



# Kaitoke Regional Park

Management Plan 2005



**Kaitoke**  
REGIONAL PARK



**greater WELLINGTON** | Parks  
REGIONAL COUNCIL and Forests





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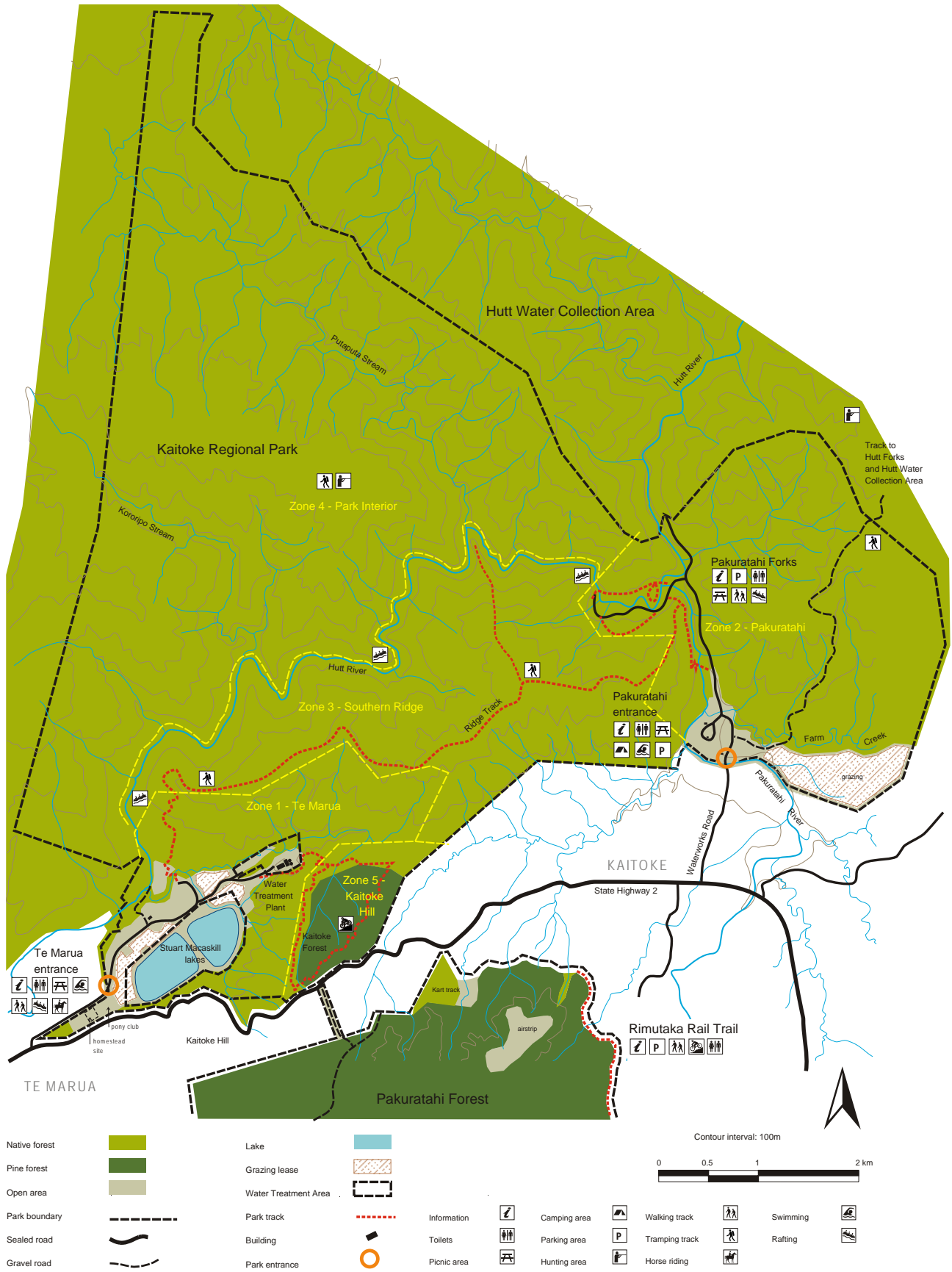
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# Kaitoke Regional Park overview



Kaitoke Regional Park



# Kaitoke Regional Park

Kaitoke Regional Park lies in the southern foothills of the Tararua Ranges, about 10 kilometres north of Upper Hutt City on the way to the Wairarapa. The steep forested hill country of the Hutt Water Collection area provides a backdrop to the park, while river terraces and gentle hills provide opportunities for recreation. Walking, tramping, fishing, swimming, cycling, camping, dog walking and horse riding are all popular activities and picnic tables, barbecues, and camping facilities are provided.

The main entrance is from the Kaitoke Waterworks Road, along State Highway 2. The Te Marua entrance from State Highway 2 gives access to the southern part of the park and is where the Te Marua water treatment plant is located. The park has excellent environmental and recreation values, making the park a popular destination for visitors. In addition, the water treatment plant, the Kaitoke weir and the Stuart Macaskill Lakes are key parts of the water supply system to the Hutt, Porirua and Wellington metropolitan areas.

The park is entirely owned by the Greater Wellington Regional Council<sup>1</sup> and is about 2,860 hectares in area. The hills are clad in native forests that include podocarp<sup>2</sup> and beech forest. A matai-totara bush remnant can still be seen at Te Marua, near the park entrance. Native animals are common within the park including kereru, fantails, grey warblers, tui, bellbirds and rifleman as well as fish, such as bullies and koaro, and freshwater crayfish.

The park's indigenous forest is easily accessible for all ages and levels of fitness and the Hutt and Pakuratahi Rivers provide great places to swim and walk along. The Hutt River is also one of the best trout rivers in the region, while the Hutt River gorge is popular for whitewater recreation.

## Park History

Wellington's five regional parks were established in response to the need for "semi-remote" outdoor recreation opportunities, particularly on the fringe of urban areas. The parks provide accessible open space and recreational opportunities for the regional community while protecting important landscape, heritage and environmental values.

Since the waterworks scheme and facilities were completed in 1957, the Kaitoke area has been popular for picnicking and swimming. In 1976 the Wellington Regional Planning Authority identified the area as a potential regional park because of the unspoiled forests, as well as the recreational and educational opportunities. The park's development, as it is known now, began in 1983 and the objective was to provide a place for informal recreation in areas of open space.

A survey of the park's natural and cultural values was undertaken in 1976 and the park's first management plan was approved in the early 1980s. Since that time, management and concept plans have been developed for improving the tracks, infrastructure, environmental restoration and plantings. The resource statement provides further background information about the park's values.

<sup>1</sup>Greater Wellington Regional Council is the promotional name of the Wellington Regional Council, hereafter referred to as Greater Wellington

<sup>2</sup>'Podocarps' are tree species that belong to the conifer group of trees and include the tallest native trees, such as rimu, kahikatea and matai. However in New Zealand, instead of dry seed cones, many podocarp species produce seeds covered by a fleshy outer skin that looks a bit like a berry. Birds love this 'fruit' and help disperse the seeds around the forest areas.



## Vision

*To enhance quality of life in the Wellington region by developing and managing Kaitoke Regional Park as an integral part of the Wellington Regional Park network according to the following objectives.*

### Environmental, cultural heritage and landscape values

- Manage the environment and cultural heritage for the benefit of current and future generations, by:
  - actively protecting and appropriately managing indigenous forest values and other areas of significant indigenous vegetation.
  - ensuring ecosystems are healthy, their life supporting capacity is sustained, and they contribute to good water, air, soil and catchment values.
  - ensuring that Kaitoke Regional Park will contribute to a diverse range of landscapes within the region.
  - protecting the park’s landscape values, including the surrounding hills of indigenous vegetation, the southern ridge, and the Hutt gorge from inappropriate use and development.
  - protecting geological features such as the pleistocene gravel exposures and fault terraces at Te Marua from inappropriate development and use.
  - protecting significant cultural heritage values and features relating to Maori, early European settlers, and water supply structures.

### Use

- Ensure people use, pursue their chosen recreational activities in, enjoy and learn from these lands in a sustainable manner that is compatible with the environmental and cultural heritage values of the park by:
  - providing recreational opportunities consistent with the primary recreational uses of walking, tramping, picnicking, swimming and camping.
  - providing opportunities including environmental and outdoor education.
  - ensuring any activities are consistent with this plan’s objectives and sustainable land management practices.
  - acknowledging the importance of existing network utilities to the region, including water supply and providing for their ongoing operation and maintenance.
  - promoting environmental best practice in all park uses and activities.

### People

- Maintain and enhance relationships based on good faith, co-operation and understanding to achieve this plan’s objectives and contribute to a sustainable region.
- Work with landowners, neighbours, local and central government, agencies and the community to ensure their needs are met and reflected appropriately in park management.
- Respect tangata whenua interests by working together to:
  - recognise and provide for the traditional guardianship role of Tangata Whenua
  - actively protect Tangata Whenua interests in respect of their lands, forests, fisheries and other taonga.



## Plan's purpose

This plan represents a common understanding between Greater Wellington and the community about the future management of the park and its values. The plan guides Greater Wellington when managing the Kaitoke Regional Park and making decisions about land use, development and activities. It also sets out the policies and expectations that Greater Wellington has for others wishing to use the park or its facilities. Realising the plan's vision and objectives means considering the plan's objectives and policies alongside each other in decision-making affecting the park.

The plan is prepared in accordance with the provisions of the Local Government Act 1974 and the Local Government Act 2002. Many of the policies and objectives reflect the Greater Wellington Regional Council's legal obligations in managing the land. These have been included for clarity and to provide the legal context governing management decisions.

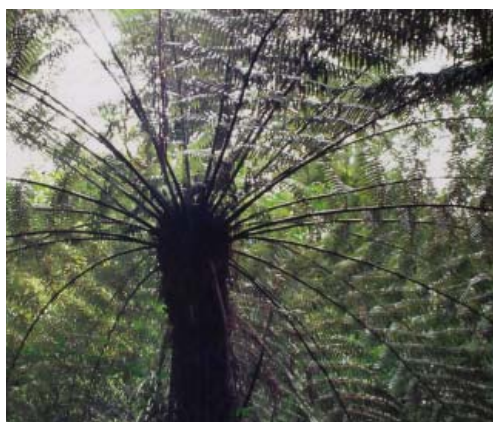
Greater Wellington officers and rangers are empowered by the Act's bylaws to control activities in the park. This is the chief regulatory mechanism for implementing the objectives and policies set out in this plan. The main methods for implementing and funding this management plan can be found in 'The Way Forward' section of this plan. Monitoring and review provisions can be found in the management plan, objectives and policies.

This plan does not remove the need for consents or authorisations required by other plans or regulatory frameworks, in particular, the Resource Management Act 1991 and the Historic Places Act 1993. Resource consents may be required to undertake activities within the park and are required prior to undertaking that activity.

This park management plan covers the area outlined in Map 1. A schedule of the land's legal descriptions is contained within the appendix. The Hutt Water Collection area is excluded from this management plan. The Greater Wellington Water Collection Areas Asset Management Plan guides management of the Hutt Water Collection area.

## Regional Parks Network Management Plan

The Regional Parks Network Management Plan provides the vision and sets the direction for managing regional parks in the Wellington region. It provides the framework for addressing issues common to all regional parks, ensuring that they are managed in a comprehensive and consistent way. The Kaitoke Regional Park Management Plan is consistent with the vision and direction set in the Network Management Plan.



Photos: Jessica Dewsnap



## Land status

The legal description of the land parcels within Kaitoke Regional Park can be found in the appendix. The lands are held for the purposes of water supply and may be used for recreation under the Wellington Regional Water Board Act 1972. Greater Wellington's officers are also empowered under this Act's bylaws to control activities in the Park.

## Plan outline

### Section 1 – Kaitoke Regional Park overview

This section provides an overview of the park and sets the context for the rest of the plan. It describes the park's location and ownership and outlines key legal, regulatory and decision-making frameworks important to its management.

### Section 2 – Kaitoke Regional Park Management Plan objectives and policies

This section sets out how we will manage Kaitoke Regional Park to protect the environment and cultural heritage values while providing for sustainable uses, such as recreation. It is divided into five main parts, each containing objectives and policies, including how the plan will be monitored and reviewed.

**Part A** – Overarching management policies

**Part B** – Conserving our environment and cultural heritage

- Sustaining our environment
- Maintaining diverse landscapes
- Protecting cultural heritage.

**Part C** – Sustaining community and recreational opportunities and use

**Part D** – Partnerships in parks

- Involving community partners
- Working together with Tangata Whenua.

**Part E** – Research, monitoring and review

### Section 3 – The way forward

This section sets out potential developments for Kaitoke Regional Park, showing how the aims and objectives of the plan could be implemented within the park. This section also discusses methods for implementing the plan, as well as funding processes.

