



Queen Elizabeth Park

Management plan 2006



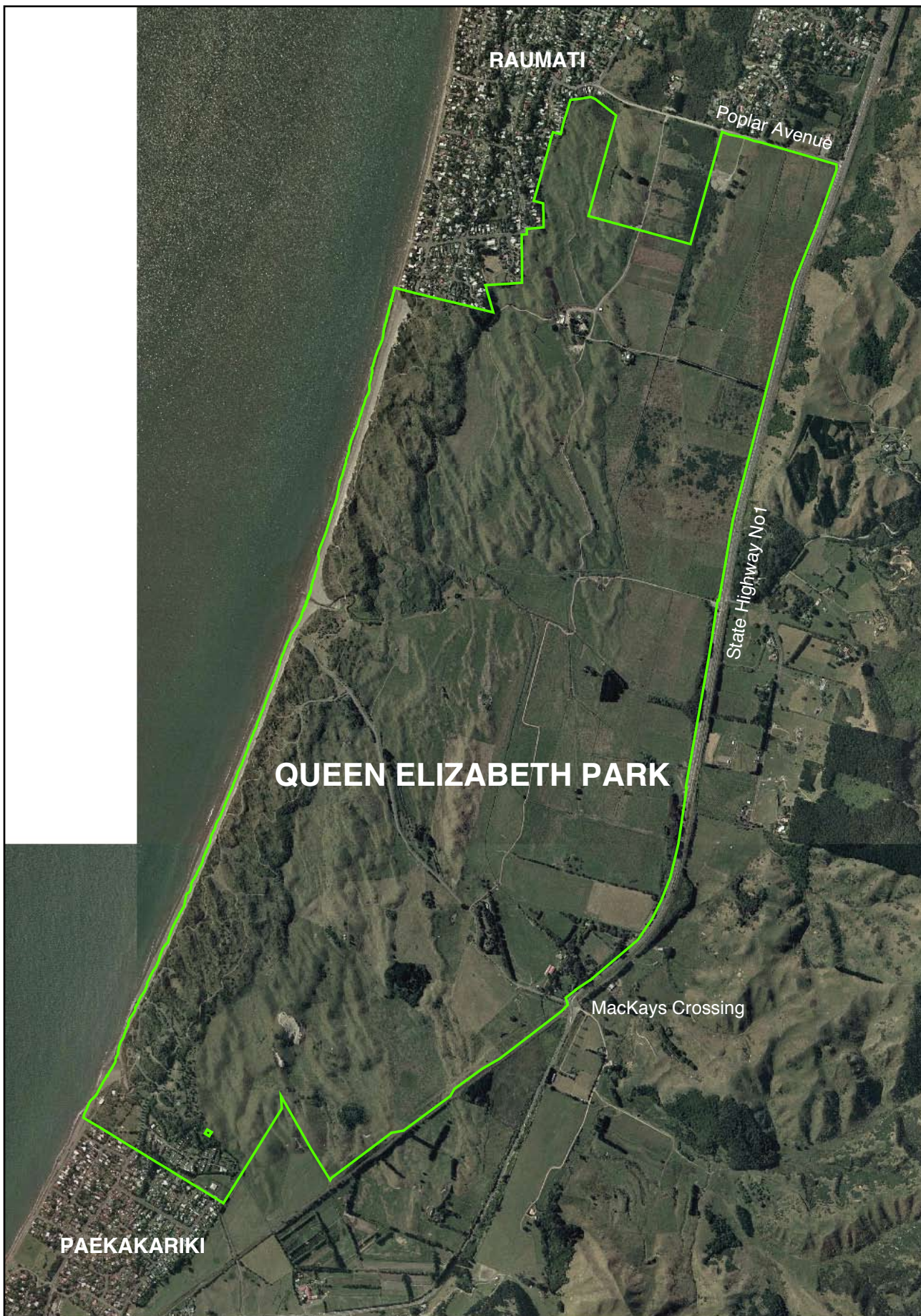
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Queen Elizabeth Park

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Queen Elizabeth Park overview

Queen Elizabeth Park (QEP) is located on the Kapiti Coast between Paekakariki and Raumati, 40 kilometres north of Wellington City. It has been managed by the Wellington Regional Council as a regional park since the early 1990's and is one of the most popular parks in the regional network.

Access to the Park is through Paekakariki and off State Highway 1 at MacKay's Crossing. Facilities are provided at Wainui Recreation area, at the northern end of Paekakariki, at MacKay's Crossing and at Whareroa on the coast, west of MacKay's Crossing. In recent surveys it was estimated that there were 415,000 visits to the Park.

The Park has an area of 638 hectares. The natural character of the park is influenced by Kapiti Island, the extensive beaches, the rolling coastal dune system and the inland dunes. The park is frequented particularly during the summer months to take advantage of the picnicking, swimming and beach activities which the park offers. The QEP also has a long association with equestrian events, attracting events and riders from around the region.

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

The history of Queen Elizabeth Park is rich, steeped in significance for both Tangata Whenua and Europeans alike. From the late 1830's and continuing through to the 1880's, it was a significant occupation site for local Maori centering on the villages of Whareroa and Wainui. As occupation in these areas declined, the land was taken up by European farmers late in the 19th Century.

During the mid 1940's the land was used by US Marines as an encampment, the effects of this has been significant considering the short period of occupation. Soon after the Marines departed, the land used for camps was considered as suitable for a large regional park, one of Wellington's first. From 1953, the QEP Park Board managed the park providing recreation facilities for residents from the wider region. In 1990 the board was disbanded and control and management of the park was transferred to Greater Wellington Regional Council.

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 Queen Elizabeth 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. To realise the plan's vision and objectives all the plan's objectives and policies need to be considered during any decision making processes affecting the park.



Vision

To enhance quality of life in the Wellington region by developing and managing Queen Elizabeth 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 the coastal environment, revegetating or regenerating areas and any other areas of significant indigenous vegetation.
 - ensuring that remnant ecosystems are healthy, and effectively monitored so that their life supporting capacity is sustained, and they contribute to good water, air, soil and catchment values.
 - ensuring that Queen Elizabeth Park will contribute to the diverse range of landscapes within the region.
 - protecting the park's landscape values, including the beach and coastal dune system from inappropriate use and development.
 - protecting geological features such as the unmodified dunes system from inappropriate development and use.
 - protecting significant cultural heritage values and features relating to Maori, early European settlers, and WWII US Marine occupation.

Use

- Ensure people use, 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 environmental, heritage and landscape values of the park, allowing for a range of uses within the different park zones
 - providing opportunities including environmental and outdoor education
 - ensuring any activities are consistent with this plan's objectives and sustainable land management practices.
 - promoting environmental best practice wherever possible within the park.

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 kaitiaki/guardianship role of Tangata Whenua
 - actively protect Tangata Whenua interests in respect of their lands, forests, fisheries and other taonga.

The plan is prepared in accordance with the provisions of the Reserves Act 1977 and the Local Government Act (LGA) 1974. 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 part E of the Objectives and Policies section.

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.

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 Draft Queen Elizabeth Park Management Plan is consistent with the vision and direction set in the network management plan.



