

7 HE PAPA RĒHIA MOTUHAKE / PARK FOCUS

“I orea te tuatara ka patu ki waho

A problem is solved by continuing to find solutions”

Parks are a public space for people to enjoy and a high level of satisfaction has consistently been expressed which Greater Wellington, mana whenua partners, stakeholders and volunteers can all be proud of. Suggestions for improvement and great ideas for consideration have been received, and it is with these Greater Wellington has collaboratively formed this strategic management plan to be aspirational and inclusive.

This part of the Plan focuses on individual parks and identifies the key features that help make each park unique. All-park policies and strategic goals and objectives are drawn on to identify a range of short, medium and long-term actions for work in each park. This work will help ensure that Greater Wellington parks deliver more conservation, recreation and community health and wellbeing benefits for the people of Wellington, visitors to the region and for a sustainable natural environment.

Many of the actions identified here will be able to be achieved within the life of this strategic 10-year Plan but for other actions, the horizon is beyond the life of this plan. Restoring the natural environment to function as a healthy ecosystem in a self-sustaining state can take decades and this is particularly the case for the areas of parks which have been grazed for many years and lack native seed sources. A shift to focus on restoration of these areas has been made through Plan policies and actions, maintaining farming at Battle Hill where it is part of the park's purpose.

Evolving landscape character, native flora and fauna and interesting built and natural features including the recreation facilities, are core characteristics of parks. For some parks landscape visual change is subtle, but for others, restoration work over the next ten years will see significant transformation. In Queen Elizabeth Park restoration of the extensive peat wetlands is proposed. In northern and western parts of Belmont and at Baring Head / Ōrua-pouanui the bare hills, slopes and valleys will gradually see native vegetation cover return through plantings and natural regeneration processes supported by pest plant and animal work. Master planning processes will determine the recreation needs for these spaces to promote visitor use, and reduce unnecessary loss of vegetation.

The development and enhancement of a diverse range of 'key destinations' to attract visitors and support interesting and high-quality experiences is proposed. These key places will support tourism and intra-region visits. Making sure that parks are easy to get to and have few barriers to participation is critical for delivering health and wellbeing benefits from them. This includes opening up the areas of park currently closed for grazing activities and developing good facilities for recreation, as well as minimising entry obstacles and making sure that up-to-date information is easy to find. A renewed focus on storytelling is proposed along with seats, signage and improved amenities to support positive experiences in parks.

In the spirit of true manaakitanga and kaitiakitanga partnership, working alongside mana whenua is important to the way we work across parks and mostly not identified by local actions here. At the core of all the work progressing in parks are Greater Wellington's relationships with our partners, stakeholders and the community. The work proposed in this Plan can't be achieved without the generous support and work of conservation and recreation volunteers and others. This section has a range of local actions to support working together and we encourage the community to get involved. Greater Wellington's parks have both local and regional focus. They are most well-known and frequently used by the people of the communities nearby but also popular day visit destinations. Many people assist with conservation and recreation work in parks. Volunteers and small business concessionaires tend to come from nearby communities too. A range of actions supporting local, regional and collective good are identified below. In parks where master planning is proposed (QEP, Belmont, Wainuiomata and Battle Hill), this process will involve public participation in reimagining underutilised areas of parks and provide the next level of detail in strategic planning for park facilities and services and restoration work.



Public feedback to develop the Plan was valuable. Submitters indicated that a focus on improving access within parks would significantly benefit people's use and enjoyment of them. Restoration works across parks, freshwater quality, connecting ecological corridors and opportunities for community participation stewardship were also key themes. As changes in recreation facilities are explored, pop-up event and 'open day' type opportunities can be a great way for people to see, feel and imagine different future states or arrangements.

7.1 Akatarawa Forest

In partnership with Ngāti Toa Rangatira, Port Nicholson Block Settlement Trust and Ngāti Kahungunu, Rangitāne o Wairarapa.

Greater Wellington works in partnership with six mana whenua entities of the region to achieve mutually beneficial outcomes for the environment and parks.

Greater Wellington recognises the cultural values of Te Rūnanga o Toa Rangatira Inc and the Port Nicholson Block Settlement Trust. Greater Wellington is aware of the sites of significance in the park that mana whenua have shared through the Proposed Natural Resources Plan and respects the statutory acknowledgements that each iwi has through their respective settlement Deeds and legislation that cover their interests.

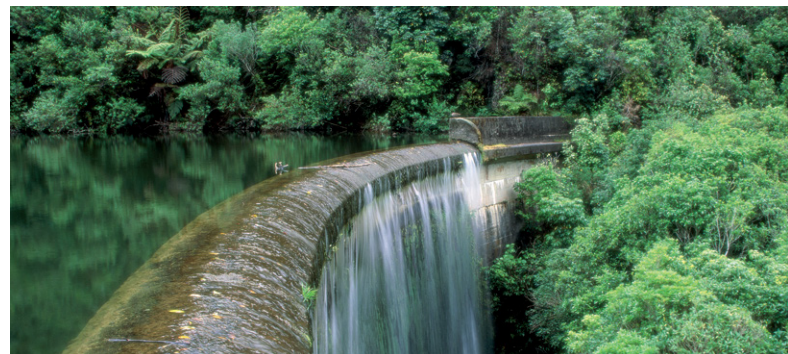
Greater Wellington is aware that other mana whenua partners have adopted a watching brief on their interests in the park and want the courtesy of being advised of any developments so they can determine the extent to which they will engage.

Healthy rich forests, remote and rugged - ready for the adventurous

Akatarawa is located in the steep hill country of the Akatarawa Ranges, from the west of the Hutt Valley to the Kāpiti Coast. The forest covers 15,500 hectares and is the largest park managed by Greater Wellington. It contains pockets of original and larger regenerating lowland podocarp forest, as well as areas of exotic plantations. The forest has important environment, culture and heritage values, and provides for a wide range of recreation opportunities. The park is also a key motorised recreation destination in the lower north island (regionally significant). It provides a range of back country oriented four-wheel driving and trail bike riding opportunities. Greater Wellington works closely with Akatarawa Recreation Access Committee (ARAC) to manage the network of tracks and roads to ensure that impacts from motorised recreation activities are minimised.



Akatarawa is the only park where permit-based casual motorised recreation activities are allowed making it is a regional destination for this activity. The Akatarawa Recreation Access Committee (ARAC) help Greater Wellington in managing sustainable use of the park.



Scenic and historic Birchville Dam is one of the Akatarawa parks key destinations easily accessed from the Upper Hutt side of the park. Storytelling reveals its interesting history and role in drinking water collection for Wellington.



The Karapoti Classic is New Zealand's longest-running annual mountain bike event, beginning in 1986. This event that spans 50kms of challenging terrain, draws in competitors from across the country every year.



The commercial plantation areas are not publicly accessible during harvesting operations for public safety purposes. 4WDs are permitted in these areas by permit.

The indigenous biodiversity values are considered to be ecologically significant in the lower North Island.

Akatarawa is held as a future drinking water supply catchment for Wellington with forests managed to ensure that they remain a sustainable source of fresh, clean water for the region when needed in the future. The park also has long-term commercial exotic forestry plantations and for public safety reasons these areas have some public access limitations.



Old growth forest is preserved and protected for people to enjoy now and for future collection purposes.



Martins River is one of a number of major wetlands in the park and part of Akatarawa ecologically significant natural areas. They provide important habitat for native plants and animals.



ARAC (Akatarawa Recreation Access Committee) volunteers work extensively in the park to help develop and maintain facilities such as Orange Hut. This is hut mark 3 and provides day visit facilities for all park visitors including a toilet and BBQ area.



In amongst the regenerating forest are the remains of many old timber tramways used to harvest the forest.

Title Holder	Legislative Status	Territorial Authority	Area	Reserve purpose	Heritage
Greater Wellington	Administered under Local Government Act 2002, Wellington Regional Water Board Act 1972 and subject also to the Greater Wellington (Water Board Functions) Act 2005	Kāpiti Coast District Council (KCDC) and Upper Hutt City Council (UHCC)	Approx. 15,000 ha	The land is held fee simple for the purposes of recreation, forestry and future water supply catchment	Ngāti Toa Rangatira and Port Nicholson Block Settlement Trust Statutory acknowledgments. Refer Appendix 7.

Key stakeholders	Activity
Akatarawa Recreation Access Committee (ARAC)	Motorised recreation
Capital Quad	Motorised Recreation
Forest and Bird, Upper Hutt (F&B)	Motorised recreation
Other four-wheel drive and trail bike clubs	Motorised recreation
Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga (HNZPT)	Conservation
Ixion Motorcycle Club Inc. (IMC)	Motorised recreation
Kapi-Mana Motorcycle Club (KMMC)	Motor biking/trail biking
Kāpiti Coastal Crew (KCC)	Recreation/ conservation
Kāpiti Equestrian Advocacy Group (KEAG)	Recreation
Kāpiti Mountain Bike Club (KMBC)	Recreation
Kāpiti Coast District Council (KCDC)	Local Government
New Zealand Deer Stalkers Association (NZDA) Wellington Branch	Recreation
NZ Four Wheel Drive Association (NZFWDA)	Motorised recreation
Predator free groups	Conservation
Walking and mountain biking clubs	Recreation
Wellington Fish and Game Council (WF&G)	Recreation

Key features and park characteristics

Heritage

- Future water supply area
- Regenerated native forest and old growth areas including original montane
- Regionally significant lowland forest and wetlands. (Whakatikei wetland)
- Ecological link from Kāpiti Coast to the Tararua Range
- Forest harvesting history and relics including dams and former logging tramways
- Commercial pine plantations and other exotic forest including Californian redwood

Recreation experiences

- Shared trail network
- Remote back country experiences, tramping and hunting
- Motorised recreation by permit for 4WDing, motorcycling and quad biking on designated tracks
- Karapoti Classic nationally significant mountain biking event
- Horse riding including long distance connections to other parks
- Orange hut (mark 111)

Education and conservation

- Birchville Dam, historic logging tramways and associated historic logging structures
- Protecting and enhancing forest ecosystem health to future water quality of the catchments
- Minimal impact activity practice

Park opportunities

- Key destinations development and enhancement
 - Cross-park, long distance walking and riding opportunities – Upper Hutt to the coast/ Battle Hill for motorcyclists, bike riders, horse riders
 - Sustainable adventure recreation destination promotion
 - Historic logging trail relics and storytelling opportunities
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Natural heritage

Past logging of podocarp from large areas of the Akatarawa Forest has left a mosaic of regenerating forest and shrub lands which are home for a high diversity of bird and insect life. The park also contains over 1,000 hectares of original lowland podocarp forest and 500 hectares of red beech/ miro/ rimu forest and small but significant, stands of the original montane totara/ kamahi and miro/ kamahi forest on high ridges around the peaks of Mounts Maunganui, Wainui, Titi and Barton. The park has a number of nationally and regionally significant wetlands. Three of these wetlands – Whakatikei Wetland (Draper's Flat), Martin's River Wetland and Whakatikei Headwater Swamp – are identified as significant natural wetlands in the Proposed Natural Resources Plan for the Wellington Region. Much of the park is classed as a Key Native Ecosystem (KNE).

The park provides an important ecological connection between the Tararua, Remutaka Ranges and Orongorongo forests. Approximately 3,000 hectares of exotic forests (pine and macrocarpa) include the Whakatikei, Valley View, Hukinga, Maungakotukutuku, Akatarawa Saddle and Puketiro blocks, which are managed primarily for commercial purposes but remain accessible for recreation activities outside active harvest times.

Protecting and sustainably managing forest ecosystems involves pest plant and animal management and a range of works in forestry operations such as erosion control. Works to minimise threats to the health of rivers, streams and wetlands. Managing recreation activities to educate people to ensure activity behaviour is mindful of protecting natural values and other people's recreation enjoyment.

Heritage, landscape and recreation experience

The park is a popular hunting destination easily accessible from Upper Hutt. Akatarawa park is a key destination for motorised recreation activities in the region (four-wheel drive, quad bikes, trail bikes, highly powered bicycles) utilising the road and track network. It is also popular with mountain bikers and home to Australasia's longest running mountain bike race, the Karapoti Classic and multisport events. European settlers logged the area for its valuable rimu and totara timber resources and old logging tracks and milling relics are scattered throughout the forest. Close to Upper Hutt, the Cannon Point Walkway Trig and Birchville Dam are popular with walkers and bikers, while trampers and hunters use the more remote track network. There are interesting landscape destinations including redwood trees, wetlands and old growth forest. The Puketiro forest area is popular with horse riders. Greater Wellington works with the Forestry Right Holder to manage plantation forestry and recreation access to these areas.

Community collaboration

The Akatarawa Recreation Access Committee (ARAC) works alongside Greater Wellington to support sustainable motorised recreation use of the park. A memorandum of understanding and 'track protocol' are in place to guide collaborative work and the process of making changes to authorised roads and trails available for motorised and other recreation use. Other key relationships in management are with park neighbours, recreation clubs and conservation groups, other councils and DOC. Refer to the Rules for use and development section 8 of this plan for details of motorised recreation access.