#### Do you want to know more?

Please see our:

**Park Brochures, available at Council Offices**

**Internet site [www.gw.govt.nz](http://www.gw.govt.nz)**

**Regional Policy Statement**

**The Kaitoke Regional Park Resource Statement**



## Management plan and decision-making frameworks

The basis for this management plan is the requirements of the Local Government Act 1974 and the Local Government Act 2002. This management plan is consistent with both of these Acts' requirements and constitutes the Kaitoke Regional Park Management Plan for the purposes of the Local Government Act 1974.

Briefly, the Local Government Act 1974 empowered Greater Wellington to hold, manage and purchase land for regional parks to protect natural, environmental, landscape, educational, heritage and archaeological values as well as the recreational significance or potential. While the 2002 Act replaces much of the 1974 Act, the provisions from the 1974 Act relating to Wellington regional parks are retained until 2007. Management plans are mandatory for each regional park controlled and administered by the Regional Council (section 619D). The contents and preparation of this management plan have followed the procedures set out in sections 619E-619H of that Act.

The 2002 Act provides a new framework for local authorities to play a broad role in promoting the social, economic, environmental and cultural well being of their communities through a sustainable development approach. The Act sets out principles and consultation requirements for local authorities in performing its functions and requires clear and transparent decision making processes.

### Legal and regulatory requirements

There is a range of legal and regulatory frameworks that affect the park and determine its use and development. This management plan states what Greater Wellington will do, not do, allow others to do or not, within the constraints set by any other Acts or regulations. Greater Wellington or any member of the public wanting to undertake an activity in the park has to satisfy the requirements of this plan as well as any other relevant plans or legislation.

The Resource Management Act 1991 is a key piece of legislation governing the management of land, water and air resources. Activities or development undertaken within the park must comply with the regional plans and the Upper Hutt City Council District Plan. Other important regulatory frameworks relate to rural fire control, network utility providers, designations, roading and transportation.

Other key acts affecting park management include the Biosecurity Act 1993, the Historic Places Act 1993, the Health and Safety in Employment Act 1992, the Building Act 1991 and the Conservation Act 1987.

### Relationship with other public lands

Kaitoke Regional Park is adjacent to, or is near a number of other important ecological and recreational areas. This plan sets out how Greater Wellington will work with other agencies to enhance access and values from Kaitoke Regional Park and other lands, e.g. through developing ecological corridors, recreational linkages and complementary experiences.

## Council Policies

Greater Wellington has a number of important policies and requirements that affect the management of Kaitoke Regional Park including:

- β Regional Policy Statement and Regional Plans.
- β Regional Pest Management Strategy.
- β Environmental Strategies such as the Wetland Action Plan and the Strategy for Achieving Riparian Management in the Wellington Region.
- β Regional Land Transport Strategy.
- β The Long Term Council Community Plan (LTCCP) and Quality for Life.
- β Policy on Significance.
- β Regional Parks Network Management Plan.
- β Policy for Recreation and Tourism, providing a decision-making process and criteria for assessing applications for concessions, fees, charges and bonds.
- β Natural Materials Policy, providing a process and criteria for assessing applications to use or remove natural materials from regional parks and forests.
- β Asset Management Plan, setting out the service level standards for physical recreational assets.
- β Environmental Asset Management Plan, setting out the service level standards for environmental assets.
- β Environmental Management System, outlining how the Parks and Forests Department implements its environmental policy.
- β Bylaws – for controlling activities within the parks.

## Land acquisition

Greater Wellington will consider future acquisition of land for Kaitoke Regional Park according to the policies set out in the overarching management policies section. Current priorities for expanding the regional park network identified in the LTCCP are to maintain existing regional parks and recreation areas; to add Whitireia Park and Wairarapa Wetlands to the regional parks network.

## Preparing the management plan: consultation

During the management plan review, there were two opportunities for the public to formally participate in the review. In 2004, Greater Wellington notified its intention to review the management plan and called for public submissions. Ten submissions were received. In addition, a newsletter was developed to inform people interested in the park and the review about the management planning process. Discussions with government agencies and Iwi were also undertaken. The purpose of this initial consultation phase was to identify key issues in the park's management and people's viewpoints on the park's future.

The high value that people accorded to the park, its facilities and natural values was evident throughout the submissions. Improving access and facilities was requested by some submitters and in the long-term most submitters thought that the natural values of the park's native plants and birds were important to its future. A draft plan was then prepared taking these submissions and council policy into account. People were then given the opportunity to comment on the draft plan and nine submissions were received, with two submitters heard in support of their submissions. This plan was adopted after all the submissions were considered in accordance with the provisions of the Local Government Act 1974.



# Management plan, objectives and policies

## Overarching management policies

To achieve this plan's objectives and policies, it is important to look at the park as a whole entity, as well as proposals outside the park boundaries and other legal frameworks affecting the park. This section sets out more general park policies affecting park management. Other parts of the plan address the park's multiple values more specifically and should also be considered in decision making.

Sustainable management is an integral part of the park's management and development. In deciding what 'we do' and how 'we do it' we must weigh up the different values affected in different ways by the park's use and management. Other developments outside the park may also have effects on the park, including roading. Opportunities may also be available through other regulatory processes, such as subdivision, to add to the park.

The following established park zones will continue to guide the day to day management activities of the park: Zone 1: Te Marua, Zone 2: Pakuratahi, Zone 3: Southern Ridge, Zone 4: Park Interior and Zone 5: Kaitoke Hill. Map 1 shows the Park and management zones. Further maps showing the predominant recreation activities, tracks and other management considerations are provided in the 'Way Forward' section of the plan.

Good relationships with landowners, territorial authorities, Iwi and the Department of Conservation are important to realising this plan's aims and aspirations. This plan does not seek to control the use of land not owned by the Council. In these cases the Council will use advocacy to achieve the plan's aspirations.

Implementation of this section's objectives and policies rely on robust decision-making processes, including those required by this plan and other processes such as the Resource Management Act. Within this plan, the effect of an activity or development proposal on all of the park's values will be taken into account. Decision-making processes will consider all parts of the plan, with no objective or policy seen in isolation.

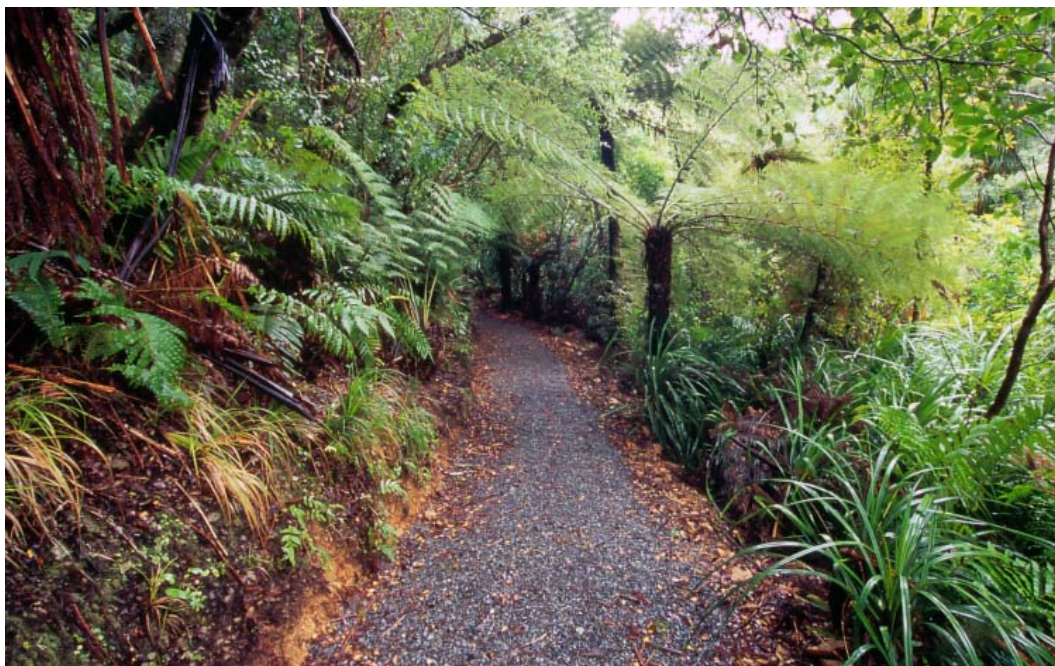


Photo: Jessica Dewsnap

## Objectives

The basis for park management is legal compliance and co-operative relationships with regulatory authorities, landowners, iwi, utility operators, and the community.

Park management and development will be sustainable for the benefit of current and future generations.

Decision-making processes affecting the park will be integrated and holistic, taking into account environmental and social considerations.

## Park management zones

Five management zones have been established reflecting the different river and landscape values, as well as land uses including grazing, waterworks and forestry. These zones provide a base for activities and future management directions proposed in this plan. Please refer to Map 1.

### Zone 1: Te Marua

The focus for this area is on informal outdoor activities including picnicking, swimming in the river, and walking. Dog walking is permitted, as long as the dog is under control at all times and any droppings are removed. Land is also leased to local horse riders. The site of the old Benge homestead is located to the immediate right of the entrance and an important matai-totara bush remnant is nearby. Access is from State Highway 2, before the Kaitoke Hill.

The Te Marua water treatment site and Stuart Macaskill Lakes are located in this zone. Access is restricted and recreational activities are excluded from these sites.

### Zone 2: Pakuratahi

The area's emphasis is on the enjoyment and appreciation of the natural environment. Activities that are compatible with the natural values are permitted in this area, such as walking, swimming and camping in designated areas. Shelters, camping and picnic spots, as well as barbecues are provided in the lower terrace area. Access to this area is from Waterworks Road, after the Kaitoke Hill.



Photo: Jessica Dewsnap



### Zone 3: Southern Ridge

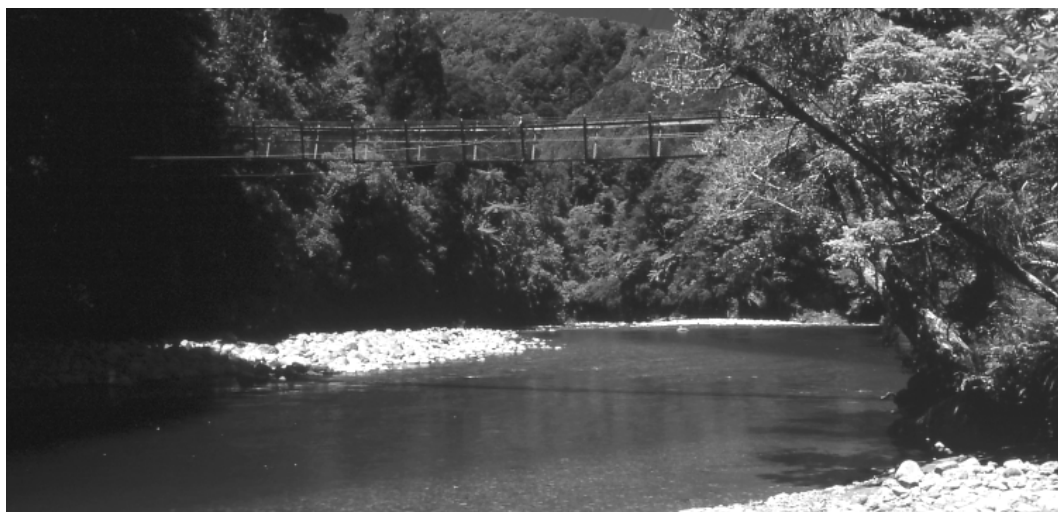
This area is primarily for tramping/bush-walking and provides a link between the northern and southern parts of the park. The Ridge Track provides views over the park, the Tararua and Rimutaka ranges and the Hutt gorge.

### Zone 4: Park Interior

In contrast to the other park zones, management focuses more on a wilderness experience, with hunting allowed with the appropriate permit. This area borders the Hutt Water Collection Area in the north. Overnight stays are not permitted within the water collection area. This zone also provides white water recreation opportunities at the Hutt Gorge, the only place in the regional park network. An emergency exit is provided that connects to the ridge track on the Hutt River's true left.

### Zone 5: Kaitoke Hill

Finally, the Kaitoke Hill area, which is primarily plantation forestry, provides some recreational opportunities for walking, mountain biking and horse riding. This area is also a corridor connecting access to the Tunnel Gully, Pakuratahi Forest area. Please be aware however, that access may be restricted for health and safety reasons when operational activities are required in the plantation forestry area.