Land status

Queen Elizabeth Park is classified as a recreation reserves under the Reserves Act 1977. The Wellington Regional Council was appointed by the Minister of Conservation to control and manage Queen Elizabeth Park as a reserve for recreation purposes, pursuant to Section 28 of the Reserves Act 1977. The Local Government Amendment Act 1992 confirms Greater Wellington's role as the manager of the Park and requires us to prepare a management plan accordingly.

The legal description of the land parcels within Queen Elizabeth Park can be found in the appendix.

Plan outline

Section 1 – Queen Elizabeth 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 – Queen Elizabeth Park Management Plan objectives and policies

This section sets out how we will manage Queen Elizabeth 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 Queen Elizabeth Park, showing how the aims and objectives of the plan may 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:

Queen Elizabeth Park Newsletters

Park Brochures, available at Council Offices

Internet site www.gw.govt.nz

Regional Policy Statement

The Queen Elizabeth Park Resource Statement

Management plan and decision-making frameworks

The basis for this management plan is the requirements of the LGA 1974, LGA 2002 and the Reserves Act 1977. This management plan is consistent with all of these Acts' requirements and constitutes the Draft Queen Elizabeth Park Management Plan for the purposes of both the Reserves and LGA and amendments.

The LGA 1974 empowered Greater Wellington to hold, manage and purchase land for regional parks to protect natural, environmental, landscape, educational, heritage and archaeological values or for its 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 have been retained for another five years. Management plans are mandatory for each regional park controlled and administered by the Regional Council (section 619D). The contents and preparation of this draft 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.

The land at QEP has also been reserved under the Reserves Act 1977 as a "recreation reserve." The land belongs to the crown but control and management of the land rest with the Greater Wellington Regional Council. As with the LGA 1974, all reserves under the Reserves Act 1977 are required to have management plans prepared for them.

Recreations reserves are managed for:

"recreation and sporting activities and the physical welfare and enjoyment of the public and for the protection of the natural environment and beauty of the countryside, with emphasis on the retention of open spaces and on outdoor recreational activities, including recreation tracks in the countryside" (Section 17, Reserves Act 1977).

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. Decision making must comply with the NZ Coastal Policy Statement, Greater Wellington Regional Policy Statement and the Kapiti Coast District Plan.

Other important regulatory frameworks relate to rural fire control, network utility providers, designations, roading and transportation.

Other 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

Queen Elizabeth Park is adjacent to, or is near other ecological and recreational areas. This plan sets out how Greater Wellington will work with other agencies to enhance access and values from Queen Elizabeth 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 Queen Elizabeth Park including:

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

Land acquisition

Greater Wellington will consider future acquisition of land for Queen Elizabeth 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 in 2005/06 and 2007/08 respectively; and to investigate a possible Wellington South Coast trail in 2004/05. At the time of writing, although Whareroa Farm has been secured in public ownership the management arrangements are still to be finalized. However in the interim any land which is acquired for inclusion in Queen Elizabeth Park will be managed in accordance with this plans objectives and policies.

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. Over 300 submissions were received.

People were given the opportunity to comment on the draft plan and elect to be heard in support of their submission if they wanted to. Several people elected for this option and the QEP hearings, held in the KCDC council chambers, ran over two days. 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 proposed park zones will guide the day-to-day management activities of the Park: Zone 1: Coastal Dunes, Zone 2: Recreation Areas, Zone 3: Inland Dunes, Zone 4: Peatland, Waterways and Wetlands. Maps showing the predominant recreation activities, tracks, ownership and other management considerations are provided in the 'Way Forward' section of the plan.

Good relationships with neighbouring 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.



Objectives

The basis for park management will be 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

To date Queen Elizabeth Park has been managed under 12 “Land Use Management Areas”. It is proposed that the zones are realigned along geological, ecological and landscape formations to cater for similar land management policies to be grouped together allowing clarity and ease of reference. (Refer to Map 1 overleaf). The values within these areas provide for activities and future management directions proposed in this plan.

Zone 1: Coastal dunes

The focus of this area is primarily on conservation and restoration of the fragile dune system along the beach front. Dune restoration, maintenance of native vegetation communities, erosion control, and archaeological sites management are the focus for future management within this area. Recreation activities, which are compatible with the conservation objectives within this zone, such as walking, dog walking, picnicking, access onto the beach and swimming are permitted in designated areas only.



Zone 2: Recreation areas; Wainui, Whareroa, Mackay’s Crossing

The recreation areas of Wainui, Whareroa and Mackay’s Crossing have been developed, providing amenities to support moderate recreation activities, with opportunities for picnicking, bicycle riding, dog walking, equestrian events, and local community events. The dunes have been modified with pasture and non indigenous flora, giving protection against dune erosion and “blowouts”. As a consequence this allows for more formal recreational activities, such as orienteering events or cross country running. These areas can be accessed by vehicle at Mackay’s Crossing entrance, or Wellington Rd at the Paekakariki end of the park.