AKATARAWA FOREST

Actions

TIME

Short 1-3

Medium 4-7

Long 8+
Years

Notes

Natural heritage Goal 1:

Protect and restore high levels of terrestrial and freshwater ecosystem health to enhance biodiversity and ecosystem services

A95	Enhance the natural wetland and riverine systems including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> two nationally significant wetlands: Martin's River Wetland and Whakatikei Headwater Swamp three other biodiversity rich and significant wetlands: Whakatikei (Draper's Flat), McGhie's and Gratton's other smaller permanent and ephemeral wetlands Improving fish passage throughout the park in line with the New Zealand Fish Passage Guidelines 	Short-long	PNRP, KNE programme, F&B
A96	Minimise environmental impacts from commercial forestry use of park roads through a range of interventions including water sensitive design, AEE process, 'rock rip rap', compliance monitoring, removal of slash from waterways and wetlands and other measures	Short-long	Forestry agreements, park stakeholders
A97	Investigate options for monitoring and reporting the effects/success of pest control programmes such as a small mammal monitoring programme with others	Long	Mana whenua, community, universities others, KNE programme
A98	Work towards managing threats to indigenous ecosystem health by supporting the KNE programme and associated pest plant and animals programme work: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> focusing on the priorities outlined in the Akatarawa Key Native Ecosystem operational plan where applicable supporting Regional Pest Management Plan work to monitor and eradicate possums and other pest species supporting monitoring programme work for indicator species health such as rata and mistletoe 	Short-long	F&B, DOC, KCDC, UHCC, WIP, KNE programme
A99	Investigate opportunities to establish a 'mainland island' to protect indigenous forest cover and support native species restoration and utilise electronic remotely monitored traps	Medium-Long	Mana whenua, conservation, recreation groups, KNE programme

Recreation experience Goal 2:

Parks are highly accessible places for many visitors to enjoy; they offer a variety of interesting experiences, enhancing the health and wellbeing of local communities and broader regional economy

AKATARAWA FOREST		TIME	Notes
Actions		Short 1-3	
		Medium 4-7	
		Long 8+ Years	
A100	Key destinations Develop or enhance:		
	a. Birchville Dam (heritage)	Short	UHCC
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enhance access, amenity, storytelling and picnic facilities including connecting tracks 		
	b. Cannon Point (landscape)	Medium	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> View point. Enhance access trails, signs, add seats and storytelling 		
	c. Akatarawa Traverse (journey)	Short-Medium	Walking and riding clubs , KEAG, ARAC and others
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify and promote a long distance walking/riding trail from the Hutt River, Akatarawa to the coast at QEP (using existing trails), including Battle Hill connection. Support with appropriate facilities 		
	d. Karapoti Road picnic area (activity space)	Short	UHCC
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enhance with timber harvesting relics, storytelling, car park improvements 		
	e. Matai Flat (landscape)	Medium	ARAC
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop a picnic area at Matai flat, near redwoods, adjacent to Hukinga road 		
	f. Whakatikei wetland (landscape)	Long	ARAC
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop story telling focusing on wetland education 		
	g. Timber tramways (heritage)	Long	Historical societies, recreation and conservation groups
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify former timber tramway trails to develop as heritage destinations with storytelling and other facilities e.g. Rimu road picnic area 		
ACCESS			
A101	Support horse riding activities with access, facility and other improvements such as:	Medium	Equestrian groups, TAs
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Share with care signage and messaging Gate access improvements Facilities such as hitching rails at destinations and mounting blocks Float parking facilities 		
A102	Improve weekend access for kayaking in the Wainui stream/river in the Puketiro plantation forest area	Medium	Kayak clubs
A103	Work with others to manage entrance areas to improve access, safety and information, particularly at Cannon Point, Karapoti, Campbell Mill Road	Short	UHCC, park neighbours, KCDC, DOC
A104	Sign post and interpret the giant rata tree along the Pram track	Short	F&B

AKATARAWA FOREST		TIME	Notes
Actions		Short 1-3	
		Medium 4-7	
		Long 8+ Years	
A105	Improve telecommunications in the park for visitors and management purposes e.g. radio repeaters, mobile phone towers	Short	Utilities
AMENITY			
A106	Enhance Orange Hut in liaison with ARAC as a place to visit and stay <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Investigate options for non-motorised users camping with toilet facilities in other locations 	Medium	ARAC, park stakeholder groups
A107	Work with others to minimise conflicts between different user groups <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve vehicle parking areas and other facilities as needed • Address other issues that require a collaborative approach, such as safety and security via passive and active surveillance 	On-going	UHCC, KCDC, DOC, neighbours, recreation and conservation groups
A108	Improve facilities at park entrances including: <p>Maungakotukutuku Road, Raumati</p> <p>Tulsa Park and Bridge Road (Totara Park and Upper Hutt)</p>	Medium	UHCC, KCDC, recreation and conservation groups, KMTBC and private land owners
STORYTELLING			
A109	Develop freshwater storytelling about the purpose of park (future water collection) for key destinations such as Birchville Dam	Medium	Wellington Water
A110	Identify a range of opportunities to raise awareness and understanding about conservation, freshwater and heritage values of the park as a 'future water collection area' with park users: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • biosecurity threats, transmission of pathogens, sediment, via vehicles, equipment and other means • Minimising impacts from illegal access, poaching and vandalism <p>Clearly identify sensitive no-go areas for high impact activities and educate about their importance</p>	Medium	Recreation and conservation group, stakeholders, neighbours, PNRP
TRAILS (also refer maps. Subject to detailed assessment and AEE process)			
A111	Utilise and update the 'Track Protocol' as required for change proposals for the motorised recreation trail network in the park incorporating no-nett loss for vegetation maintenance work. Refer to A121	Short	
A112	Investigate possible link trails between Akatarawa and Battle Hill from the privately-owned Fern Hill and Judgeford forests for walking and cycling.	Medium	Private land owners, , recreation groups
A113	Improve trail links and access between the Hutt Valley and Kāpiti Coast via Akatarawa, Battle Hill and Queen Elizabeth Parks working with other landowners, such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coast to Upper Hutt trail via Pram track • Coast to Battle Hill trail (refer Battle Hill and Akatarawa maps) 	Medium	DOC, KCDC, PCC, UHCC, private land owners
A114	Develop short, highly-accessible trails at key places	Medium	UHCC, KCDC, ARAC, other groups

AKATARAWA FOREST

Actions

TIME

Short 1-3

Medium 4-7

Long 8+

Years

Notes

Cultural heritage features and landscape values Goal 3:

A variety of landscape settings are preserved and enhanced reflecting social values; historic heritage features are protected and interpreted for visitors

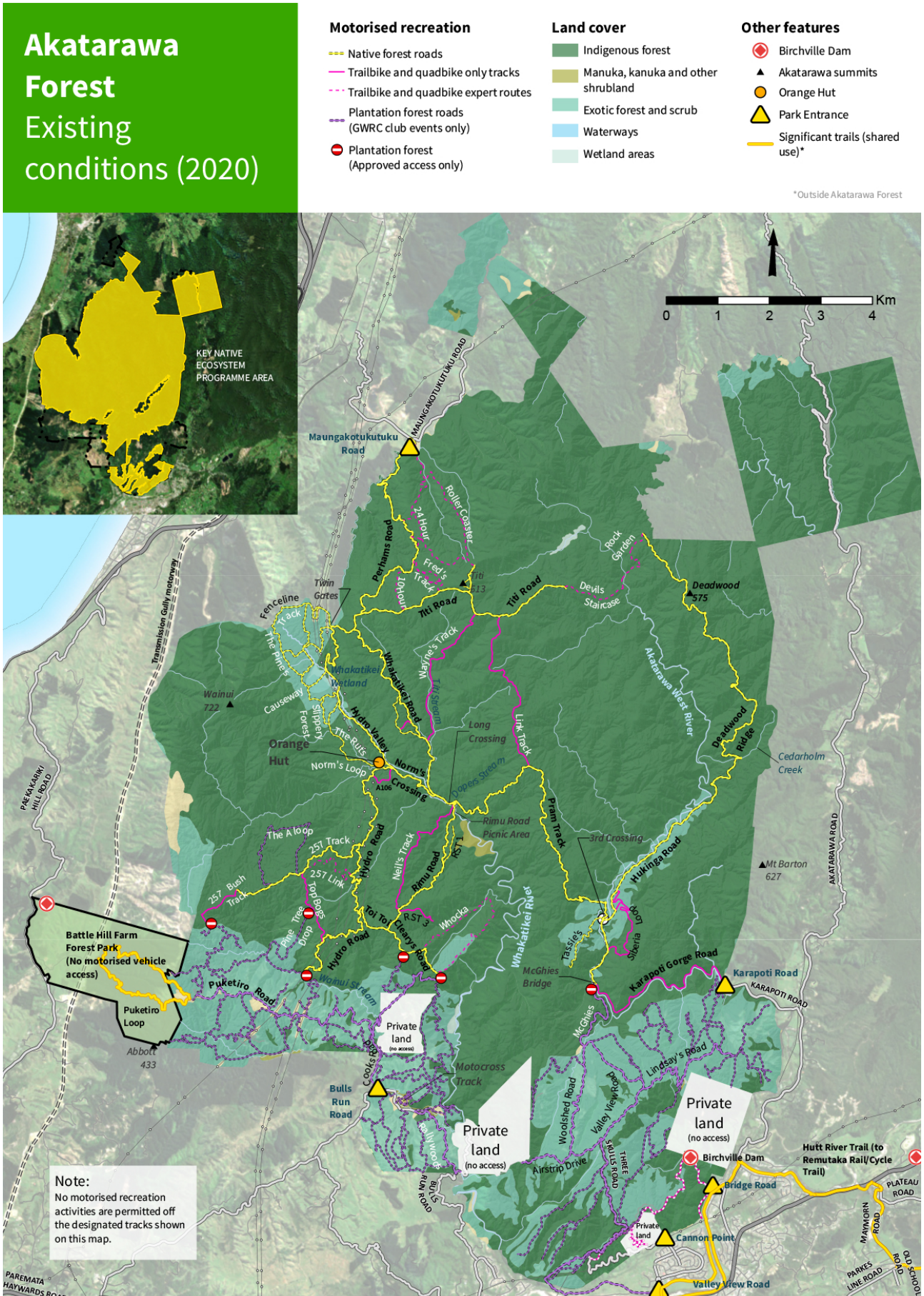
A115	Change the park name to 'Akatarawa Regional Park' to reflect its equal place in Greater Wellington's network of public open space.	Medium	Mana whenua
A116	Develop a conservation management plan for historic Birchville dam	Medium	Historic heritage groups
A117	Develop a conservation management plan for the historic timber logging tramways and any associated historic logging relics and structures: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Detail their significance, opportunities for interpretation Identify possible opportunities shared mountain biking walking tracks and storytelling opportunities 	Short	HNZPT, heritage and recreation groups, ARAC

The way we work Goal 4:

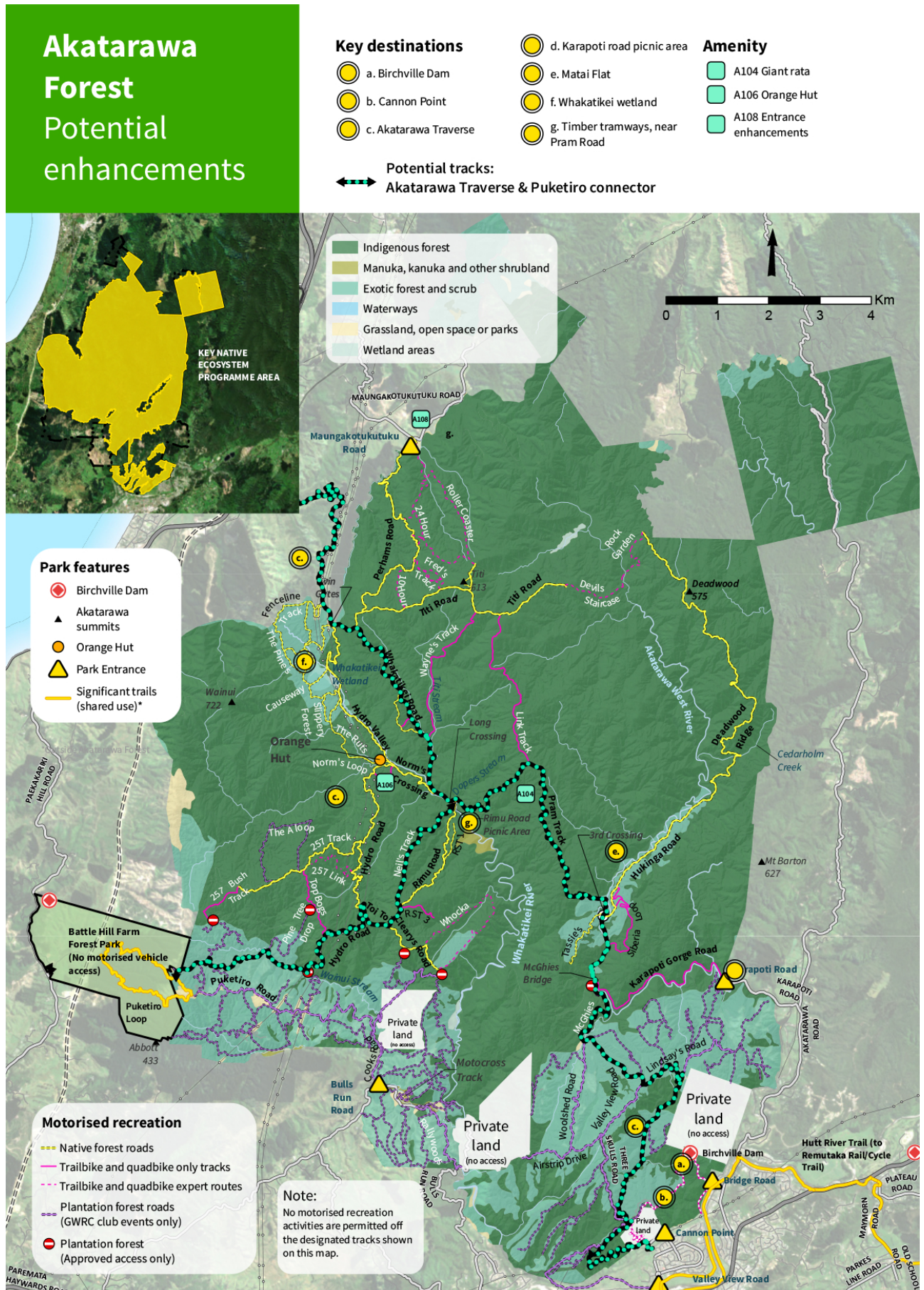
Working collaboratively and consistently with others, we enable learning and build strong partnerships to deliver more conservation and recreation benefits for parks, people and communities