## Policies

### Plan's relationship to other plans and legislation

- 1.1 To continue to manage and develop the park in accordance with the Local Government Act 1974, the Local Government Act 2002 and the Resource Management Act 1991, including regional and district plans. Greater Wellington, in accordance with Council policy and statutory powers, is responsible for decision-making processes affecting the park.
- 1.2 To reinvest revenue generated within the park for park management. The Local Government Act 2002 provisions govern expenditure.

### Sustainable management

- 1.3 To support the use of the park as a place that encourages increased learning about the environment, cultural heritage and best practice for sustainable management of the environment.
- 1.4 To advocate and demonstrate best environmental practice in the park.
- 1.5 To assess the environmental and recreational effects of proposed activities within the park in accordance with the objectives and policies set out in this plan.
- 1.6 To ensure adverse effects from management, development and other activities on the park's environmental, landscape, cultural, recreational, and heritage values are avoided, remedied or mitigated.
- 1.7 When considering applications for new or renewed activities and uses affecting the park to:
  - provide for activities and uses that are sustainable and contribute to a sustainable region.
  - discourage or prohibit activities and uses that are unsustainable, detract from a sustainable region or are incompatible with park values.



Photo: Jessica Dewsnap



- 1.8 To manage the risk from natural hazards to people, assets and the environment by:
- not siting facilities or structures in hazard zones, such as floodplains, on erosion prone or unstable land,
  - closing tracks or areas, either temporarily or permanently, that pose a risk to health and safety,
  - suitably identifying and signposting roads and trails,
  - adopting management practices that minimise erosion or sediment entering water bodies.
- 1.9 To take environmental values into account when mitigating hazard risks.

### **Land tenure, acquisition and disposal**

- 1.10 To negotiate, where appropriate, for the lease, acquisition, right-of-way, caveat, disposal, purchase or gifting of land under public and private ownership within or adjacent to the park.
- 1.11 When purchasing, acquiring or disposing of land, to use one or more of the following criteria:
- the benefit, enjoyment and use of the park by the public would be enhanced
  - public access to or use of the park would be improved
  - the character of existing park land would be further protected
  - important environmental and cultural heritage values of the park would be protected
  - existing recreational opportunities would be enhanced or added to
  - park boundaries would be rationalised
  - future management and development of the park would benefit
  - greater linkages to other public lands would be achieved

### **Linkages**

- 1.12 To work with other agencies to develop improved linkages with other public lands.
- 1.13 To encourage and create opportunities to link access, open space and ecological corridors to and from the park if subdivision or development is proposed in areas adjacent to the park.
- 1.14 To advocate for and encourage greater access to the park from public transport and for non-vehicular access (e.g. walkers, mountain bikers, horse riders).

### **Development affecting the park**

- 1.15 To identify and assess the effects on the park from proposals affecting the park in accordance with this plan's objectives and policies, for instance, roading or subdivision.

### **Park development**

- 1.16 To avoid siting or retaining permanent facilities and structures in natural hazard zones (i.e. areas prone to flooding, erosion, slope instability, such as near rivers or steep areas).

- 1.17 To concentrate intensive use and development of park facilities at existing developed areas, wherever possible.
- 1.18 To ensure that any development recognises the regional importance of the water supply functions of the Te Marua pump station and Stuart Macaskill Lakes.
- 1.19 To design new facilities, buildings and structures to agreed standards<sup>3</sup> and to reflect the park's natural setting.
- 1.20 To maintain a network of tracks that provides access through the park and a range of recreational opportunities.
- 1.21 To offer varied opportunities for park users by providing multiple use tracks and facilities where possible and appropriate.
- 1.22 To provide signs and track markers for visitor information and interpretation, and to help promote the safe and enjoyable use of the park.
- 1.23 To continue to develop park entry areas and key development nodes as focal points for visitor activity in the park.
- 1.24 To provide vehicle parking areas, where practicable, at key park nodes.
- 1.25 The following areas will continue to serve as the main focal points for visitor activity:
  - Te Marua
  - Pakuratahi Forks
- 1.26 The underpass at Kaitoke Hill is a secondary park entrance area.

#### **Naming and Commemorations**

- 1.27 Naming, memorials and commemorations will be considered according to the objectives and policies set out in the Regional Parks Network Plan.
- 1.28 Memorials and commemorative tree planting will only be allowed with the prior approval of the Manager, Parks and Forests. The Totara Grove is located at Te Marua and is part of the "Celebrate Life" plantings and to commemorate regional councilors.
- 1.29 The spreading or burial of ashes and the burial of body parts within the park is prohibited.

<sup>3</sup>Greater Wellington meets the NZ Building requirements for structures and in addition, for tracks, bridges, and board walks Greater Wellington uses the New Zealand Standard SNZ HB 8630 :2004 'NZ Handbook - Tracks and Outdoor Visitors Structures'

## Te Marua Bush

At the south western corner of Kaitoke Regional Park, there is a small bush remnant of podocarp/ broadleaf forest, just 0.6 of a hectare. The Bush provides an excellent example of emergent lowland matai, totara and black maire dominating the forest canopy. This association of tree species is regionally significant as there are few remnants left in the region.

The remnant's importance was recognised in the late 1950s by two of New Zealand's foremost plant ecologists, Tony Druce and Ian Atkinson. Some of the matai left in the stand are estimated to be 200 to 300 years old, which is impressive given the closeness of the stand to State Highway 2, and past farming and tree felling activities in the area.

The Wellington Botanical Society has been an active guardian of this special area since the early 1990s. Members of the Society have been largely responsible for ensuring that rubbish was cleared from the site and weeds were brought under control. With help from Forest and Bird, species grown from seed collected within the Bush have also been planted. Greater Wellington has helped with pest plant management and controlling possums in the Bush. Tiny tawa seedlings are now beginning to grow with the help of kereru visiting the Bush. A threatened native mistletoe also makes its home at Te Marua Bush.

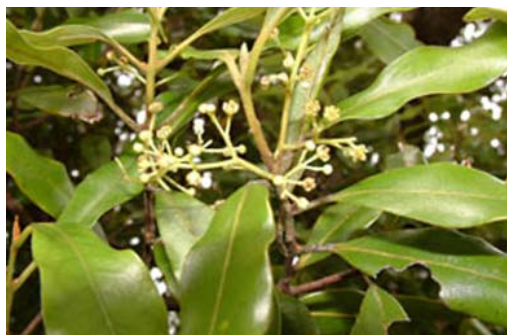
Te Marua Bush provides the region with a successful example of how people can help the environment to help itself by making sure the ecological processes are able to sustain the ecosystem. This management plan supports this type of approach through the objectives and policies found in the following section. Partnerships with the community and groups such as the Wellington Botanical Society and Forest and Bird are also integral to ensuring that this special part of the region's heritage is preserved for future generations.



Kereru



Native mistletoe. Photo: John Smith-Dodsworth



Tawa. Photo: John Smith-Dodsworth



Black maire. Photo: John Smith-Dodsworth



## Conserving our environment and cultural heritage

### Sustaining our environment

New Zealand is one of the world's 25 biodiversity "hotspots". Since people's arrival in New Zealand, there has been a drastic reduction in the biodiversity of indigenous species and ecosystems. Only 25% of the nation's original forest cover remains. The challenges are now to 'halt the decline', preventing further losses to the region's biodiversity, and to minimise the adverse impacts of our activities on the environment.

Kaitoke Regional Park has important biodiversity values resulting from the land's relatively undeveloped nature. The area contains beech, broadleaf and mixed beech/broadleaf forests. Southern rata is also found as well as some rare examples of the native mistletoe.

The forests also form part of an ecological corridor running between the Rimutaka and Tararua ranges by linking the Pakuratahi and Hutt catchments. A variety of native birds, lizards and freshwater fauna are found in the park, including koura (freshwater crayfish), tui, bellbird, fantails and tomtits. Weta, weevils and stick insects are also plentiful in the forests.

Threats to the area's biodiversity values include plant and animal pests, fragmentation of areas, natural hazards and the effects of human activities. Management actions, park developments, inappropriate activities or overuse can pose a threat to ecosystems, by disturbing habitat or species, reducing soil or water quality, or fragmenting habitats.

Areas of high ecological value will be managed primarily to protect and enhance these values, sustain their life-supporting capacity and contribute to the region's indigenous biodiversity. Through this plan we aim to protect existing areas of indigenous vegetation through managing and controlling pests and activities undertaken in the park. Other activities such as the restoration of bush remnants and re-vegetation of riparian areas are also carried out.

Te Marua Bush is an important fragment of matai-totara bush, an ecotype that was once widespread in the region. The Wellington Botanical Society has a very important role in protecting this fragment and has prepared a species list for its restoration.

Kaitoke Regional Park contains a mix of environments that contribute to its character and diversity, ranging from open pasture areas and rivers to mature indigenous forest. These diverse environments need to be managed in different ways. Nevertheless, management of the park's land should contribute to the region's goal of sustainability.

### Objectives

**The indigenous forests and other areas of significant regenerating indigenous vegetation are actively protected and appropriately managed.**

**Modified ecosystems are healthy, their life supporting capacity is sustained, and they contribute to good water, air, soil and catchment values.**

## Policies

### Ecosystem protection and enhancement

- 2.1 To protect, enhance, and where appropriate restore, indigenous ecosystems within Kaitoke Regional Park.
- 2.2 To protect, enhance or restore indigenous ecosystems within the park that:
- are currently or are likely to be under a high degree of threat.
  - are representative of the region's indigenous biodiversity.
  - are regionally or nationally rare or vulnerable.
  - have special features such as regionally or nationally rare, vulnerable or unique species, populations of species known or likely to be valuable as a genetic resource, an unusually high diversity of indigenous species, unique or unusual geological features, or special cultural or spiritual values.
  - are, or have the potential to be, significant areas of indigenous vegetation or significant habitats of indigenous fauna.
- 2.3 The high priority indigenous areas in the park are listed in Table 1: Significant environmental areas and features.
- 2.4 To base the nature and level of protection or enhancement upon the values of the ecosystem and its ability to restore itself, and the other key values of the area (such as recreational values).
- 2.5 To allow for natural regeneration of modified or degraded native ecosystems where they are likely to regenerate without active intervention, e.g. where there is a local seed source and the ecosystem has the capacity to restore itself.
- 2.6 When restoring areas, to use plants sourced from the Tararua ecological district, wherever possible. Restoration of the Te Marua bush will be in accordance with the species list provided by the Wellington Botanical Society.
- 2.7 When assessing and implementing enhancement and restoration projects, to also consider:
- opportunities for planting species that may be used for social and cultural purposes such as for medicinal uses and weaving, and plants of significance to Tangata Whenua.
  - the contribution the area could make to ecological corridors within the region.
  - the level of public support and involvement.
- 2.8 To maintain the native ecosystems of waterways and to minimise threats to the water quality and quantity in streams in Kaitoke Regional Park and related catchments, as far as practicable.
- 2.9 To prevent the isolation and fragmentation of ecosystems in and adjacent to the park by promoting linking corridors and buffer zones in and through the park.

Table 1: Significant environmental areas and features.

General area	Site/description	Reasons for significance
Te Marua Bush	Small remnant found below Stuart Macaskill lakes	Matai-totara bush that was once widespread in the area and is now one of the few examples in the region of this ecotype. A native flowering mistletoe is also found here.
Hutt River	Generally  Downstream of the Kaitoke Weir  Te Marua, including lower terraces	Good diversity of indigenous fish species relatively unaffected by development.  Recognised as having important trout habitat in the Regional Freshwater Plan.  Identified as part of the Upper Hutt groundwater zone in the Regional Freshwater Plan.
Pakuratahi River	Generally  South eastern area of park	Good diversity of indigenous fish species relatively unaffected by development, endemic dwarf galaxiids.  Identified as part of the Pakuratahi groundwater zone in the Regional Freshwater Plan.
Southern Ridge	Ridge track: Native flowering mistletoe ( <i>Peraxilla tetrapetala</i> )	Threatened plant species: chronically threatened – gradual decline.
Park Interior	Lowland/flatland black beech forests  Steep land rimu- rata/ hinau/ kamahi forests  Hard beech forest; red beech-rimu/ kamahi forest; black beech.  Also rewarewa, Halls totara, miro, maire, kahikitea, pukatea , northern rata associations.	Large variety of plant species and community types, identified in New Zealand Forest Service Surveys and the Biological Resources of the Wellington Region as significant. Also identified in several 'Key Native Ecosystem' surveys in the 1990s and Department of Conservation in 2004.  Easily accessible examples of forest successional processes, including regeneration as well as altitudinal sequences  Threatened plant species: Umbrella fern ( <i>Sticherus cunninghamii</i> - regionally rare), strap fern ( <i>Grammitis pseudociliata</i> - regionally data deficient), gully tree fern ( <i>Cyathea cunninghamii</i> – regionally sparse. <i>Thelymitra</i> aff. <i>ixioides</i> (regionally critical)  Threatened bird species: NZ falcon (nationally vulnerable) and kereru (gradual decline)
Pakuratahi Forks	Umbrella fern ( <i>Gleichenia microphylla</i> )	Regionally rare species



## Pest plants and pest animals

- 2.10 To actively control pest plants and pest animals to allow for the recovery of indigenous ecosystems and sustain their life-supporting capacity.
- 2.11 To base pest plant and pest animal control on the:
- vulnerability and ecological value of the ecosystem under threat.
  - nature and extent of the threat posed.
  - distribution and size of the pest population.
  - requirements of the Regional Pest Management Strategy.
- 2.12 To take all practicable steps to prevent new pest plant and pest animal infestations and to survey regularly for new infestations.
- 2.13 To control pest plants and pest animals using the most efficient and effective techniques available. Assessments of effectiveness will take into account the adverse effects on non-target species, the environment and human health.
- 2.14 To monitor the:
- locations, nature and extent of pest plant and pest animal infestations in the park.
  - results of pest plant and pest animal control operations in terms of the distribution and size of the pest population.
  - ecological outcomes of pest plant and animal control.
- 2.15 To ensure that the management of pest plants takes into account the need for a restoration plan for the area, to prevent re-infestation of weed species.

