserves Strategic Directions was adopted by Council's Policy and Regulatory Committee on 11 July 2016.

Public consultation on the Draft Reserves Strategic Directions was carried out between 1 March and 30 May 2016.

BACKGROUND

This strategy updates and replaces the 2003 Reserves Strategic Directions. We have achieved many of the actions identified in the 2003 document and will continue to extend recreation opportunities, protect landscape values and conserve habitat. We want to build on these and contribute to achieving a healthy natural environment, to improving the health and wellbeing of our city's people and to achieving Council's vision for a rejuvenated city.

Our reserves help to protect and preserve the natural environment, the beauty of the hills, harbour edges, rivers and streams, conserve landscapes that give the city character and protect natural and cultural features. Many of our reserves give access to natural areas so we can experience and learn about nature and the environment.

Reserves also provide for a wide range of outdoor recreation opportunities such as sports and activities like walking, mountain biking and fishing. They have facilities like sportsgrounds, swimming pools, clubrooms, hard courts and gardens.

Many reserves protect public open space and areas of native forest, streams and other habitats that allow our native flora and fauna to thrive and our community to recreate. They contribute to the livability of urban and suburban areas and provide a vegetated backdrop to the built parts of our city.

As parts of our city intensify and become more densely developed, protected areas of public open space will become increasingly important. For this reason, the strategy includes policy, guidelines and methodology for acquiring additional reserve land or for revoking reserve status and disposing of land should it no longer contribute to the reserve network.

We want to manage our reserve network in response to changes in demographics, housing density and trends in recreation. Our reserves have a role to play in improving the health and wellbeing of our residents, particularly in areas with high levels of social and economic deprivation and where urban intensification is taking place or is planned for.

We want the design and use of our reserve land to encompass the values of the different cultures of our residents and how they may want to use our public open spaces. We also want to contribute to our city's ability to recover from events such as storms, flooding and earthquakes.

VISION

A reserve network that is valued for protecting the natural environment and public open space, the benefits it brings to the city and its role in contributing to the health and wellbeing of the people and the natural environment of our city.

HOW WE WILL ACHIEVE OUR VISION





Petone Foreshore



East Harbour Regional Park

INTRODUCTION

WHAT WE HAVE ACHIEVED

WHAT WE HAVE

WHY WE NEED RESERVES

WHAT IS CHANGING

LINKS TO LEGISLATION, PLANS AND STRATEGIES

WHAT WE HAVE ACHIEVED

The previous Reserves Strategic Directions has guided management and development of reserves since 2003. In that time 66% of the identified actions were achieved.

Of the 34% that have not been achieved, many are still relevant but are dependent on other projects proceeding. Some actions are no longer relevant or have been superseded by District Plan changes or other plans such as 'Go Outside and Play' and the 'Urban Forest Plan', or are in areas now managed by the regional council. The balance of actions not yet achieved but still relevant have been included in the strategic directions for the next 10 years.

Some of the achievements are outlined below:

- Over 1,000 hectares of landscape, ecological, heritage and cultural features have been protected under the Reserves Act. Lands managed as reserves that have low reserve values have largely been removed from the reserve network. This has better focused resources and funds generated from the sale of reserve land have raised approximately \$10 million, most of which has been directed into the Reserves Purchase and Development Fund and used to improve and develop reserves
- We have worked closely with the regional council, neighbouring councils and others. We have resolved management of Belmont Regional Park and northern areas of East Harbour Regional Park with Greater Wellington Regional Council and helped bring Baring Head / Ōrupouanui into the park. Sportsground, playground, cemetery and track managers from other councils in the region meet and consider facility development on a region-wide basis and Akatarawa Cemetery is on track to be jointly operated by the Council and Upper Hutt City Council. Planting along Waiwhetu and Awamutu Streams has improved stream ecology and we are working with the Lower Hutt branch of Royal NZ Forest and Bird to establish ecological corridors
- Reserves on the valley floor have been reviewed with recommendations on how the quality and variety of reserves can respond to housing intensification
- Winter use of sportsfields has improved with artificial turf at Fraser Park, Hutt Recreation Ground and Memorial Park, along with sand-based turf and cultivation and renovation regimes
- Integrated community facilities and recreation hubs have been established or are underway at Fraser Park, Taita and Hutt Park and planned at Petone Recreation Ground/North Park and in Wainuiomata. This extends the concept in the 2003 Reserve Strategic Directions of multi-use and shared facilities. Note that Petone Sportsville is an established working group but there is no firm plan to proceed with any physical changes at the time of writing

- Riddiford Gardens and Avalon Park are currently under major development
- Provision and upgrading of hard courts, major improvements to toilets on parks and reserves, carparks for reserve users and mountain bike facilities. An example is Wainuiomata Mountain Bike Facility where the Council, volunteers and contractors work together
- The unique natural landscape qualities of the city have been strengthened through many actions. We have undertaken significant weed control and monitoring city wide, improved reserves along The Hutt River / Te Awa Kairangi and the Hutt River Trail with the regional council and Rotary, supported Friends of Waiwhetu Stream with native planting, developed pest management programmes, fire control and prevention in Wainuiomata and the Eastern Hills, enhanced ecological corridors in the Western Hills, supported natural revegetation processes with targeted revegetation in the Eastern Hills and dune planting and management of dune weed species along the harbour edge
- We have adopted the 'Urban Forest Plan' and are implementing the plan's objectives, established a vision for species diversity, connected natural areas and improving and sustaining native habitat and ecology
- The Council has agreed that plant collections of rare and endangered plants at Percy Scenic Reserve should be developed and promoted as a nationally significant asset
- Contract-grown eco-sourced material is now the norm for revegetation and we have a strong commitment to pest plant and animal control
- We have upgraded tracks and built new tracks to improve access between suburbs and into natural areas and developed the Wainuiomata Mountain Bike Facility. Recreational access along the foreshore has improved as far as Seaview and funding is earmarked in the Long Term Plan for further extensions to the Eastbourne walkway and cycle way
- We coordinate volunteer groups on many sites and assist community-led initiatives. Examples are Horoeka Scenic Reserve, Waiwhetu Stream, Petone Beach, Eastbourne Dunes Protection Group, Wainuiomata Mountain Bike Project and Butler Street Reserve Common Unity Project
- We co-manage Te Whiti Park and Honiana Te Puni Reserve with Port Nicholson Block Settlement Trust

We have protected over 1,000 hectares of reserve land since 2003. \$10,000,000 has been raised and used to improve and develop reserves from the sale of lands that made only a very small contribution to the reserve network.



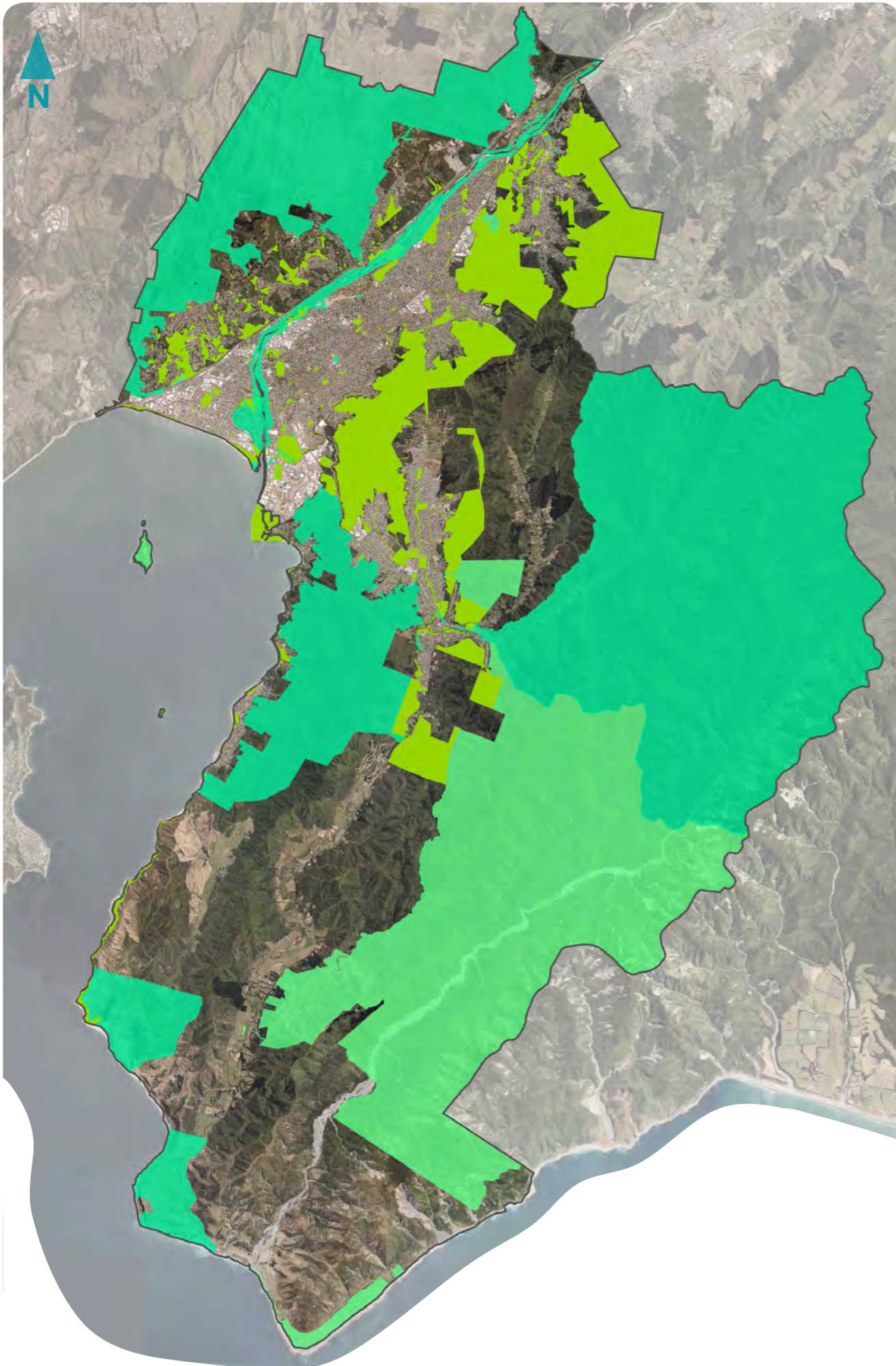
Jubilee Park



Garden of Remembrance



Wainuiomata Mountain Bike Facility



Reserve Land Management

KEY

- Hutt City Council managed
- Department of Conservation managed
- Greater Wellington Regional Council managed

RESERVES IN OUR CITY

We have 18,781 hectares of reserves within our City's boundary

We manage 349 reserves, a total of over 2,781 hectares

The regional council and Department of Conservation manage 16,000 hectares

The reserves we manage include:

83 reserves (35 hectares) for neighbourhood use

55 reserves (303 hectares) for sports and recreation

88 reserves (271 hectares) form ecological and recreational corridors through our city

67 reserves (2,074 hectares) of natural environments and ecosystems where we can experience, enjoy and learn about nature

13 (5 hectares) of civic space where we can gather together to celebrate events and be entertained

9 places with cultural and heritage interest and remembrance (83 hectares) such as historic sites, pa sites, cemeteries or places to remember a person, incident or occasion

5 reserves for public gardens (3 hectares) with horticultural displays

29 reserves (7 hectares) for other purposes such as drainage, pumping stations and isolation strips

166 kilometres of walking and cycling tracks

WHAT WE HAVE

The focus of this strategy is on the 2780 hectares of reserve lands in the developed parts of our city that we manage and that the public can generally access. They include 'green spaces', parks, walkways and cycle ways, trails and tracks, hills and gullies, valleys, the harbour, the coastal edge, wetlands, streams and rivers and their margins.

The city has a further 16,000 hectares of public open space that is owned or managed by the regional council or Department of Conservation. Most of these lands are on the periphery of the city, except for regional council land along the Hutt River / Te Awa Kairangi.

Most of the reserves we manage are protected under the Reserves Act. A small proportion are held in Fee Simple title (freehold land for which the Council holds the title and owns on behalf of the City). Other reserves are owned by us but managed by Greater Wellington Regional Council. We also manage some reserves owned by the regional council and Department of Conservation.

Together the reserves make up a network of public open space that contribute to our city's identity. They are used and enjoyed by our communities and visitors for recreation and for us to experience the natural environment. They protect the natural environment, the landscape and the natural and cultural features that make our city special.

Types of reserves¹

Neighbourhood Reserves are small and serve their local community with opportunities for play and relaxation. They are places where local people can 'bump' into each other. To attract use they need to be accessible, appealing, welcoming, well maintained, free draining and safe. They have grassed open space and often large specimen trees for shade and shelter. Neighbourhood reserves are important in areas zoned for more intensive housing where there is limited space for play and trees. They may have play equipment or opportunities for free play.

Neighbourhood reserves include small pocket parks for rest or respite in business or shopping areas and where workers may go for lunch or short breaks. They often connect streets and enhance the streetscape.



Victoria Street Park

Sports and Recreation Reserves are generally larger parks and multi-use with sportsfields, club rooms, hard courts, changing rooms, club facilities and space for events. Some are multi-functional and have facilities that serve the local neighbourhood. The majority are located where there is flat, accessible land in the city's central valley, in Wainuiomata and in Stokes Valley.



Naenae Park

Public Gardens have horticultural collections and displays for public enjoyment, relaxation and education. They sometimes have a unique character or focus and are well maintained. They may be part of a larger park or reserve.



Civic Gardens

Civic Spaces are in the central business district or business and retail areas. They have high levels of quality and are well maintained and used for public gatherings, events and entertainment.



Garden of Remembrance

Cultural Heritage Reserves protect and enable us to experience our history. They include cemeteries, historic sites, sites of remembrance, pa sites and other sites of significance.



Wahine Memorial Eastbourne

Recreation and Ecological Linkages form ecological and/or recreational corridors and link spaces through the urban environment. They may link important natural areas with biodiversity and ecological values. They may also have tracks for walking or biking that link neighbourhoods, reserves or natural areas.



Waiwhetu Stream

Natural Reserves protect the natural environment and are places where the public can experience, enjoy and learn about nature, habitats and natural features: native bush and forest, the rocky coast, dunelands and shingle beaches, streams, lakes and wetlands. Development is usually limited to walking and cycling tracks.



East Harbour Regional Park

¹ These are based on the New Zealand Recreation Association Parks Categories and are applied according to a reserve's character and primary purpose.

WHY WE NEED RESERVES

Our network of reserves has multiple roles and benefits and helps us to meet Council goals and fulfill its aspirations. Some of these are obvious such as providing for sport and recreation, walking and cycle trails and playgrounds, protecting our landscape and cultural and heritage sites and conserving habitat. Others are less obvious but contribute to social, cultural, environmental and economic wellbeing. Many of these are outlined below.

Some of our reserves are important regionally. In our city these tend to be parks with high quality sports facilities. In the case of Avalon Park, we are developing a regional play destination. Others are natural areas and protect important ecological values and conserve habitat.