A118	Work with ARAC and other groups to support and enable sustainable motorised recreation use of the park via a current memorandum of understanding/co-operation	Ongoing	ARAC, other motorised recreation groups
A119	Work with all park user groups to collaborate on recreation and conservation work and issues such as minimising impacts, and sharing with care, a coordinated approach to access and , identifying and interpreting heritage features of the park	Short	Park stakeholders
A120	Consider the establishment of a community collaboration group comprised of all park stakeholders and mana whenua partners to work on common goals, focusing on core values	Medium	Stakeholders and community, TAs
A121	Work with all clubs to develop a detailed master map of trails to support ongoing use and safety escape routes in plantation and other areas.	ongoing	Motorised recreation clubs, TA's, forestry licensees, walking, cycling, horse riders and others.
A122	Identify and support opportunities for park stakeholder collective collaboration on recreation and conservation issues and opportunities (plan actions) through gatherings, workshops and other means	Short	Mana whenua, park stakeholders, TAs

Map 3: Akatarawa existing conditions



Map 4: Akatarawa potential enhancements



7.2 Battle Hill Farm Forest Park

In partnership with Ngāti Toa Rangatira

Camping, horse riding, farming, heritage - fun activities in open landscapes

Battle Hill Farm Forest (Regional) Park, purchased in July 1987, is reserved for farming education purposes. It is the only farm park in the regional park network. People visiting can experience farm animals, camp overnight, walk in regenerating native forest and ride horses or bikes in open spaces or through a plantation forest. Equestrian activities are a key focus with Battle Hill Eventing, pony clubs and the Wellington Group, Riding for the Disabled (RDA) based here. The park's location on the Paekākāriki Hill Road makes it accessible by car from Wellington city and the Kāpiti Coast. The park offers opportunities to learn about sustainable land care practices such as fish passage, riparian planting and minimal impact farming practices such as stock exclusion from waterways. There are opportunities to demonstrate regenerative farming practices.

Transmission Gully motorway (once open) passes through the park making it highly visible to passing motorists. Battle Hill connects directly with Akatarawa providing access for walkers, bikers and horse riders via a motorway underpass and through the pine forest area. There are connections to the Kāpiti Coast and Queen Elizabeth Park via Mount Wainui and the Department of Conservation's Whareroa Farm. The park is rich in Māori and European history; its name originating from a significant battle site above the remnant bush reserve. Various tributaries of the Horokiri Stream cross the park and connect with Pāuatahanui inlet and Te Awaraua-o-Porirua / Porirua



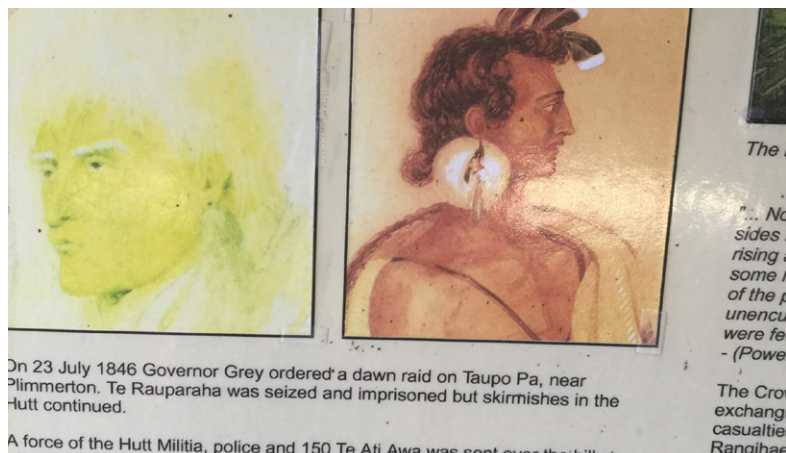
Battle Hill is a popular camping destination. A range of minor facility enhancements are proposed to support enjoyable experiences.



Farm Day is a hugely popular one day event popular with families



The stream is a great place to see longfinned eels (Tuna) and for water play near the campground. Minimising agricultural runoff and stream bank erosion is important for downstream water quality, and for these slippery, slimy residents.



Commemorative stone, carved by Rangī Skipper at the battle site the park is named after. This hill was the site of a clash between Ngāti Toa Rangatira and combined British and other iwi troops in 1846. A site that is now protected for visitors to learn about New Zealand history. The Plan aims to make mana whenua presence in the park more visible to visitors.



Battle Hill is a working farm with sheep, chickens and other farm animals. Farming education activities are part of the park's purpose. A park for visitors to get up and close to animals and learn about farming in New Zealand.



The park has a number of wetlands and areas of regenerating natural bush. Plantings to reduce hillside erosion and other land care practices, such as good fish passage in streams can be seen.



The park is a key event destination. With Transmission Gully Motorway traversing the park, the opportunity exists for signage or sculptures to help identify it to passing motorists.



Horse riding activities are hugely popular at Battle Hill including Pāuatahunui Pony Club, Riding for Disabled, casual riding and overnight stays using the camp ground. Battle Hill is a key regional destination for riding with connections to Akatarawa and beyond. The park hosts three regional one day events annually.



The Plan aims to make the park an even more fun place for families and children with more themed nature play.

Title holder	Legal status	Territorial authority	Area	Reserve purpose	Heritage
Greater Wellington	Administered under Local Government Act 2002 and Reserves Act 1977.	Porirua City Council (PCC). Designations: Whole park and Transmission Gully, Porirua City Council District Plan.	Approx. 480 ha	Recreation, 'Working farm visitor experience', Forestry and scenery	Ngāti Toa Rangatira Statutory acknowledgment. Refer Appendix 7.

Key stakeholders	Activity
A Rocha Aotearoa New Zealand	Conservation
Battle Hill Eventing Incorporated	Equestrian
Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga (HNZPT)	Conservation
Mana Lions Club	Conservation
New Zealand Transport Authority (NZTA)	Government
Pāuatahanui Pony Club (PCC)	Equestrian
Pāuatahanui Primary School	Conservation
Porirua City Council (PCC)	Local Government
Wellington Group Riding for Disabled (WRDA)	Equestrian
Stock Grazing Licence	Farming

Key features and park characteristics

- Equestrian casual riding destination, Riding for the Disabled facility and pony club facilities and activities
- Historic farm homestead and woolshed
- Historic battle site. Historic graves and farming heritage buildings.
- Farm animals, deer, eels in the stream
- Stream-side camping
- Native forest remnant and walking trails
- Plantation forest mountain bike and horse riding trails
- Nature play opportunities
- Airstrip related recreation activities such as drone racing
- Sustainable land care demonstration including fish passage, riparian plantings
- Events and festival spaces
- Family-friendly destination

Opportunities

- Enhance and promote the park to make it a highly popular 'farm park' destination
- Nature play destination for families
- Comprehensive and interesting storytelling through a range of different media and methods
- Equestrian destination development through a range of improvements
- Camping destination improvements and increased capacity
- Promote awareness of Battle Hill and Akatarawa to passing motorists in Transmission Gully
- Master planning to identify better park orientation and longer-term blueprint for recreation and conservation improvements
- Compatible re-use of the homestead building to support community engagement with the park

Natural heritage

The small forest remnant of 35 hectares, located to the north of the park entrance, is dominated by tawa and titoki, with kohekohe on the upper slopes. It is regionally significant for its population of the rare *Rhabdothamnus solandri*. In swampy lower areas kahikatea, pukatea and swamp maire are present. A number of monitoring activities take place including school groups and citizen science pest monitoring, including stream health and sediment monitoring.

Recreation experience

Battle Hill is a camping destination beside the pretty Horokiri Stream with adjoining native remnant bush. It's also a key location for events such as markets, multisport, drone racing and farming events. People visiting the park can see sheep and cattle. The Ken Gray Education centre in the woolshed offers a classroom space for learning. Eels in the Horokiri Stream are a popular nature-based attraction for the park.

Battle Hill is home to many equestrian groups including Riding for Disabled Wellington Group, who offer therapeutic riding activities. Battle Hill offers a range of trails for mountain biking, walkers and horse trail riders.

Heritage and landscape

Battle Hill is the site where, on the 6 August 1846, the first shots were fired in an engagement between on one side, a mixed Government force of Māori, police and British troops, and, on the other side, a party of Ngāti Toa, Ngāti Rangatahi, and Whanganui Māori under the Ngāti Toa chief Te Rangihaeata. The subsequent battle and siege lasted eleven days. The battle took place near a pa on a steep ridge near the summit now known as Battle Hill. The government forces were unsuccessful and Te Rangihaeata's forces withdrew. Battle Hill was bought from the Crown in 1987 to provide public access to a working farm and link with Akatarawa Park.

The park landscape has open fields, plantation forest and a native forest remnant. The original homestead features in the entrance area and there is a historic grave site nearby. Pocket restoration plantings and erosion control plantings are maturing. Harvesting of plantation forest will commence in 2021 resulting in temporary landscape change similar to adjoining privately held pine forest. Post harvest there will be opportunities for trail development. Farming education activities are part of the park's purpose. Currently sustainable practices such as good fish passage design are demonstrated in wetlands and streams of the park. The school room in the Ken Gray education centre is a focal point for farming education activities and 'Nature School' activities.

BATTLE HILL FARM FOREST PARK		TIME	Notes
Actions		Short 1-3 Medium 4-7 Long 8+ Years	
Natural heritage Goal 1:			
Protect and restore high levels of terrestrial and freshwater ecosystem health to enhance biodiversity and ecosystem services			
A123	<p>Develop a new 'Park environment plan' to guide sustainable land management in conjunction with progressive restoration work. The plan will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Guide restoration based on priority native vegetation types and expand existing areas of native forest and vegetation, such as the forest remnant • Include exotic species planting in amenity areas to maintain some farm character • Prioritise activities that support freshwater quality and mahinga kai • Reference the species list developed by the Wellington Botanical Society • Guide and support minimal impact erosion control, riparian land care • Explore farm animal changes/ options to enhance family visit experiences • Identify stock mix and numbers, nutrient budgets • Consider recreation activity needs and master planning processes • Supporting ecological connections beyond park boundaries, a ki uta ki tai, mountains to sea approach. • Reflect Whaitua programme goals and implementation recommendations (using this modelling and other knowledge) • Involve consultation with mana whenua partners, stakeholders and community in the process of plan development • Be updated after master planning is completed for the park 	Short	Mana whenua, park stakeholders, neighbours, KNE programme, TAs
A124	Broaden stock exclusion zones in and near wetlands of all types and sizes and riparian zones, replanting with native species to support freshwater quality	Medium	Park stakeholders, KNE programme
A125	Replant the wood lot of pines (near WRDA area) with native plants after harvesting	Medium	Local groups
A126	<p>Work to minimise potential downstream effects from forestry harvesting and neighbouring properties such as sediment to Porirua Harbour and illegal rubbish dumping:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plant buffers with native species • Undertake education activities through collaboration 	Short-long	PCC, park neighbours, NZTA, PNRP, KNE programme

BATTLE HILL FARM FOREST PARK		TIME	Notes
Actions		Short 1-3 Medium 4-7 Long 8+ Years	
Recreation experience Goal 2:			
Parks are highly accessible places for many visitors to enjoy; they offer a variety of interesting experiences, enhancing the health and wellbeing of local communities and broader regional economy			
A127	<p>Develop a master plan to provide a spatial blueprint for the park in collaboration with mana whenua and community considering key issues including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improvement of visitor orientation and easy navigation and identification of key destinations • Native and exotic plantings, such as arboretum, and restoration opportunities • Signage and storytelling improvements • Investigate different uses of facilities such as the homestead • Protection and enhancement of cultural heritage features • Opportunities for further non-native amenity and arboretum type plantings for future generations to enjoy 	Medium	Mana whenua, stakeholders and community, PCC, HNZPT, walking, cycling, horse riding groups, park concessionaires
A128	<p>Renew the focus of Battle Hill as a destination for visitors to see a range of farm animals and for learning</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop a planned approach to support a Recreation Experience focused operating model 	Medium – Long	PCC, Wellington Zoo, schools, farming education organisations
A129	Through master planning or other processes encourage visits to Battle Hill as an events destination and support through facility improvements where needed	Medium	PCC, WRDA, park stakeholders
A130	Encourage concessionaire activities to support visitor experience, such as food vendors, equipment rental, tour guiding	Short - Medium	
A131	Key destinations		
	Develop or enhance via placemaking methods and process:		
	a. Campground (activity space)	Medium	
	– Enhance with additional toilets, picnic tables, fireplaces and other facility improvements such as water supply capacity, flat motorhome /caravan spaces, facilities to support equestrians stays		Local schools, community service groups, horse riders, walkers, cycling groups
	b. Historic battle site (heritage)	Medium	
	– Review and update signs and storytelling to enhance the educational experience. Add seats		Mana whenua, HNZPT, historians
	c. Nature play (activity space)	Medium	
	– Develop nature play features within the park in liaison with local schools, WRDA and others. Consider interesting (non-invasive) exotic specimen trees/plants and moving existing play structures such as the red tractor near the Dell		Local schools, community service groups, concessionaires, WRDA, Pāuatahanui Pony Club