## Introduced plants

- 2.16 To plant introduced plants only where:
- they have a specific purpose or amenity value in accordance with the management objectives of the area; and
  - the area has low indigenous ecological values; and
  - they pose a low threat to indigenous ecosystems.
- 2.17 To enable existing introduced plants to be removed for ecological purposes, except where they:
- are of historical or cultural significance; or
  - are acting as a “nurse crop” for native species; or
  - have a high amenity value; or
  - are necessary for farming or forestry activities; or
  - provide another important facility such as erosion control or protection of heritage features.

**The Park’s biodiversity and environmental values are integral to the park’s character and are accorded a high value by the regional community. The objectives and policies in this section provide Greater Wellington with a clear direction in managing these values as well as guidelines for pest management and introduced species. The park’s biodiversity values will be protected for future generations and the regional community will continue to value the park’s environmental values. In addition, the regional community’s quality of life, health and wellbeing and distinctive sense of place will also be protected.**

## Landscape and geological values

The landscape is essentially a combination of landform, land cover and land use. Landform is the soil and rocks shaped by geological and natural processes over time. It is the shape of the land, and includes rivers, lakes and wetlands. Land cover could include pasture or regenerating indigenous forest. Human activities may leave a mark on the land – from the small and temporary to the large and long lasting. Landscape has both intrinsic and amenity values.

Kaitoke Regional Park is a valued part of the region's natural landscape setting and provides a range of landscape experiences from grassy river terraces and narrow river gorges to forested hill country and montane areas. A prominent landscape feature is the Wellington faultline, which runs along the southern ridge and terraces. Many of the landscape values are the result of geological processes, reflecting the area's fluvial, glacial and tectonic past. Human landscape features are also present in the old logging tramways and the Stuart Macaskill lakes at Te Marua.

People value landscapes for a variety of reasons and there may be conflicts between the level of land use change that is acceptable to land users and the regional community's desire for the protection of landscape values. This management plan aims to protect those values in a way that is sympathetic to the park's character.

Kaitoke Regional Park also contains significant geological features such as pleistocene gravel exposures, as well as old river terraces and examples of the area's active tectonic past in near vertical rock strata visible along the Hutt River. These are important for scientific and landscape purposes and are prominent and easily accessible to the public. They also contribute to the area's landscape quality.

Regional parks are places where sustainable activities are encouraged. Some of these activities may have effects on the landscape, which need to be balanced against their other benefits, for example, the State Highway 2 realignment at Te Marua.

Changes in use and development of landscapes can potentially affect their intrinsic and amenity values. Adverse effects on landscape values can occur as a result of cumulative as well as individual effects. The plan does not prevent the use of landscapes and geological features but protects them from inappropriate development and use. In determining the appropriateness of any land use, considerations will include the values that make those features important.



Rimutaka Road. November 27th, 1868.  
Barraud, Charles Decimus 1822-1897:  
Alexander Turnbull Library A-027-064.

## Objectives

Kaitoke Regional Park will contribute to the diverse range of landscapes within the region.

The park's landscape values, including the Hutt River gorge, the steep forested hill backdrop to the park and the Wellington fault are protected from inappropriate use and development.

Geological features such as river terraces and gravel alluvial deposits are protected from inappropriate use and development.

## Policies

- 2.18 To recognise and take account of the landscape values of Kaitoke Regional Park in its management, use and development.
- 2.19 To manage the use, development and protection of landscapes significant to Tangata Whenua.
- 2.20 To protect the park's key landscape features and values from inappropriate use and development. Key landscape features include:
- Hutt River Gorge
  - Kaitoke Hill
  - Southern Ridge and Wellington faultline
  - River Terraces
  - Putaputa catchment
- 2.21 To protect significant modified landscape features such as the old logging tramways from inappropriate use or development.
- 2.22 To promote the maintenance and enhancement of the amenity and intrinsic values of the landscape and landforms of the park.
- 2.23 To advocate for the protection of the park's key geological features and values from inappropriate use and development. Key geological features include:
- Pleistocene gravel exposures to the south of Te Marua
  - Pakuratahi bluff and loess deposits
  - Fault preservation site behind the Te Marua Plant (an example of an offset Ohakea terrace and riser)
  - Vertical strata visible from the Kaitoke weir
- 2.24 To apply policies for 'assessing activities and uses' to address effects on landscape and geological values and to ensure any adverse effects from developments or activities on those values, or cultural values, are avoided, remedied or mitigated.

**Assessing activities and future development against these objectives and policies is the principal way that landscape values will be managed in the park. The expected result is that the essential character of landscape values, and geological features of the park will be retained. The lands will continue to provide an environment that contributes to the regional identity and distinctive sense of place. People will continue to enjoy the landscape values and natural heritage when using these areas for recreation, which in turn contributes to the health and well being of the regional community.**



## Protecting cultural heritage

Cultural heritage is the living historical record that includes landscapes, important moments in communities', peoples', tribes' or the nation's development, as well as people's stories and connections with 'place'. Cultural heritage conservation is more than just protecting historic places, building or structures. It is a dynamic process keeping alive peoples' association with place, as well as protecting specific sites and structures.

Heritage is diverse and may have tangible and/or intangible aspects. Tangible heritage includes land, landforms, buildings, structures and archaeological sites. Natural features such as springs, swamps and streams may also be associated with traditional activities or have particular historical or cultural significance. Intangible heritage includes stories, sites of significance and associations with place.

Archaeological sites are places associated with human activity before 1900, where there may be evidence relating to New Zealand history. Sites can include pa sites, middens, trading, or logging sites. In many instances physical evidence may not be obvious. Architectural or built heritage includes buildings, bridges and dams. Any heritage type may be considered to be wahi tapu (sacred places) or wahi taonga (treasures) for Iwi, Hapu or Whanau based on their tikanga.

Archaeological and architectural heritage is protected by the Historic Places Act 1993. The Act requires local authorities to have particular regard to heritage values when developing policies and making decisions about resources. It is an offence to remove or damage sites protected under this Act, including wahi tapu.

One of the key challenges in protecting cultural heritage values is identifying the values that still exist. Heritage values must first be assessed and recorded and then protected from physical damage, for instance, vandalism, animal browsing or land disturbance. Where features can't be maintained, for example through erosion, information can still be collected.



Photo: Jessica Dewsnap

The Kaitoke area has a rich history for both Maori and other New Zealanders. The forests were an important resource to early European settler communities providing timber, farm supplies, water and transport routes. Small communities and homesteads were present and evidence of the Benge homestead can still be seen. Tramways, which were used for logging, can be found in the park along with abandoned machinery.

The framework for a heritage building's conservation is the ICOMOS New Zealand Charter for the conservation of places of cultural heritage value. Greater Wellington's policies and practices are based on this Charter. Greater Wellington will work with Tangata Whenua to ensure that areas and values of significance to Tangata Whenua are appropriately protected. Greater Wellington will also continue to work with the Historic Places Trust when managing heritage sites.

## Objective

**Significant heritage values and features are protected from inappropriate use or development.**

## Policies

### Identification and information gathering

- 2.25 To identify, protect and preserve information and knowledge related to significant heritage sites and values of the park:
- According to national standards and Tangata Whenua tikanga.
  - Having appropriate regard to relevant privacy issues and cultural requirements.

### Management and protection

- 2.26 To manage historic and cultural heritage features based on their significance and the level and urgency of threat to them.
- 2.27 To ensure assessments of the "significance" of features take into account:
- Age, rarity and representativeness.
  - The nature and level of information available about the features.
  - The historical, social, architectural, archaeological, cultural, educational and scientific value of the features.
  - Whether the features are collective, i.e. part of a wider historical and cultural complex and/or encompassing a number of heritage features.
- 2.28 The key sites of cultural heritage significance within the park include:
- Benge Homestead site
  - Logging tramways
  - Original travel routes leading to the Tararua Ranges
- 2.29 To develop conservation plans for significant heritage features as appropriate.
- 2.30 To restore or enhance degraded heritage areas or features where possible and appropriate.

- 2.31 To adhere to nationally established procedures where historic and cultural heritage features or artifacts are unearthed (established by the Historic Places and Antiquities Acts).
- 2.32 No removal or damage of cultural heritage sites and areas is permitted.

### **Interpretation**

- 2.33 To actively inform the public about the heritage values of the park through interpretation, information and events.
- 2.34 To present and interpret significant heritage values to the community, except where they may be:
  - At risk from damage or vandalism through increased knowledge or access.
  - Particularly sensitive areas such as grave sites or wahi tapu, for which greater information and public access could degrade the areas physically or spiritually.
- 2.35 To work with Tangata Whenua in the management of historic and cultural heritage.
- 2.36 To manage sites of significance to Tangata Whenua in a manner determined through consultation, taking into account:
  - Nationally and locally established protocols relating to the management of cultural artefacts or human remains.
  - Tangata Whenua determination of the disclosure or non-disclosure of sites and information.
- 2.37 To repatriate artefacts to Tangata Whenua in accordance with the Antiquities Act 1975.

### **Involving the community**

- 2.38 To work with relevant community groups and historical societies to identify, assess and interpret historical and heritage sites.
- 2.39 To encourage a greater awareness of the range and significance of the cultural heritage values and features of the park within the community.

**The region's cultural heritage is a vital component of regional identity and central to many people's sense of place. Preserving knowledge and physical artefacts, as well as sharing this through interpretation panels on site and brochures are the main methods used to achieve this in the park. Although difficult to measure, increasing people's knowledge and appreciation of cultural heritage values are the most important outcome sought from this section's objectives and policies.**



## Hutt River Gorge

Did you know that the Hutt River gorge between Pakuratahi Forks and Te Marua is used by keen whitewater enthusiasts?

The combination of pristine indigenous forest, large boulders, a gorge cut through sheer bedrock, exceptional water quality and the undisturbed nature of area means that it is a popular destination for whitewater sports enthusiasts. It is also easy to get to, taking about an hour from most major cities in the region.

The trip goes through areas covered in native bush and the steep sides of the gorge are dramatic. At moderate flows you will encounter grade 3+ rapids so experience is necessary. The trip takes 2 to 6 hours depending on your craft and the water flow, so an early start is needed.

The gorge is not a place for inexperienced river runners as it is difficult to climb out of the gorge if trouble occurs. However, for people with the necessary skills, the gorge offers a wonderful whitewater experience with plenty of small drops and play waves all surrounded by moss-covered walls and overhanging bush.

Greater Wellington advises visitors to take extreme care as the gorge can be dangerous. Join a club and go with an experienced team to enjoy this special environment. Make sure you check every rapid for logs before you enter. Remember to take food, water, first aid and survival kit, and always wear a wetsuit, lifejacket and helmet. Please also make sure that you let someone responsible know where you are and when you will be back.

Water levels rise very quickly in the narrow gorge. Do not enter the gorge in flood or when the river level is rising unless you are an expert river runner, and do not go alone.

### Like to know more about whitewater?

The New Zealand Recreational Canoeing Association and the Hutt Valley Canoe Club will be able to provide you with more information about the sport, and the Hutt River in particular. Try visiting these websites: [www.rivers.org.nz](http://www.rivers.org.nz) or [www.huttkayakers.org.nz](http://www.huttkayakers.org.nz).



## Sustaining opportunities and use

Kaitoke Regional Park provides a wide range of opportunities for the community. The most common uses are recreation, community events, environmental education, and commercial enterprises. Over recent years filming activity has increased in Kaitoke Regional Park. In turn, publicity means the park has become a tourist destination to see where films have been shot.