Some reserves, although currently undeveloped, are an important part of the reserve network as they provide opportunities for the future as the city develops and changes.

Contribution to social and cultural wellbeing

- Contribute to an enjoyable urban life with a healthy balance between the built environment and space where people can take part in recreation and sport, create their own outdoor fun and participate in community life
- Provide space, facilities and opportunities for physical activity, combating sedentary lifestyles and helping residents develop and maintain good physical and mental health
- Reserves can be places where we bump into each other - accessible, informal outdoor places, where we can relax, have chance encounters and engage with each other
- Reserves compensate for the loss of private open space in higher density residential areas and make intensive housing and apartment living more pleasant to live in and more widely accepted
- Reserves are places that express culture through their design, resources such as vegetation and water and the activities that take place on them
- Reserves are able to adapt to community needs for leisure and recreation as society, populations and demographics change.

Contribution to environmental wellbeing

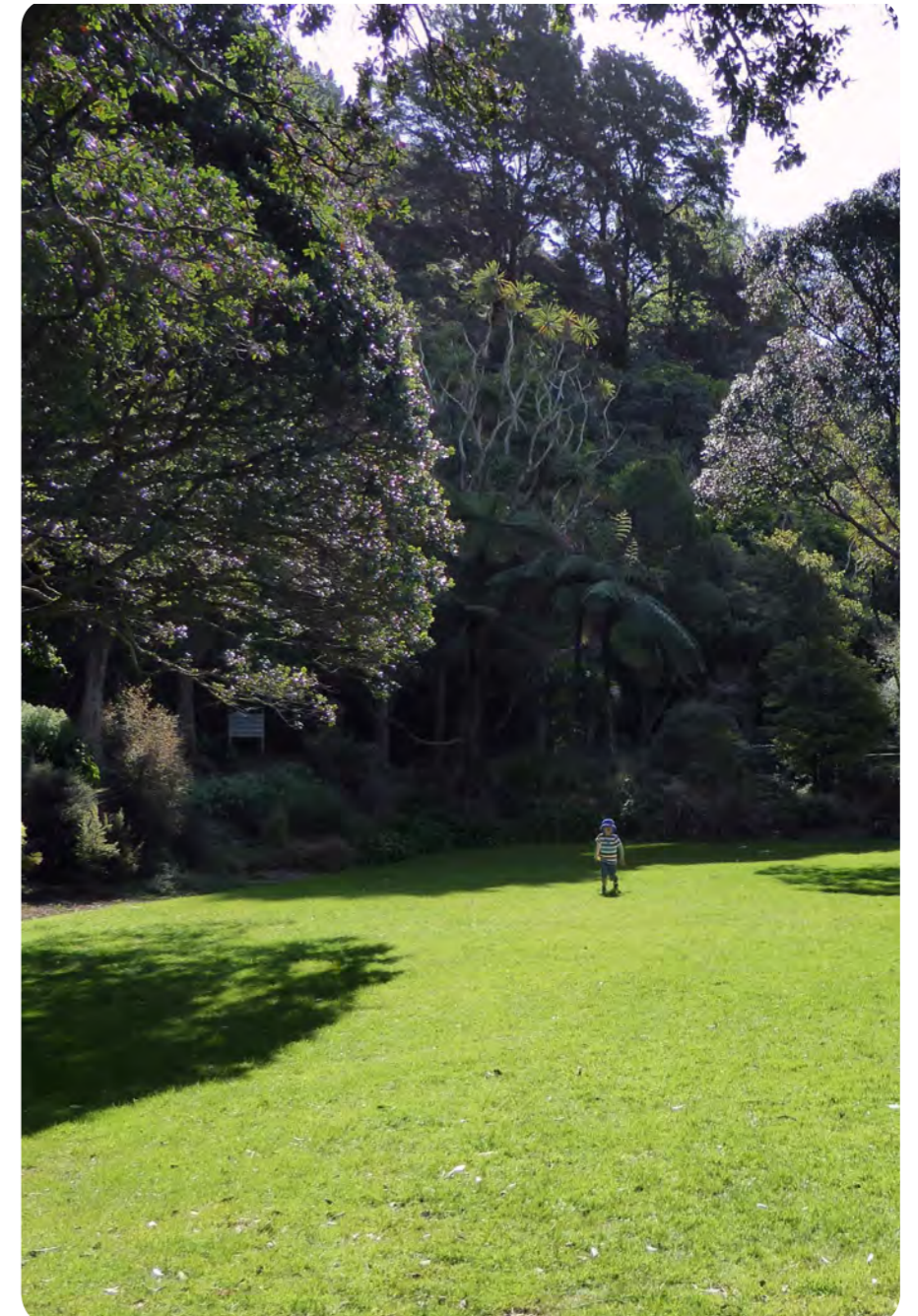
- Open space for the enhancement and conservation of the natural environment and ecological corridors to protect native habitats, preserve native biodiversity, maintain viable populations of native species that would otherwise disappear from built environments and connect ecological systems
- Protect many of the landscape features that give Hutt Valley its distinctive character – rivers and streams, hills, ridgetops, rocky outcrops, bush clad gullies, indigenous forest, regenerating forest, the remaining wetlands, pastoral areas and the coastal edge
- Space for large trees where housing is more intensive, retaining and enhancing the leafy character of the city as well as opportunities for community gardens and orchards
- Ecosystem services (the benefits humans derive from nature) such as oxygen production, carbon sequestration, space for water to collect in times of flood, permeable surfaces that allow excess water to drain away, vegetation that filters runoff before it enters the stormwater system, soil conservation and plants that attract insects for pollination
- Reserves are a buffer on the edges of the city and connect to the open spaces of neighbouring Regional Parks, Department of Conservation areas and natural reserves of neighbouring councils.

Contribution to economic wellbeing

- Create an attractive and accessible city to attract businesses and residents to work, invest in and live
- Attract visitors
- Help keep our communities physically and mentally healthy with benefits such as savings for the health system and increased productivity in workplaces
- Raise property values (interim findings of a Council research project is that properties near neighbourhood reserves have a 5% higher value and make a correspondingly higher contribution to rates income)

Reserves have many roles and benefits. They protect our landscapes, cultural and heritage sites, conserve habitats and contribute to the social, cultural, environmental and economic wellbeing of our city's residents and the health of our natural environment.

- Help increase the ability of our communities to recover after a natural disaster. Reserve open space is able to adapt to the anticipated impacts of climate change such as increased flooding and storms. They provide places of refuge during emergencies such as floods and earthquakes and places to gather and recreate after these events.



Percy Scenic Reserve

WHAT IS CHANGING

Changes in our population

The city's population is not growing significantly, but demographics are changing with numbers of the elderly increasing and the school age population decreasing. The population in general is becoming more ethnically diverse with Maori, Pacific and Asian populations increasing.

Housing density and mixed use areas

Seventy-four percent of the population live on the central valley floor and this trend is likely to continue. Housing density is increasing with more intensive housing expected on the central valley floor in particular, but also in Wainuiomata and Stokes Valley. In mixed use areas and intensive housing areas, house sites are generally smaller with greater site coverage, multi-unit housing, low-rise apartments and infill housing. The number of households in these areas is likely to increase with more smaller households.

Improving health and wellbeing

Evidence shows that our city has higher than average rates of preventable chronic diseases like type 2 diabetes and cardio vascular disease. We have higher than average risk factors such as low levels of physical activity, poor nutrition, smoking and obesity.²

We also have a number of areas with high levels of social and economic deprivation. Many of these are located in the northern suburbs of the valley floor, Wainuiomata and Stokes Valley. High levels of deprivation correspond to higher levels of ill health. An indication of ill health are rates of avoidable hospitalisation for conditions.³ These are higher in areas with higher levels of deprivation and social housing. Avoidable hospitalisation is influenced by housing quality, access to services and opportunities for daily physical activity. Levels of avoidable hospitalisation are low in Eastborne and the Western Hills.

Studies by Sport New Zealand, the New Zealand Health Survey and the Healthy Families Initiative show that levels of sedentary behaviour among New Zealand children are high, with low levels of physical activity particularly among adolescent females. Children in the most deprived areas participate in significantly less free play compared with those in the least deprived areas. People of Asian descent, women and older adults participate less in sports and recreation.

Our population is getting older, housing is becoming more dense with smaller households, we have areas of high economic and social deprivation and ill health, our children are leading more sedentary lives and overall our residents are getting fatter and less fit. In particular, adolescent females have low levels of physical activity. Lack of time is the main barrier to taking part in sport and recreation, Fun runs and walks are the most popular organised activities. Storms over the last few years, flooding in our city and lessons learned from recent earthquakes have highlighted the need for sustainable and resilient environmental reserve management practices.

Trends in recreation

The most popular recreational activities are walking, swimming, cycling and jogging/running. Participation in cycling, jogging/running, fishing, canoeing/kayaking is increasing.⁴ Traditional sports club membership is down slightly, and people are interested in trying a diverse range of different activities. The most popular organised activities are fun runs and walks. The most popular types of sports require sportsfields or hard courts. Golf is also popular.

Lack of time is the main barrier to taking part in more sport and recreation, particularly for those aged 25 to 49 years which is the largest age group. Increasingly, sports and recreation takes place on a casual basis, although people who live in areas with higher levels of deprivation are less likely to take part casually than those from other socio-economic backgrounds.

Environmental sustainability and resilience

Climate change, recent storms, flooding in our city and lessons learned from recent earthquakes has highlighted the need for sustainable and resilient environmental reserve management practices. These include:

- low impact design
- flood containment
- re-establishing dunes
- less constrained streams
- supporting eco-service systems, native species and biodiversity
- use of local materials and soil
- improving water quality through water sensitive design (water retention, filtration through natural systems)
- thoughtful maintenance regimes.



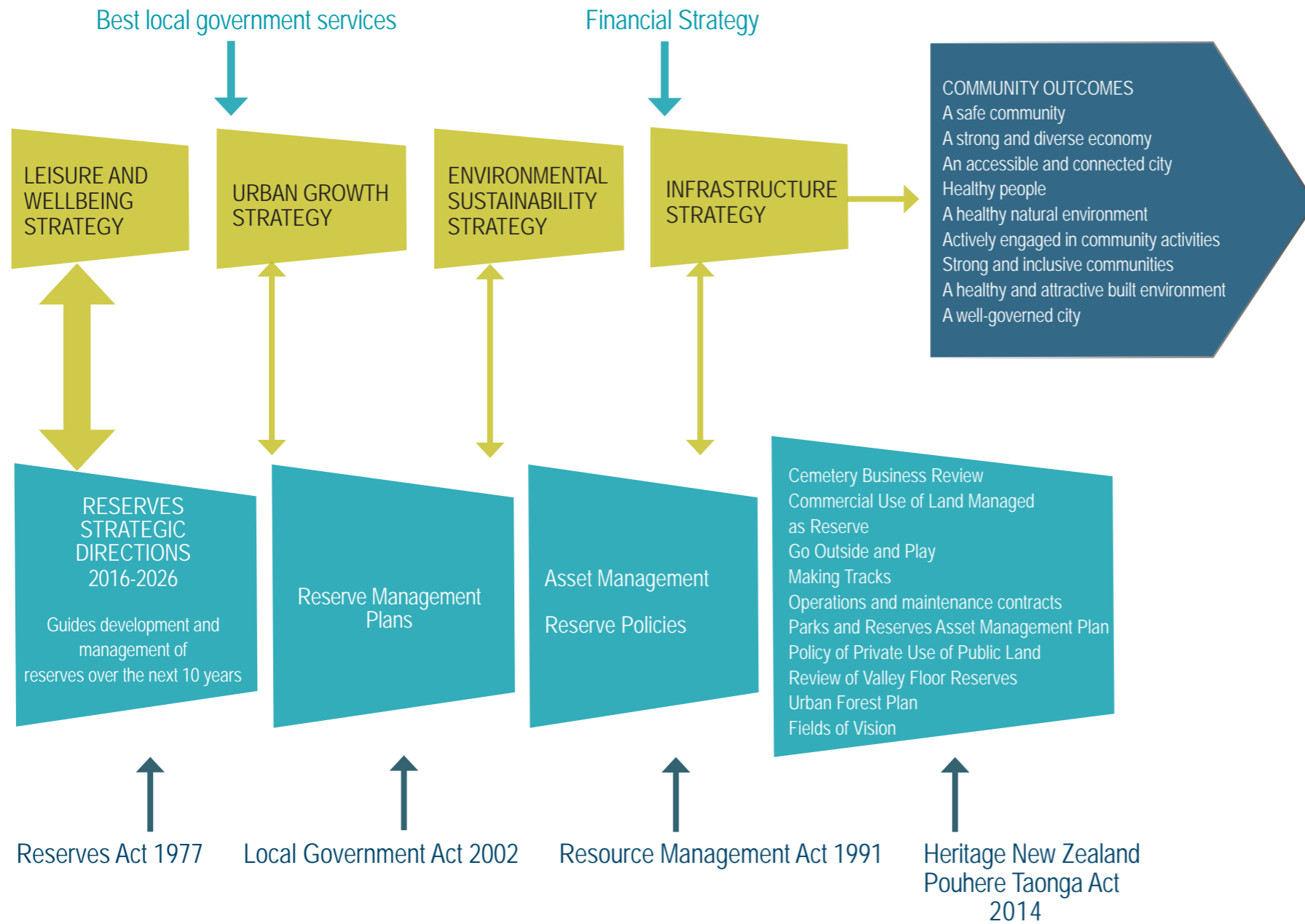
Te Mome Stream

² New Zealand Health Survey 2013/14 and Healthy Families Initiative 2015, Ministry of Health.

³ Elizabeth Lucie-Smith, 'Measuring the difference - Avoidable Hospitalisation', Hutt Valley DHB, 2008

⁴ Sport New Zealand, 'Sport and Active Recreation in the lives of New Zealand adults 2013/14', Active New Zealand Survey Results.

LINKS WITH LEGISLATION, PLANS AND STRATEGIES



The Council's role in the provision and management of reserves arises from various Acts. The Reserves Strategic Directions sits within a range of regional and city council plans and strategies required under these various empowering Acts. These plans and strategies seek to protect the natural and physical resources and cultural qualities of our region and city and direct Council's activities. The reserve network offers many opportunities to help achieve the aims of wider Council documents and the overall vision for Hutt City as a great place to live, work and play.

Reserves Act 1977

The Act provides for the acquisition of land for reserves and the basis under which the Council must manage its reserves. Its focus is on provision of public open space rather than built facilities. Among the key requirements are the declaration and classification of reserves, the preparation of reserve management plans and processes for issuing leases and licences.

Under the Act the Council may acquire reserve land through a gift or bequest but needs to take into account the cost of purchase against available funds and the cost of ongoing maintenance for the land. The Crown may also appoint the Council to manage and control private land that has been compulsorily acquired for a reserve.