BATTLE HILL FARM FOREST PARK		TIME	Notes
Actions		Short 1-3 Medium 4-7 Long 8+ Years	
d. Forest trails (recreation)		Medium	MTB clubs, Mana Cycle Group, equestrian clubs, The Morgans/ other park neighbours
– After plantation harvest, develop or enhance additional mountain biking and horse trails in the plantation forest areas to support longer visits and a diversity of different trail experiences			
e. Farm explorer trails (recreation)		Medium	
– Develop storytelling to reveal sustainable land management practiced to park visitors and support education activities			
ACCESS			
A132	Improve the ease of visitor movements around the park by making it more accessible and providing easy to follow signs	Short	Master planning, park stakeholders
A133	Promote awareness of the park to passing motorists on Transmission Gully motorway through signage, sculpture, restoration plantings and other approaches	Medium	Mana whenua, stakeholders, community, NZTA, PCC
AMENITY			
A134	Enhance horse riding facilities including accessible gates, mounting blocks. Reduce the number of gates where ever possible.	Medium	Equestrians, MTB, tramping clubs
A135	Investigate options for future use of the St Bernard woodlot area such as arboretum plantings	Medium	Community groups, heritage reports
TRAILS (also refer maps. Subject to detailed assessment and AEE process)			
A136	Investigate highly accessible and sensory trail opportunities	Medium	WRDA
A137	Accessible trail. Enhance and extend to create a short highly accessible trail and picnic area alongside the Horokiri stream from the Dell area to east.	Medium	
A138	Add seats with backs and storytelling along trails at key points	Short	
A139	Park connections. Develop and enhance shared trail connections between Battle Hill, Belmont and QEP via the most direct off-road routes, working with neighbours to improve accessibility. Work with NZTA to develop shared path connections within motorway reserve and other land	Medium	NZTA, TAs private land owners, the Morgans/ other park neighbours
A140	Support the establishment of a shared track to the coast or joining the Escarpment track. Also refer 'Akatarawa Traverse' and Akatarara map	Long	Private land owners, NZTA, KCDC, PCC
A141	Explore options for an easy access circuit track near Riding for Disabled area including seats and storytelling/discovery features	Long	WRDA
A142	Restoration trail. Investigate a potential new link track through woodlot post harvesting	Medium	KNE programme
A143	Potential new track to create bush reserve short circuit walk from campground through regenerating area	Medium	KNE programme
A144	Motorway view. Potential new link track between 'wetlands walk' and 'summit loop' or Gasline Ridge to Swampy Gully	Medium	KNE programme

BATTLE HILL FARM FOREST PARK

Actions

TIME

Notes

Short 1-3

Medium 4-7

Long 8+ Years

Cultural heritage features and landscape values Goal 3:

A variety of landscape settings are preserved and enhanced reflecting social values; historic heritage features are protected and interpreted for visitors

A145	Support mana whenua in identifying a dual Māori name for the park and other features or places	Short	Ngāti Toa Rangatira, NZ Geographic Board
A146	Support additional Ngāti Toa Rangatira to reveal stories to visitors in the park or other works such as art or sculpture	Medium	Ngāti Toa Rangatira
A147	Work with Ngāti Toa Rangatira to support their kaitiakitanga activities. a. Establish a stock exclusion zone on the summit of Battle Hill	Short-long	Ngāti Toa Rangatira
A148	Reveal farming heritage stories and develop displays with historic farming equipment	Medium	
A149	Review and update heritage management plans for heritage assets and archaeological sites and investigate historic reserve status for the battle site	Short-Medium	Ngāti Toa Rangatira, historical societies, HNZPT, Maori Heritage Council, Archaeologist, historian, others
A150	Renew the vehicle bridge over Horokiri Stream and ensure it has separated pedestrian and horse access	Long	PNRP, Asset Management Plan

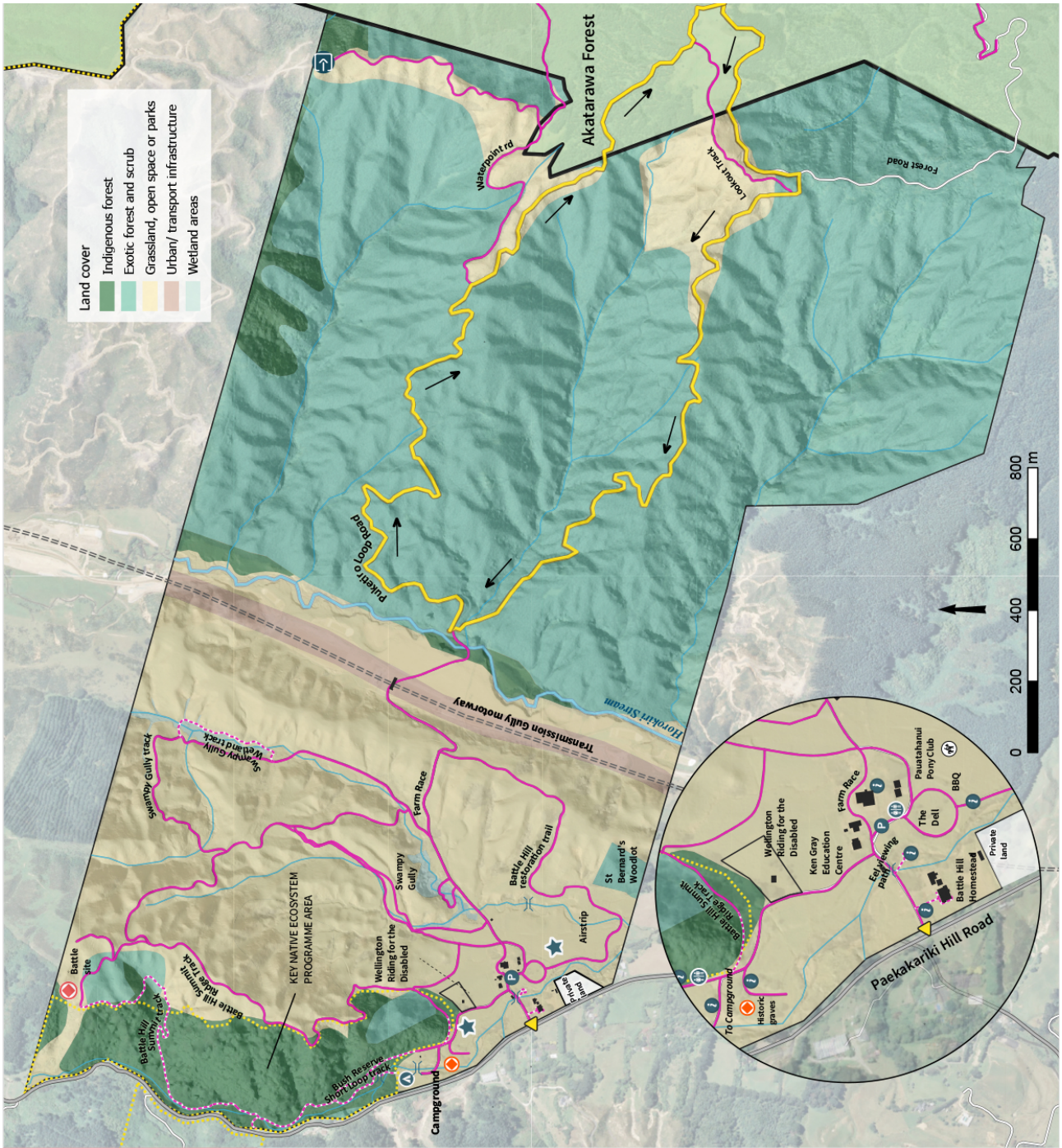
The way we work Goal 4:

Working collaboratively and consistently with others, we enable learning and build strong partnerships to deliver more conservation and recreation benefits for parks, people and communities

A151	Explore options for the establishment of a friends group or collaboration group to enable regular community participation, provide structured engagement between groups and support working together towards achieving key goals for the park. Invite park neighbours and businesses to further support the park.	Medium	Private land owners, other agencies, recreation, conservation groups
A152	Support freshwater objectives by working with adjoining property owners on a catchment-wide basis through Whaitua programme and other work	Ongoing	Whaitua, neighbour, PNRP
A153	Work with community to invite creative solutions to enhancing the park as a destination such as through arts and culture	Medium	Local community, PCC
A154	Work with other groups and agencies to bring regional events, arts, culture and conservation activities to the park	Medium	Mana Whenua Community, stakeholders, others
A155	Work with and support park concessionaires including WRDA such as through promotion, volunteering, events, sustainable transport to the park	Ongoing	Stakeholders
A156	Promote good practices in mixed farm stock and equine land management to visitors such as citizen science opportunities	Short-medium	Park stakeholders
A157	Continue aquatic and biodiversity monitoring and make results readily available to park visitors and local schools for learning opportunities	Ongoing	PNRP

BATTLE HILL FARM FOREST PARK		TIME	Notes
Actions		Short 1-3	
		Medium 4-7	
		Long 8+ Years	
A158	Work to improve agricultural efficiency measures to support actions in response to Greater Wellington’s Climate Emergency declaration and achieve its carbon neutrality goal by 2030	Short –Long	Park Environment Plan

Map 5: Battle Hill existing conditions



Battle Hill Farm Forest Park Existing conditions (2020)

Features and amenities

- ▲ Entrances
- Buildings and structures
- Heritage
- ⌘ Bridges
- Ⓜ Park gate
- ⬜ Key Native Ecosystem programme area

Activity areas:

- Ⓟ Car parks
- ℹ Information
- ⊕ Picnic tables/seats
- Ⓜ Camping
- 🏊 Swimming
- 🚻 Toilets

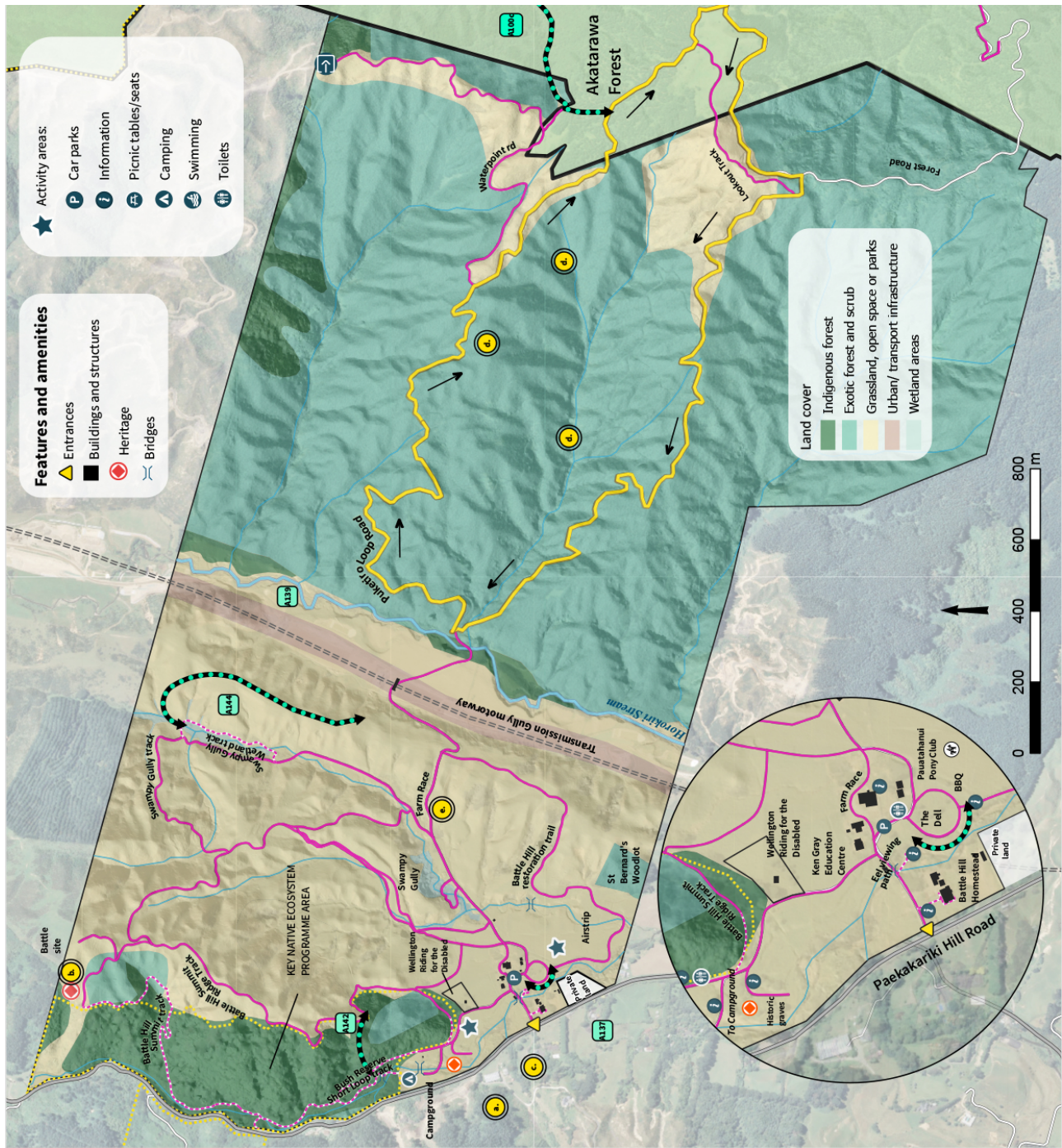
Tracks

- Puketiro Loop - shared use
- Other shared use
- Walking only

Roads and rivers

- Parks/access roads
- Other roads
- Rivers and streams
- == Transmission Gully

Map 6: Battle Hill potential enhancements



Battle Hill Farm Forest Park Potential enhancements

Key destinations

- a. Campground
- b. Historic battle site
- c. Nature play areas
- d. Forest trails
- e. Farm explorer trails

Amenity

- A137 Accessible trail
- A139 Park connections
- A142 Restoration trail
- A144 Motorway View
- A100c Akatarawa to Puketiro connector

Areas for potential tracks

Key Native Ecosystem programme area

Tracks

- Puketiro Loop - shared use
- Other shared use
- Walking only

Roads and rivers

- Parks/access roads
- Other roads
- Rivers and streams
- Transmission Gully

7.3 Belmont Regional Park

In partnership with Ngāti Toa Rangatira and Port Nicholson Block Settlement Trust

A vast park where natural habitat is returning with the help of community.