For many people, the park is synonymous with summer and the days that they've enjoyed camping, swimming and tramping in the area. There are also opportunities for dog walking, mountain biking and horse riding in some parts of the park. The park is also regionally important for the excellent areas of indigenous forest that are readily accessible to all ages and levels of fitness. The park has also become an important site for providing environmental education to schools. The local Plateau School has been active in planting riparian areas and was recognised at the Conservation Week 2004 awards.

Increasing urbanisation and development means open spaces and quiet places are becoming scarcer. The challenge is managing recreational, community and commercial uses in a sustainable way, while protecting environmental and cultural heritage values. Where environmental or heritage values are high, areas will be managed primarily to protect those values, and social and economic activities will be more constrained. Where environmental and heritage values are lower, areas will be sustainably managed and social and economic activities may be less constrained.

Responsibility for Rural Fire Authorities lies with Territorial Authorities. Greater Wellington maintains a rural fire response force to deal with fire on its own land and assists Territorial Authorities. Greater Wellington publishes a Rural Fire Protection Plan each fire season that includes procedures for Kaitoke Regional Park.

Kaitoke Regional Park has, on average, over 140,000 visits each year and is popular for picnicking, walking, tramping, swimming and camping. Maps are provided in the last section of the plan showing the activities available at the park. This section should be read in the context of the plan's other objectives and policies and also identifies activities and uses that are allowed, managed, restricted or prohibited across the park.

### Objective

**Ensuring people use, pursue their chosen recreational activities, enjoy and learn from these lands in a sustainable way, compatible with the park's environmental and cultural heritage values by:**

- **Providing recreational opportunities consistent with the primary recreational uses of walking, tramping, swimming, dog walking, camping and picnicking. Secondary uses include horse riding and biking in designated areas only.**
- **Providing opportunities including environmental and outdoor education**
- **Ensuring any farming and forestry activities are consistent with the objectives of this plan and sustainable land management practices.**
- **Acknowledging the importance of existing network utilities to the region, and providing for their ongoing operation and maintenance.**
- **Promoting environmental best practice in all park uses and activities.**

## Policies

### Access

- 3.1 To allow free public access to the parks, subject to necessary restrictions relating to:
- Protection of environmental, heritage and Tangata Whenua values.
  - Maintenance of public health and safety.
  - Management purposes, including plantation forestry operations, pest control and water collection and distribution.
  - Approved special events, leases, licences and concessions.
- 3.2 To minimise the impact of any necessary restrictions on public access.

### Use and occupation

- 3.3 To grant exclusive use of park resources that is consistent with this plan's policies and objectives only to the extent necessary to enable an activity that could not otherwise proceed. The 'assessing activities and uses' provisions of this plan apply.
- 3.4 To provide for activities and uses that are appropriate to the park's character and management objectives, and subject to any conditions deemed appropriate.
- 3.5 Activities and uses that are allowed, managed, restricted or prohibited under this plan are contained in Table 2.

### Park facilities – use and development

- 3.6 To provide facilities and services necessary to enhance visitor experiences and that contribute to environmental protection, maintaining recreational opportunities, interpretation and information, managing conflicting demands, and public health and safety.
- 3.7 To locate facilities and structures at the key development nodes within the Pakuratahi and Te Marua management zones.
- 3.8 To require park visitors and concessionaires to remove any rubbish they bring to, or generate in the park (except at designated campgrounds, where limited rubbish facilities are provided).
- 3.9 When developing new tracks, to give priority to<sup>4</sup>:
- Developing links to other important recreational areas.
  - Developing circuits and loop tracks.
  - Protecting environmental and heritage features.
- 3.10 To provide opportunities for educational and recreational programmes within the park.
- 3.11 To allow special events that are consistent with this plan's objectives at the discretion of the Manager, Parks and Forests.

<sup>4</sup>Please refer to Section 4 'The Way Forward' for park maps and potential tracks that may be developed in the future

Table 2: Kaitoke Regional Park activities and uses by zone.

Category	Description	Zone 1 Te Marua	Zone 2 Pakuratahi	Zone 3 Southern Ridge	Zone 4 Park Interior	Zone 5 Kaitoke Hill
Allowed	These activities do not require the use of services or facilities other than those provided to all casual Park users and are not undertaken for financial gain.  Designated areas only	Dog walking <sup>5</sup> , fishing, walking, tramping, picnics, horse riding, swimming, mountain-biking (road access only and thoroughfare to Kaitoke Hill)	Walking, tramping, running, picnics, camping, including campervans, swimming,	Tramping	Tramping, camping, whitewater recreation	Dog walking <sup>5</sup> , walking, mountain biking
Managed	These activities generally require a specific location, which may involve the exclusive use or occupation of an area or resource, and/or could adversely affect natural and cultural values or safety. An permit may be required, please refer to the Ranger	Collection of natural materials	Collection of natural materials	Collection of natural materials,  Hunting – by permit only on the true right of the Hutt river	Collection of natural materials  Hunting – by permit only	Collection of natural materials, horse riding
Restricted	Applications need to be made to Greater Wellington, and will be considered on a case by case basis in accordance with the new network utility development factors outlined under the network plan policy for “Assessing Effects of Activities and Uses”.	Any activity that is not ‘allowed’, ‘managed’ or ‘prohibited’ – including concessions (events, filming, tourism operations)  (Please refer to the Regional Parks Network Plan, Part B – Sustaining community and recreational opportunities and use for further information)				
Prohibited	Activities that have long-term adverse effects on the environment, or would detract from the enjoyment of other Park users.	Hunting, camping, Motorised recreation	Hunting, Motorised recreation	Hunting, motorised recreation	Motorised recreation	Hunting, camping, motorised recreation

<sup>5</sup>Dog walkers, please note that your dog must be under control at all times and any droppings must be removed.



### General recreation policies

- 3.12 To permit public access on foot to all parts of the park except the Kaitoke Weir and Pump house, the Stuart Macaskill Lakes and the Te Marua Treatment Station. Access may also be subject to temporary or localised restrictions when plantation forestry operations are taking place or for other management purposes.
- 3.13 To permit camping and overnight stays, including campervans, at designated sites only. These sites will be indicated at entrance areas and in brochures. Stays are for a maximum of one week. Campervan dumpsites are not provided.
- 3.14 To offer varied opportunities for park users by providing multiple use tracks and facilities where possible, appropriate and compatible with the area's management.
- 3.15 To make linkages and connections with other open space recreational opportunities, such as walkways managed by Territorial Authorities, the Rimutaka Rail Trail and the Hutt River Trail.
- 3.16 To maintain recreational structures, facilities and tracks to standards specified in the asset management plan<sup>6</sup>.

### Recreational hunting

- 3.17 To provide for recreational hunting in the park's interior zone, subject to the management of ecological values and provided it does not take priority over other pest animal management techniques.
- 3.18 To control recreational hunting through a permit system to ensure the safety of hunters and members of the public. The New Zealand Arms Code should be followed at all times.
- 3.19 To ensure the safety of all park users by only allowing recreational hunting in designated areas.

### Off-road motorised vehicles

- 3.20 The recreational use of off-road motorised vehicles (including trail bikes) is not permitted.



Photo: Jessica Dewsnap

<sup>6</sup>Greater Wellington meets the NZ Building requirements for structures and in addition, for tracks, bridges, and board walks Greater Wellington uses the New Zealand Standard SNZ HB 8630 :2004 'NZ Handbook - Tracks and Outdoor Visitors Structures'

### **Farming/ grazing**

- 3.21 To allow pastoral farming where it:
- Contributes to the public use, enjoyment and educational potential of the park.
  - Is consistent with the objectives for the protection and management of the natural and cultural resources of the park.
  - Does not adversely affect significant natural or cultural values.
  - Is in accordance with, and models, good land management practices and animal husbandry.
  - Complies with all relevant statutory requirements.

### **Forestry<sup>7</sup>**

- 3.22 To maintain, and enhance where possible, existing access arrangements through plantation forestry areas subject to plantation forestry management requirements.

### **Aircraft**

- 3.23 To permit the use of aircraft for management purposes or emergency purposes within the park.

### **Fires**

- 3.24 To allow fires for cooking with the Ranger's permission in designated areas only. Fire bans may apply.
- 3.25 To allow the use of portable gas barbecues and camping stoves in the park with appropriate controls.
- 3.26 To use open fires only for operational purposes where the necessary fire permits have been obtained from the relevant authority.

### **Mineral exploration, prospecting and mining**

- 3.27 Mineral exploration, prospecting and mining are not considered appropriate activities in the park.

<sup>7</sup>Plantation Forestry within the Kaitoke Hill area is subject to the Greater Wellington Plantation Forest Working Plan 2000-2010. Further information can be found within the Forest Lands Plan: Future Water Collection Areas.

### Removal of natural materials

- 3.28 To provide for the use and removal of natural materials (plants, animals, soil, rocks etc.) from the park for management purposes subject to the policies in this section.
- 3.29 To provide for the removal or trimming of vegetation by network utilities companies to ensure safe operation of network utilities, subject to conditions and in consultation with Greater Wellington (except in emergencies).
- 3.30 The use and removal of natural materials by the public will be managed by a permit system. Applications may be approved in full or with conditions, or declined. Network utility operators are excluded from this policy but may be subject to conditions.
- 3.31 The taking of natural materials may be allowed by the public, with Greater Wellington's agreement subject to any conditions imposed, under the following circumstances:
- By Tangata Whenua for customary purposes.
  - By members of the community for:
    - scientific or research purposes.
    - cultural or social purposes.
    - conservation and ecological restoration projects.
- 3.32 To consider applications for the use or removal of natural materials for commercial purposes where a public good benefit can be demonstrated and subject to this section's policies.
- 3.33 To consider, when assessing applications to remove materials from the park:
- The legal status of the land and species concerned.
  - The ecological effects of the activity including effects on populations, habitats and functioning of the ecosystem over time.
  - The availability of alternative opportunities.
  - Any other potential effects of the activity on park values and the factors outlined in Table 3 of the Regional Parks Network Management Plan.

### Assessing effects of activities and uses

- 3.34 To assess applications according to the policies set out in the Regional Parks Network Plan and the Policy for Recreation and Tourism in Wellington Regional Council's Parks and Forests. Applications may be approved in full, with conditions, or declined.
- 3.35 When approving restricted activities, Greater Wellington may charge a fee or require a bond to be posted and require mitigation or compensation.

### Network utilities<sup>8</sup>

Network utilities and public works such as water, roads, gas, electricity supply, and telecommunications have an important role in contributing to the health, safety and wellbeing of the region. This role is recognised through various laws establishing the utility operators' rights and responsibilities. For health and safety reasons, there are also national standards regulating safe distances from network utilities for activities and developments.

While some utilities, such as those located underground may have little long-term environmental impact, some utilities structures may have significant effects. Policies within this plan aim to maintain the park's essential values, while avoiding, remedying or mitigating any adverse effects from this type of development.

The operation and maintenance of existing network utilities are 'allowed'. As the parks are places of public recreation, it is important that Greater Wellington is informed about planned works so that public health and safety issues can be managed. The safe operation of network utilities may also require the trimming or removal of vegetation in some circumstances. Operators may trim or remove vegetation to allow for safe operation of utilities, but must inform and consult with Greater Wellington to ensure effects are minimised, except in emergencies. State Highway 2 is also an important network utility with the potential to affect park management.

New network utilities structures will be considered as "restricted" activities. As the regional parks have high natural and cultural values, our preference is that structures are located outside the regional parks, where possible. If it is necessary to locate network utilities within the park, then an assessment of effects will be required as well as measures to avoid, remedy or mitigate adverse effects. Although this plan provides for public works and network utilities, other legislative frameworks must also be satisfied, prior to construction.

The Resource Management Act 1991 also governs the siting and construction of network utilities. A requiring authority may use a 'designation' to enable network utilities to be constructed. The designation will then form part of the district plan. Sections 166-186 of the RMA control the designation process, including public notification, consideration of alternative sites, assessment of effects and measures to mitigate adverse impacts. Network utilities include:

- β Pipelines for gas, oil or geothermal energy.
- β Telecommunications or radio communications facilities
- β Electricity transmission lines or associated electricity generation facilities
- β Water distribution systems for water supply or irrigation
- β Drainage or sewerage infrastructure
- β Roads or railways

Within the Kaitoke Regional Park is the region's largest water treatment plant, which treats water from the Hutt catchment area for distribution to the Hutt, Wellington and Porirua communities. Land within the park is held for water supply purposes, as well as recreation. In addition, Greater Wellington has a designation within the Upper Hutt City Council plan that allows activities connected with water supply, subject to that plan's provisions.

<sup>8</sup>The meaning of "Network Utility Operator" in this plan is the same as that defined in the Regional Policy Statement for the Wellington Region (1995), Wellington Regional Council.