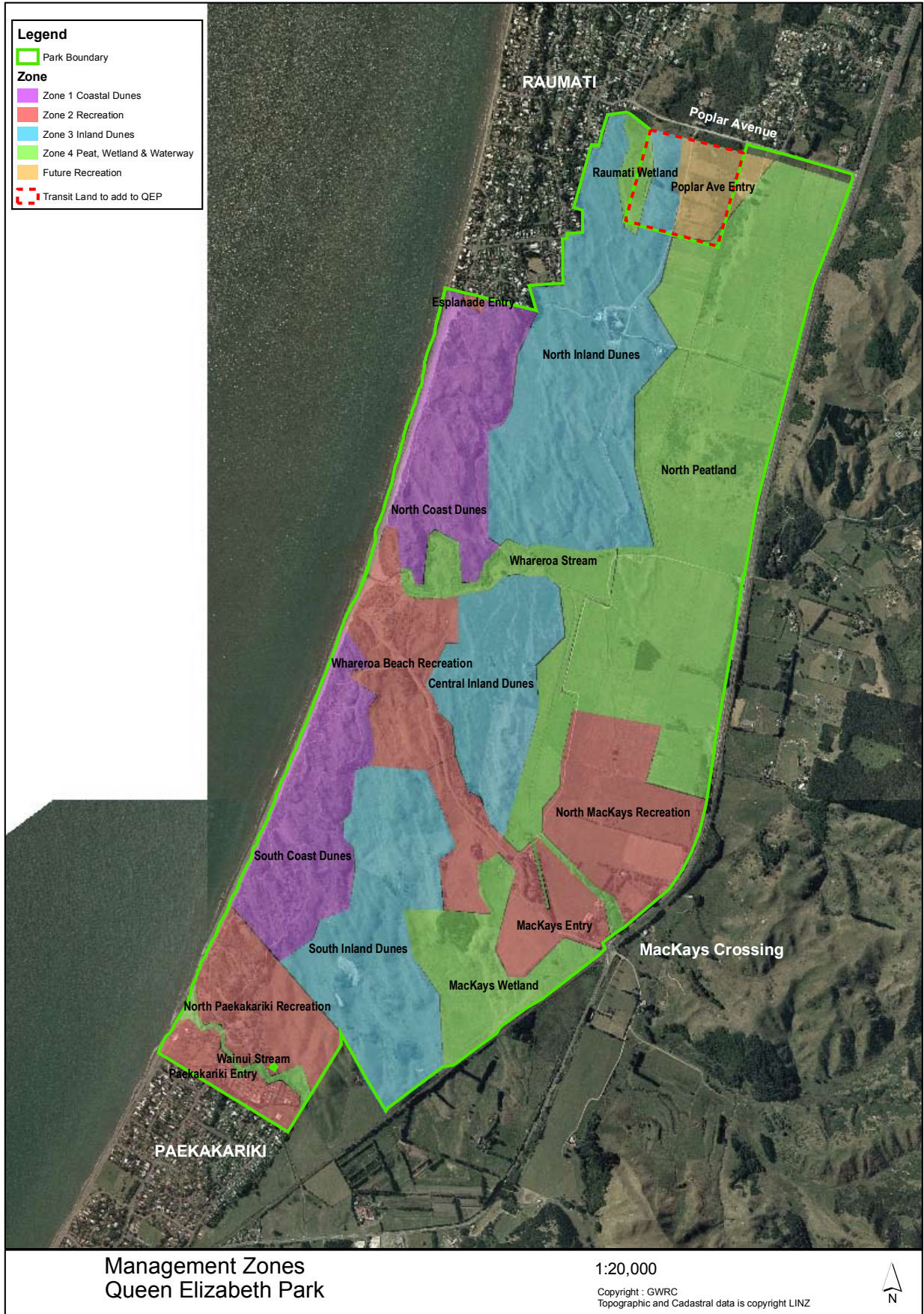
Zone 3: Inland dunes

This zone contains three portions of inland, stabilised rolling dunes currently being leased for grazing or is used for its open space park values. The emphasis in these areas is to maintain the existing uses while exploring options for further restoration and recreational developments, suited to a pastured, grass landscape.

Zone 4: Peatland, waterways and wetlands

This area encapsulates much of the wetlands, streams of the park. Those landforms, will be managed for their environmental and conservation values. The remaining peatland areas will be managed in such a way as to encourage a complimentary range of activities as is appropriate for the high water table and current farming regimes, including additional recreation opportunities where appropriate.





Policies

Plan's relationship to other plans and legislation

- 1.1 To continue to manage and develop the park in accordance with the Reserves Act 1977, LGA 1974, the LGA 2002 and the Resource Management Act 1991, including national and regional policy statements and district plans. Greater Wellington, in accordance with Council policy, statutory powers, and the authority delegated by the crown, is responsible for decision-making processes affecting the park. (In some exceptional instances decision making may lie with the crown in accordance with Section 53 Reserves Act)
- 1.2 To advocate for the significant values of Queen Elizabeth Park to be identified in all levels of planning and policy documents as appropriate.
- 1.3 To reinvest revenue generated within the park for park management. The Reserves Act 1977 and the LGA 2002 provisions govern expenditure.



Sustainable management

- 1.4 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.
- 1.5 To advocate and demonstrate best land management practice in the park.
- 1.6 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.
- 1.7 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.
- 1.8 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.

- 1.9 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 sign posting roads, tracks and trails,
 - adopting management practices that minimise erosion or sediment entering water bodies.
 - where appropriate to take into consideration policy developed through KCDC's "Strategies for Managing Coastal Erosion Hazards on the Kapiti Coast"
- 1.10 To take environmental values into account when mitigating hazard risks.

Land tenure, acquisition and disposal

- 1.11 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.
- 1.12 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
- 1.13 Any land acquired with the intent of being managed as part of Queen Elizabeth Park will be managed in accordance with the aims, objectives and policies in this plan and or the Reserves Act as appropriate, this includes "Transit Land proposed to be added to QEP" along Poplar Ave.

Linkages

- 1.14 To work with other agencies to develop improved linkages with other public lands
- 1.15 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.
- 1.16 To advocate for and encourage greater access to the park by public transport and for non-vehicular access (e.g. walkers, mountain bikers, horse riders).

Development affecting the park

- 1.17 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

- 1.18 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).
- 1.19 To concentrate intensive use and development of park facilities at existing developed areas, wherever possible.
- 1.20 To design new facilities, buildings and structures to agreed standards¹ and to reflect the character of the park and its values.
- 1.21 To maintain a network of tracks that provides access through the park and a range of recreational opportunities.
- 1.22 To offer varied opportunities for park users by providing multiple use tracks and facilities where possible and appropriate.
- 1.23 To provide signs and track markers for visitor information and interpretation, and to help promote the safe and enjoyable use of the park.
- 1.24 To continue to develop park entry areas and key development nodes as focal points for visitor activity in the park.
- 1.25 To provide vehicle parking areas, where practicable, at key park nodes.
- 1.26 Future developments will be complimentary to, and utilise, existing car parking within the park.

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. Existing memorials within the park include,
 - Queen Elizabeth Park Board memorial at Wainui Pa
 - The three kahikatea trees planted to remember Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother 2002
 - the Mackay's Crossing gates in remembrance of WWII Marines
 - the commemorative plaque at Mackay's Crossing interpretation panels.
- 1.29 The burial of body parts within the park is prohibited, with the exception of the re-internment of kōiwi.



¹ 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'

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 vegetation cover, 10% of the wetland systems remain and less than 10% of our dune vegetation is close to its original cover. 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.

Queen Elizabeth Park contains areas with significant biodiversity and cultural values. Originally the area between Paekakariki and Wanganui was covered in dune forest and swamp vegetation (Cockayne, 1909). Although the vegetation in the park has been greatly modified, there are still small areas of regenerating vegetation or rare remnants, representing coastal dune shrub lands, wetland and ephemeral wetlands and swamp forest plant communities. These are believed to be the rarest and most threatened ecosystems in the region.

Two streams pass through Queen Elizabeth Park and discharge into the sea, Whareoa at the northern end of the park and Wainui to the south. Both have their headwaters in the hills east of the Park where the land is steep and stony. The two streams offer very different habitat for freshwater fish because of the terrain covered, vegetation types, flow velocity and subsequent modification that has occurred.

Wainui Stream supports a number of freshwater fish species. Two of note are the giant kōkopu and the longfin eel both of which are species listed as being in gradual decline under the NZ Threat Classification System (DoC 2002). Whareroa in contrast has been significantly modified and therefore does not afford the same habitat values for fish species. However at the river mouth, the stream passes through native coastal vegetation, providing good spawning ground for inanga.

Several wetlands, including an ephemeral wetland system, within the park support a variety of bird, fish, frogs and invertebrates. In the past these types of wetland would have reached as far north as Foxton; early settlers referred to them as the "Great Swamp". Less than 300ha of the approximate 2000ha of flax swamps, lakes and smaller bodies of water and swamp forests remain.

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 undertaken.

Queen Elizabeth Park contains a mix of environments that contribute to its character and diversity; ranging from the beach and coastal dunes to the open

pasture land, and wetlands and waterways. The dunes are also a rich source of archeological heritage with many sites located amongst them.

Those diverse environments need to be managed in different ways. Nevertheless, the management of the park's land should contribute to the region's goal of sustainability.

Objectives

Biodiversity in Queen Elizabeth Park, including coastal sandunes, ephemeral wetlands, forest remnants and other areas of significant regenerating indigenous vegetation, are actively protected and appropriately managed.