Heritage features, open hill tops and vistas and a wide variety of trails.

Belmont Regional Park occupies many of the steep hills and valleys between Porirua and the Hutt Valley and includes the upper catchments of Duck and Cannons Creeks, Takapu, Korokoro, Speedy's and Belmont Streams. The Transmission Gully motorway traverses the park via the Duck Creek gully making it highly visible to motorists (when open).

Ngāti Toa Rangatira and Taranaki Whānui are mana whenua for the park. Places important to mana whenua include the Korokoro Stream (known as Te Korokoro o te Mana - the throat of "Te Mana"), freshwater catchments of the park, walking routes and archaeological sites such as Pareraho pa. Ongoing restoration of native vegetation and improvements in freshwater quality will help to support habitat for mahinga kai.

Significant features are trig points with panoramic views, an ancient boulder field, 62 historic World War II munition stores, the NZ Heritage-listed Old Coach Road, much of the Puke Ariki range of maunga, the historic Woollen Mills and Korokoro dams and Old Belmont Road. The most popular recreation activities are walking, including with dogs, running, mountain biking, horse riding and restoration work to restore the bushland, wetlands and streams of the park. The vegetation of southern areas of the park is largely regenerating native bush. The north eastern areas around Hill Road and Speedy's Stream, Kelson have significant areas of regenerating bush. The northern and western areas have small pockets of native vegetation and landscape (in 2020) of much of this area is dominated by stock grazing and wide open vistas. Large residential communities surround the park. This Plan signals land use change to native vegetation restoration to support biodiversity, freshwater, recreation experience and help build ecosystem resilience.

Master planning is proposed for the whole park in collaboration with community to determine more detailed guidance for recreation facilities and guide park-wide larger scale restoration work. Master planning will explore the next level of detail for recreation facilities such as trails, possible adaptive reuses of park buildings, areas of focus for restoration work and heritage considerations



The 62 World War II munitions stores (magazines or bunkers) are a key heritage feature of the park but are little known about or visited. The Plan proposes opening vehicle access to the large car park at the top of Hill road (currently known as the 'farm hub'). This will enable many people to easily visit the interesting bunkers and see and explore this rugged park landscape as it transforms over time through restoration activities. Master planning processes with community and others will help identify key changes here.



The grazed hills of the park have many streams and wetlands form part of the headwaters of the Te Awarua-o-Porirua Whaitua and Te Whanganui-a-Tara catchments. Long-term work to restore this environment will improve downstream freshwater quality, reduce sediment erosion and provide increasingly valuable habitat for native fauna. The restoration challenge is significant; a combined and sustained effort is required. Overall restoration priorities are mapped in this Plan, including increasing mana whenua presence in the park. Options for restoration are numerous, and range from 'passive' restoration with weed management (as occurs in much of the park), community lead plantings and weed management, to broadscale commercial plantings. This will be explored in more detail through master planning processes with community.



Two picturesque and historic dams are accessed through regenerating bush. They are key destinations in the eastern part of the park. Sediment deposits have transformed Korokoro Dam into a shallow wetland for wading birds.



The Belmont Trig is the highest point in the park and attracts many fit and determined walkers, runners and mountain bikers. It's a photographer's delight with panoramic views and ever changing scenery.

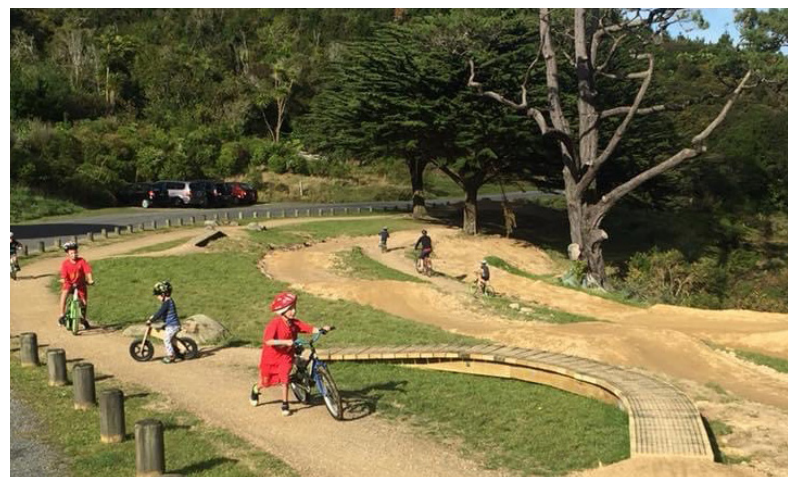


For many years the Waihoura Crescent entry point for the park (photo on page 17) has been closed to the public. However with the stock grazing licence concluding in the short term this entry can be developed for easy access into the park. Proposed master planning processes, and Plan rules prioritising recreation activity access, will involve working with community to develop a blueprint plan for recreation and habitat restoration work and adaptive reuses of a range of park buildings here. This entry can become the start of the cross-park route for cyclists from Porirua to the Hutt Valley, passing under the motorway and exiting at Hill Road, a journey of approximately 5km. Another route will enable access from here to Takapu Road, Tawa.

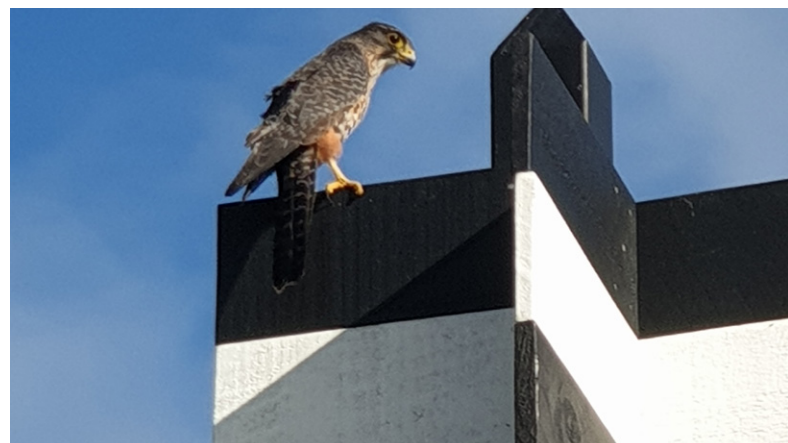




Transmission Gully motorway transects Belmont Park along Cannons Creek and Duck Creek making it highly visible to a huge number of passing motorists. There are three underpasses for park visitors and management vehicle access. Restoration plantings are taking place beside the new motorway.



The park is a key destination for mountain biking in the Wellington region. BAMBA (Belmont Area Mountain Biking Association) have developed a network of tracks of all different grades radiating from the Stratton Street hub. As farming is phased out across the northern and western areas of the park, the opportunity exists to design a new sustainable trail network and provide good access to the park for mountain biking from Porirua. Park trail network changes and enhancements will be explored through the master planning processes. Photos: BAMBA



A range of conservation and recreation groups have been working hard in the park for many years and have made a huge difference in recreation facilities, weed management, native vegetation restoration and heritage preservation. Photo: BAMBA

Kārearea, the NZ falcon, are now a common sight in the park thanks to habitat restoration efforts and pest animal trapping. A raptor that feeds predominantly on live prey, they nest in a variety of locations, from within the epiphytes that grow in large trees to on the ground under small rocky outcrops. Where they nest on the ground they are well known for attacking intruders, including humans, with aggressive dive-bombing strikes to the head.

Title holder	Legislative status	Territorial authority	Area	Reserve purpose	Heritage
Greater Wellington	Administered under Local Government Act 2002. Held under the Reserves Act 1977 as recreation and scenic reserve	Hutt City Council (HCC), Porirua City Council (PCC), Wellington City Council (WCC) Designations: Transmission Gully. (PCC and HCC)	3,292 Ha	Recreation, conservation	Ngāti Toa Rangatira And Port Nicholson Block Settlement Trust Statutory acknowledgments. Refer Appendix 7. Heritage NZ List site- Old Coach Rd

Key stakeholders	Activity
BAMBA (Belmont Area Mountain Bike Association)	Recreation (in activity column)
Belmont Pony Club (BPC)	Recreation
Belmont Ratepayers Improvement Association (BRIA)	Community
Equestrian grazing licence, Stratton Street	Recreation
Federated Mountain Clubs (FMC)	Recreation
First Gas, Transpower, Wellington Electricity, North Power	Service utilities
Friends of Belmont Regional Park	Conservation
Friends of Maara Roa	Conservation
Ngahere Korowai/ Green Korowai for Porirua East	Community / conservation
Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga (HNZPT)	Conservation
Hill Road Community Group	Community, conservation, recreation
Kāinga Ora Homes and Communities	Housing and community development
Hutt City Council (HCC)	Local Government
Kelson Community Association	
Korokoro Environmental Group (KEG)	Conservation
New Zealand Transport Agency (NZTA)	Government
Pareraho Forest Trust	Conservation
Porirua City Council (PCC)	Local government
Predator free groups	Conservation
School neighbours; Porirua College, Maraeroa, Glenview and Corinna Schools	Education
Stock grazing licence holders	Commercial
Wesley Community Action	Community

Key features and park characteristics

- Regenerating native forest, remnants of older growth forest in Lower Speedy's and Belmont streams, Korokoro catchment, community led restoration areas
- Historic cross park Māori routes and pa sites
- Historic water supply dams – Woollen Mills and Korokoro, Heritage NZ listed Old Coach Road
- 64 historic WWII munition bunkers and 'magazines'
- Geological features including peneplain remnants of Boulder Hill (442m), fossil filled gullies and remnants of greywacke of Belmont Block Field (part) and Hill Road Block Field (part)
- Wind-swept hill tops including five key peaks – Belmont (456m), Cannons Head (390m), Belmont Road Trig (382m), Round Knob (410m), Stony Knob (395m)
- Broad harbour vistas (Wellington and Porirua)
- Farmed hills and gullies denuded of vegetation, many fences and gates
- Shared trails – walking, running, horse, MTB
- Mountain biking trail network and hub, horse riding trails and facilities
- Multiple entry points, east –west trail connections between Porirua and the Hutt Valley
- Dry Creek camping area for tents and motorhomes
- Speedy's Stream Gorge and picnic area
- Park buildings including 62 bunkers, five park cottages, two woolsheds, shearers quarters, Stratton Street woolshed community facility, 'Bomb lab' (museum development in progress) and various sheds
- Core utility services traversing the park (gas, electricity, emergency access Belmont Road)
- Transmission Gully motorway passing through park

Opportunities

Restoration

- Park-wide science led restoration work, particularly for northern and western areas through variety of methods (encompassing a well-designed trail network, storytelling and appropriate recreation facilities via master planning)
- Identification of further opportunities for community-led restoration and predator free work and collaboration with others
- park-wide pest plant and animal management activities to support and improve the health and diversity of forest flora and fauna.

Master planning

- Park-wide landscape master planning following a mahi tahi collaborative approach to develop a strategic park-wide blueprint for recreation facilities and restoration of grazed areas following science-led priorities
- Exploring a range of possible adaptive reuses of park buildings and structures for community recreation and conservation purposes through master planning
- Work alongside the long-term urban renewal 'Porirua Project' for Cannons Creek and Waitangirua to identify opportunities for enhancing the park for local residents and others
- Enhance access and direct trail connections from neighbouring residential areas including Kelson, Whitby, Pāuatahanui, Cannons Creek and Waitangirua, Takapu Road, Hill Road, Belmont Road and neighbouring park residential developments. Improve entry facilities and services.

Climate change

- Through restoration there will be a significant opportunity to contribute to meeting GW's climate change target for carbon neutrality in 2030

Historic heritage

- Heritage education opportunities e.g. museum development, storytelling, interpreted heritage trails

Recreation and amenity

- Development and promotion of key destinations in the park including easy access to the munitions bunkers, an East Porirua focal point in the park and enhancement of existing key sites
- Improvements in orientation and directional signs, storytelling of key features
- Removal of redundant internal park fencing will create an open park landscape as grazing is phased out
- Promote the park to passing motorists on Transmission Gully with landscape features, sculpture or signs or other features

Natural heritage

In 2020 there is approximately 1354 hectares or 38 percent of the park is commercially grazed with beef and sheep stock. The rest is regenerating native forest through passive and active processes supported by pest plant and animal management including Greater Wellington's Key Native Ecosystem programme and community trapping and pest plant work. Regenerating native vegetation dominates the Korokoro and Dry Creek valleys. Small blocks of wilding radiata pine remain, such as near Buchannans Road but there are also thirty-year-old stands of regenerated native bush in this area. There are a number of lowland indigenous bush remnants supporting native flora and fauna. Land uses in the headwaters of the many small streams of the park have a significant effect on downstream water quality. Further work to protect and restore riparian areas, with ongoing citizen science monitoring is required to support improvements in freshwater quality. Park and community conservation and recreation groups support restoration works and are making steady progress.