The Act also sets out the process for the revocation and sale of reserve land, including publicly notifying a proposal to revoke the reserve status of land, the right of objection by people claiming to be affected by the proposed revocation and a full Council meeting at the end of Council's part of the process to make recommendations to the Minister. The proceeds of the sale depend on whether the Council owned the land or the land was owned by the Crown and administered by the Council. Funds taken for reserves should be spent on reserves.

Local Government Act 2002

The Act provides for decision-making, consultation and community outcomes and preparation of Long Term Plans, Annual Plans and financial management processes.

The Act restricts the disposal of parks and requires the Council to consult on proposals to sell all or part of a park. Proceeds of land sold is required to be consistent with the purpose of the endowment and the intention to sell and how the funds are to be used are to be in the draft long-term plan.

The Act also provides for the making of by-laws.

Resource Management Act 1991

The Act requires the Council to protect and enhance significant natural and physical resources and control the effects of activities on the environment. The District Plan is prepared in accordance with the RMA and guides the activities that affect the use of the city's reserves as well as the protection of the natural and physical resources on the reserves. The reserves are a means through which the Council can meet its responsibilities under the Resource Management Act 1991.

The purpose of the RMA is to promote the sustainable management of natural and physical resources (Section 5). The key means for doing this is through policies and rules in the District Plan. In developing its policies and rules the Council must take into account a number of other planning documents including national policy statements and regional policy statement and plans.

District Plan

The District Plan guides the direction for the management and development of recreation and open space. Most of our reserves sit within the General Recreation Activity Area of the District Plan and rules in this activity area provide for the development and operation of reserves. Objectives, policies and rules in the District Plan -protect significant natural, cultural, archaeological resources and notable trees on reserves from inappropriate subdivision, use and development.

The District Plan enables the Council to collect Reserve Financial Contributions. This ensures that subdividers, developers and the Council make fair and reasonable contributions for the provision of land for reserves. It identifies matters to be taken into account when determining whether land, cash or a combination of cash and land will be required.

In some cases District Plan policies and rules may not achieve long-term protection of natural, physical and recreational resources. In these cases acquisition of reserve land is a key method in achieving protection, either through the subdivision and development process or acquisition through outright purchase.

Other key legislation

The Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga Act 2014, Conservation Act 1987, New Zealand Walkways Act 1990 and Environment Act 1986, National Biodiversity Policy Statement 2007, Coastal Policy Statement 2010, Fresh Water Policy Statement 2014.

Regional and District policy statements, plans and strategies

Greater Wellington Regional Policy Statement, Regional Plans, Parks Network Plan, Hutt River Floodplain Management Plan, Regional Pest Management Strategy.

Long Term and Annual Plans

These set out our service priorities, work programmes, and resource requirements (expenditure and funding) including for reserves and development and activities on them.

Leisure and Wellbeing Strategy 2012-2032

The Reserves Strategic Directions has a strong relationship with this key strategy and contributes to delivering on the strategy's leisure and wellbeing goals and outcomes. Included in the strategy is the delivery of positive opportunities and experiences for residents and visitors, including reserves, for their recreation and leisure activities and facilities. The strategy aims to build on the City's strengths. These include its geographic make-up, wide range of leisure activities, education outside the classroom and outdoor adventure and events.

The strategy sees sports and recreation as a catalyst for community gatherings, and recognises the importance of sufficient accessible and high quality green space now and in the future. It cites research that living close to parks and recreation facilities is related to higher physical activity levels. The strategy has a particular focus on children and young people and on improving quality of life and well being in high deprivation communities.

Reserve Management Plans

These provide a policy framework for the management and development of individual or groups of reserves. High profile reserves with regional, district or city-wide significance have individual management plans while groups of reserves with common reserve elements such as neighbourhood reserves or bush reserves come under generic plans.

Asset Management Plan

This defines the assets contained within reserves, forecasts expenditure and details the standards of maintenance that will be applied to the different reserve types. Our reserve assets need to provide the community with the spaces and associated services that are required for the community to benefit from them.

Playgrounds - Go outside and play

This plan guides the provision of play spaces and playgrounds on reserves. Its aim is to provide diversity in the type of play opportunities, including imaginative play and exploring nature, complemented by improvements such as good drainage, seating, paths, signage and tree planting.

Urban Forest Plan

The concept of an urban forest is to provide a range of benefits. The plan sets out strategies for trees in natural areas, parks and reserves and in streets and complements a number of strategic directions in the Reserves Strategic Directions.

KEY DIRECTIONS AND PRIORITIES

1. PROTECTION AND ENHANCEMENT OF THE RESERVE NETWORK
2. PROTECTING AND NURTURING OUR ENVIRONMENT USING SUSTAINABLE PRACTICES
3. CONNECTED RESERVES AND NATURAL AREAS
4. QUALITY RESERVES, PROGRAMMES AND FACILITIES
5. ENGAGEMENT, PARTICIPATION AND COLLABORATION



Petone Recreation Ground

STRATEGIC DIRECTION 1: PROTECTION AND ENHANCEMENT OF THE RESERVE NETWORK

Over the last ten years the reserve network has been reviewed and as a result valued reserve land and important landscape, ecological, heritage and cultural features have been protected under the Reserves Act. Lands managed as reserves that have low reserve values have largely been removed from the reserve network. This has better focused resources. The task over the next ten years is to protect and enhance the reserve network as a whole, as well as individual reserves and connections between them.

An additional role of reserves has been recently highlighted. This is the role of reserves in emergencies and recovery from disasters. In our city, many of our reserves reduce the vulnerability of our built areas to flooding by retaining excess water and slowly releasing it as levels subside. Some reserves would assist in our capacity to recover from disasters. In Christchurch, parks were spaces where people sheltered and felt safe and where communication and recovery centres were set up. This reserve role is an important one when considering design, development, acquisition and disposal of reserve land.

PRIORITIES

1. When reserve land is acquired, we will protect the land by declaring it reserve under the Reserves Act 1977 and classify it according to its character and anticipated use.
2. Aim for a reserve within an easy walking distance from most houses in a suburb, particularly in areas zoned for more intensive housing and mixed use. An easy walking distance is 400 metres from most houses or an 8.5 minute walk (the time it generally takes an elderly person or young child to walk 400 metres).

Facilities will vary from reserve to reserve, but the aim is for reserves to have space for informal games, all weather paths, seating, some shelter, shade and planting, drinking fountains and some form of free play (such as a grassed mound, winding path, different surfaces, natural materials for climbing (such as rocks, logs, stumps). Shelter and shade could be from a built structure or from planting such as a large specimen tree.

The easy walking distance to a reserve with facilities is particularly important in more intensive housing areas, in areas with higher numbers of children or elderly residents, in areas with higher social and economic needs and where the community is less healthy (as identified by Hutt Valley District Health Board). The aims are to:

- Make it easy for people to access reserves for physical and mental fitness, health and wellbeing and to feel a part of a community
- Children can visit independently of adults improving their self-confidence and physical development
- People can escape to a place where they can engage with nature and relax, and which provides relief from the built form.

3. In areas with an under supply of reserves i.e. no reserve within 400 metres or an 8.5 minute walk from most houses in a suburb, we will ensure that reserve supply does not deteriorate further. We will actively look to develop reserves when opportunities arise in residential intensification areas, mixed-use areas and in business and industrial areas.
4. Consider whether the current design and function of a reserve meets the needs of the community. For example, some changes would enable the reserve to be used for a wider range of popular activities including physical activity.
5. Fill in gaps in the reserve network and in this way enhance recreational and ecological connections. For example, we will prioritise planting on reserves and encourage people and schools to use appropriate species that will fill a gap in the eco-corridor connecting Rimutaka Forest Park and East Harbour Regional Park across the Wainuiomata River valley and at Taita Gorge.
6. Retain and enhance large reserve areas of native vegetation. Large areas of native vegetation are more sustainable. For example, the edges of reserves with native bush are vulnerable to damage with exposure to wind, temperature extremes, pests and weeds and have lower humidity. The larger the reserve area the larger the environment within the reserve that is not exposed to edge effects.
7. Review encroachments onto reserve land. Where encroachments are identified we will address them according to Council's encroachment policies.
8. Some of our assets on reserves are aging and we will review their future. An example is to review the condition of wharves, their heritage significance, use and future management and maintenance.

We want to protect and enhance our reserves and our reserve network. Our aim is for a reserve within easy walking distance especially in suburbs with high levels of social and economic deprivation, and where housing density is increasing and in mixed use areas. We want to review encroachments onto reserves.



Percy Scenic Reserve

STRATEGIC DIRECTION 2:

PROTECTING AND NURTURING OUR ENVIRONMENT AND USING SUSTAINABLE PRACTICES

We want to strengthen the natural qualities of our reserves and increase their ecological health and biodiversity as well as that of our waterways. We will develop, manage and maintain reserves using low impact practices and design.

The purpose is to strengthen the natural qualities of reserves and connections between them, to increase ecological health, native biodiversity and the benefits provided to humans by healthy ecosystems. When we manage and maintain our reserves in a sustainable way, we promote and restore the mauri or life-force of our natural environment. This in turn nurtures and sustains our city and its communities, helps attract new residents, businesses and visitors and is better for habitats and species in the long term.

PRIORITIES

1. Practice low impact design:

- Select plant species that are healthy, right for a particular location and conditions with good standards of cultivation, early care and mulching. Indigenous plant species⁵ (that are eco-sourced are adapted to the local climate and tend to be more resilient
- Reduce run off from reserves into the city's stormwater systems by using permeable surface and raingardens where hard surfaces are unavoidable e.g. in new reserve carparks
- Develop the role of reserves with streams as neighbourhood stormwater retention areas using 'soft engineering' approaches (allowing natural processes to deal with water). During heavy rain reserves can retain excess water and reduce flooding in neighbouring urban areas. Low lying and damp areas can be developed as wetlands and planted in native wetland plants to bring a variety of habitats into our reserves and urban landscapes and help clean runoff before it enters our streams and harbour
- Reduce importing top soil from elsewhere
- Reduce use of chemicals and fertilisers.

2. It is important to develop habitats in selected reserves for native insects and invertebrates. For example, plant species that attract insects for pollination, habitat for lizards and plants that support the life cycles of native moths and butterflies.

3. We will encourage soft engineering solutions where possible along the harbour edge. The objective is a coastal edge with local character, natural values and habitat with local natural beach material and indigenous plant species.

4. Work towards restoration of the natural values of waterways that run through valley floor reserves. The objective is to provide for aquatic life and stream bank habitats and ecosystems, to improve water quality and to create more attractive and pleasant environments and natural play opportunities:

- Waiwhetu Stream in Naenae
- Black Stream in Wainuiomata
- Awamutu Stream in Awamutu Grove Reserve and York Park
- Stokes Valley Stream
- The Hutt River / Te Awa Kairangi tributary currently piped through Reynolds Reserve in Taita.

5. Planting large trees with multiple values has a number of positive outcomes. Large trees reinforce local landscape character, provide shelter and shade, a pleasant environment and food, roosting and shelter for birds. Priorities for tree planting are:

- Areas with intensive housing where existing large trees are potentially removed and smaller private open spaces have less room for specimen trees
- Where street trees are not able to be accommodated
- In cross valley eco-corridors.

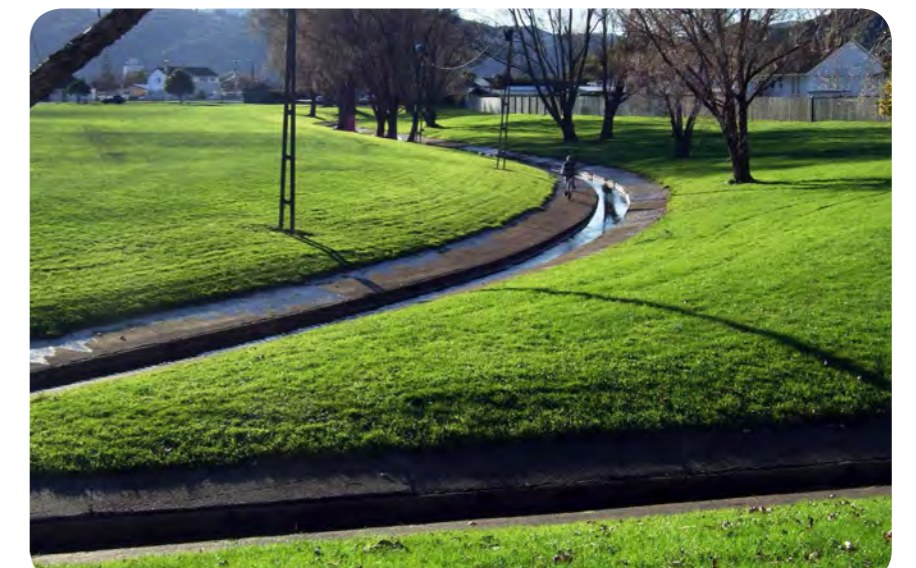
6. Hutt River is an important ecological and recreation corridor through our city and we support the regional council in their work in enhancing the quality of the river and its environment and improving access to it (as in the Hutt River Floodplain Management Plan 2001).

7. Pest plants and animals threaten the health of native species and controlling pests goes hand in hand with maintaining or enhancing native habitats. Effective pest management gives our native species a better chance to survive.

8. We will identify annual priorities for pest plant control and management and work with the Greater Wellington Regional Council on animal pest control.

9. Our city's wetlands are important and we want to protect, enhance and manage them.

10. We will continue to protect remnant and regenerating native bush and forest from encroachment, development, plant and animal pests and fire - on the Eastern and Western Hills, hills surrounding Wainuiomata valley floor and the hills behind the eastern harbour edge.



Naenae Park

⁵ Plant species that live or occur naturally in a particular region or environment.

STRATEGIC DIRECTION 3: CONNECTED RESERVES AND NATURAL AREAS

The reserve network has a role in connecting communities, local and city destinations, built and natural areas. Research confirms that open space and a leafy green urban environment have health and wellbeing benefits when they are connected and readily accessible. Participation in organised sport tends to increase when it is available nearby and easy to access.

Many urban reserves connect streets. Cycling or walking through reserves that link streets instead of longer and less direct journeys along streets only decreases the distance people need to walk, increases route options and allows more direct journeys. This discourages car use and provides for daily physical activity by making local trips easier and more pleasant on foot or bike with positive outcomes for health.

Ecological connections are important for the natural environment and reserves have a role in augmenting ecological corridors by planting them in appropriate tree and plant species and filling in gaps.