Modified ecosystems are healthy, their life supporting capacity are 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 Queen Elizabeth 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 on the values of the ecosystem, 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 Restoration of the coastal dunes and native forest remnants will be carried out in accordance with the current rehabilitation plans and only plants sourced in the Foxton Ecological District will be used in these areas
- 2.7 Whenever restoring areas, to use plants sourced from the Foxton Ecological District wherever possible.
- 2.8 When assessing and implementing enhancement and restoration projects, to also consider:
 - opportunities for planting species, sourced from within the Foxton Ecological District, that may be used for social and cultural purposes

such as for medicinal uses and weaving, and plants of significance to Tangata Whenua.

- the degree of degradation of the ecosystem and its ability to recover
- the contribution the area could make to ecological corridors within the region.
- the level of public support and involvement.

- 2.9 To maintain the native ecosystems of waterways and to minimise threats to the water quality and quantity in streams in Queen Elizabeth Park and related catchments, as far as practicable.
- 2.10 To assist in implementing policy 2.9 best practice techniques for works around waterways will be developed where appropriate
- 2.11 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.

The dunes at Queen Elizabeth park are part of the Foxton Ecological District, which is a narrow strip of sand dune country which runs from south of Paekakariki to north of Wanganui. These dunes form the most extensive sand dune system in New Zealand, but less than 5% of it now has predominately indigenous vegetation. Nationally, less than 10% of sand dunes are close to their original condition as many of these sites seem to have been ideal to settle or modify for farmland.

Dune ecosystems are very fragile and have been impacted by grazing by stock and rabbits, weed invasion, residential development, vehicles and uncontrolled pedestrian access. The plants and animals of the coast have evolved in response to the unique conditions of the coastal environment and many species, especially insects, occur only in the coastal environment.

Through sound policy and effective management, steps can be taken to ensure that the rare dune system and coastal vegetation represented in Queen Elizabeth Park remains as an example of New Zealand's unique natural heritage into the future.



Table 1: Significant environmental areas and features

General area	Site/description	Reasons for significance
Coastal and Inland Dunes	Unmodified regenerating coastal foredunes adjacent to beach. Consolidated inland foredunes.	The dunes in the park are examples of a once far more extensive system, containing valuable representation of geological, vegetative and faunal data of the area. <i>(Listed in KCDC district plan as site of ecological and geological significance)</i> <i>(Plant communities listed in Regional Plant Strategy (DoC) as being "of considerable conservation concern")</i>
Wetlands MacKay's Crossing Poplar Avenue Wainui wetland	Generally Cluster of approximately 20ha of ponding wetlands in an ephemeral wetland system Wetland, fenced and regenerating in the northern end of the park Small recently rehabilitated wetland adjacent to Wainui stream in the south of the park	Provides habitat for birds, fish, frogs, invertebrate and wetland plant communities <i>(mentioned in GW wetland Action Plan as sites for future consideration)</i> <i>(Listed in KCDC district plan as site of ecological significance)</i>
Streams Wainui Whareroa	Flows through southern end of the park, reasonably unmodified with little erosion and high water flow Flows through the northern end of the park, highly modified catchment, meanders at river mouth through native coastal vegetation	Provides significant habitat for freshwater fish and in particular giant Kōkopu and longfin eel (both listed as being in "gradual decline" in the NZ Threat Classification System) Provides spawning ground for Inanga at river mouth
Kahikatea remnant forest	Approximately 1ha of Kahikatea remnant adjacent to wetlands in the Mackay's Crossing wetland system	Extremely rare Kahikatea forest remnant (one of two remnants that remain on the Kapiti Coast) The remnant is dominated by Kahikatea and Puketea, with some Tawa, Swamp Maire and Matai. <i>(Listed in KCDC district plan as site of ecological significance)</i>

Pest plants and pest animals

- 2.12 To actively control pest plants and pest animals to allow for the recovery of indigenous ecosystems and sustain their life-supporting capacity.
- 2.13 To base pest plant and pest animal control on the:
 - Current best practice control methods available
 - 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
 - requirements of the current Queen Elizabeth Park pest plant control plan
- 2.14 To take all practicable steps to prevent new pest plant and pest animal infestations and to survey regularly for new infestations.
- 2.15 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.
- 2.16 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.
- 2.17 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

- 2.18 To plant introduced plants only where:
 - they have a specific purpose or amenity value in accordance with the management objectives of the area (ie picnic areas); and
 - the area has low indigenous ecological values; and
 - they pose a low threat to indigenous ecosystems.
- 2.19 To enable existing introduced plants, in accordance with the current Queen Elizabeth Park weed plan, 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 and are not pest plants; 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.

Without a doubt Queen Elizabeth Park provides a range of landscape and experiences and is endowed with significant geological values. The park offers beach, coastal dune, wetlands and open space experiences, enhanced by the surrounding hill country and Kapiti Island, which although is not part of the park, contributes to the landscape experience when visiting QEP. The most significant geological features contributing to the experience of the park are the Whareroa Dune Complex², the Te Ramaroa Fan and the abandoned sea cliff at Mackay's Crossing.

The coastal dune between the Whareroa Stream and Raumati South are valuable as the last relatively unmodified dunes remaining on this part of the coast. The coastal dunes in the Park to the south of the Whareroa Stream and those in the Paekakariki and Raumati areas have been modified to a greater or lesser extent by human use and development.

Near MacKay's crossing a gravel fan, referred to as the "Te Ramaroa Fan", developed during the last glacial period was cliffed by the rising sea level. It is part of the former coastline marked by sea cut cliffs on the faces of the hills between Pukerua Bay and Paraparaumu. This coastline is estimated to be 6500 years old and although outside the Park boundary, this interglacial sea cliff provides a dramatic back drop to the lower profile terrain and dunes of the Park.

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.

At present the particular geological sites within the Park are listed in the Kapiti Coast District Plan on the Register of Geological Sites, listed on the "Outstanding Coastal Landscapes" register in the district plan, are considered under the Regional Policy Statements and are listed in the "Inventory of Important Geological Sites and Landforms in the Manawatu and Wellington Regions" (Kenny & Hayward; 1993). GWRC will continue to advocate for the protection of these geological landforms through the policy options available.

² Edwards, A.R. Unpublished 2005

Objectives

Queen Elizabeth Park will contribute to the diverse range of landscapes within the region.

The park's landscape values, including the beach, coastal dune formations, wetlands, streams and open spaces are protected from inappropriate use and development.

Geological features such as the Whareroa Dune Complex are protected from inappropriate use and development.

Acknowledge the importance to the park's character of the surrounding landscape values, including Kapiti Island, surrounding coastal environment and the hills and ridgelines and geological features such as the Te Ramoroa Fan and Mackay's Crossing seacliff and advocating their protection from further inappropriate use and development.