Recreation experience

The park offers a variety of experiences through regenerating bush and open pasture land. The Stratton Street mountain bike trail hub and network is regionally significant and growing, offering trails for all abilities from a skills track to technical downhill. Trails leading to historic Korokoro and Woollen Mills dams are very popular. The many hill tops are popular destinations for harbour vistas and at the top of Hill Road, 62 World War II ammunitions bunkers are a landscape feature to explore. Native bush regeneration is in progress at different stages across the park led and supported by local groups. In western Belmont, East Porirua, four underpasses under Transmission Gully motorway will enable trails to be reconnected. While direct access to the park here has been limited, the future conclusion of grazing activities will enable new direct easy access via Waihora Crescent. The park here is popular with dog walkers and runners. Horse riding activities are popular throughout the park. The Puke Ariki Traverse long-distance trail enables people to traverse the whole park from south to north and is an important trail in the regions longer distant trail network. Overall the park features multiple entrances from neighbouring communities and some very good public transport access via buses and a railway train station close to the Dry Creek, Speedy's Reserve and Korokoro entrances.

Heritage and landscape

The park is significant for mana whenua for many reasons including mahinga kai, freshwater, historic place and routes and local recreation. Heritage features are significant in the park and include old Māori walking routes from the Hutt Valley to Porirua, New Zealand Wars heritage sites, the heritage listed Old Coach Road, the Korokoro and Woollen Mills concrete gravity dams built in the early 1900s and 62 munitions bunkers from World War II. Significant geological features include the peneplain boulder field ranging from south of Hill Road to north of Boulder Hill. Belmont Regional Park's first management plan in 1977 supported open space and recreation. With the park management focus shifting to park-wide restoration and key destination type recreation facilities, current farming buildings will become part of the parks history as adaptive reuses are identified through master planning processes. The Stratton Street Woolshed is a great example of re-use as an important community facility for education, events and meetings. Belmont hill tops offer panoramic views. Maintaining these open hill top vistas is identified as an important consideration in proposed master planning to guide restoration work.

Community collaboration

The park has many committed conservation and recreation groups actively working to restore habitat, improve freshwater quality, preserve historic heritage and develop, maintain and improve recreation facilities. The Friends of Maara Roa have been active in the Cannons Creek catchment for over 20 removing weeds and undertaking restoration plantings. The Friends of Belmont, Pareraho Forest Trust and others groups are involved in pest animal management and restoration work. They are important partners in helping planning future changes and supporting restoration work park-wide. The Belmont Area Mountain Bike Association (BAMBA) have been instrumental in developing a mountain bike trails hub at Stratton Street and trail network in the park. The opportunity exists for groups to work together through master planning processes and implement Plan actions through collaborative approaches towards shared conservation, recreation and compatible community goals.

Master planning for the park

Master planning for the whole park will enable recreation facilities and services, utility services, mana whenua partner and community needs and aspirations, heritage values, freshwater and restoration priorities to be discussed and synthesised to create a spatial blue-print to guide development in the park. It will ensure a strategic approach and also support external funding bids. With a refocus on conservation and recreation for the park and phasing out of stock grazing, detailed planning work is required to identify and guide changes.

This Draft management plan provides policy directions, identifies high level restoration priorities and a range of actions for implementation. Detailed master planning is proposed to work out the next level of detail in a spatial way through landscape master planning. The master planning process will include extensive mana whenua partner, public and stakeholder engagement. It will capture key aspirations and help identify the supporters and helpers for transforming the park for a lot more conservation and recreation benefit. Opening the main park entry in Waihora Crescent will enable the public to explore and reimagine this area of park and help inform the subsequent master planning process. The Porirua urban renewal and adventure park projects are relevant connections to master planning here.

BELMONT REGIONAL PARK Actions	TIME Short 1-3 Medium 4-7	Notes
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Abbreviations:

MASTER PLANNING - OVERARCHING PRIORITY ACTION FOR PARK

Landscape master planning is proposed to develop a blueprint, encompassing recreation activity and facility needs and the long-term progressive restoration of native vegetation and wildlife habitat in the park. Planning for new trails and trail realignments is important in this process to avoid the need for future vegetation removal, minimise erosion from steep road and trails and realign trails to achieve more accessible and gentle gradients before large-scale restoration activities commence.

A159	<p>Develop a master plan for the park west of Transmission Gully with a focus on areas closest to adjoining residential areas to identify a conservation/recreation focused blueprint for revitalisation of the park identifying and reflecting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mana whenua aspirations for the park • Aspirations and needs for the park expressed by key stakeholders such as Friends of Maara Roa, Ngahere Korowahi group, Wesley Community Action, Kāinga Ora – Homes and Communities, park neighbours, PCC and others • A range of public access improvements including existing carpark facilities at Waihora Crescent • Whaitua programme goals and implementation recommendations (using this modelling and other knowledge) • Stream, wetland and forest restoration opportunities following overall strategic priorities in this Plan • Opportunities for (non-invasive) exotic amenity planting e.g. labyrinth, maze, specimen trees/ plants • Review existing and map new trails for enhancement and development prior to restoration activities commencing • Explore possible adaptive reuses of park buildings for conservation, recreation and community purposes, prioritising public uses e.g. overnight accommodation, community facilities, plant nursery, restoration project hub, artists in residence/ studio's, 'remakery' / sustainability centre, indoor recreation facility' camping/ glamping etc. • Concession opportunities such as bike hire, cafe on the park, food vans, school holiday programme, nature schools etc • Identify new accessible trail opportunities from adjoining residential areas • Opportunities for art in the park such as community initiatives or events, sculpture, trails, storytelling trails • Natural hazard management including fire threat and security, passive surveillance from residential areas. 	Short	<p>Porirua, Whitby side of park</p> <p>Refer Section 2 and Appendix 1.</p> <p>Mana whenua, park stakeholders, neighbours, TA's, others</p>
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BELMONT REGIONAL PARK Actions		TIME Short 1-3 Medium 4-7	Notes
A160	<p>Develop a master plan for the park east of Transmission Gully identifying and reflecting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mana whenua aspirations for the park • Additional 'Key destinations' (to those below) • Explore possible adaptive reuses of various park buildings for conservation, recreation and community purposes, prioritising public uses e.g. overnight accommodation, community facilities, plant nursery, restoration project hub, artists in residence/ studio's, 'remakery' / sustainability centre, indoor recreation facility' camping/ glamping etc. • Whaitua programme goals and implementation recommendations (using this modelling and other knowledge) • Stream, wetland and forest restoration opportunities following overall strategic priorities in this Plan • Review existing and map new trails for enhancement and development prior to restoration activities commencing • Opportunities for (non-invasive) exotic amenity planting e.g. labyrinth, maze, specimen trees/ plants • Where further detailed site specific guidance for restoration is required such as detailed restoration plans • Opportunities for art in the park such as community initiatives or events, sculpture, trails, storytelling trails • Concession opportunities such as bike hire, cafe on the park, food vans, school holiday programme, nature schools etc • Hazard management including fire, buried ordinance and security, passive surveillance from residential areas. 	Short	<p>Judgeford and Hutt Valley side of park</p> <p>Refer Section 2 and Appendix 1.</p> <p>Mana whenua, park stakeholders, neighbours, TA's, others</p>
A161	<p>Implement the directions of the <i>Offset Planting Plan, Landscape Master Plan</i>, Boffa Miskell, 2018 also considering the Draft Hill Road Project Plan, GWRC, 2009 for the Hill Road and Belmont stream areas, expanding the restoration area to existing fence lines avoid further investment in fencing.</p>	Short	<p>Pareraho Trust, Friends of Belmont, Hill Road Community Group, Million Metres</p>
<p>Natural heritage Goal 1:</p> <p>Protect and restore high levels of terrestrial and freshwater ecosystem health to enhance biodiversity and ecosystem services</p>			
A162	<p>Guided by master planning and identified environmental science priorities, progressively restore vegetation across the park.</p> <p>Refer Belmont Restoration priorities map, Polices 1P, 3P, 4P, 6P, 10P, 49P.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop site-specific restoration plans as required • Increase pest plant and animal management work to support restoration efforts as identified through planning processes • See external support to accelerate restoration efforts 	Short - Long	<p>Mana whenua, community, Wesley Community Action, KNE programme, HNZPT, PCC. HCC, Kāinga Ora – Homes and Communities, park neighbours, others</p>

BELMONT REGIONAL PARK Actions		TIME Short 1-3 Medium 4-7	Notes
A163	Develop a fire management 'tactical response plan' to guide ongoing fire threat management work e.g. firebreaks, 'green vegetation', defensible space	Short- Medium	Emergency response agencies, park neighbours, KNE programme
A164	Prioritise work to improve catchment freshwater quality by implementing policies and priority actions of the Te Awarua-o-Porirua Whaitua and Te Whanganui-a-Tara Whaitua, and collaborate with community groups on citizen science freshwater monitoring and riparian restoration	Short – Medium	Whaitua Implementation Plans (WIP), PNRP, KNE programme
A165	Implement the Te Awarua-o-Porirua Whaitua recommendation 'Greater Wellington prioritises opportunities to mitigate sediment loss from erosion-prone lands in council administered parks within the Whaitua'	Medium	PNRP, Whaitua Implementation Plans (WIP)
A166	Support volunteers in pest animal and plant management work guided by Greater Wellington's biosecurity plan and programme work	Short - Long	Community groups and others, KNE programme
A167	Support fauna translocations which follow Greater Wellington policy and procedures (refer Policy 10P)	Short - Long	KNE programme
A168	Encourage the movement of birds in the open areas to be restored with native vegetation through a variety of methods such as, predator control, riparian planting, pocket planting of particular species for food, perches to help birds disperse seed, plantings of fast-growing species for shelter, wind break fences	Short - Medium	Community groups, KNE programme
A169	Support native reptile (lizard, gecko) habitat in boulder field, riparian and other rocky areas with impact minimisation work, and plantings to support habitat and predator control.	Medium- long	Community groups, KNE programme

Recreation experience Goal 2:

Parks are highly accessible places for many visitors to enjoy; they offer a variety of interesting experiences, enhancing the health and wellbeing of local communities and broader regional economy

BELMONT REGIONAL PARK Actions

TIME
Short 1-3
Medium
4-7

Notes

A170 Key destinations

Develop or enhance:

a. Stratton Street mountain bike hub (Recreation)

- enhance facility and amenities such as trailhead shelter, map kiosk and bike wash facilities at the woolshed

Short

BAMBA,
Stakeholders,
Community

b. Korokoro Valley (Heritage)

- Enhance with storytelling and new separate MTB trail

Medium

c. Oakleigh Street picnic area (Activity space)

- Enhance amenity and considering nature play options

Short

Mana whenua

d. Belmont taumata (Landscape)

- Promote the five highest peaks of Belmont as a collective for peak bagging (mini 'Munro's' www.visitscotland.com) and enhance with access, amenity and storytelling improvements. Belmont Trig, Boulder Hill, Cannons Head, Round Knob, Stony Knob, Waitangirua high point (227m). Add elevation and heritage interpretation signs and seats, enhance connecting trails where appropriate

Medium

BAMBA,
recreation,
conservation
groups

e. Puke Ariki traverse (Journey)

- Enhance and promote the track as a more significant trail attraction. Update signs, add shelters, storytelling, consider some realignments

Short

Recreation,
conservation
groups

f. Kelson trails and picnic area (Activity space)

- Enhance the lower Speedy/Belmont stream area for swimming, picnics and walks. Interpret historic Māori routes and maintain key viewpoints, enhance and connect trails, improve access.

Medium

Pareraho Forest
Trust

g. Porirua to the Hutt Valley connection (Journey)

- Develop a cross-park route for cyclists via Waihora Crescent and Hill Road entries and existing park roads and trails with signage, shelter planting, bike-fix it station, facility improvements. Identify the route name with mana whenua.

Short

PCC, HCC, NZTA,
park stakeholders,
Kāinga Ora –
Homes and
Communities

Identify details via master planning:

h. Hill Road heritage hub (Heritage)

- Develop an easy access circuit trail (following existing routes) to the magazines from the top of Hill Road car park suitable for families and others. Interpret the magazines and other munition bunkers enroute with storytelling and other creative approaches. Add signs, seats and remove redundant farm fences. Convert woolshed toilets to public access. Investigate adaptive reuse or removal of woolshed post grazing licence use. Also refer A174.