PRIORITIES

1. All weather paths through reserves to connect neighbourhoods and streets and provide short cuts for pedestrians and cyclists.
2. Safer access for pedestrians and cyclists across busy roads and more and improved access over stopbanks to connect residential areas to The Hutt River / Te Awa Kairangi and the Hutt River Trail. Connect the Hutt River trail with cycle commuter routes and destinations.
3. Improved connections, multiple entrances and clear wayfinding to trails in natural areas in the Western and Eastern Hills with looped trails of various lengths and shorter looped trails near entrances.
4. A pedestrian/cycleway along Waiwhetu Stream from Naenae to the harbour for recreation and commuters.
5. Where there are clusters of reserves in Naenae and Taita connect them to form looped pedestrian and cycle exercise trails along waterways and streets developing distinctive identities using signs, banners, markings, activities and programmes.
6. Where reserves are close to retirement facilities improve connections for easy access for the elderly (includes even path surfaces, traffic calming/crossings, clear wayfinding, seats, shade, shelter and water fountains).
7. Complete the Rimutaka Cycle Trail and the Great Harbour Way where they pass through our land.

8. Connect our large natural areas in the Western and Eastern Hills, around Wainuiomata and the hinterland of the eastern bays by developing cross valley ecological corridors.

We want to encourage people to cycle or walk through our reserves as short cuts when making local trips and between home, work and school. We would like to see fun runs and walks through reserves using paths that connect streets and follow streams. We want to fill in the gaps in ecological corridors.



Waiwhetu Stream

Ecological Corridors



Reserves Strategic Directions 2016-2026

STRATEGIC DIRECTION 4:

QUALITY RESERVES, PROGRAMMES AND FACILITIES

Quality reserves are more likely to be popular. Quality reserves have a number of attributes and uses, are designed to create interest, are visible, contain nature and engage people in activities. People feel comfortable and safe using them. They are sociable places where people meet each other, but also provide respite for people who may like a place to relax in and be alone. It is important that they show they are cared for.

A quality reserve may have a range of high quality sporting facilities, but may also be an everyday landscape that people experience as part of their daily lives with small gestures that make a difference to the neighbourhood. An example is an all-weather path through a reserve that connects streets and neighbourhoods and provides short cuts.

A more recent use of reserves is growing community interest in community gardens and orchards. This development reflects interest in healthy food and knowing where food comes from and the desire to encourage local community activities.

PRIORITIES

1. Engage with local communities to broaden reserve use and develop accessibility, safety and the character of individual reserves. Prioritise communities with higher levels of housing density, high levels of socio-economic deprivation, social housing, health issues and communities with higher numbers of children or elderly people.
2. Make more of what we have by widening the scope of our large parks with sportsgrounds by incorporating casual recreation activities and neighbourhood use into their design. Perimeter paths are a way to invite community use of large parks. Including opportunities for natural play, tree planting and other improvements are other ways to do this.
3. Continue to encourage shared use of buildings and facilities on reserves to reduce impacts of buildings on open space.
4. Continue to work with the Community Facilities Trust on facility development and Sportville models and organisations and to consider the value of recreational hubs in Petone, Wainuiomata and elsewhere.
5. Resource, develop, interpret and promote Percy Scenic Reserve as a park within a bush setting and a nationally significant centre for propagation and conservation of rare and endangered native plant species and native alpine species.
6. Extend opportunities for free and exploratory play to complement existing play equipment.
7. Support community-led communal gardens and orchards on reserves.
8. Prioritise older adult recreation and fitness opportunities in reserves in areas with higher percentages of the elderly demographic (generally central valley floor suburbs).
9. When designing and developing reserves and their connections, provide open spaces that are welcoming, with good quality signage, maps and information. Help people and children using reserves feel safe by using CPTED principles (Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design). For example allow views and access into and out of reserves from streets and neighbouring properties.
10. When replacing existing boundary fences use fence designs and materials that allow views over and through the fences rather than solid boundary fences, with gates that open onto reserves e.g. wire, mesh fences, paling fences with gaps, lower fences and combinations to preserve privacy where needed.

We want our reserves to be popular. We will do this by having quality reserves that reflect their communities and where people feel welcomed and safe. We want to make more of our existing reserves and broaden their use. We think Percy Scenic Reserve is a special place and we want to raise its profile.



Moera Reserve Community Centre

STRATEGIC DIRECTION 5: ENGAGEMENT, PARTICIPATION AND COLLABORATION

Development and management of the reserve network will be more effective when we work with mana whenua, other public open space providers, recreation providers, our communities, groups and organisations and the private sector. Participation of local communities in the design of reserves can act as a catalyst for effective reserve development. Engagement, participation and collaboration raise awareness of what we have as well as:

- Improve individual reserves and the reserve network as a whole so that needs are met, community identity emphasised and the environment improved
- Encourage community interaction
- Explore and celebrate our cultural differences and diversity
- Better focus resources
- Facilitate development of complementary activities.

PRIORITIES

1. Activate and promote neighbourhood reserves in suburbs with higher levels of economic and social deprivation. We will do this through community driven activities using a variety of approaches to engage with our communities. We will prioritise the more deprived communities and engage with neighbourhood communities, ethnic communities, children and young adults.
2. We will establish who uses reserves and who doesn't, what they are used for and the quality of their experience. For example, by surveying our communities using a variety of approaches in order to reach a diversity of people and communities.
3. Engage with sports hubs on providing for community and neighbourhood informal and casual recreation as well as formal and organised club-based recreation. In this way sports hubs will be multi-use and meet wider community needs.
4. Work with the following:
 - Mana whenua on:
 - Protecting natural heritage, connections to place
 - Expressing culture and cultural values
 - Developing and managing (in partnership) Honiana Te Puni Reserve
 - Establishing native trees and plants for traditional fibre, food and medicinal uses
 - Regional sporting and recreational organisations
 - Regional Public Health on the role of reserves and activities in improving the health of our residents
 - The Communities Facilities Trust to rejuvenate and develop community facilities on reserves
 - Developers to identify:
 - opportunities for reserve provision in areas with a shortfall of reserves
 - the location, size and shape of new reserves. The objective for a neighbourhood reserve is a size of between 3,000m² and 5,000m². A minimum size for a reserve to be used by a local residential community is 1,000m² (based on NZ Recreation Association 'Parks Categories and Levels of Service', June 2011)
 - Central government agencies (Department of Conservation) and regional and neighbouring councils (Greater Wellington Regional Council, Wellington City, Upper Hutt City and South Wairarapa District) where reserves adjoin, activities are complementary or are managed by other agencies, or where we manage reserves owned by other agencies
 - Wellington Water and Greater Wellington Regional Council on the role of reserves in storm water management and increasing the ecology values of rivers and streams
 - Housing New Zealand, other providers of public social housing and developers of intensive housing on reserve supply and connections between housing and reserves
 - Volunteers on projects and programmes that fulfil the aspirations of volunteer groups and match Council strategies.

We want to work together with mana whenua, organisations and other authorities, to form local partnerships and engage with community groups, recreation groups and neighbourhoods. We want to know more about how people use our reserves, what people want from their reserves and why so we can create environments that meet community needs and are well-used and valued.

We also need to acknowledge that the reserve network hosts underground and overhead infrastructure. Although hosting this infrastructure is not a priority for management of Hutt City's reserves, it is important that we cooperate when appropriate because this infrastructure provides the community with vital services. We will consider proposals for new non-reserve infrastructure on a case by case basis.



Honiana Te Puni Reserve

LANDSCAPE IDENTITY AREAS

1. WAINUIOMATA
2. HARBOUR
3. VALLEY FLOOR AND EASTERN HILLS
4. WESTERN HILLS



Rowan Street Reserve

WAINUIOMATA

Physical and ecological features

- Rimutaka and Orongorongo Ranges
- Wainuiomata and Orongorongo River Valleys, Catchpool Valley and Turere Valley, Gollans Valley and Moores Valley
- Coastal escarpment and exposed beaches from Burdan's Gate to Pencarrow Head, Baring Head, Turakirae Head Scientific Reserve and Windy Point
- Parangarahu Lakes
- East Harbour Hills and forest and Eastern Hutt Hills
- Indigenous vegetation types – coastal, lake, wetland and forest including broadleaf and native beech forests
- Nationally and regionally significant and rare indigenous coastal plant and animal species including kiwi
- Ecological corridor across Wainuiomata Valley connecting Rimutaka Forest with East Harbour Regional Park forest and the Eastern Hutt Hills
- Podocarp forest and wetlands in Upper Wainuiomata and Orongorongo Valleys
- Grey scrub plant communities in coastal areas (beaches and escarpments)
- Waiu and Mohaka Wetlands
- Urban valley floor waterways.

Cultural and heritage features

- Early Maori settlements (middens, stonewalls, karaka groves, pre-European gardens, terraces, stone rows and ovens, dendroglyphs)
- European settlement (historic stock route)
- Baring Head and Pencarrow lighthouses
- Iwi boundaries.

Reserves

Wainuiomata is surrounded by large natural areas providing recreational and ecological linkages and protecting nature: rivers and streams, coast, water catchment areas, East Harbour Regional Park and Eastern Hutt Hills, Rimutaka and Forest Park, Turakirae Heads. Urban Wainuiomata has sportsgrounds and supporting facilities with multiple options for recreation and opportunities for walk/cycleways and ecological connections along valley floor waterways.

Department of Conservation and Regional Council Reserves

- Rimutaka Forest Park (Department of Conservation)
- Wainuiomata and Orongorongo Water Collection Area (Greater Wellington Regional Council)
- East Harbour Regional Park (Greater Wellington Regional Council).

Recreational activities

- Organised and casual sport and recreation on urban reserves and sportsgrounds
- Hill walking and mountain biking tracks
- Coastal recreational activities - walking, mountain biking, boating, kayaking, snorkeling, diving, fishing, kaimoana gathering etc
- Experiencing and observing nature
- Tramping, camping and bookable backcountry huts
- Community ecological restoration groups
- Outdoor swimming pool complex with bush backdrop.

Area Profile

- Current population 17,304 with the proportion of elderly growing to a projected 22% of the population (a projected 10.5% increase over the next 15 years)
- Wainuiomata has more people aged 15 to 39 than other age groups
- Numbers of children are decreasing slightly (by a projected -3%) as well as adults aged 15 to 64 (by -7.5%)
- Ethnically diverse with the highest percentage of Maori and Pacific peoples than other Landscape Identity Areas with Maori 21%, Pacific peoples 11%, European 60%, Asian 6% and other ethnicities 2%
- The urban areas of Wainuiomata are considered to have low economic status overall with a high deprivation score (7 to 10, with 10 being the highest level of deprivation)
- Planning for increasing housing density along main transport routes - Wainuiomata Road, Main Road, central Wainuiomata and the southern end of Wellington Road
- Wainuiomata is over represented in numbers of avoidable hospital admissions.



Parkway Family Reserve

Reserves in Wainuiomata

54 reserves

733 hectares

8 reserves (6 hectares) for neighbourhood use

12 reserves (64 hectares) for sport and recreation

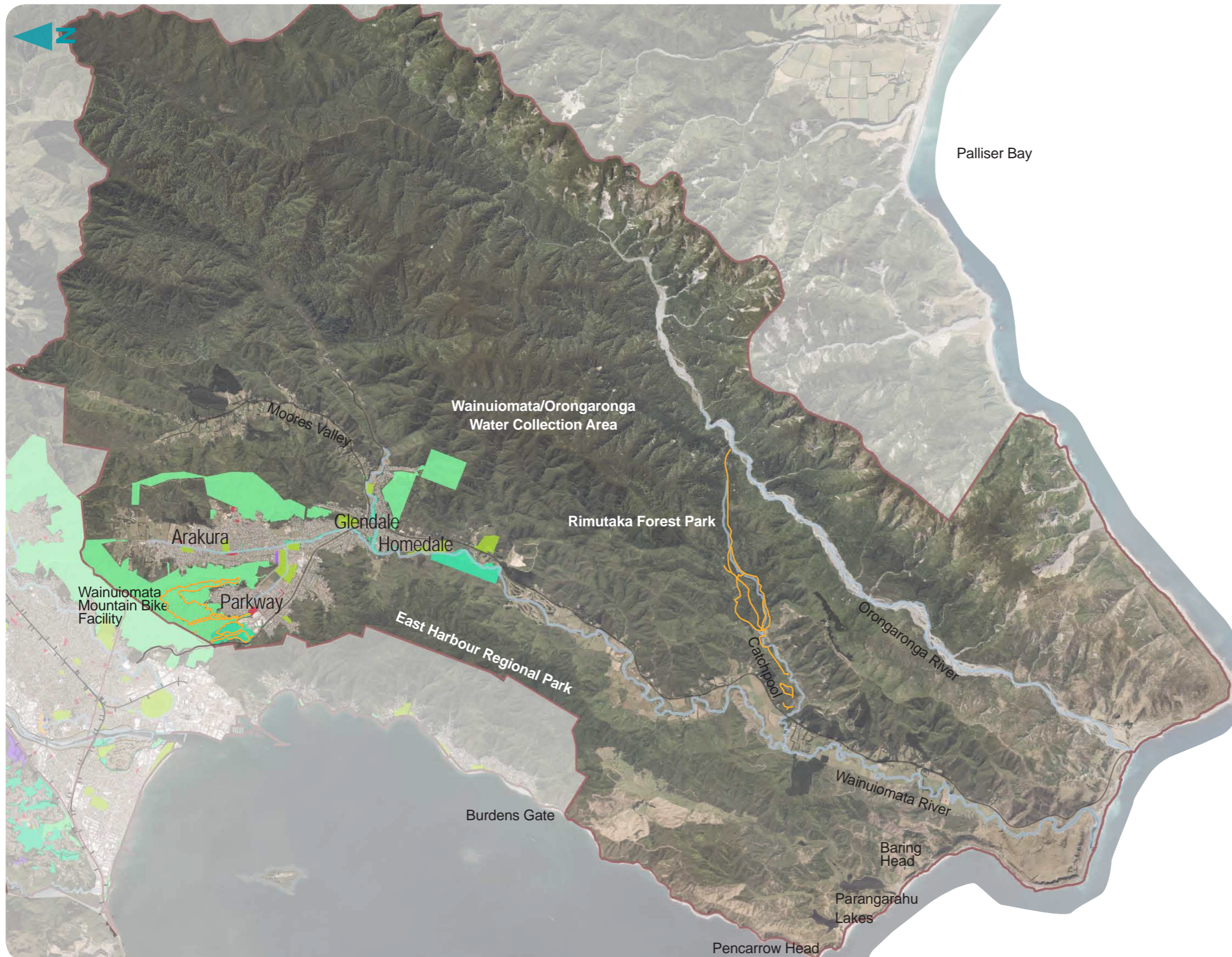
16 reserves (98 hectares) that form ecological and recreational corridors

11 reserves (561 hectares) where we can experience, enjoy and learn about nature

2 reserves (.23 hectares) of civic space where we can gather to celebrate events and be entertained

1 reserve (1.5 hectares) of places with cultural and heritage interest

4 reserves (2 hectares) for other purposes such as drainage, pumping stations and isolation strips