### Existing network utilities

Existing network utilities will be provided for subject to the policies below:

- 3.36 To comply with relevant legislation relating to the operation and maintenance of network utilities.
- 3.37 To recognise and provide for the operation and maintenance of existing network utilities within the park as allowed activities.
- 3.38 To provide for network utility operators to remove or trim vegetation, subject to conditions and in consultation with Greater Wellington (except in cases of emergency).
- 3.39 To ensure that national standards regulating safe distances from network utilities for activities and developments are complied with in the park.
- 3.40 To recognise existing legal easements for utilities and give appropriate prior notice for work permits as required.

### Network utility development

- 3.41 To comply with relevant legislation relating to the construction, development, operation and maintenance of network utilities.
- 3.42 To consider new network utilities as restricted activities and according to this plan's objectives and policies and those policies in the Regional Parks Network Plan for assessing activities.
- 3.43 Easement options for network utilities will be negotiated on a case-by-case basis.
- 3.44 Applications for the construction of public works and utilities in the park may be approved provided:
  - The proposed development offers benefits to the region that outweigh any possible adverse effects on the park; or
  - There is no reasonable alternative site, route or method; and
  - The application is consistent with the Regional Parks Network Plan. Applications for the construction of new network utilities will also be assessed in accordance with Policies 75-84 'assessing effects of activities and use' of the Regional Parks Network Plan; and
  - Any approval for a public utility in the park shall be conditional upon Greater Wellington staff being empowered to: enter; inspect; require maintenance or upgrading; approve design and colour scheme of all structures; require the restoration and maintenance of sites after the completion of work; require power cables and telephone lines to be placed underground; and any other reasonable conditions.
- 3.45 A fee may be charged or a bond may be required for the construction of utility works. Mitigation or compensation may also be required for public network utilities within, occupying, or crossing the park.
- 3.46 Where appropriate, network utilities should be sited underground.

Many people enjoy recreation in Kaitoke Regional Park, including walking, mountain biking, hunting (by permit only) and swimming. This plan seeks to manage these activities in a sustainable way that recognises the area's heritage and environmental values, as well as its importance for the region's water supply. Some restrictions are also necessary for health and safety during plantation forestry operations. Recreation, is managed by designating track use to reflect the range of uses and experiences people would like. This is supported by brochures and signage. Infrastructure and maintenance service levels are set and maintained by a comprehensive asset management system.

Recreation does not preclude the use of the park for other activities and currently the recreational and environmental values coexist with Greater Wellington's water supply functions. The supply and distribution of drinking water is a regionally significant activity that adds to many people's quality of life in the region and must not be compromised. This section's objectives and policies contribute to the following quality of life outcomes; culture, meeting needs locally, leisure, safety, distinctive sense of place, and health.



Photo: Jessica Dewsnap

## Partnerships in the park

### Involving community partners

Involving communities and co-operating with neighbours is important to the successful management of Kaitoke Regional Park. This requires giving people opportunities to enjoy, visit, learn about, participate in and protect Kaitoke Regional Park.

Many individuals, groups, communities and agencies have involvement with the park and relationships with Greater Wellington. Key relationships include:

- β Upper Hutt City Council
- β Department of Conservation
- β Iwi
- β Neighbours
- β Lessees and Concessionaires
- β Network utility network operators
- β Community groups, volunteers, and environmental groups, including Forest and Bird and Botanical Societies
- β Other parts of Council, including the Environment Division (environmental education, consents management), Biosecurity, Transport and Utilities
- β Historic Places Trust
- β Fish and Game

The park is close to urban, rural and lifestyle areas with a flow of social, economic and ecological effects between the park and the surrounding lands and communities. The community is active and involved in the Kaitoke Regional Park in a number of ways, including environmental education programmes for school children, volunteering and a wide range of recreational uses. Volunteers from the Wellington Botanical Society also undertake a number of ecological restoration projects in the park, including the Te Marua Bush.

Agencies, such as the Department of Conservation and Territorial Authorities, manage and control land for conservation and sustainable management purposes. Healthy relationships with these agencies and communities are key to realising the plan's aims and aspirations. We will build and maintain relationships with the community based on good faith, co-operation and understanding by:

- β sharing information and knowledge
- β consulting where appropriate
- β supporting the community's informed contribution in the decision-making process
- β encouraging community participation and working with community partners
- β liaising with landowners, neighbours, local communities and other statutory agencies.

This section sets out the principal means and underlying rationale for working with those people that are interested and or affected by the management of the park.

## Objectives

Relationships are maintained and enhanced based on good faith, co-operation and understanding to achieve the objectives of this plan and contribute to a sustainable region.

Greater Wellington will work with neighbours, local and central government, agencies and the community to ensure their needs are met and reflected in park management.

## Policies

- 4.1 To promote the park and provide accessible, relevant information to the community about park management and values.
- 4.2 To share information with the community to enhance park management.
- 4.3 To build and maintain relationships and consult with the community in accordance with the provisions of the Local Government Act 2002.
- 4.4 To encourage and support community, including environmental and recreational groups' involvement in the park using mechanisms appropriate to each circumstance while recognising that policy decisions remain with Greater Wellington.
- 4.5 To provide an effective volunteer programme which fulfils the needs of both the park and the volunteers.
- 4.6 To be a good neighbour and work with neighbours to ensure that issues of interest and concern are addressed in park management.
- 4.7 To co-operate with local and central government, other agencies and the community to protect the values of the park and maximise the benefits from them.
- 4.8 Significant new works in the park proposed by the Regional Council or other agencies or organisations will be subject to meeting this plan's objectives and policies. Funding decisions are subject to annual planning and long-term community consultation planning processes.

**The policies and objectives in this section recognise the importance of maintaining good relationships in managing the park. Greater Wellington will continue to liaise with local and central Government to ensure our statutory obligations are met. Without the support of the community, the aspirations of this plan will not be realised to the fullest extent possible. Greater Wellington will continue to listen, inform and consult with the community over issues affecting the park.**



## Working together with Tangata Whenua

Tangata Whenua have ongoing relationships with and interests in the Kaitoke area and seek to continue traditional practices for protecting natural and cultural heritage resources. Greater Wellington will work with Tangata Whenua to recognise and, where appropriate, provide for these in park management. Tangata Whenua cultural heritage is also protected as a “matter of national importance” under section 6(e) of the Resource Management Act 1991.

The Charter of Understanding establishes the relationships between Tangata Whenua and Greater Wellington within the context of the Treaty of Waitangi and guides those relationships. The Charter recognises the right of Greater Wellington to govern and carry out its statutory functions and the rangatiratanga of Tangata Whenua. The relationship is intended to be mutually beneficial and based on good faith, co-operation and understanding.

Tangata Whenua want to be involved in the regional park network through:

- The expression of kaitiakitanga in the park;
- Customary care and use of natural resources or plants for weaving or medicinal purposes;
- Participation in the management of their cultural heritage and wahi tapu;
- Informing and educating the public about their history, tikanga and interests in the park;
- Reflecting the status of Tangata Whenua throughout the park, for instance, signage and interpretation;
- Employment opportunities for Iwi members;
- Providing opportunities and activities of interest and relevance to Maori.

Greater Wellington and Tangata Whenua need to work together to address Greater Wellington’s wider public interest responsibilities alongside those of Tangata Whenua. The specific mechanisms for this will vary depending on the nature of each party’s interests and the circumstances of the case. The management objectives and policies outlined below provide a starting point. Greater Wellington will work towards further developing relationships, and appropriate arrangements, with Tangata Whenua at a range of levels that work for both parties and the park.

Tangata Whenua have also highlighted the importance of Treaty claims registered with the Waitangi Tribunal across the region. Although a report has been released on the Port Nicholson Block, many claims are potentially years away from a Tribunal hearing or resolution. When managing its lands, Greater Wellington needs to be aware of Treaty claims and settlements and ensure that the ability of the Crown and Tangata Whenua to settle grievances is not compromised. Only Crown land is available for settlement of Treaty claims<sup>9</sup>, although settlements may also include recognition of other values. Greater Wellington’s lands are considered private land and are not available for use in Treaty settlements.

The objectives and policies outlined in this section are relevant to, and should be read in conjunction with the remainder of the plan.

<sup>9</sup>The only exception to this are some lands formerly owned by State Owned Enterprises. In these cases, there is a memorial over the title specifying the encumbrance. Greater Wellington does not hold any lands within the Kaitoke Regional Park affected by this provision.

## Objectives

Tangata Whenua interests are respected by working together to:

- Recognise and provide for the traditional guardianship role of Tangata Whenua
- Actively protect Tangata Whenua interests in respect of their lands, forests, fisheries and other taonga.

## Policies

- 4.9 Consistent with Greater Wellington's management role and reasonable public use and enjoyment, to work with Tangata Whenua to:
- Develop and maintain relationships based on good faith, co-operation and understanding.
  - Consult with Tangata Whenua in accordance with the provisions of the Local Government Act 2002.
  - Determine opportunities for the practical expression of traditional guardianship roles of Tangata Whenua and the maintenance of mauri.
  - Recognise and provide for the customary use of natural resources by Tangata Whenua within the context of sustainable management and in accordance with relevant legislation.
  - Recognise Tangata Whenua knowledge in defining the cultural importance of areas, the information provided to the public, and the interpretation of Tangata Whenua histories.
  - Provide appropriate opportunities for Tangata Whenua participation in the management and protection of wahi tapu.
  - Promote awareness of, and respect for, Tangata Whenua culture, interests, heritage, language and place names within the parks.
- 4.10 Take account of relevant Treaty of Waitangi claims when developing policies and plans and making management decisions, and acquiring or disposing of lands.
- 4.11 Identify and, where appropriate, make provision for the specific recreational needs of Tangata Whenua.

**Greater Wellington will honour the obligations articulated in the policies and objectives above. In this way the values and needs of Tangata Whenua will be incorporated into the area's management in a culturally appropriate manner. Working together will help ensure that taonga and wahi tapu will be actively protected for future generations.**

## Research, monitoring and review

Good information is essential to understand and manage the many values that are important within the regional park. Conducting research, monitoring and reviewing activities and actions are the key methods for gathering information about the park. With information gathered by the Department of Conservation, other researchers, Tangata Whenua and the community, Greater Wellington is able to see how the environment is changing over time. In addition, understanding the impact of management decisions on the park allows Greater Wellington to assess its performance to see whether the desired results are achieved and whether techniques are effective and/or efficient.

Greater Wellington monitors indigenous ecosystems to assess the effects of management on overall ecosystem health. The two broad approaches are 'state of the environment' and 'outcome' (or results) monitoring. The first approach allows an assessment of the environment's health, whereas the second helps determine the success of management. Plots, surveys, and surveillance are common techniques currently used to assess ecosystem health. Threatened or pest species are monitored to assess their status and whether management techniques are successful.

To ensure that we meet the regional community's needs within the park, surveys are taken every two years. Feedback from visitor's comments and submissions are also important for Greater Wellington to understand the community's needs and requirements. Participation in the plan review allows everybody the opportunity to put their views forward and have them considered.

Greater Wellington also needs to provide good information about the park to allow people to learn about and increase their appreciation of them. This includes environmental and cultural heritage values, as well as the recreational opportunities available.

Results are reported through a variety of mechanisms including Greater Wellington's state of the environment report, completed every five years, annual monitoring report cards, internet and triple bottom line reporting. Asset management systems are audited and reported to Council every year to ensure that environmental health and recreation infrastructure meet the agreed service standards.

The Local Government Act 1974 requires that park management plans adapt to changing circumstances or increased knowledge (s619 Local Government Act). Importantly, this plan is reviewed every five years and information from the above sources is used to improve future management.

Greater Wellington will monitor the park environment and the effects of land use and development as necessary to assess the appropriateness and effectiveness of this plan. Monitoring programmes will be identified and implemented through Greater Wellington's annual operational planning processes. Monitoring techniques used may change over time in response to changing circumstances and developments in monitoring tools. Table 3 outlines some of the ways in which the park's values are monitored.

Table 3: Monitoring techniques.