Medium -
Long

Master planning,
Pareraho Forest
Trust, Friends
of Belmont, Hill
Road Community
Group, walking
clubs, HNZPT

BELMONT REGIONAL PARK Actions		TIME Short 1-3 Medium 4-7	Notes
i. Park buildings and structures (Activity space)			
	– Explore a range of options for adaptive reuse of park buildings through master planning process with community	Short-medium	Master planning Park and community groups, TAs, HNZPT, mana whenua, Kāinga Ora, general public
j. Waitangirua entry hub (Activity space)			
	– Develop the main western entry at Waihora Crescent with accessible short and longer walks, stream and wetland restoration, adaptive re-use of the range of park buildings for conservation, recreation and community purposes including concession activities	Medium - Long	Master planning, PCC, Kāinga Ora, Friends of Maara Roa, Porirua East Ngahere Korowai group, park neighbours
k. Work with community to develop Ngahere Korowai, a green town belt for Porirua to support connection to te taiao and ecosystem health		Short-long	Community groups, PCC, DOC, park neighbours, others
ACCESS			
A171	Open the park directly to visitors at Waihora Crescent, Waitangirua and enable use of existing parking area. Install orientation signage and identify other facility or service needs through master planning with mana whenua and community	Short	Master planning, mana whenua
A172	Improve public access to the park from adjoining residential areas in East Porirua (Tawa, Cannons Creek, Whitby and Waitangirua, other residential developments) in liaison with others. Identify new trail connections or routes from residential streets, possible trail realignments and connections to Transmission Gully motorway underpasses for access to eastern parts of the park	Short-medium	PCC, Porirua Project, WCC, DOC, master planning
A173	Utilise the Greater Wellington events programme to enable people to experience the park via four-wheel driving opportunities on park roads	Ongoing	4WD clubs
A174	Enable more people to easily access and enjoy the munitions bunker area of the park by opening down to dusk public vehicle access to the large carpark at the top of Hill Road. Improve the car park, shelter, signs, toilets and other amenities. Enhance existing easy trails to bunkers, removing gates and fence obstacles.	Short	Park groups and licence holders
A175	Replace entry barriers (e.g. stiles over fences) with accessible ones (for mountain buggies and people with limited mobility) at all entries throughout the park including adjoining PCC parks	Short	PCC, HCC
A176	Encourage park visits with open days/weekends and other promotions to enable more visitors to access to the park and get involved in conservation and recreation activities	Short	Community, grazing licence holders
A177	Improve Belmont Road northern park access and vehicle parking utilising opportunities with neighbouring residential developments. Investigate northern Belmont unformed legal road and other unformed legal roads access opportunities.	Short -Long	PCC, private land owners recreation, community groups, HCC, Walking Access Commission

BELMONT REGIONAL PARK Actions		TIME Short 1-3 Medium 4-7	Notes
A178	Develop direct trail access to the park via a new walking/ cycling bridge over Speedys Stream for the residents of Kelson e.g. cable/ suspension bridge over gorge, enhance amenity at Major Drive, Kelson and add connections to Hill Road residential areas.	Long	Pareraho Forest Trust, community groups
A179	Improve the Cornish Street (Korokoro) entrance as opportunities present in liaison with adjoining land owners	Medium-Long	Other land owners
AMENITY			
A180	Enhance Dry Creek picnic area with facilities such as nature play, storytelling or dog agility equipment	Short	Community groups
A181	Explore options for a toilet and other trail facilities in the Kelson area as part of a new local trail network (see Belmont Potential Enhancements map)	Long	HCC
A182	Post Transmission Gully motorway completion, enhance the Takapu Road entrance facilities, develop a range of trail circuits and connections and raise awareness of this park access	Short	Ngāti Toa Rangatira, NZTA, PCC
STORYTELLING			
A183	Develop an interpretation plan (storytelling) plan for the park identifying key locations for particular stories and possible methods and media for interpretation	Short-Medium	
A184	Promote the park to passing motorists on Transmission Gully motorway through large visible signage or sculptures	Short	Ngāti Toa Rangatira, NZTA, PCC
TRAILS (also refer maps. Subject to detailed assessment and AEE process)			
A185	Improve cross park trails for walkers, cyclists and horse riders to develop: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Porirua to Hutt Valley east-west route b. Porirua to Takapu Road north-south route cross park route for cyclists 	Medium	Master planning, PCC, HCC, park stakeholders
A186	Improve park cycling, walking and horse riding route connections and open space areas via on-road routes, and trails such as the Hutt River Trail, Wellington city's 'Outer Green Belt' trail network <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. investigate a Korokoro valley to Titiro Moana Road link 	Medium	Regional trails framework, TAs, park stakeholders
A187	Investigate and identify a number of short loop trails at all entrances for families and others. Support with interesting features such as weta hotels, storytelling where appropriate. Also refer A174.	Medium	Master planning, community
A188	Investigate and develop key trails to support the parks regionally significant mountain bike trail network including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stratton to Trig Midpoint • Dam/Trig Connector • Belmont Trig G2 - Two way • Belmont Trig G3 – Downhill • Belmont Trig G4 – Downhill • Middle Ridge G2 - Two way Refer Belmont Potential trail enhancements map	Short-Medium	BAMBA, community groups and conservation

BELMONT REGIONAL PARK Actions		TIME Short 1-3 Medium 4-7	Notes
A189	<p>Work with mana whenua, recreation, conservation and community groups to improve the trail network across the park considering:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New trail hubs such as the top of Hill Road, Waitangirua, Kelson, Takapu Road • Trail development to link to Porirua/Rangitui trails • Trail gradient and surface upgrades and realignments to easier standard and to minimise erosion for a wide range of users • Enhancements in the middle ridge area of the upper Korokoro catchment (Stratton St) • Enhancements on the southeast, east and north east slopes of Belmont Trig • Trail connections and links south of the munitions bunkers • Trail development and gorge bridge access for the Kelson area to enable easy access from the suburb to the park • Kelson short walks, lower Belmont and Speedys stream area, Kaitangata entrance new connecting trails • New trails to create access to Stony Knob • Connection tracks to residential areas in Whitby, Judgeford, Waitangirua as part of neighbouring developments • Trail connections from Porirua to Tawa through the park 	Short	Master planning, mana whenua, BAMBA, park stakeholder groups, park neighbours, TAs, HNZPT
Cultural heritage features and landscape values Goal 3:			
A variety of landscape settings are preserved and enhanced reflecting social values; historic heritage features are protected and interpreted for visitors			
A190	Rename or identify dual te Reo Māori/English names for key locations in the park such as the proposed cross-park routes, top of Hill Road visitor hub (currently 'farm hub') etc.	Short - Medium	Mana whenua
A191	Through master planning identify the key landscape features for enhancement and further protection (refer Appendix 4 Heritage and Landscapes of Significance Schedule)	Medium	Master planning, HNZPT
A192	Develop a full conservation management plan for WWII munition bunkers considering interpretation opportunities and adaptive reuse possibilities. Draw on Heritage Assessment, volumes 1 and 2, 2006.	Medium -Long	Post master planning
A193	Develop a conservation management plan for Old Coach Road (HNZ Listed site) to identify aspects of significance and guide preservation and enhancements	Long	HNZPT
A194	To improve amenity, as farm stock are removed from the park, remove fences not required for park boundaries, conservation or recreation activities to create an open landscape look and feel. Minimise gate closures and new fencing	Short – Long	Grazing licence holders
A195	Develop a hazardous waste management plan considering register of historic sites, considering possible leaching from historic rubbish dumps, former military sites, areas where recreation facilities will be developed or adapted and habitat restoration areas	Short	TAs

BELMONT REGIONAL PARK Actions

TIME
Short 1-3
Medium
4-7

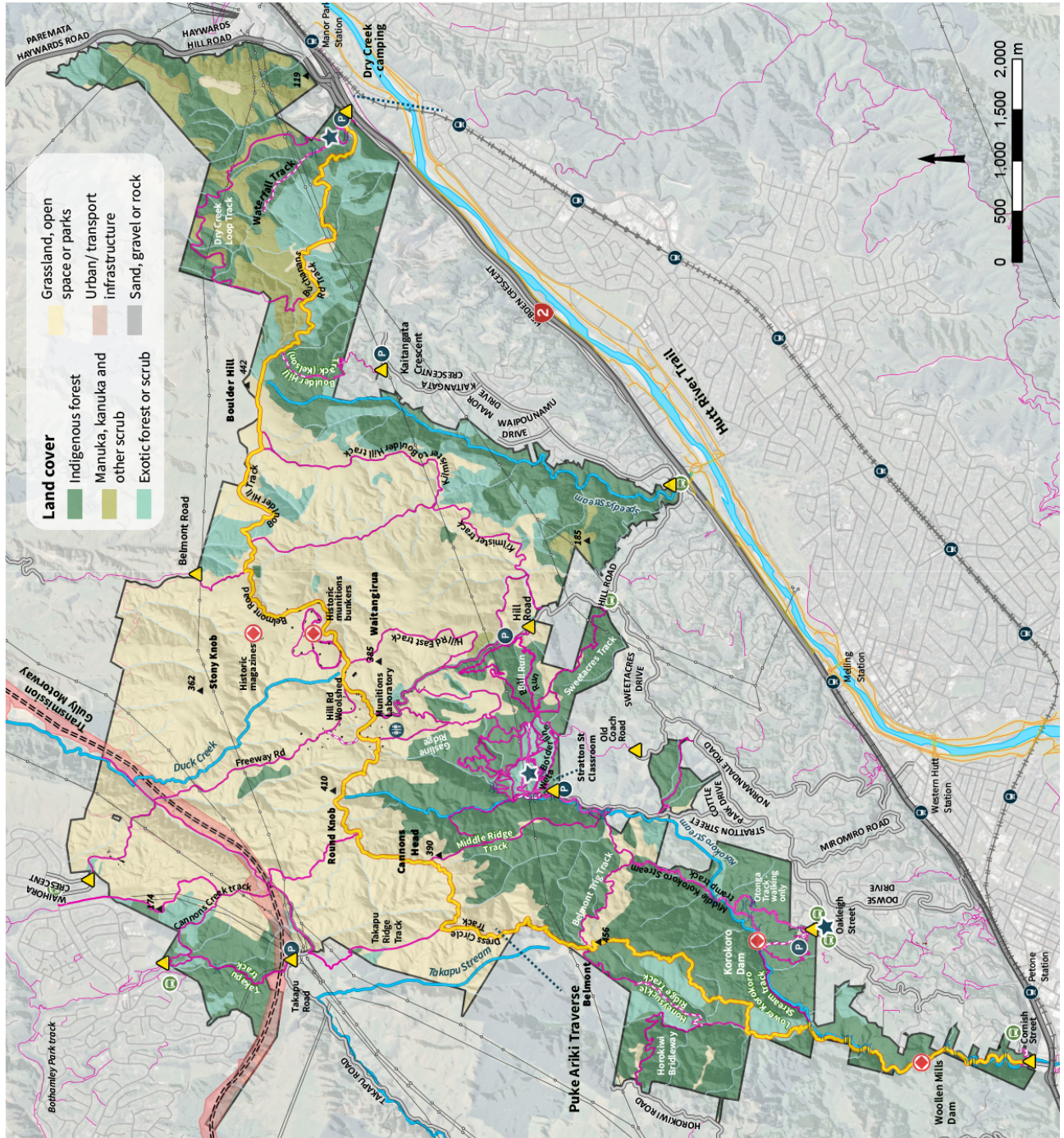
Notes

The way we work Goal 4:

Working collaboratively and consistently with others, we enable learning and build strong partnerships to deliver more conservation and recreation benefits for parks, people and communities

A196	Support mana whenua in identifying a dual te reo Māori name for the park	Short	Ngāti Toa Rangatira and Taranaki Whānui
A197	Support the establishment of a community collaboration group to help work through a master planning processes and work towards shared goals for the park implementing the Parks Network Plan	Short	Stakeholders, community, mana whenua, TAs
A198	Develop strategic conservation collaborations to help deliver broad scale restoration work of the farmed areas considering master planning and restoration planning directions.	Medium	External sponsors, funding, mana whenua, TAs, DOC, F&B
A199	Work with Porirua City Council and the Porirua Project to identify a range of changes to realise more community, recreation and conservation benefits from the western part of Belmont Park in East Porirua, including Ngahere Korowai, a large scale reforestation and protection of the environment around Porirua East.	Short	PCC, F&B, mana whenua, Kainga Ora, Wesley Community Action, Ngahere Kowahi, schools near the park, others.
A200	Support action in response to Greater Wellington's Climate Emergency declaration and achieve its 2030 carbon neutrality goal by accelerating destocking of grazed areas of the park following priorities identified in this Plan and master planning. Accelerate restoration work following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Environmental Science priorities (refer Belmont Restoration Priorities map) - A pragmatic approach avoiding further investment in farming related infrastructure such as fences - Master planning directions for recreation and community facilities and uses 	Short – Long	Master planning, climate change action plan, park stakeholders, mana whenua, HCC, PCC

Map 7: Belmont Regional Park existing conditions



Belmont Regional Park Existing conditions (2020)

Features and amenities

- ▲ Entrances
- Heritage
- ▲ Summits
- Buildings and structures
- ⌘ Bridges

Activity areas:

- Ⓟ Car parks
- ⓘ Information
- 🚻 Toilets
- 🪑 Picnic tables/seats
- ⛺ Camping (Dry Creek)