KEY

Landscape Identity Area

Rail

Major tracks

Streams

HCC Managed Reserves

Civic Space

Cultural Heritage

Natural

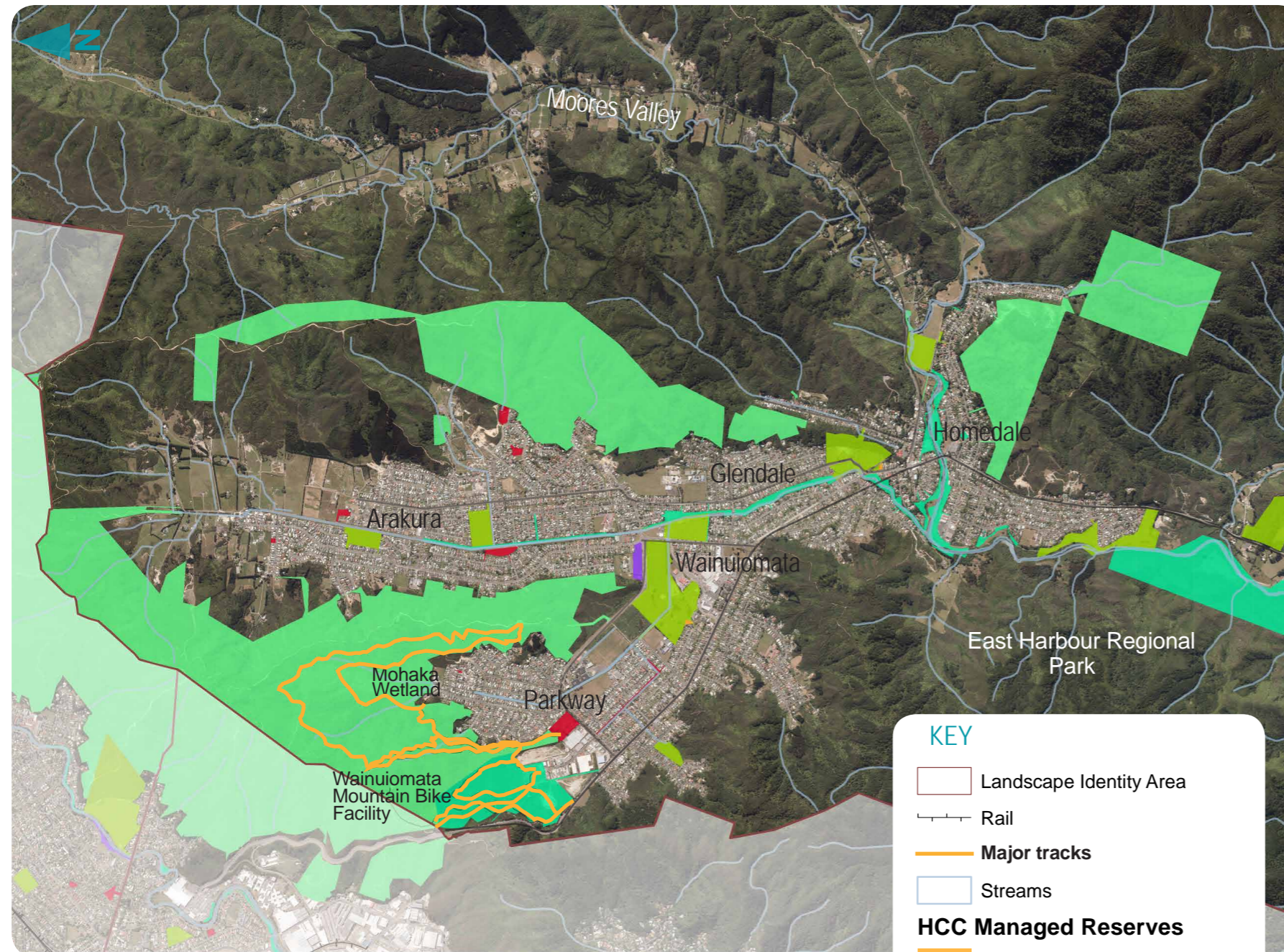
Neighbourhood

Public Gardens

Recreation and Ecological Linkages

Sports and Recreation

Reserves in Urban Wainuiomata



Actions

1. Improved connections, multiple entrances and clear wayfinding from the valley floor to surrounding hill walking and mountain bike trails.
2. Walk and cycleway connections between urban reserves and key destinations along existing valley floor waterways.
3. Support volunteer efforts of the Wainuiomata Trail Project and development of the Wainuiomata Mountain Bike Facility and cycle connections to it. Focus on attractive and challenging riding experiences for novices to intermediate riders.
4. Pleasant, safe, all weather walking/cycle routes through reserves as short cuts to public transport, shops, work, school, sports venue.
5. Neighbourhood reserves and facilities integrated into existing sportsgrounds in more intensive housing areas – typical details for neighbourhood use are all weather paths, seating, shelter from wind and sun, drinking water, picnic tables, bbqs and play opportunities including adventure or natural play using features such as mounds, winding paths, vegetation and trees, rocks, logs and stumps for climbing.
6. Sports grounds and Sportsville development integrated with casual sports and recreation for multi-use.
7. Determine potential and community support for concentrating public facilities at Queen Street Reserve and achieving a balance between amenity horticulture, facilities and outdoor space.
8. Work with developers as part of the Urban Growth Strategy to ensure adequate provision of useful quality public open space, particularly in the North Fitzherbert Road area.
9. Flexible spaces for casual sports and recreation, gatherings, events, picnics and small and large group activities.
10. Free activities and places for young people to actively recreate with views in and out and developed with young people's involvement.
11. Community involvement in reserve enhancement and development.
12. Planting using indigenous species across the valley floor as an eco-corridor between Rimutaka Forest Park and East Harbour Regional Park.
13. Identify and promote ecological corridors along valley floor waterways.
14. Manage and promote wetlands at the end of Mohaka and Waiu Streets.

HARBOUR

Physical and ecological features

- Petone shoreline and beach
- Dunelands, shingle beaches, rocky shore, Hutt River estuary and its ecosystems
- The Hutt River / Te Awa Kairangi and its mouth
- Waiwhetu Stream and mouth
- Korokoro Stream and mouth
- Matiu/Somes and Makaro/Ward Islands
- Eastern Bays – Point Howard to Eastbourne
- East Harbour Hills and forest including coastal beech forest
- The Hutt River Mouth Ecological Area
- Harbour seabirds and little blue penguins.

Cultural and heritage features

- Pa and kainga sites
- Historic landing sites
- Wahine mast at Korohiwa
- Williams Park.



Days Bay

Reserves

Regional and district sportsgrounds and sport and recreation facilities, recreational and ecological connections and nature along the foreshore and Hutt River/ Te Awa Kairangi, a strong sense of history, heritage character and sites important to iwi and an emphasis on the natural environment in Eastern Bays and their hinterland.

Jointly managed reserves, Department of Conservation and Regional Council Reserves

- Honiana Te Puni Reserve (jointly managed by Port Nicholson Block Settlement Trust and Hutt City Council)
- East Harbour Regional Park (Greater Wellington Regional Council, Hutt City Council, Department of Conservation)
- Matiu/Somes and Makaro/Ward Islands.

Recreational activities

Water activities - swimming, fishing, picnicking, sailing, kayaking, water skiing, boating, jet sprints, waka ama

Hill, forest and harbour edge walking, dog walking, mountain biking, horse-riding, running/jogging, experiencing and observing nature, stream, forest and dune habitat restoration, volunteer and community groups

Range of organised and casual sports and recreation on sportsgrounds and other urban reserves.

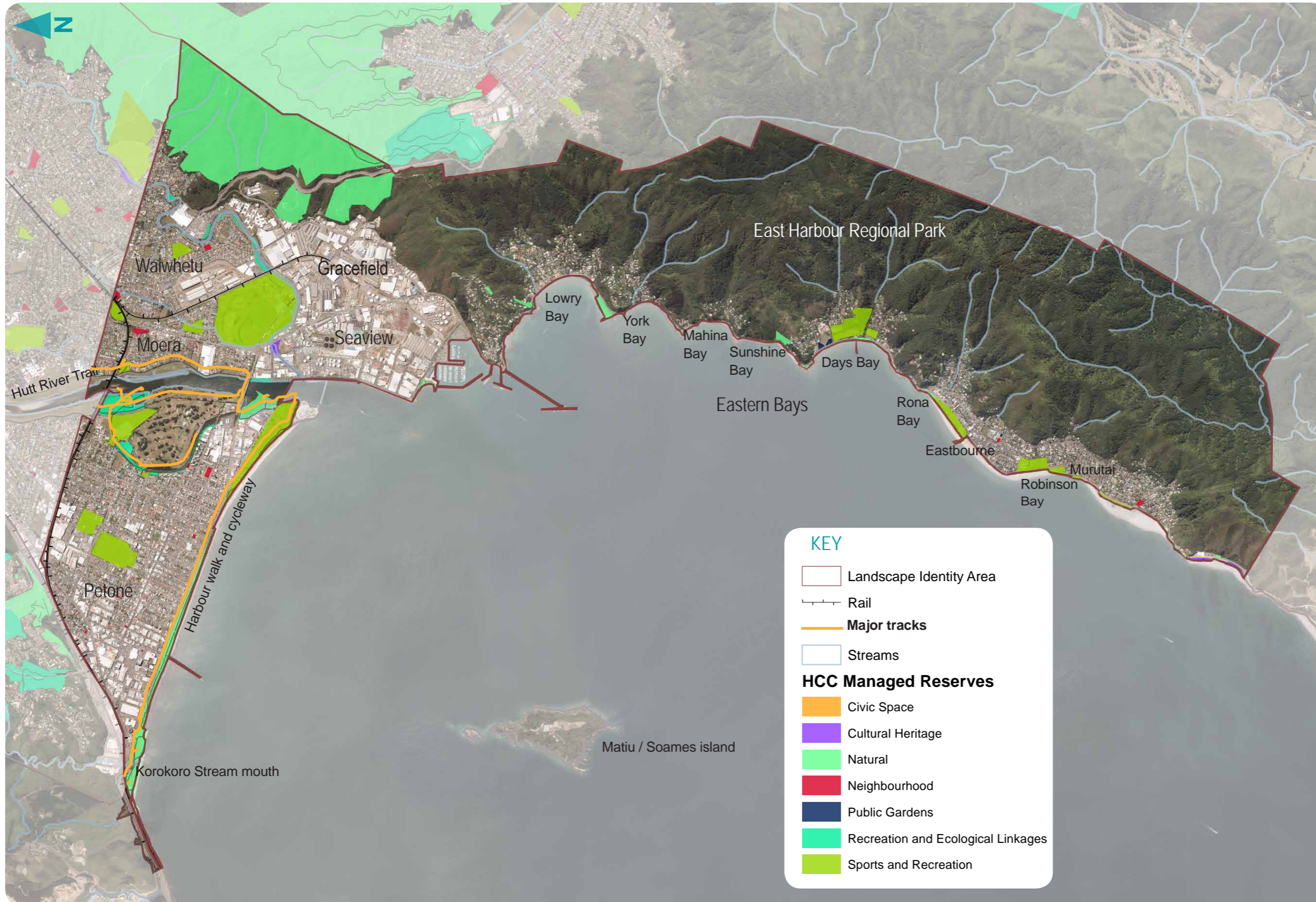
Area Profile

- Population 15,612 (2013 census) and increasing
- The proportion of elderly is growing (by 8.9 % over the next 15 years to 20.9% of the population, compared to the current 12%)
- Numbers of children are relatively stable
- Numbers of adults aged 15 to 64 are increasing (by 9.4% over the next 15 years). Petone has more people aged 15 to 39 than other age groups
- Ethnically diverse except for Eastbourne - Petone (Europeans 65%, Maori 14.5%, Pacific peoples 8%, Asian 11% and other ethnicities 1.5%); Moera (Europeans 49.7% of the population, 31.7% of the population are born overseas with the most common birthplace Asia); Eastbourne (Europeans 96.5% compared to Europeans in Lower Hutt as a whole 71%)
- South eastern parts of Petone and Moera and Waiwhetu South have low economic status with a high deprivation score of 7 to 10 (10 is the highest level of deprivation), compared to Eastbourne which is a least deprived area with a score of 1-3
- Housing density increasing in Petone, Moera and in parts of Waiwhetu South (along Jackson Street, between Jackson Street and The Esplanade, along Cuba Street, on both sides of Randwick Road, between Whites Line East and Wainui Road
- Main transport corridors – SH2, rail, The Esplanade to Marine Drive
- Waiwhetu and Moera are over represented in numbers of avoidable hospital admissions.



East Harbour Regional Park

Reserves in the Harbour Landscape Identity Area



Harbour Reserves

77 reserves

243 hectares

11 reserves (2 hectares) for neighbourhood use

17 reserves (81 hectares) for sport and recreation

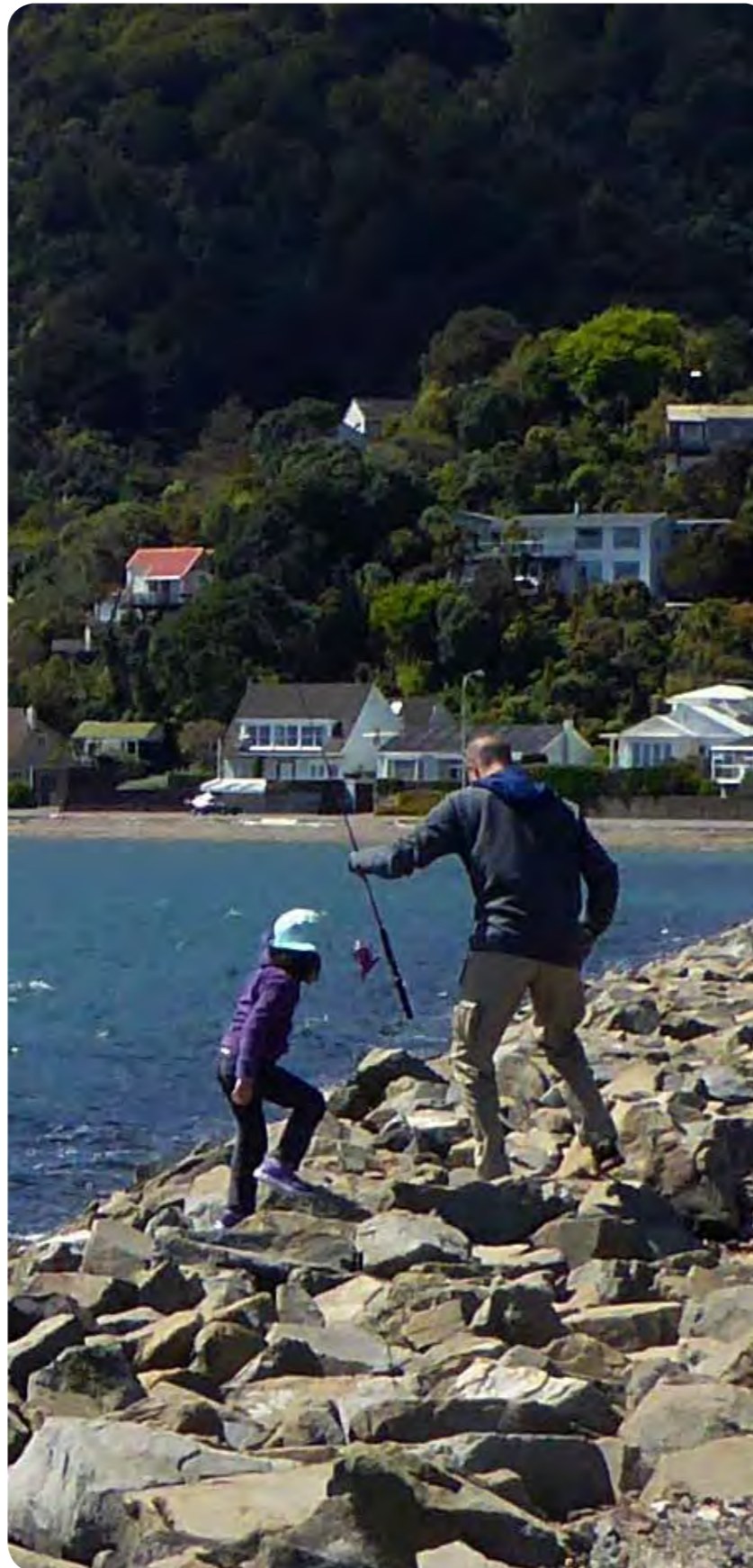
13 reserves (6 hectares) that form ecological and recreational corridors