Policies

- 2.20 To recognise and take account of the landscape values of Queen Elizabeth Park in its management, use and development.
- 2.21 To manage the use, development and protection of landscapes significant to Tangata Whenua³.
- 2.22 To protect the park's key landscape features and values from inappropriate use and development. Key landscape features include:
 - The beach from Raumati to Paekakariki
 - The Whareroa Dune Complex
 - All Wetlands and Streams

Open Spaces

- 2.23 To advocate for the protection of significant geological features which contribute to the landscape experience of Queen Elizabeth Park from inappropriate use and development including;
 - Kapiti Island
 - Te Ramoroa Fan
 - Mackay's Crossing Seacliff
- 2.24 To protect significant modified landscape features such as the Whareroa and Wainui Pa's from inappropriate use or development.
- 2.25 To promote the maintenance and enhancement of the amenity and intrinsic values of the landscape and landforms of the park.
- 2.26 To advocate for the protection of the park's key geological features and values from inappropriate use and development.
- 2.27 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 of those values, or cultural values, are avoided, remedied or mitigated.

³ Following further consultation with Iwi, more detailed information may be included at a later date

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.



Whareroa Farm

At the time of writing the future management arrangements for Whareroa Farm have not been confirmed. What is certain is that Whareroa Farm will be held in public ownership, after its recent sale by Landcorp Farming, creating a contiguous strip of open space land from Kapiti Island, through Queen Elizabeth Park and into the Akatarawa ranges.

Although there has not ever been a formal relationship, in terms of reservation status or shared legal titles, there has been a close association between the two blocks of land, for both Tangata Whenua and European's alike.

Maori (Tangata Whenua) occupied both QEP and Whareroa Farm, where Pa were established after the Battle of Waiorua in 1824 which established Ngati Toa Rangiatira and their Taranaki relations as Tangata Whenua along the Kapiti Coast. The land was settled, cultivated and "allied" family groups of Ngati Toa Rangitira, Te Atiawa ki Whakarongatai and other hapu and iwi were gifted land by Ngati Toa Rangitira on the now Whareroa Farm block so they could also settle in the region. Today, Ngati Toa are the mana whenua iwi south of the Whareroa stream, and Te Atiawa ki Whakarongotai to the north. Both have significant Treaty claims over this area which have been lodged with the Waitangi Tribunal.

European history in this area included the Crown temporarily occupying the land at QEP and Whareroa under wartime regulations to accommodate the US marines. Three camps were established, one at Mackays crossing entrance, one at the southern entrance of the park known as Camp Russell and one on the Whareroa Farm block Camp Mackay. Since that time the land has been farmed under the Dept of Lands and Survey and later Landcorp Framing ltd.

Perhaps most notably Whareroa Farm lends a backdrop to Queen Elizabeth Park in terms of landscape and ecological processes. Whareroa Stream which flows through Queen Elizabeth Park is part of the same catchment system which travels through Whareroa Farm. Also before State Highway 1 dissected the coastal plain it would have been a complete landscape from the Tararua ranges through, lowland hills out to the coastal dunes and onto the beach.



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, buildings 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.

The cultural heritage at Queen Elizabeth Park is rich for both Europeans and Maori alike. For local iwi, Ngati Haumia, Te Ati Awa Ki Whakarongotai and Ngati Toarangatira it is their ancestral lands and as such have kaitiaki or guardianship over the park. European cultural presence in the park is also strong, having been a site where early settlement, particularly sealers and whalers, took place. For many, the most notable reminder of European activity in the park is that of the US Marines occupying the park at Camp Paekakariki and Camp Russell during 1942 and 1943. Another point of cultural significance is the Tramway Museum in QEP which commemorates the importance of this type of transportation to the region.



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.

Due to the extensive nature of archeologically significant material within QEP it is suggested that areas of Queen Elizabeth Park be managed as a "heritage landscape" rather than specific archaeological sites as is current practice. Given that many of the significant heritage values are located in the dune area the existing management zones would have sympathetic management outcomes. For example the "coastal dune zone" which will be managed for low impact recreation and given high conservation protection could also be managed as a zone of "high archaeological importance". Systems for managing the park in this way will be explored and incorporated into work practices as appropriate.

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.

Objectives

Key heritage values and features will be enhanced and promoted within the park in recognition of the significance they contribute to cultural mosaic of the Kapiti Coast.

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

Policies

Identification and information gathering

- 2.28 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

- 2.29 To manage all historic and cultural heritage features, giving priority to those, based on their significance and the level and urgency of threat to them.
- 2.30 To protect heritage information, wherever possible, by recording information from eroding archeological sites and monitoring where practicable.

- 2.31 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.
- 2.32 The key sites of cultural heritage significance within the park include:
- Wainui Pa
 - Whareroa Pa
 - United States Marine Camps; Camp Paekakariki, Paekakariki and Camp Russell, Mackay’s Crossing
 - Tramway Museum
 - Budge House – Rangers residence
 - Mackay’s Crossing Stables (listed as Barn – Horse Stables under the KCDC DP)
- 2.33 To develop conservation plans for significant heritage features.
- 2.34 To restore or enhance degraded heritage areas or features where possible and appropriate.
- 2.35 To explore, and where appropriate adopt as a management technique, mechanisms for recording heritage information in a heritage landscape context, such as management zones that reflect an area’s heritage significance.
- 2.36 To adhere to nationally established procedures where historic and cultural heritage features or artifacts are unearthed (established by the Historic Places and Antiquities Acts).
- 2.37 No removal or damage of cultural heritage sites and areas is permitted.

Interpretation

- 2.38 To actively inform the public about the heritage values of the park through interpretation, information and events.
- 2.39 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.
- 2.40 To work with Tangata Whenua in the management of historic and cultural heritage.
- 2.41 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 artifacts or human remains.

- Tangata Whenua determination of the disclosure or non-disclosure of sites and information.

2.42 To repatriate artifacts to Tangata Whenua in accordance with the Antiquities Act 1975.

Involving the community

2.43 To work with relevant community groups and historical societies to identify, assess and interpret historical and heritage sites.

2.44 To encourage a greater awareness of the range and significance of the cultural heritage values and features of the park within the community.

There are a large number of archaeological sites and other sites of significance to Maori found in the coastal dune area. Some of the most important and prominent sites are in the vicinity of the Whareroa and Wainui trig which are both old Pa sites. There are significant cultivation areas around the pa's particularly, at Whareroa, where there are many midden and oven sites.

This area also contains a site where paru (a rare black mud used for drying flax) was extracted. (Boffa Miskell Ltd; 2001). The whānau urupā/family cemetery of Ngati Haumia is also located in the park

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.

Sustaining opportunities and use

Queen Elizabeth Park provides a wide range of opportunities for the community, in an “open space”, minimal development, coastal setting. The most common uses are recreation activities, such as swimming, picnicking, camping, and community events. The park is also well known for its equestrian events and more recently has become popular for mountain and casual bike riding.

Queen Elizabeth Park’s close proximity to urban areas has meant that the park is one of the most visited in the regional network, with over 400,000 visits each year. This is particularly the case in the summer months when many people visit for swimming and picnicking on the beach.

The main visitor areas of Wainui and Whareroa provide the two focal points, and nodes for future developments, to support passive recreation in the seaward side of the park including car parking and rest area amenities. Both of these recreation areas are being developed independently and have their own distinct characteristics.

Wainui Recreation Area is more heavily developed due to its close proximity to Paekakariki urban area. The motor camp, surf club, play grounds and the “Pickle Pot” all provide recreation opportunities in this area. Whareroa recreation area is primarily used for picnicking, BBQ’s and as an access point for walkways into the park, however opportunities exist to extend the range of activities available here by allowing for occasional concerts and events. The development of tracks in the future will assist in encouraging flow between the two sites.