What will be monitored	How (techniques used may change over time)
<p><b>Environmental values</b></p> <p>Health of ecosystems</p> <p>Viability of populations of threatened species</p> <p>Changes in plant pest, invasive plant and animal pest populations over time</p> <p>Environmental enhancement, Environmental Asset Management Program</p> <p>Environmental Management Strategy</p>	<p>Ecosystems, habitats, flora and fauna surveys</p> <p>Photographic monitoring</p> <p>Permanent forest plots, rare &amp; threatened plant monitoring, fruiting and flowering surveys</p> <p>Bird transects, Stream monitoring, Pest surveys, insect and pathogen surveys, browse plots</p>
<p><b>Landscape</b></p> <p>Changes in landscape quality over time</p> <p>Effects of park activities on geological features</p>	<p>Photographic surveys, photo point monitoring</p> <p>Visitor satisfaction surveys</p>
<p><b>Cultural heritage</b></p> <p>Condition of cultural heritage resources</p> <p>Threats to cultural heritage resources</p>	<p>Conservation Plans, condition monitoring, HPT permits, photographic surveys, photo point monitoring</p> <p>Visitor satisfaction surveys</p>
<p><b>Use</b></p> <p>Park user satisfaction</p> <p>Diversity of recreation opportunities</p> <p>Cumulative impact of development</p> <p>Popularity of recreational activities</p> <p>Asset management inspections of structures</p>	<p>Visitor satisfaction surveys (biennial), public surveys, focus groups, regional outdoors surveys</p> <p>Benchmarking exercises (against similar areas and settings)</p> <p>Reviewing site bookings and permit numbers for camping /hunting/ events/filming etc.</p> <p>Concession numbers and type.</p>
<p><b>Community values and partnerships</b></p> <p>People’s expectations and preferences of the forests’ uses and protection</p> <p>People’s awareness and involvement in understanding park resources and values</p> <p>Success of community partnerships</p>	<p>Surveys, as above, management plan reviews</p> <p>Education programmes – number of participants</p> <p>Number of volunteer groups and days</p> <p>Liaising with the Wellington Botanical Society in the management of Te Marua bush.</p>

### Objective

Management within the Kaitoke Regional Park is based on the best information available and is monitored to ensure management practices achieve the best possible result.



## Policies

- 5.1 To monitor the use and development of the Kaitoke Regional Park and the resulting effects.
- 5.2 To increase understanding of park values through information gathering in order to improve park management.
- 5.3 To increase the understanding of ecosystems of high ecological value within the park through research, monitoring and information gathering.
- 5.4 To encourage a greater awareness within the community of the range and significance of ecosystems in the park.
- 5.5 To acknowledge and incorporate Maori knowledge and values in the management of the park.
- 5.6 To encourage use of the park by educational institutions as a resource for outdoor and natural science education provided it is undertaken in a manner that is consistent with the objectives and policies of the management plan.
- 5.7 To require permission for research in Kaitoke Regional Park where it:
  - Requires information or access beyond that provided to the general public; and/or
  - Is intrusive or disturbs heritage features and would require Historic Places Trust consent.
  - May cause disturbance of, or require removal of, plants, animals or natural materials.
- 5.8 A copy of all research undertaken in Kaitoke Regional Park must be provided to Greater Wellington.
- 5.9 To review this management plan every five years. In the interim, Greater Wellington may determine to review part of, or the entire Plan, in response to:
  - Information from monitoring which indicates the need for a review or change.
  - The identification of new management issues, problem or activity that is not addressed in the plan but for which policy is required.
  - Changes in national policy including new or amended laws, regulations or other actions, which may render the plan inoperable or illegal.
  - Policy changes made by Greater Wellington.
  - New land purchased or placed under the control of Greater Wellington.

**Good management is reliant on good information, both about the land and its values, as well as the impact of management decisions. Greater Wellington will continue to learn about the areas it manages and review its management techniques in response. This may lead to changes in the methods Greater Wellington chooses to implement the plan or by reviewing the plan itself. Ultimately, regular monitoring and review processes will allow Greater Wellington to determine the success of this plan and its contribution to the region's 'Quality for Life' outcomes.**

# The way forward

This section sets out potential developments for Kaitoke Regional Park. The developments described below and shown in the accompanying maps outline how the aims and objectives of the plan could be implemented 'on the ground'. This section on potential developments should be read in conjunction with the plan's objectives and policies, as well as the following section on implementation, funding and methods. Funding for development within the park is subject to Greater Wellington's annual and long-term community consultation planning processes.

## **Kaitoke Regional Park: proposals for management and development**

This narrative accompanies the concept plans for the park and further describes the proposed developments. The potential developments are consistent with the plan's objectives and policies.

### **Habitat protection**

To protect unique biodiversity and habitat values, a species list has been provided by the Wellington Botanical Society for future plantings at Te Marua Bush. Where possible remaining unfenced habitat areas will be fenced and protected.

### **Park Interpretation**

To provide further interpretation of

- The park's flora and fauna.
- Bush remnants.
- Restoration and revegetation areas.
- History of land use in the park.

Park information boards are being developed in the Pakuratahi area and further interpretation will be developed in the future.

At Te Marua, a new park entrance and information area will be developed once the roadworks have been completed in this area.

### **New tracks**

A low-level track is proposed from the Pakuratahi Forks area linking to Te Marua. Two loop tracks are also proposed; one around the Farm Creek area and a loop track to the Ridge track from the Pakuratahi River Walk. There may also be the potential for using an old tram formation over the river as a track in the long-term.

### **Links**

Once the State Highway 2 realignment is finished an underpass will link the Kaitoke Regional Park with the Pakuratahi Forest, improving links between these two recreation areas and to the Rimutaka Rail Trail, as well as the Hutt River Trail.

### **Park Development Plans**

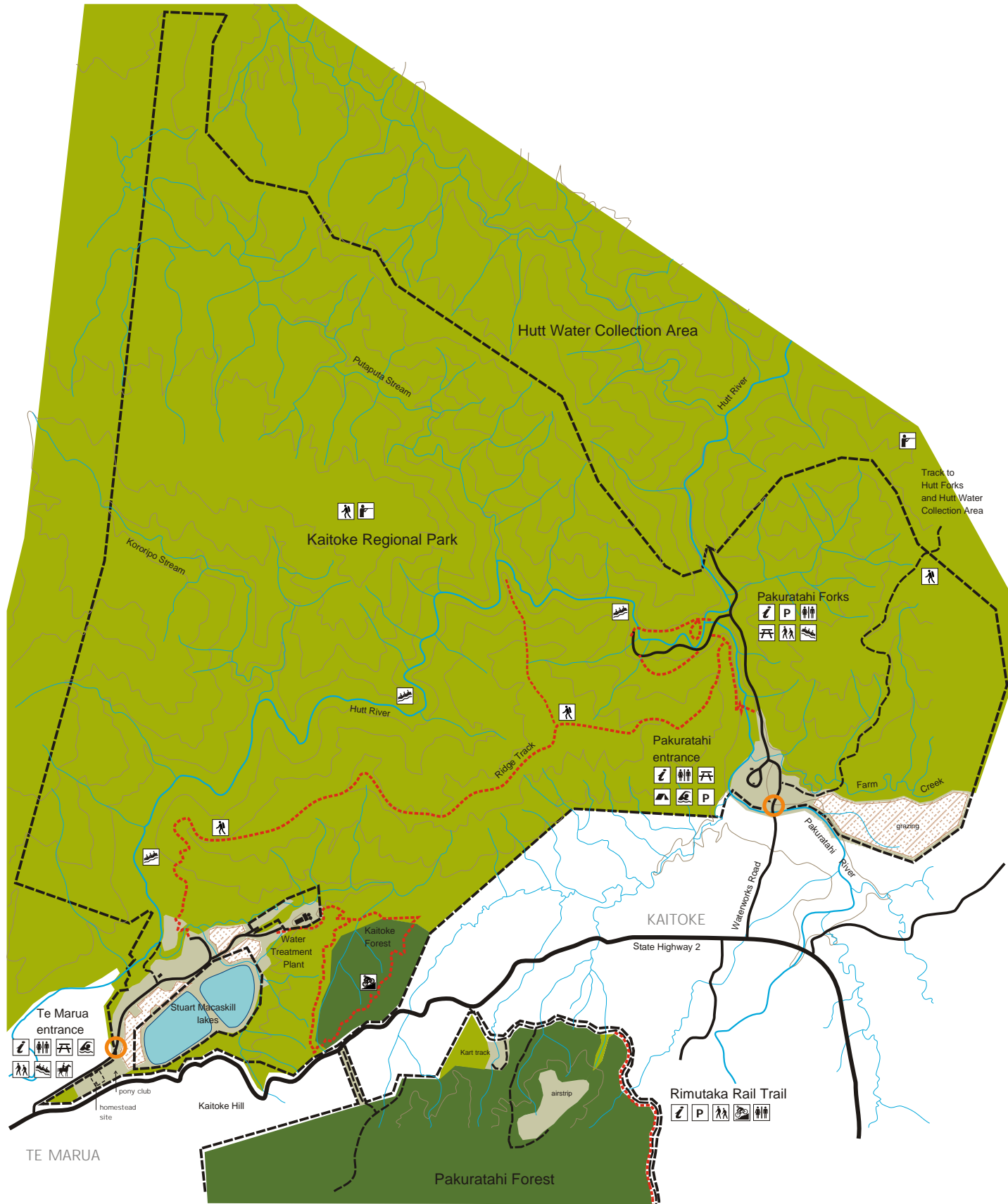
Additional park development plans or landscape plans will be prepared for other Park areas as the need arises and as resources permit. Areas that will be considered for more detailed development or landscape plans are at the Pakuratahi Forks area, and the Te Marua entrance area.

### **Heritage**

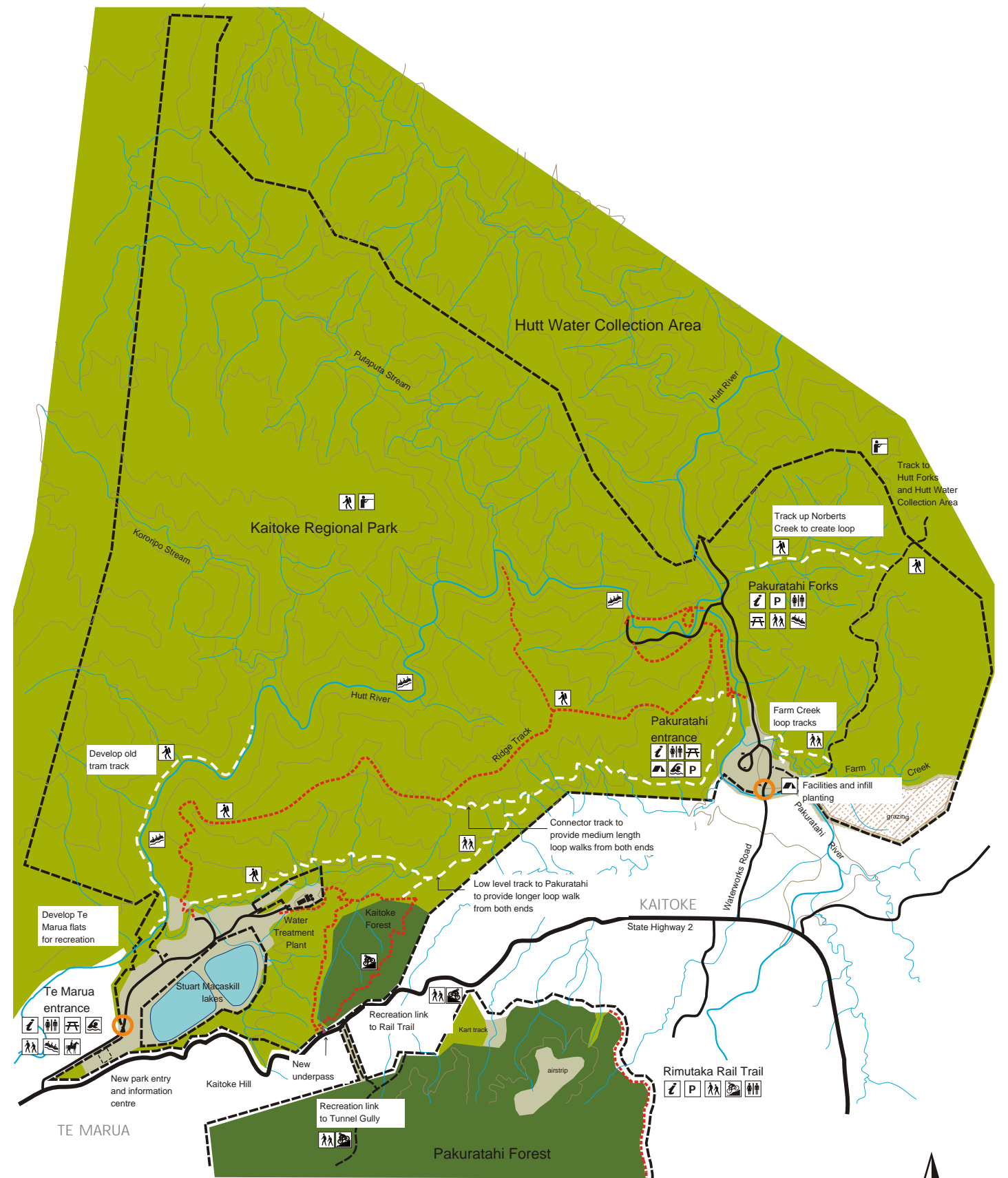
A prioritisation exercise will be undertaken to ensure that all heritage sites meet the national standards, including those set in the ICOMOS guidelines. Conservation strategies and/or plans will be developed as necessary.