23 reserves (150 hectares) where we can experience, enjoy and learn about nature

2 reserves (.50 hectares) of public gardens

3 reserve (2 hectares) of places with cultural and heritage interest

8 reserves (1.5 hectares) for other purposes such as drainage pumping stations and isolation strips

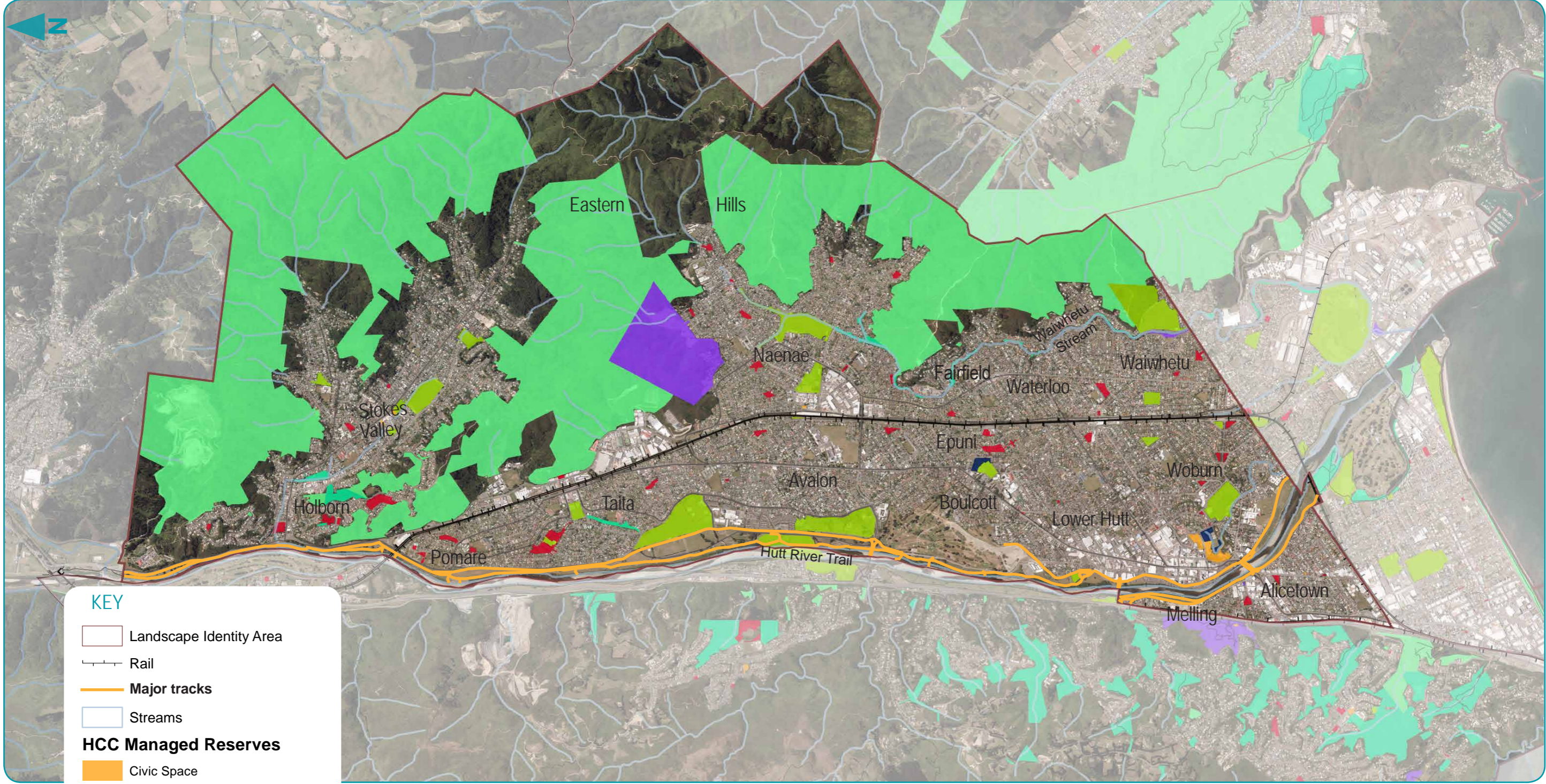


Lowry Bay

Actions

1. Improved connections, multiple entrances and clear wayfinding from reserves and residential areas to natural areas in the Eastern Hills, Eastern Harbour Regional Park, Korokoro Valley in Belmont Regional Park and the foreshore. Loop walks of various distances with shorter loop walks close to reserve entrances.
2. Paths, seating with views, shelter, loop walks, connections and opportunities to experience the natural environment for increased presence of the elderly and for social housing areas in eastern parts of Petone e.g. Memorial Park (outside of the sportgrounds), Sladden Park and along Te Mome Stream in Heretaunga Reserve.
3. Move the emphasis on Petone Foreshore reserves from cars to pedestrians and cyclists, improve connectivity, movement and activities along the foreshore. Continue coastal walking and cycling trail development around the harbour edge and enhancements/restoration of coastal ecologies (dunelands, gravel beaches and rocky shore weed control).
4. Good trail connections between and through reserves so that the adult demographic can integrate recreational activities into their daily commuting journey (connections to destinations – train stations, schools, Jackson Street, tertiary institutes, Hutt River Trail, Petone foreshore and Harbour cycleway).
5. Design neighbourhood open space as part of development of Western Petone and other areas zoned for higher density where people can recreate, interact, garden and enjoy the outdoors.
6. Make more from what we have: incorporate casual sports, recreation and neighbourhood uses into existing sport and recreation reserves e.g. Sportsville development in Petone Recreation Ground and North Park integrated with casual and local use such as extension of the perimeter path to four sides of Petone Recreation Ground.
7. Diverse cultural communities need a variety of reserves for large and small groups, areas for picnicking, provision for drinking water, picnic tables, bbqs, shade and shelter, gardens, involvement in planning and design to reflect various cultures in reserve environments, programmes, facilities and activities.
8. Continue to manage the coastal edge in a way that balances natural values and a soft engineering approach with recreation.
9. Review wharf structures and their heritage and develop a strategic programme for their management.
10. Tell cultural, environmental and heritage stories through interpretation, storytelling, events and activities.

Reserves in the Valley Floor / Eastern Hills



VALLEY FLOOR AND EASTERN HILLS

Physical and ecological features

- Large, flat valley floor and river plain with intensive urban development
- Hutt River / Te Awa Kairangi and tributaries
- Waiwhetu Stream
- Eastern Hills with their regenerating podocarp forest and pockets of native beech
- Ecological corridor along the eastern Hutt Hills and valley crossing at Hulls Creek in Holborn/Manor Park
- Key transport routes – roads and rail corridor
- Well-treed streets in most suburbs.

Cultural and heritage features

- Historic marae
- Civic space
- Modernist, garden city urban planning heritage in Naenae.



Colson Street Reserve

Types of Reserves

The Eastern Hills with a mix of regenerating indigenous vegetation form the backdrop to the flood plain on the valley floor. The Hutt River / Te Awa Kairangi and the land between the stop banks and the river are free of development and provide public open space and opportunities for recreation. Taita, Naenae and parts of Epuni were developed following 'garden city' urban planning principles with reserves integrated into housing developments. Many of Hutt City's key quality sporting facilities and civic space with regional, district and city significance are located in this Landscape Identity Area.

Recreational activities

- Wide range of organised sports and recreation, quality indoor and outdoor facilities
- Casual sport and recreation e.g. walking, jogging/running, fishing, kayaking, swimming, dog walking, picnicking, golf, play.

Profile

- Population 50,778 (2013 census) and increasing slightly overall
- The proportion of elderly growing, particularly in central Hutt City suburbs
- Numbers of children decreasing, especially in central valley floor suburbs. Naenae has the highest percentage of children
- Taita and Naenae have more people aged 15 to 39 than other age groups
- Ethnically diverse overall. Taita and Naenae are more ethnically diverse than central suburbs. Woburn has low ethnic diversity
- North-east areas have low economic status with a high deprivation score of 7 to 10 (Taita, Naenae, Epuni, eastern parts of Avalon along the rail corridor and Stokes Valley)
- Housing density increasing: Hutt Central, along the rail corridor, main transport routes, around suburban centres in Alicetown, Waiwhetu, Epuni, Naenae, Avalon, Taita and Stokes Valley
- Taita, Naenae, Avalon, Stokes Valley and Epuni are over represented in numbers of avoidable hospital admissions.



Reynolds Street Reserve

Reserves on the Valley Floor and Eastern Hills

123 reserves

1593 hectares

49 reserves (21 hectares) for neighbourhood use

22 reserves (146 hectares) for sport and recreation

14 reserves (12 hectares) that form ecological and recreational corridors

13 reserves (1341 hectares) where we can experience, enjoy and learn about nature

3 reserves (3 hectares) of public gardens

3 reserve (64 hectares) of places with cultural and heritage interest

8 reserves (4 hectares) of civic space where we can gather to celebrate events and be entertained

8 reserves (2 hectares) for other purposes such as drainage, pumping stations and isolation strips



Avalon Park

Actions

1. Engage with local communities on reserves in their neighbourhood to improve their quality, character, safety and use. Target the range of cultures through appropriate engagement processes and programmes.
2. All weather paths through reserves to improve access, use and to link streets.
3. Large trees in reserves in areas zoned for more intensive housing.
4. Safer access to The Hutt River / Te Awa Kairangi and Hutt River Trail across roads from residential areas.
5. Cater for local use of large parks with sportsfields and welcome their use – perimeter path in Fraser Park and Naenae Park to help encourage fitness and health.
6. Improved connections, multiple entrances and clear wayfinding to natural areas in the Eastern Hills with easy looped trails and shorter loop walks near entrances.
7. Secure land along the existing Rata Street loop track used by the public.
8. A pedestrian/cycleway along Waiwhetu Stream from Naenae to the harbour for recreation and commuters.
9. Link reserves in Naenae, Taita and Stokes Valley to form looped pedestrian and cycle exercise trails with distinct identities utilising reserves, stream reserves and streets.
10. Vegetation that supports eco corridors along Eastern Hills and valley crossing at Holborn/Manor Park.
11. Pest plant and animal control with the regional council in and around bush reserves.
12. Restore the natural character of streams in Naenae, Taita and Stokes Valley increasing habitat for aquatic life, riparian planting, benefits from ecosystems, natural play, education and general pleasantness.
13. Tell cultural, environmental and heritage stories through interpretation, storytelling, events and activities.

WESTERN HILLS

Physical and ecological features

- Hills rising from the valley floor with native lowland forest and bush clad gullies, prominent hilltops and escarpments
- Podocarp forest, mature mahoe forest, lowland tawa/kohekohe forest
- Belmont and Boulder Hills
- Korokoro and Speedy Streams and stream and surrounding bush ecology
- Natural hill features e.g. Camels Hump
- Round Knob Nikau Forest
- Peneplain remnants e.g. Round Knob
- The Hutt River / Te Awa Kairangi
- Fault line and vegetated escarpment at the foot of the Western Hills
- Ecological corridor from Korokoro Stream north along the eastern boundary of Belmont Regional Park to Speedy Stream and Korokoro Bush, and connections to the eco-corridor crossing Hutt Valley from the Eastern Hills.

Cultural and heritage features

- Historic hilltop sites, lookouts and pa sites
- Puke-tiroiro Peak (Maori Point)
- Korokoro Gateway
- Jubilee Park and Minoh Friendship House
- Old Coach Road between Belmont/Porirua, early settler homesteads and remnants of mills and pastoral landscape.

Types of Reserves

Reserves in the Western Hills tend to follow the numerous and undeveloped steep vegetated gullies that drain the Western Hills. Percy Scenic Reserve has important native plant collections and Jubilee Park has remnants of residential gardens and houses removed when Western Hutt Road was built. Belmont Regional Park (Greater Wellington Regional Council Park) forms the western boundary of this Landscape Identity Area Reserve with lands on the eastern side of the regional park owned by Hutt City Council but managed by Greater Wellington Regional Council.

Many reserves protect culture and heritage and the natural and ecological values of streams, native bush and forest. The majority of reserves have the primary purposes of Recreation and Ecological Linkages and Nature.

Recreational activities

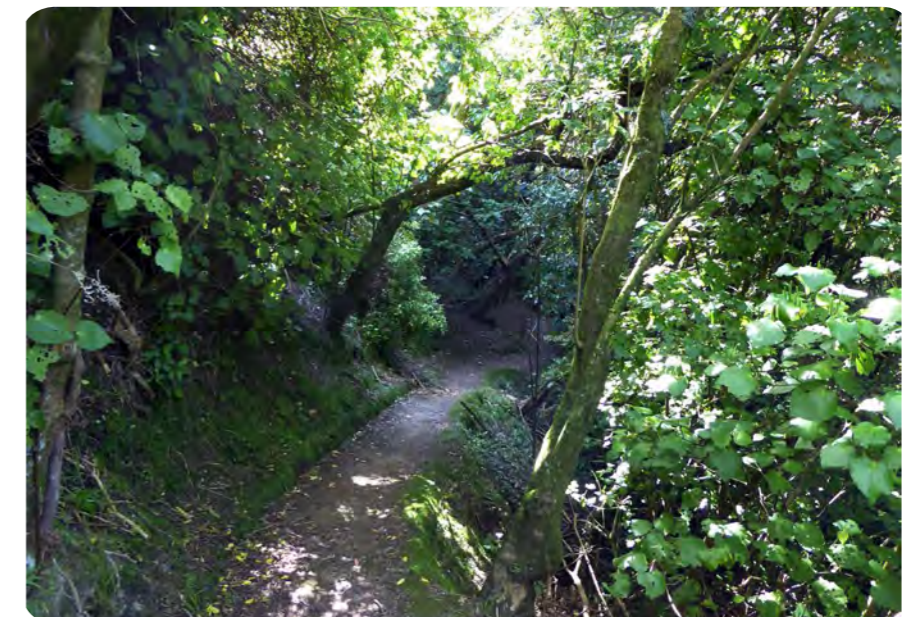
- Forest, bush and farm walks, picnicking, horse riding, mountain biking, cross-country running, orienteering, experiencing and observing nature
- Play including adventure and free play
- Some sports and organised recreation.