Mackay’s Crossing has developed as a formal recreation node with concession holders providing opportunities such as equestrian riding and events, tram rides, historic sites and passive recreation opportunities surrounding the wetlands. Because of its close proximity to the park entrance it is also a popular spot for picnicking and passerby’s to stop on the way north or south.

The wetlands and waterway’s throughout the park allow for passive recreation opportunities, the recent Mackay’s Crossing wetlands being the latest example of this. There are opportunities to develop water related recreation in other areas of the park, particularly in the North Eastern section of QEP, and discussions about the most appropriate type of water development have begun.

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.

Objectives

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, swimming, dog walking, picnicking, horse riding and cycling in designated areas only.
- Providing for opportunities for future recreational developments which are consistent with the character of the park.
- Providing recreational opportunities which include environmental and outdoor education
- Promote and enhance the cultural aspects within the park and incorporate these into future recreation opportunities
- Ensuring any farming 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 dune restoration, pest control and farming operations.
 - Approved special events, leases, licenses and concessions.
 - Current Park operating hours
- 3.2 To minimise the impact of any necessary restrictions on public access in accordance with the Reserves Act 1977 (section 53)
- 3.3 To ensure that the main access points into Queen Elizabeth Park, particularly at Mackay's Crossing are, protected or enhanced during maintenance or upgrades to SH 1 or the North Island Main Trunk Rail line.
- 3.4 To ensure that secondary access at Tilley Rd, Paekakariki, The Esplanade, Rainbow Court, and McKenzie Rd in Raumati South are maintained and protected.
- 3.5 To explore opportunities for improved public transport services to Queen Elizabeth Park through any local or regional transport initiatives.

Use and occupation

- 3.6 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.
- 3.7 To provide for, or encourage into the park, activities and uses that are appropriate to the park's character and management objectives, and subject to any conditions deemed appropriate.
- 3.8 Activities and uses that are allowed, managed, restricted or prohibited under this plan are contained in Table 2.

Park facilities – use and development

- 3.9 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.
- 3.10 To locate facilities and structures within the key development nodes of "Wainui, Whareroa, and Mackay's and Recreation Areas" which are consistent with the objective of providing for, or encouraging activities and uses, which reflect or enhance the character of the Park.
- 3.11 To investigate the possibility of developing a recreation node in the North Eastern sector of the Park, if the need arises.
- 3.12 To require park visitors and concessionaires to remove any rubbish they bring to, or generate in the park.
- 3.13 When developing new tracks, to give priority to⁴:
 - Developing links to other important recreational areas.
 - Developing circuits and loop tracks.
 - Protecting environmental and heritage features.
 - Developing tracks which encourage complimentary and multiple use's within the park
 - Facilitate pedestrian access through the park
 - Provide opportunities for better disabled or physically impaired access.
- 3.14 To provide opportunities for educational and recreational programs within the park.
- 3.15 To allow special events, in designated areas, that are consistent with this plan's objectives at the discretion of the Manager, Parks and Forests.

⁴ Please refer to Section 4 'The Way Forward' for park maps and potential tracks to be developed

Table 2: Queen Elizabeth Park activities and uses by zone

Category	Description	Zone 1 Beach and Coastal Dunes	Zone 2 Wainui, Whareroa and Mackay's Recreation Areas	Zone 3 Inland Dune Area	Zone 4 Peat, wetlands and waterways
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 only⁵	Dog walking, fishing, walking, picnics, swimming, cycling, horse riding, ecological enhancements days	Dog walking, walking, running, picnics, fishing, swimming and motorised access, ecological enhancements, horse riding	Dog walking, walking, fishing, cycling, horses riding, ecological enhancements.	Dog walking, walking, running, cycling, horse riding, ecological enhancements.
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 application may be required, please refer to the Ranger	Collection of natural materials	Collection of natural materials, BBQ's, camping, equestrian and other special events	Collection of natural materials, BBQ's, future formal recreation activities, equestrian events.	Collection of natural materials
Restricted	Applications need to be made to Greater Wellington, and will be considered on a case by case basis in accordance with the factors outlined under the network plan policy for "Assessing Effects of Activities and Uses".	Any activity that is not 'allowed', 'managed' or 'prohibited' – including Non-commercial concessions (events, filming, tourism operations, commercial activities), removal of natural materials. (see network plan 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 ⁶ , Open Fires, BBQ's	Hunting, Motorised Recreation, Open Fires	Camping, Hunting, Motorised Recreation, Open Fires	

⁵ Designated areas include tracks, signed or marked areas and zones delineated on page 11 of this plan.

⁶ "For the purposes of this plan motorised recreation includes 4 wheel driving, motorcycling, trail biking, quads, motor racing and trials. It does not include trains, trams or model aircraft"

General recreation policies

- 3.16 To permit public access on foot to all parts of the park except the areas currently leased for farming and is not available for public recreation, environmental restoration areas, service areas within the park and all areas that is currently under lease without the express permission of the lease holder. Access may also be subject to temporary or localised restrictions for other management purposes.
- 3.17 To permit camping and overnight stays, including campervans, at the motor camp only. Camping as part of a special event by large groups may be permitted at the discretion of the Manager Parks and Forests.
- 3.18 To offer varied opportunities for park users by providing multiple use tracks and facilities where possible, appropriate and compatible with the area’s management.
- 3.19 To make linkages and connections with other open space recreational opportunities, such as walkways managed by territorial authorities, the proposed “South Coast Trail” and through the Whareroa Farm Block”.
- 3.20 To maintain recreational structures, facilities and tracks to standards specified in the asset management plan.

Horses

- 3.21 Mackay’s Recreation area will be developed to accommodate all activities associated with horse riding and equestrian events within the park.
- 3.22 Horse riding is permitted within designated areas only. Designated horse trails include:
 - Mackay’s to Whareroa beach via Whareroa stream track return via horse trail parallel to tram track
 - Mackay’s to Paekakariki via trail parallel to tram track and southern block farm track; return via beach and Whareroa stream side track
 - Mackay’s to Raumati South via Whareroa Stream track and northern inland track; return via beach to Whareroa and take the horse trail parallel to the tram track back to Mackay’s
- 3.23 Horse grazing maybe considered in other areas of the park on a case by case basis



Dogs

- 3.24 Dogs are permitted in the Coastal Dune Zone on the tracks only
- 3.25 Dog owner etiquette must be adhered to at all times including leashes where appropriate and disposal of dog refuse

Bicycles

- 3.26 Cycling is permitted on the Inland and Coastal Track only, within the Coastal Dune Zone, and on designated tracks and formed roads elsewhere in the park.
- 3.27 GW will work with KCDC to develop links and cycle ways which incorporate tracks within QEP, where appropriate.

Recreational hunting

- 3.28 Recreational Hunting in Queen Elizabeth Park is not permitted

Firearms

- 3.29 The use of firearms in the park is prohibited except for management purposes.

Off-road motorised vehicles

- 3.30 The recreational use of off-road motorised vehicles (including trail bikes) is not permitted, except for management purposes.