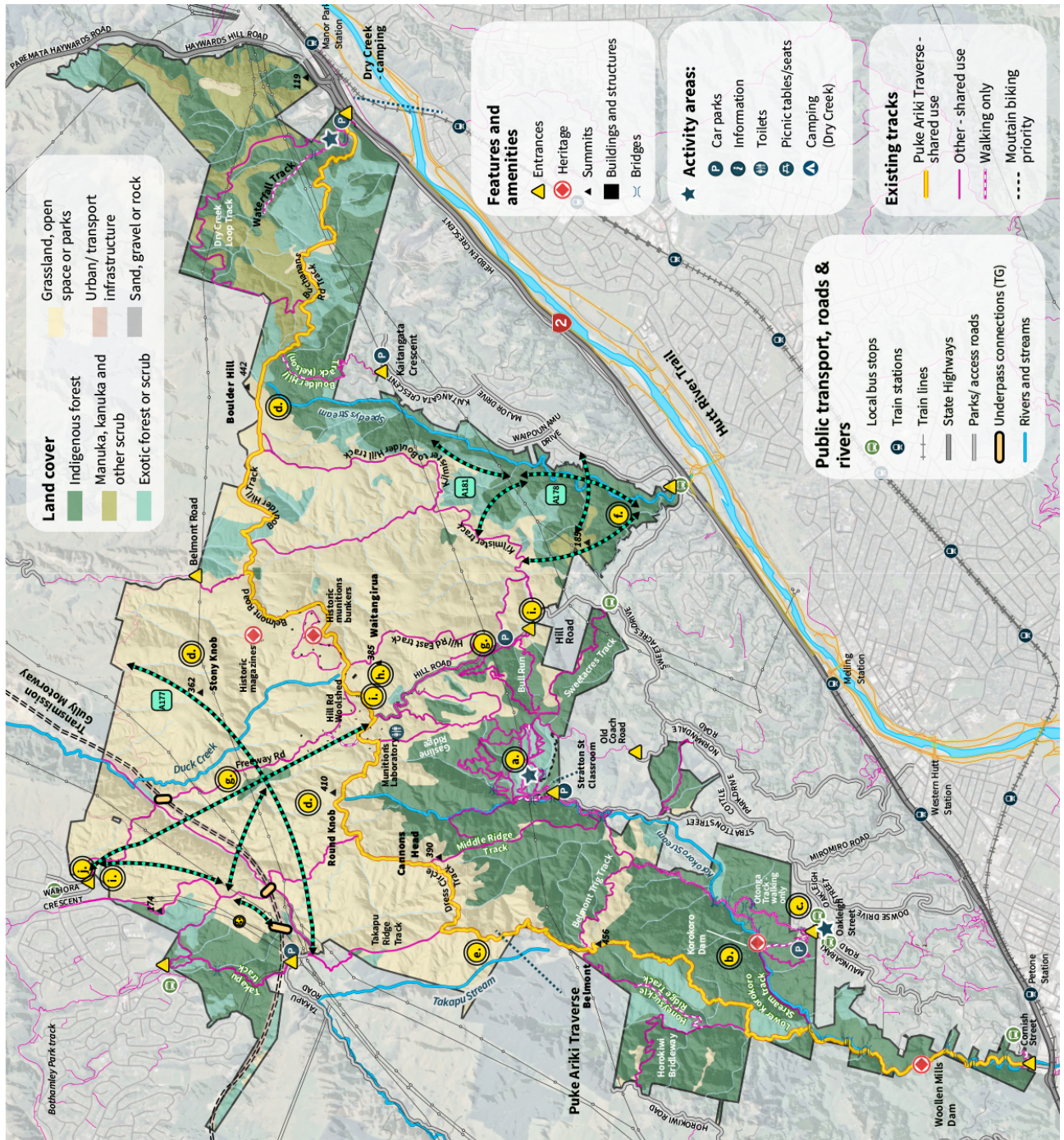
Existing tracks

- Puke Ariki Traverse - shared use
- Other - shared use
- Walking only
- Mountain biking priority

Public transport, roads & rivers

- Ⓡ Local bus stops
- Ⓡ Train stations
- Train lines
- State Highways
- Parks/ access roads
- Rivers and streams

Map 8: Belmont Regional Park potential enhancements

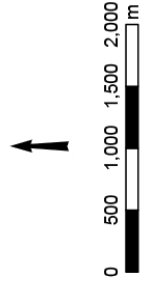


Belmont Regional Park Potential enhancements

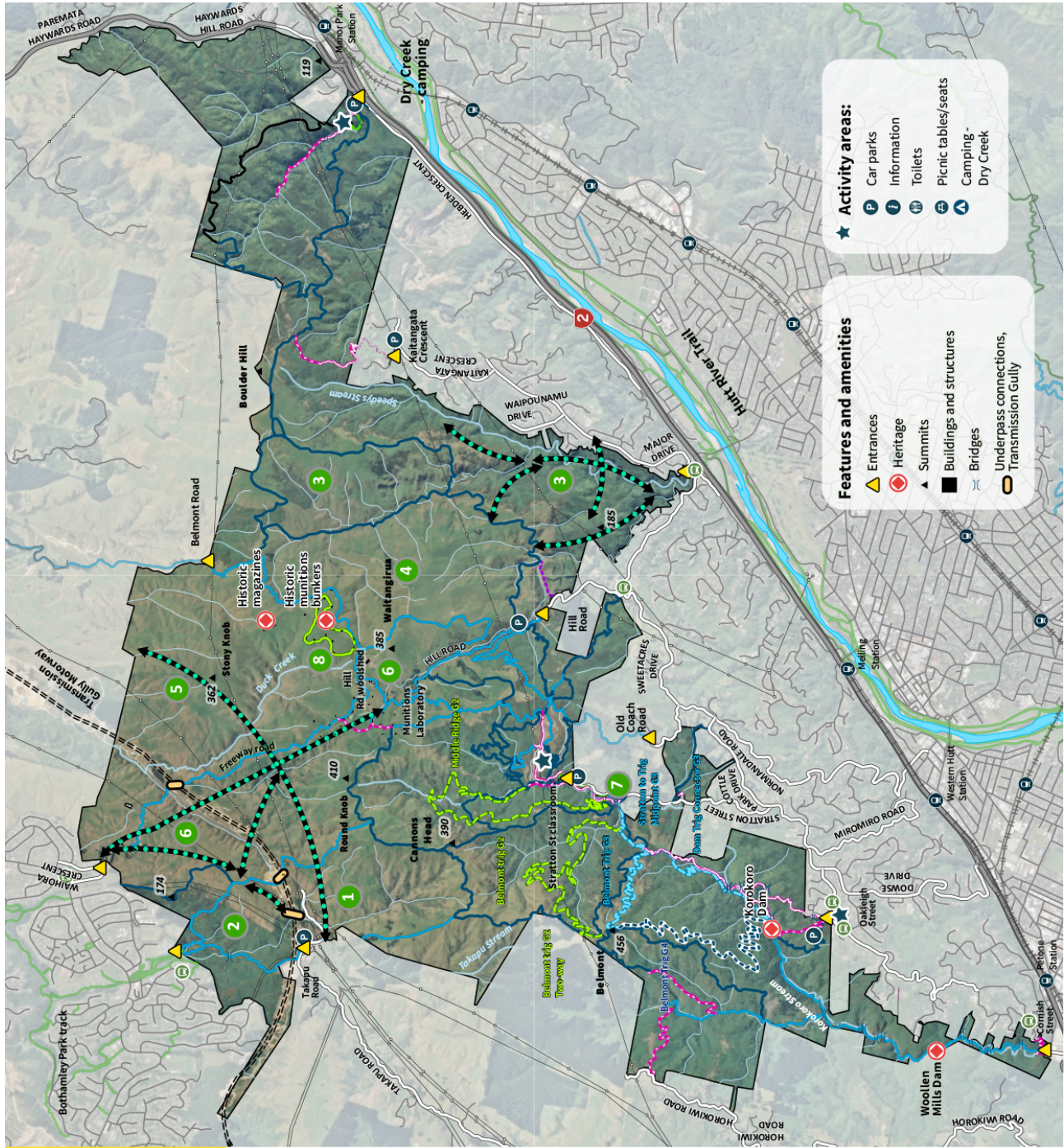
- Key destination**
- a. Stratton Street mountain bike hub
 - b. Korokoro Valley
 - c. Oakleigh Street picnic area
 - d. Belmont Taumata
 - e. Puke Ariki traverse
 - f. Kelson trails and picnic area
 - g. Porirua to Hutt Valley & Takapu routes
 - h. Hill Road heritage hub
 - i. Park buildings and structures
 - j. Waitangarua entry hub

- Amenity**
- A177 North-south connections
 - A178 Kelson area bridge
 - A181 Kelson area trails

Areas for potential tracks - to be explored through master planning process



Map 9: Belmont potential trail enhancements



Belmont Regional Park

Potential trail and access enhancements

Trail development identified in key areas of the park (labelled) through the master planning process. Most trails are shown by mountain bike grade, unless walking only.

1. Takapu Road connections (A183)
2. East Porirua trail network (A171, 172, 187, 189)
3. Kelson/Hill Rd new connections (A178, 181)
4. Shorter circuits and connections (A189)
5. North Belmont connections (A177, A189)
6. Porirua to Hutt Valley route (A185, A170g)
7. Mountain bike new trails (A188)
8. Bunkers short walk (A170h, A174)

Cycle trails

Proposed (named tracks)

Mountain bike grade

- Easy
- Intermediate
- Advanced
- Expert

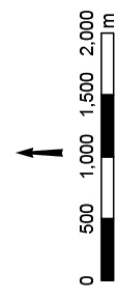
Existing

Mountain bike grade

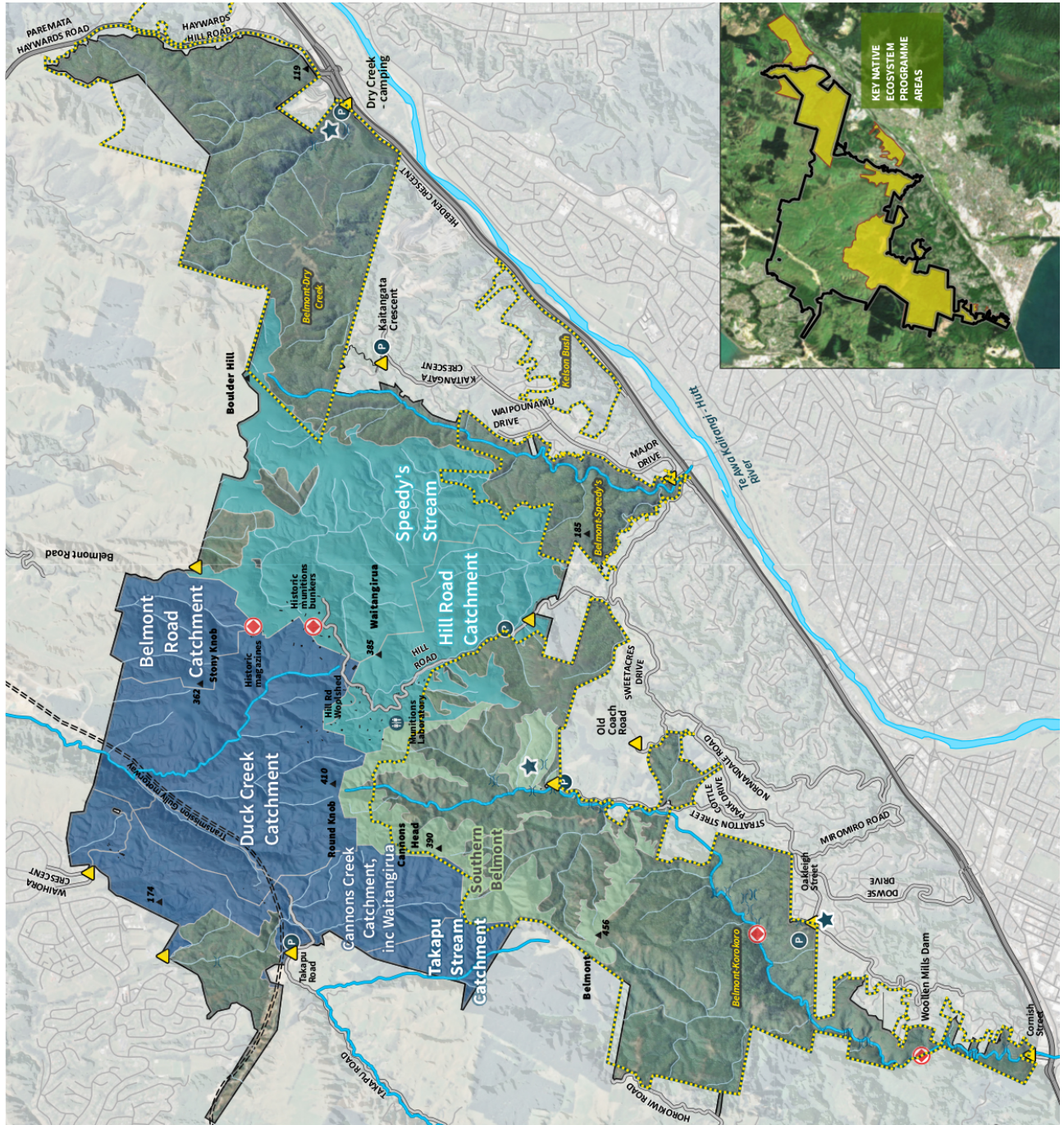
- Easy
- Intermediate
- Advanced
- Expert

Areas for potential trails (multiuse)

Walking only



Map 10: Belmont restoration priorities



Belmont Regional Park

High level restoration priorities

The high level priorities include areas of the park in the early stages of restoration. Detailed restoration priorities are determined through other processes.

Restoration areas

- Priority
 - First
 - Second
 - Third
- Key Native Ecosystem programme areas

Features and amenities

- Entrances
- Heritage
- Summits
- Buildings and structures
- Bridges

Activity areas:

- Car parks
- Information
- Toilets
- Picnic tables/seats
- Camping - Dry Creek