Profile

- Population 14,067 (2013 census) and increasing slightly
- The median age is higher than Hutt City as a whole
- The proportion of elderly is growing (by 10% over the next 15 years to 21% of the population)
- Numbers of children and adults under 64 are decreasing slightly (children by 2.3%, adults by 7%)
- The Western Hills are less ethnically diverse than other Landscape Identity Areas
- Low levels of social and economic deprivation
- Housing density is planned to remain the same
- Roads that follow spurs and gullies that are routes for walking and cycling and connect recreational areas and Western Hill suburbs are often narrow and winding with safety issues.

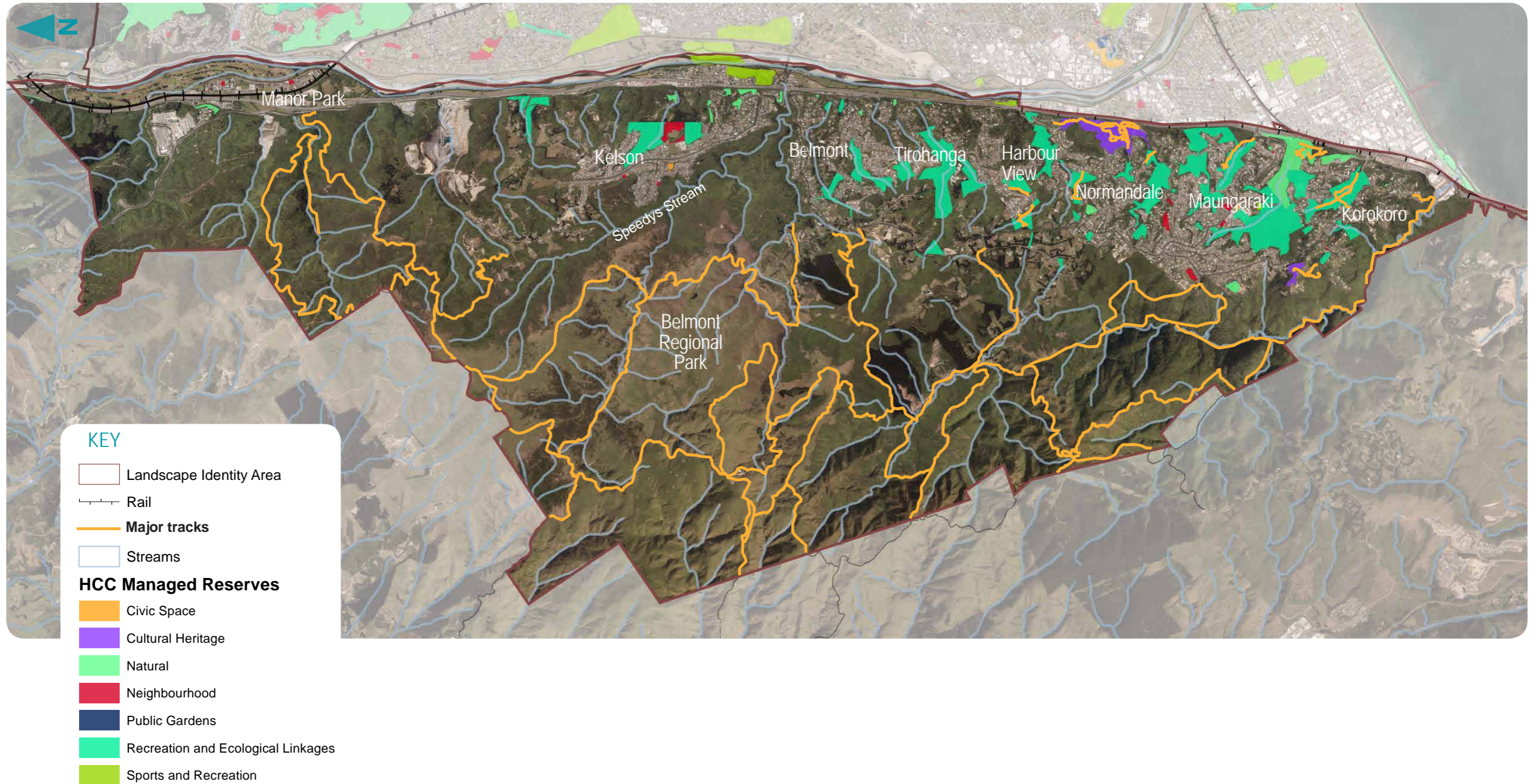


Minoh House



Jubilee Park

Reserves in the Western Hills



Reserves in the Western Hills

98 reserves

211.64 hectares

15 reserves (6 hectares) for neighbourhood use

4 reserves (12 hectares) for sport and recreation

45 reserves (154 hectares) that form ecological and recreational corridors

20 reserves (22 hectares) where we can experience, enjoy and learn about nature

2 reserves (16 hectares) with places of cultural and with heritage interest

3 reserves (.64 hectares) of outdoor civic space where we can gather to celebrate events and be entertained

9 reserves (1 hectare) for other purposes such as drainage, pumping stations and isolation strips



Rowan Street Reserve

Actions

1. Management of gullies and streams with regenerating native forest as ecological corridors.
2. A network of tracks between Belmont Regional Park and the valley floor via reserves.
3. North/south connections along trails through reserves linking hill suburbs.
4. Improvement and promotion of Percy Scenic Reserve, putting the reserve with its nationally significant plant collections 'on the map' alongside Otari-Wilton's Bush and Zealandia.
5. Pest plant and animal control with the regional council in and near bush reserves.
6. Improve the quality and gradient of tracks controlled by Hutt City Council to meet the needs of likely users with an emphasis on easy tracks with low levels of difficulty.
7. Prioritise retention of useful areas of flat reserves and develop as neighbourhood reserves.

RESERVE ACQUISITION AND DISPOSAL POLICY AND GUIDELINES

INTRODUCTION

ALTERNATIVE MECHANISMS TO LAND ACQUISITION

FUNDING RESERVE ACQUISITION

RESERVE ACQUISITION/DISPOSAL POLICY

RESERVE ACQUISITION AND DISPOSAL METHODOLOGY



Coast Road (near Turakirae Head Scientific Reserve)

INTRODUCTION

As a result of the Land Review Project between 2006 and 2012, lands with low reserve values have largely been removed from the reserve network. Reserves that remain within the reserve network generally have medium to high reserve values, except for a small number that have low value for development or for other purposes and as a consequence remain within the reserve network.

Over the next 10 years the five key directions will guide the Council when considering the acquisition and disposal of reserve land. The Council will also follow the reserve acquisition and disposal policy and methodology outlined on the following pages. The methodology is made up of assessment criteria and a range of factors considered in order to determine the reserve values of an area of land.

A reserve may be valued by the community for a wide variety of reasons and for the benefits the community gain from the various attributes of a reserve. Values may also change over time. The factors influencing the purchase or disposal of lands is a qualitative judgement based on in-depth understanding of the land's reserve attributes, its role as public open space within the wider reserve network, its setting and context, demographics of the community, demographic trends, community need, recreation trends and a reserve's potential. Political willingness and financial ability also come into the equation.

In making a decision on the acquisition or disposal of reserve land, the Council must also consider all other options that enable wider land management objectives to be met. These include the community taking responsibility for the protection of natural features where these are on private property. The city's natural character becomes more sustainable when the community is involved in the protection and conservation of land.

When considering land purchase, the Council is aware that it has accumulated a large amount of reserve land over many years and needs to ensure it is able to sustain the management necessary to keep the reserve land in good health. In order to maximise natural resource protection, a wide range of tools need to be available to allow responsibility for land management to remain with landowners. Reserves should not be considered a deposit for all lands that cannot otherwise be used for development purposes or as a default mechanism for heritage protection. The Council has the challenge of finding a balance between providing protection for important natural resources through reserves and encouraging private landowners to take up responsibility for the protection of these resources on private land..

ALTERNATIVE MECHANISMS TO LAND ACQUISITION

Land acquisition by the Council is generally the last resort once all alternative options have been explored. A range of statutory and non-statutory mechanisms exist for protecting significant areas of land and should be considered in the first instance prior to the Council considering the acquisition of land for reserve purposes. These are outlined below.

Resource Management Act

Esplanade reserves and esplanade strips - created under Section 229 of the RMA for the purpose of contributing to the protection of conservation values.

Heritage orders - used by a heritage protection authority to protect a place of special interest, character, intrinsic or amenity value, or visual appeal, or of special significance to tangata whenua for spiritual, cultural or historic reasons.

Financial contributions - a mechanism designed to offset any adverse effects of development including subdivision. Can include money, land or a combination of the two.

Other statutory and non-statutory mechanisms

Covenants - provide for the protection of important natural and cultural features on private land whereby a binding agreement can be established with the landowner to protect in perpetuity an important natural or heritage feature that might exist on the site.

Maori reservations - involve land including places of cultural, historic or scenic interest, being set aside for either the common use or benefit of the owners.

Wildlife protection - wildlife management reserves and wildlife refuges over private and public land.

Agreements - reached with landowners to secure certain privileges such as walkways.

Partnerships - combining of resources or sharing of responsibilities with another agency or private organisation.

Land Exchange - swapping land with a private landowner to secure a significant recreation, ecological, historic or landscape feature.

From time to time we identify land that will add value to our reserve network or land that no longer has value as reserve. In making these decisions we follow our policy and guidelines and use our criteria to assess reserve values.



Trafalger Park

FUNDING RESERVE ACQUISITION

Funding is a matter that influences Council's willingness to acquire land. The Reserve Purchase and Development Fund is the primary source and basis for the Council acquiring land.

Partnership arrangements, when two or more agencies share in the purchase of a property with benefits for both agencies, is one way to acquire reserve land. Grant funding might also act as a catalyst when the objectives of a heritage protection agency or trust also meet Council objectives.

The use of loan funds is also a possible way of funding acquisition. Reserves are held in perpetuity and loan funds enable intergenerational equity to occur i.e. the spreading of costs to later generations who will clearly benefit from acquisition now.

RESERVE ACQUISITION/DISPOSAL POLICY

The following section outlines policy when acquiring or disposing of reserve land.

General policy

1. When acquiring or disposing of reserve land the Council will follow the Acquisition and Disposal Methodology (see the following page).
2. A full report by a suitably qualified officer or other professional using these criteria will be required as part of the Council considering land acquisition and disposal. For some acquisitions and disposals, advice from professionals like landscape architects and ecologists will be required.
3. When considering changes to reserve land, Council will take into account future potential of the land as reserve.
4. Reserve revocation may be considered by Council when other community priorities have been identified.
5. Generally, only lands making a significant contribution to the reserves network will be considered for acquisition unless there is special merit requiring the Council to do otherwise.
6. Where there is national and regional interest in an area of land, the Council will promote the land's protection through the appropriate agency charged with the responsibility of managing that particular level of interest.
7. The Council will look to partners or for grant support where appropriate.
8. Joint partnering may be considered where there is a clear, immediate benefit at the local level.

Explanation - In most cases the Council is concerned with matters that affect local communities. Where there is wider interest and matters of national or regional interest are affected, the Council will look at other options. These include partnering where there is a clear joint benefit. Belmont Regional and East Harbour Regional Park lands are examples where Council land within the parks are used for local purposes but are managed by the regional council as the use and benefits are regionally important.

Policy for acquiring reserve land

1. The acquisition of lands that contribute to the actions of the five reserves strategic directions and Landscape Identity Areas will be given priority.
2. The Council will work with developers, particularly when significant re-development occurs on the valley floor, to encourage or require neighbourhood reserve space to be incorporated into a development. An example when this has occurred is the 2014 re-development of Pomare.
3. Lands suitable for acquisition will be identified in particular in the following areas:
 - Areas zoned for medium density housing where there are gaps in provision of reserves within easy walking distance for the majority of a suburb (generally a 400 metre or 8.5 minute walk to a reserve)
 - Where major roads and railways are barriers that limit walkable access to a reserve for the majority of a suburb
 - Where acquisition would improve walkability between suburbs or within suburbs.
4. Land acquisition arising from subdivision is considered the main mechanism from which reserve land will be acquired.
9. Land will generally only be acquired through the Reserves Purchase and Development Fund.
10. When acquiring reserves, the Council will also take into account the following:
 - Cost, especially where land valuation is influenced by expected development
 - Partnership between the Council and other agencies in order to co-ordinate functions, especially for regional park land
 - Initial development and ongoing maintenance costs
 - The level of developer contribution
 - Debt funding and servicing
 - Where reserve needs are greatest e.g. where there is a gap in reserve provision
 - Any precedents that may be set and expectations that public good outcomes require full compensation to private landowners.

Policy for reserve revocation and disposal

When making a decision to recommend to the Minister of Conservation to revoke the reserve status of land and dispose of reserve land, the Council is required under various Acts to follow certain procedures. Key is the Reserves Act 1977. Others are the Local Government Act 2002 and the Public Works Act 1981.

1. Before beginning reserve revocation and disposal of reserve land, the Council will carefully consider whether to proceed in light of the following:
 - Once a reserve is disposed of the land is likely to be privatised and no longer accessible to the public
 - Financial benefits from reserve disposal need to be balanced against the financial costs of disposing of the land. Disposal of reserve land can be an expensive and uncertain process and in some cases the disposal process may cost more than the proceeds from the disposal of the land. It requires public consultation and may be subject to Ministerial approval. When another agency is involved or the land is Crown owned and vested in the Council, the proceeds are shared
 - The requirements of the City's reserve network as identified in the Reserves Strategic Directions and the role of a site within the reserve network.
2. Reserve lands will be evaluated using the Land Acquisition and Disposal Methodology. Where the lands are registered as being of low reserve value, they may be put forward for possible reserve revocation and disposal. Revocation may also be considered where the community has identified other community priorities for the land.
3. Disposal of lands registered as being of low reserve value, held in fee simple by the Council and not classified under the Reserves Act 1977, will follow the procedures for disposal set out in the Reserves Act 1977. Classified lands and lands vested in the Council will follow procedures of the Reserves Act Guide (Chapter 9, Reserve Revocation and Disposal).
4. Revenue arising from the sale of reserve lands will be held in the Reserve Purchase and Development Fund and used for either the purchase of high value lands or to carry out improvements to reserves that meet the community's requirements.