Farming/ grazing - general

- 3.31 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.
 - Has no long term adverse environmental affects on the park

Farming/grazing – North Eastern Block

- 3.32 To continue to lease the “Whareroa Dairy Unit” for pastoral farming while
 - Ensuring consistencies with the above policies and objectives
 - Exploring opportunities for integrating recreational activities into the present farming regime
 - Ensuring the unit is maintained as a viable economic block which contributes to or facilitates recreational opportunities throughout the Park
 - Ensuring that best practice farming techniques as used within the block
 - Ensuring options for retiring blocks for ecological purposes are explored and where appropriate implemented

Aircraft

- 3.33 To permit the use of aircraft for emergency purposes only, within the park.

Fires

- 3.34 No fires are permitted within the park. In exceptional circumstances a permit to have open fires on the beach above Mean Water High tide can be applied for through the Kapiti Coast District Council.
- 3.35 To allow the use of portable gas barbecues and camping stoves in the park with appropriate controls.
- 3.36 Greater Wellington staff to use open fires for operational purposes only where the necessary fire permits have been obtained from the relevant authority.

Civil defence emergencies

- 3.37 The park will be available as a site for Civil Defence Emergencies of regional or national significance in used in accordance with the provisions of the “Wellington Regional Civil Defence Emergency Management Group Plan”

World War II ordnances

- 3.38 All activities associated with the disturbance, disposal, removal and recording of World War II Ordnances, will be carried out in accordance with the “Parks and Forests Standard Operating Procedures - Earthworks and Buried Ordnance in Queen Elizabeth Park”

Mineral exploration, prospecting and mining

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

Removal of natural materials

- 3.40 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.
- 3.41 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).
- 3.42 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.
- 3.43 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.

- 3.44 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.
- 3.45 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

- 3.46 To assess all applications for new activities and uses according to the policies set out in the Regional Parks Network Plan and the GW Policy for Recreation and Tourism in Wellington Regional Council Parks and Forests. Applications may be approved in full, with conditions, or declined.
- 3.47 When approving restricted activities, Greater Wellington may charge a fee or require a bond to be posted and require mitigation or compensation.
- 3.48 To forward to the Department of Conservation, for consideration, any application for an activity not contemplated within this plan.
- 3.49 To only grant leases and licenses:
- for activities which are consistent with the objectives and policies of this plan; and
 - in accordance with the provisions of the Reserves Act 1977; and
 - exclusive use will not be granted for all or parts of the park for more than 40 days in any one year or more than 6 days consecutively without the express permission of the Minister of Conservation. (s 53 Reserves Act)
- 3.50 All leases and licenses will be granted on a case by case basis and at the discretion of the Manager, Parks and Forests and are subject to the reserves Act 1977 provisions.

Network utilities⁷

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. For an inventory of existing utilities in QEP please see Map 3 overleaf.

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 and mitigating any adverse effects from this type of development.

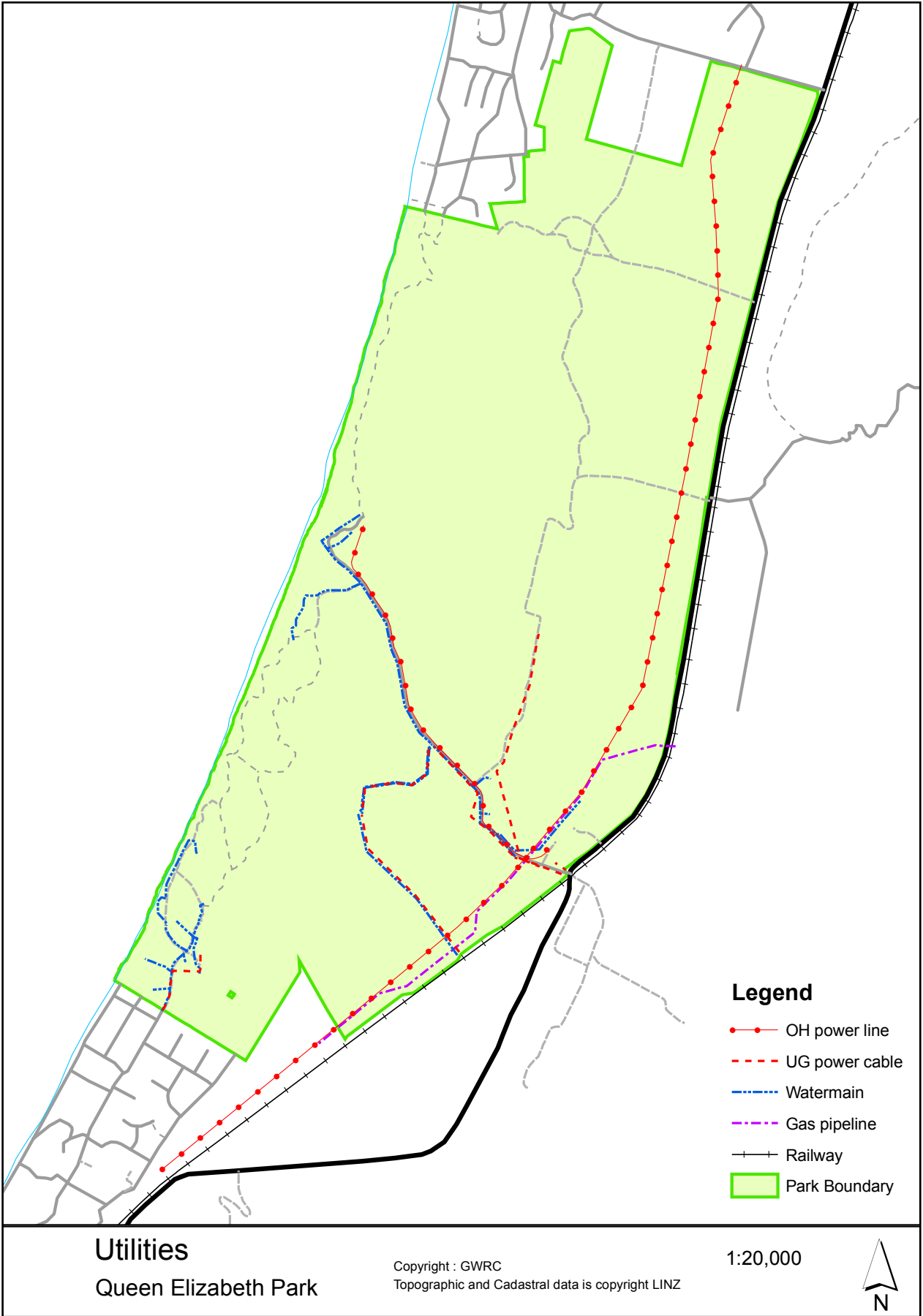
The operation and maintenance of existing network utilities are 'allowed'. As the parks are places of public recreation, it is important that Greater Wellington is informed about planned works so that public health and safety issues can be managed. The safe operation of network utilities may also require 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 1 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 park is primarily held for recreation purposes and subject to the Reserve Act provisions (S48), 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:

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

⁷ 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.



Network utilities associated with Queen Elizabeth Park include overhead electric cables, gas pipeline and easements, local roading, urban storm water drainage and, the most significant in terms of impact on the park is State Highway 1. Refer to utilities map overleaf.