The Wellington Tenth Trust are currently identifying sites of cultural significance and compiling the sites onto a database. Greater Wellington will continue to work with the Wellington Tenth Trust to identify sites within the Kaitoke Regional Park.

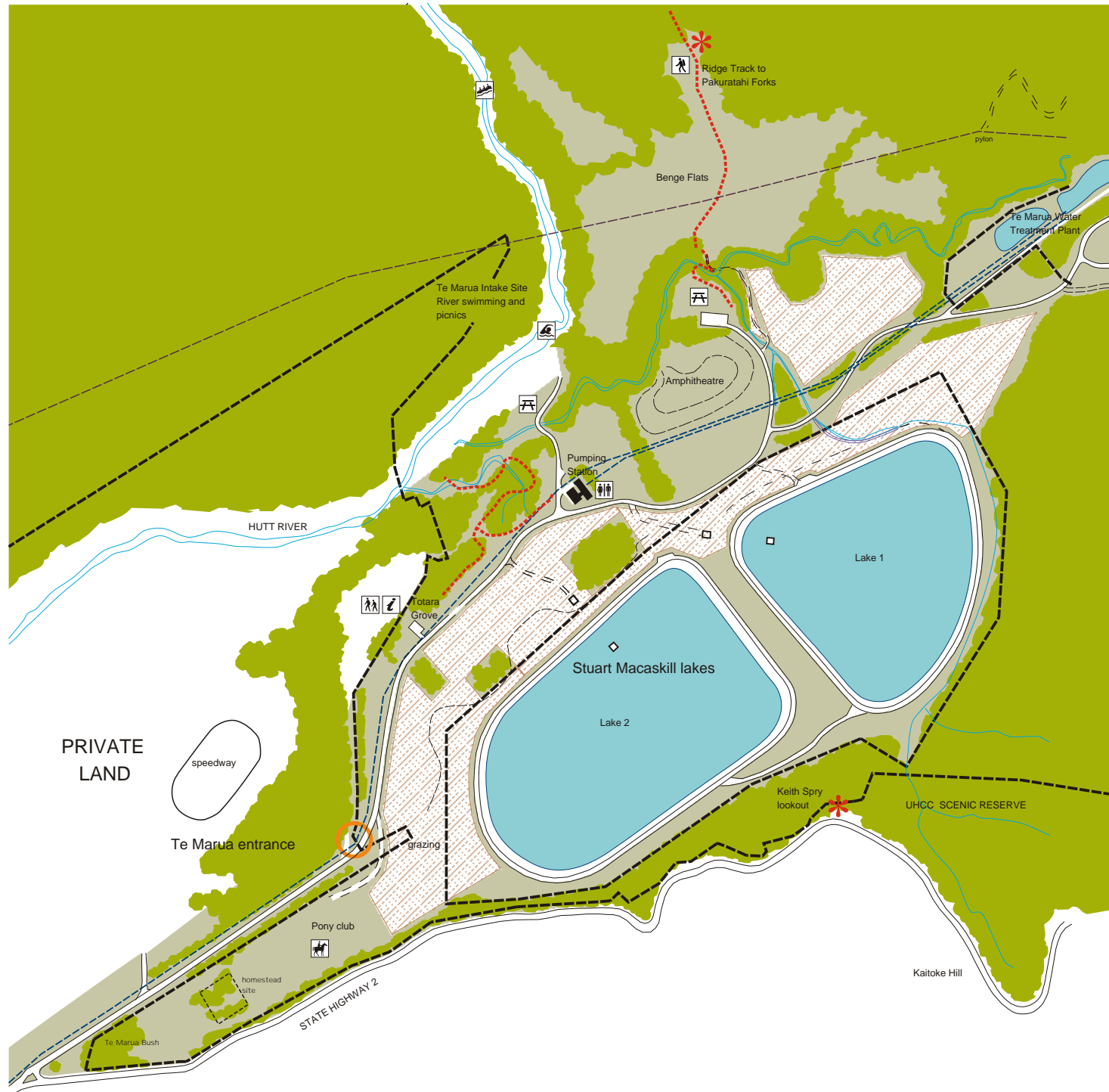




KAITOKE REGIONAL PARK: existing development



KAITOKE REGIONAL PARK: potential developments



KAITOKE REGIONAL PARK. Te Marua: existing development



KAITOKE REGIONAL PARK. Te Marua: potential developments

- Te Marua Entrance**
- Develop Te Marua Entrance
- a new visitor information centre
  - a wetland on the terrace below the lakes
  - extensive planting of indigenous lowland species to provide habitat and create new spaces
  - use the flats and terraces that are grazed for recreation
  - new tracks and lookout points
  - a new low-level track to link to Pakuratahi Forks





KAITOKE REGIONAL PARK. Pakuratahi: existing development



Pakuratahi Entrance

Develop Pakuratahi Entrance

- new tracks
- Norberts Creek track
- loop track to Ridge Track
- low-level track to link to Te Marua
- facilities on upper terrace
- increase native tree planting

## Implementation, funding and methods

This management plan sets out a vision and objectives for Kaitoke Regional Park over the next five years. The plan provides direction for park management to provide for recreation and use while protecting the associated environmental and cultural heritage values. Broad parameters are set within which activities may take place, and processes are established for making management decisions and considering activities and uses. The plan is not designed to determine specific results and does not identify targets. Council processes and systems governing the operational aspects of park management will implement the plan.

Many of the objectives and policies contained in this plan require Greater Wellington to undertake specific activities. In many cases, Greater Wellington is already doing these; however, others will be new. All activities proposed in this plan are subject to scrutiny through the Council's annual planning and budgetary processes, which set performance indicators against which Greater Wellington is measured, monitored and held accountable to the community.

This management plan does not deliver or assure funding to achieve its objectives. Funding is determined through the annual planning processes and may not be available to meet all the objectives and policies of this plan at any one time. Greater Wellington's Long Term Council Community Plan and Annual Plan allocates resources and budget. All local authorities must have an annual plan outlining the nature and scope of activities over the financial year, and how they will be funded. Annual plans determine the rates the regional community pays and are consulted on each year. In preparing this and other plans, Greater Wellington must have regard to costs to the ratepayer. This means that the objectives will not necessarily be achieved immediately, as the pace will be determined by resource and budget limits.

### Methods

There are a range of ways in which this plan will be implemented. One of the most important and certainly most visible is Greater Wellington's Ranger service. This service contributes to the area's values by co-ordinating people and resources, providing a visible presence in the parks and advice to visitors, as well as addressing health and safety concerns and maintenance requirements.

The Park Ranger is empowered under the Local Government Act 2002 to enforce bylaws that apply to managing recreation, and other activities undertaken by the public on the park lands. A copy of the bylaws can be obtained from Greater Wellington offices. Greater Wellington has policies on permits and concessions and these are used to authorise activities in accordance with this plan. Conditions can be imposed on any agreement and bonds held as a guarantee for activities within the parks.

The success of this plan's implementation also rests with the relationships that Greater Wellington fosters with park neighbours, iwi, the community and agencies such as the Department of Conservation and territorial authorities. Appropriate consultation, information sharing and involving these parties in decision-making and management are therefore integral components of this plan.

Other systems guide the day to day operations and activities essential to administering and maintaining the parks in accordance with this plan's provisions. Systems include:

- *Asset management system* that ensures the levels of service for buildings, structures, and tracks in the parks are met;

- *Environmental asset management system* that ensures service levels for environmental assets in the parks and include pest management are met; and
- *Environmental management systems* that set out priorities and actions to implement Greater Wellington’s environmental policy within the regional parks and forests.

Greater Wellington’s daily management actions are guided by annual work plans, ensuring maintenance and services meet required standards, pest animal and pest plant plans guiding pest control operations, and the summer recreation programme. These plans and programmes are consistent with this plan and other Council policies, plans and strategies. Although these plans contribute to this plan’s implementation they are subject to other processes, including the annual planning processes.

Table 4 shows how the aims and aspirations will be met in the day to day management of the park. Although the development of some methods and processes are not part of this plan, they are central to this plan’s implementation. Many of the methods fulfil statutory functions and responsibilities and are governed under different legislative and regulatory frameworks. However, excluding these methods from the plan would provide an incomplete picture of the area’s management and they are therefore identified here for the sake of completeness.

**This plan will be implemented in a variety of ways, the most visible of which is the Park Ranger. Daily management of the area is supported by comprehensive asset management systems that deliver high quality outcomes, using best practice standards developed over time. Although funding and budgetary considerations are governed by other processes, this management plan is fundamental to ensuring that any spending in the park is consistent with the management direction agreed with the regional community. The effective integration of Greater Wellington various planning processes will ensure its positive contribution to the region’s ‘Quality for Life’ outcomes, as well as the health and wellbeing of the park and its visitors.**

Table 4: Management Plan Implementation Methods.

Implementation Methods	Plan objectives and policies achieved by methods									
	Environment	Landscape	Heritage	Use	Recreation	Community	Tangata Whenua	Monitor & Review		
<b>Regulatory Methods</b>										
Bylaws	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓					
Concessions Policy	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Natural Materials policies	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Hunting permits	✓			✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓
Resource Consents	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
<b>Non Regulatory Methods</b>										
Ranging staff	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Interpretation – including signage, publications, brochures	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Infrastructure – providing toilets, tracks etc				✓	✓					
Health and Safety system	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Complying with all required resource consents.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Participating in relevant RMA processes	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Asset Management Programme				✓	✓					
Volunteers	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Regional Outdoors Programme and other events	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Environmental education programmes	✓			✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Environmental Asset Management Plan, including pest action plans and baseline monitoring	✓	✓				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Parks and Forests' Environmental Management Strategy	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Heritage Asset Management Programme and heritage conservation plans			✓							✓
Complying with all Historic Places Act provisions/permits		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Monitoring use and development, and any resulting effects.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Good relationships with landowners, local and central government, Tangata Whenua, neighbours, & utility providers.					✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

## Appendix

### Kaitoke Regional Park: Legal Description of Land

Title	Legal description	Area description
16B/1131	Sec. 4, DP 1820, Blk 11 & 12, Akatarawa SD	Part Hutt Gorge, waterworks, indigenous forest
20C/1015	Sec. 3, DP 1820, Blk 11 & 15, Akatarawa SD	South of the Hutt Gorge
37A/679	Sec. 1 & 2 DP 36338	Park's northern area, title extends into Hutt Water catchment
30B/396	Sec. 953 Hut District, Sec. 4 & 5 Blk XI, Secs. 8 & 9 Blk VII 7, Lot 2 on DP 1820 and Lot 2 DP 615 Blks 14 & 15 Akatarawa Survey District	Northern part of Putaputa catchment
589/41	Pt Sec. 5,6 & 7, Blk 7 and pt Sec. 1, Blk II, Akatarawa SD	Part Western Hutt catchment
821/44	Sec. 8 & 30, Pakuratahi Survey District. Part old river bed situated in Blk 12 & 16, Akatarawa SD	Rangers house, upper and lower terraces
20C/1016	Blk 15, Akatarawa SD, Pt Sec. 113 Hutt District	Te Marua Flats next to Quesnell
20C/1017	Blk 15, Akatarawa SD, Pt Sec. 182 Hutt District	South of Hutt Gorge
20C/1018	Blk 15, Akatarawa SD, lot 31, DP 111	State Highway 2, Kaitoke Hill
20C/497	15, Akatarawa SD, lots 3, 4, 5, 8, 9,10, 20, 28, 32, 33, 34, & 36 on and part lots 2, 6, 25 & 38 on DP 111, Part sec 420 Hutt District	Kaitoke Hill behind lakes
20C/498	Blk 15, Akatarawa SD, lot 30, DP 111	Adjacent State Highway 2, Kaitoke Hill
20C/499	Blk 15, Akatarawa SD, lots 1 & 19, DP 111	Adjacent State Highway 2, Kaitoke Hill
21B/552	Blk 15, Akatarawa SD, Pt Sec. 113 & 114 Hutt Survey District	Intake site
22D/381	Blk 15, Akatarawa SD, Pt Sec 113, 114, 181, 182 and Sec 974 Hutt Survey District	Paddocks between access road and State Highway 2 at foot of Kaitoke Hill



Water, air, earth and energy: elements in Greater Wellington's logo combine to create and sustain life. Greater Wellington promotes **Quality for Life** by ensuring our environment is protected while meeting the economic, cultural and social needs of the community.

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