RESERVE ACQUISITION AND DISPOSAL METHODOLOGY

Methodology to determine acquisition or disposal of reserve land has two parts to it:

1. Assessment criteria

Use of criteria to determine whether an area of land has high, medium or low reserve values. The criteria cover the following attributes (see Appendix 1 for details):

- Open space
- Visual
- Formal recreation
- Informal recreation
- Natural site features
- Ecology
- Culture and heritage
- Amenity horticulture
- History, background - whether the property can fulfil the purpose for which it was acquired or reserved
- Protection of infrastructure, access or contribution to storm water management.

2. Consideration of other factors

The following are also taken into account when assessing reserve values:

1. Current value of the site versus long-term value i.e. the potential of a site.
2. The setting and context of the reserve, its role within the immediate and wider reserve network, current and projected demographics and reserve needs of the community within which a reserve or potential reserve is located.
3. The degree that reserve improvements or development would be required in order to increase its reserve values.
4. How many attributes the site contains and whether the land offers greater opportunity because it has a number of attributes. Multiple values can result in wider use of a reserve thus increasing its contribution.
5. Additional value where the site is adjacent to an existing reserve which might have limitations, be constrained by surrounding land use or ecological systems disrupted because of fragmentation. In such cases, the addition of an adjacent property may significantly improve the value of the reserve and could be identified in a reserve management plan. Situations when this may occur include:

- Purchase of land along a street frontage to open up the reserve and improve access and address safety issues
 - Additional land may increase the buffer zone at the edges of bush areas thereby protecting the core from possible damage due to 'edge effects' - exposure to wind, temperature extremes, pests and weeds and lower humidity Reserves that would benefit from such treatment.
6. Factors, purposes or uses that may reduce reserve values. Among these are:
 - A utility on a reserve and its maintenance may limit reserve use
 - Long term maintenance and potentially costly matters e.g. heavy infestation of noxious or invasive weeds
 - Inherent defects such as the potential loss of land through slippage, flooding or extreme high tides etc
 - Potential hazards to users such as a cliff edge, wash outs, earlier dumping of toxic waste
 - Previous use of the land and likely long-term inherent costs. This might include slumping on former dump site or forestry plantation that management or harvest may be difficult and costly
 - Encumbrances and long-term leases or other access rights including those related to utilities.

Use of the assessment criteria and consideration of other factors requires a high degree of judgement. Given the wide range of reserve types and the different settings, not all attributes and characteristics will apply to every reserve. It is therefore important that qualified officers or professionals carry out evaluations.

PROCESS

The following shows the process that will be followed for the purchase or disposal of reserve land.

Land Acquisition

1. Property evaluated following the Reserve Land Acquisition and Disposal Methodology
2. Statement drawn up and recommendation made.
3. Committee considers report and recommends action.

Land Disposal

1. Property evaluated following the Reserve Land Acquisition and Disposal Methodology.
2. Report prepared.
3. Consultation with Department of Conservation.
4. Committee decision to proceed with disposal or not.
5. Intention publicly notified and evaluation available on request.
6. Objections received and assessed and report prepared to go to Committee.
7. Council decides on reserve revocation and possible sale or otherwise.
8. Council recommendation to Minister of Conservation on revocation.

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APPENDIX 1: LAND ACQUISITION/DISPOSAL CRITERIA

OPEN SPACE				
CHARACTERISTIC	DESCRIPTION	LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE		
		High	Medium	Low
Role	The purpose of the reserve according to its Reserves Act classification or NZ Recreation Association category.	Meets more than one Key Direction of the Reserves Strategic Directions.	Meets one of the Key Directions, has potential to meet a Key Direction, or has a special role not covered by a Key Direction.	Does not meet any of the Key Directions or has limited potential even with development and has no identifiable role.
Multi-functional	A range of purposes, uses and users.	Multi-purpose.	Mixed use and potential to widen purpose.	Single purpose with limited potential to widen purpose.
Threat to existing character	The way the land might address a threat to the character of an area e.g. subdivision, intensification, mixed use, proposed roading development etc.	Housing intensification, subdivision or mixed use occurring, planned (DP zoning) or under development or open space land uses are changing.	Potential for loss of open space.	Open space provided by other land uses or in an area where no housing intensification, mixed use, roading development etc is present, planned (DP zoning) or under development.
Contribution to quality of life, health and wellbeing	The degree of need for public open space in order to enhance the health and wellbeing of communities by encouraging physical recreation and community connections.	In an area with high levels of socio-economic deprivation (scales 7,8,9,10 NZ Socio-Economic Deprivation Index) and/or high rates of avoidable hospitalisations i.e. significantly higher than the Hutt Valley DHB average.	In an area with medium levels of socio-economic deprivation (Scales 4,5,6 NZ Socio-Economic Deprivation Index) and/or medium rates of avoidable hospitalisations i.e. around or just above the Hutt Valley DHB average.	In an area with low levels of socio-economic deprivation (Scales 1,2,3, NZ Socio-Economic Deprivation Index) and/or, without existing or rates of avoidable hospitalisations that are below the Hutt Valley HB average.

VISUAL LANDSCAPE				
CHARACTERISTIC	DESCRIPTION	LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE		
		High	Medium	Low
Landscape Identity Area	Reinforces the character of the area	Integral part of the defined character.	Contains elements that make partial contribution.	Not related to the character.
Prominence	Degree to which the area is seen. Visual prominence may also be related to accessibility and perceptions of safety.	Viewed from main arterial routes.	Viewed from suburb.	Viewed within street only.
Continuity	Provides visual continuity with other similar areas.	Part of scenic backdrop.	Similar character but separated from adjacent area.	Exists in isolation.
Integration	Provides transition between hard and soft landscape.	Provides significant relief from the built environment in an area where amenity is low e.g. strong presence of low- quality building structures or heavily used high impact road.	Provides moderate relief from the built environment in an area where amenity is low.	Insignificant effect.
Coherence	Visual elements reinforce each other or are in harmony with each other e.g. land cover and use are in harmony with the natural landform	Visually, is an integral part of the adjacent area.	Contains elements of the adjacent area.	Not related to the adjacent area.
Vividness	Degree to which the landscape elements or patterns are visually striking or memorable and recognised	Is visually striking or has memorable qualities or elements that visually influence the character of the area.	Not visually striking but has qualities or elements that are memorable and visually influence the character of the area.	No visually striking or memorable elements, qualities or character.

FORMAL RECREATION (ORGANISED SPORT)

CHARACTERISTIC	DESCRIPTION	LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE		
		High	Medium	Low
Demand	Population & range base for which facility is sought.	High numbers using facility catering for a wide range of ages both male & female. Can mix with other activities.	Moderate numbers using facility but use restricts other activities.	Low numbers with exclusive use of facility.
Provision	Demand for facility, taking into account trends in organised sport.	Sport in high demand. Facilities may be available elsewhere but popularity means the sport cannot be provided for on an existing sportsground.	Sport in high demand & cannot be catered for easily.	Can be accommodated on an existing ground but group prefer own dedicated site.
Contribution	Partnership arrangement with user group.	User group making a financial contribution towards acquiring property.	User group will contribute to ongoing costs of maintenance.	No support from user group.
Added Value	The way the activity/facility complements existing activities/facilities.	Is complementary to existing facilities on adjacent area & extends opportunity for the wider area.	Some complementary advantages, but minimal conflicts present.	Does not complement existing facilities/activities and no opportunity to add value.
Demographic/Ethnicity	The character & special makeup of the community in the provision of recreation.	Serves a full range of demographic & ethnicity needs across the city.	Serves a significant range of demographic & ethnicity needs in a geographic area.	Demographic & ethnicity needs meet elsewhere and readily accessible to the local community.
Supporting facilities	Facilities required to support use of the grounds.	Minimal to no additional buildings required.	Some facilities required but can be accommodated in existing buildings or opportunity for temporary facilities.	Grounds require major facilities to be useable.
Single-use facilities	Facilities which are only able to be used for one sport or type of sport e.g. swimming pool.	Facility well used on a regular basis and provides ongoing revenue to help with expenses.	Facility sometimes used, opportunity for added value (e.g. hire by groups).	Facility rarely used and no opportunity for added value.

INFORMAL RECREATION

CHARACTERISTIC	DESCRIPTION	LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE		
		High	Medium	Low
Linear activities	The provision of trails that enable the full range of walking, running, cycling, etc. connecting different natural features, reserves, suburbs and parts of suburbs.	Critical for access to a wide variety of recreation opportunities or provides an experience that is not readily present in other areas in the city. Links with other areas or suburbs or connects to track network.	Provides a link with other areas extending the opportunity & range of use within the city.	Is in isolation providing an experience generally available in other areas in the city.
Access to natural areas	Provides access to rivers, streams, harbour, bush, gullies or hilltops.	Gives access to recreational areas in high demand.	Complements existing recreational access & improves management access.	Caters for a minority & provided for elsewhere in the city.
Proximity to urban areas	Enables access close to residential areas.	Accessed by walking or biking from residential area.	Generally requires a short distance of transport to get to site.	Accessible only by vehicle.
Neighbourhood Park	Provides for neighbourhood activities.	Meets needs of the local community and provides open space and opportunities for activities.	Has open space for local community use, opportunities for activities are restricted e.g. poor drainage, lack of shade/shelter/ poor accessibility but has potential to provide for neighbourhood use.	Needs of local community met elsewhere in the neighbourhood.
Amenity	Space provides amenity as relief or interest in the urban environment and used informally.	Important high profile area attracting visitors from within and outside the City.	Provides amenity as relief or interest and used informally.	Contributes to the general quality of a neighbourhood.

NATURAL SITE FEATURES				
CHARACTERISTIC	DESCRIPTION	LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE		
		High	Medium	Low
Bush	Present on the site (refer also ecological).	Covers whole area.	Covers part of area.	Small scrappy remnant.
Trees	Individual or groups of trees present on site (refer also ecological). STEM (Standard Tree Evaluation Method) is available on the Royal New Zealand Institute of Horticulture website.	Significant trees registering high on STEM (Standard Tree Evaluation Method) assessment, or are notable trees.	Trees registering high on STEM assessment, or are in good condition and have a high amenity value and/or are noted for their stature, historic, cultural or scientific value, and can be protected through other mechanisms e.g. in a reserve, covenanted.	Few trees of poor quality and low amenity value.
Water	Significant water body on/or adjacent to the site (river, lake, harbour, coast).	Strongly present & enables natural character of area to prevail.	Partially present & enables natural character of area to prevail.	Feature modified & minimal presence of natural character.
Stream	Tributary feeding larger body of water.	Natural character	Potential to reinstate natural character.	Heavily modified & limited opportunity to reinstate natural character.
Geological	Contains representative or unusual features e.g. rock faces.	Rare to find such a feature & registered as important in various plans.	Registered as important in various plans.	Not registered as important and does not provide local character.
Topographical	Relates to the slope and geophysical characteristics of the site.	Provides a unique or special character that is important or rare to the district.	Provides a usable site that can be adapted easily for the purpose for which it is intended.	Can be modified at some expense for an immediate recreational need.

ECOLOGY				
CHARACTERISTIC	DESCRIPTION	LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE		
		High	Medium	Low
Significant Natural Resource Areas	Site is identified in the District Plan .	Will contribute greatly to increasing ecological values of SNRA and reserve provision only safe means of protection.	Other mechanisms such as covenants available but there is some risk.	Can be protected by other mechanisms including covenants and rules in DP.
Flora and Fauna	Significant areas of native flora and fauna (not in DP) taking into account rare and endangered species, successional state, representative value, contribution to biodiversity, etc.	The site has been assessed by a botanist, biologist or ecologist and is considered to have rare and/or distinctive elements not heavily represented elsewhere in the district.	The site has been assessed by a botanist, biologist or ecologist and is considered to have moderately important elements reasonably well represented elsewhere in the district.	The site has been assessed by a botanist, biologist or ecologist and is not considered an important site but may have potential to become an important site.
Health	Relates to overall state of health of the native flora and fauna & ability of the Council to manage the area.	Health good & only requiring regular monitoring and maintenance.	Health generally deteriorated & requiring significant attention to rehabilitate.	Health poor & requiring a major effort to rehabilitate.
Sustainability	Of sufficient size to sustain ecological integrity.	Improves ecological sustainability as part of larger contiguous area.	Over 2 hectares, with potential to improve ecological integrity.	Under 2 hectares, small and isolated from other areas.
Infestation	Degree to which area is affected by invasive weed species.	No infestation of weeds threatening the ecological health of the bush.	Some infestation of weeds with minimal threat to ecological health but able to be controlled at moderate cost.	Heavy infestation of weed threatening health of the bush, unable to be controlled without considerable cost.

CULTURE AND HERITAGE				
CHARACTERISTIC	DESCRIPTION	LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE		
		High	Medium	Low
Significance to Iwi	Includes all sites & features significant to Mana Whenua.	Site of known value to Mana Whenua, listed on the DP & registered on the NZHPT register or silent file.	Considered having some importance but exact nature unknown.	Vague reference but no substantive knowledge by Mana Whenua.
Archaeological	Includes all sites associated with pre-1900 human activity where there may be evidence relating to the history of NZ (HPA 1993).	All sites included in DP & registered under HPA where acquisition of the land for reserve purposes is considered essential.	Sites where other means of protection may be available e.g. covenants etc., different land uses e.g. grazing, preventative building measures etc.	Unknown sites resulting from ground disturbance and not considered significant by NZHPT or sites where NZHPT gives authority to damage or destroy.
Historic/Cultural	Includes historic places such as buildings, structures, tracks gardens and sites that may be rare, representative of NZ history, associated with event/ person/ idea of importance to NZ history, symbolic or commemorative, have technical or design merit, part of heritage landscape.	Places registered Category I under the HPA and where acquisition of the land for reserve purposes is considered essential, or restoration or reserve status is essential for protection.	Places registered Category II under the HPA and where acquisition of the land for reserve purposes complements wider reserve objectives.	Where a feature is present, may be of immediate local value but of little significance to the wider area & therefore lower priority for expenditure of Council funds.

AMENITY HORTICULTURE				
CHARACTERISTIC	DESCRIPTION	LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE		
		High	Medium	Low
Amenity gardens	Gardens or open space which provide relief and interest in the urban environment.	Situated in a high profile area attracting visitors or in the central city. Supports significant trees, planting beds or vegetation, provides relief from the built environment.	Provides relief in a high-density urban, industrial or roading area, or provides a garden area which contributes to the general quality of a neighbourhood.	Does not contribute to general quality of neighbourhood.
Plant collections	Collections of plants grown under a particular theme. Plant collections include potted collections, collections relating to a particular species or type of plant (e.g. ferns), thematic plantings (e.g. coastal plants) or ex-situ collections (plant collections held and grown outside the geographical area they were sourced from).	Supports significant plant collections not found elsewhere in New Zealand or the Wellington Region or collections play a role in plant preservation and botanical education.	Plant collections are not significant but play a role in plant preservation and botanical education.	Plant collection does not have a significant role or value.