Existing Network Utilities

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

- 3.51 To comply with relevant legislation relating to the operation, and maintenance of network utilities.
- 3.52 To recognise and provide for the operation, maintenance and minor upgrade of existing network utilities within the park as allowed activities
- 3.53 To provide for network utility operators to remove or trim vegetation, subject to compliance with the Electricity (Hazards from Trees) Regulations 2003 and in consultation with Greater Wellington (except in cases of emergency).
- 3.54 To ensure that national standards regulating safe distances from network utilities for activities and developments are complied with in the park.
- 3.55 To recognise existing legal easements for utilities and give appropriate prior notice for work permits as required.
- 3.56 To recognise existing legal easements for gas pipelines across the park, work permits will be obtained and notice given at least 72 hours prior to the Natural Gas Corporation (Transmission), with 24 hours prior notice for on-site locations. Two days prior notice for work permits will be given to Gas Direct
- 3.57 To explore opportunities for relocating network utilities underground during maintenance or upgrading operations

Network utility development

- 3.58 To comply with relevant legislation relating to the construction, development, operation and maintenance of network utilities.
- 3.59 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.
- 3.60 Easement options for network utilities will be negotiated on a case-by-case basis.
- 3.61 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.

3.62 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.

3.63 Where appropriate, network utilities should be sited underground.

Many people enjoy recreation in Queen Elizabeth Park, including walking, mountain biking, and swimming. This plan seeks to manage these activities in a sustainable way that recognises the area's heritage and environmental values. Recreation, in the main, is managed by designating track use to reflect the range of uses and experiences people require. This is supported by brochures and signage. Infrastructure and maintenance service levels are set by a comprehensive asset management system. 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.



Partnerships in the park

Involving community partners

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

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

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

The park is close to urban/rural/lifestyle areas and there is 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 Queen Elizabeth Park in a number of ways, including environmental education programs for school children, volunteering and a wide range of recreational uses. Volunteers from the community also undertake a number of ecological restoration projects in the park.

Agencies, such as the Department of Conservation and Kapiti Coast District Council, 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:

- sharing information and knowledge
- consulting where appropriate
- supporting the community's informed contribution to the decision-making process
- encouraging community participation and working with community partners
- 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 LGA 2002.
- 4.4 To encourage and support community, including environmental and recreation 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 program 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.
- 4.9 To consider and where appropriate to support community initiatives which are consistent with the parks aims and objectives such as the current "Open Space Gateway" concept.

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 Queen Elizabeth Park 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 their Treaty claims. There are a number of claims registered with the Waitangi Tribunal that cover the regional parks. Claims over central Wellington (the Port Nicholson Block) have been heard by the Tribunal and a report is due out soon. It is likely that the claimants and the Crown will then negotiate a settlement. Many other claims are potentially years away from a Tribunal hearing and resolution. (GW Regional Parks Network Management Plan: 2003)

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

Objectives

Tangata Whenua interests are respected by working together to:

Recognise and provide for the traditional kaitiaki role of Tangata Whenua

Actively protect Tangata Whenua interests in respect of their lands, forests, fisheries and other taonga.

Policies

- 4.10 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 LGA 2002.
 - Determine opportunities for the practical expression of the kaitiaki 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.
- 4.11 Take account of relevant Treaty of Waitangi claims when developing policies and plans and making management decisions, and acquiring or disposing of lands.
- 4.12 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 LGA 1974 requires that park management plans adapt to changing circumstances or increased knowledge (s619 LGA). 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 effect of land use and developments as necessary to assess the appropriateness and effectiveness of this plan. Monitoring programs will be identified and implemented through Greater Wellington's annual planning process. 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>Environmental values</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 Asset Management Program</p> <p>Environmental enhancement</p> <p>Environmental Management Strategy</p>	<p>Ecosystems, habitats, flora and fauna surveys</p> <p>Photographic monitoring</p> <p>Vegetation plots, rare plant monitoring, dune line</p> <p>Bird transects</p> <p>Stream monitoring</p> <p>Pest surveys, browse plots</p>
<p>Landscape</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>Cultural heritage</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>Use</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</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>Community values and partnerships</p> <p>People’s expectations and preferences of the park’s uses and protection</p> <p>People’s awareness and understanding of forest resources and values</p> <p>People’s involvement in forests</p> <p>Success of community partnerships</p> <p>Neighbours’ responsiveness to plan</p>	<p>Visitor surveys, visitor satisfaction surveys (biennial), public surveys, regional outdoors surveys</p> <p>Education programs – number of participants</p> <p>Number of volunteer groups and days</p>

Objective

Management within the Queen Elizabeth 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 Queen Elizabeth 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 Queen Elizabeth 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 Queen Elizabeth Park must be provided to Greater Wellington and will be made available to the community.
- 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 Queen Elizabeth Park. The developments described below and shown in the accompanying maps are meant to show how the aims and objectives of the plan could be implemented and we would like your comments.

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.

Queen Elizabeth 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 manage habitat areas in the park promoting protection of habitat values, including extending the current wetland rehabilitation (as illustrated on the "proposed future developments" map.) Maintenance and enhancement of the wetlands at the Raumati end of the park will also continue. Other areas of habitat protection include the ongoing rehabilitation of the sand dunes to restore habitat and provide for erosion control and restoration of areas of Whareroa Stream by the "Friends of QEP."

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 have been developed for the main entrance points to the Park. Further interpretation will be developed once the park management plan is completed and feedback from the community is received.

New tracks

Several new tracks are proposed for Queen Elizabeth Park these include, the upgrading and extension of the Inland Track from Tilley Rd to Poplar Ave into a horse, bike and possible non motorised commuter track between Paekakariki and Raumati. A second track which connects the Wainui Recreation Area to Mackay's Crossing, through the leased farm block out to Poplar Avenue has also been proposed.



Links

Once the State Highway realignment at Mackay's crossing is finished an underpass will link the Queen Elizabeth Park with the Whareroa Farm block, improving links between these two areas and up into the Akatarawa Forest.

Development of the North Eastern Block Queen Elizabeth Park

There is discussion about the future use of the north eastern block of the Park. Discussions have centered on utilizing the high water table level to create a water and wetlands complex along the eastern boundary of the park, with the possibility of extending this to enable contact recreation in the future. The latter is subject to further research into the feasibility, demand and cost/benefit analysis.

Park development plans and future recreation areas

Additional park development plans or landscape plans will be prepared for other Park areas as the need arises and as resources permit. Areas that are currently being redeveloped or have existing development plans include MacKay's Crossing, and the areas covered in the Paekakariki Improvement Plan. Areas that will be considered for a development or landscape plan are Whareroa Recreation Area and the future recreation zones at Raumati South.

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.

Greater Wellington and Te Ati Awa Ki Whakarongotai have begun working together to develop the Whareroa Pa site through interpretation, tracks and signage.





Implementation, funding and methods

This management plan sets out a vision and objectives for Queen Elizabeth 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 ranging service. This service contributes to the area's values by co-ordinating people and resources, providing a visible presence in the parks and advice, as well as addressing health and safety concerns and maintenance requirements.

The Park Ranger is empowered under the LGA 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, tracks and environmental assets 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.

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.

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		
Regulatory Methods										
Bylaws	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓					
Concessions Policy	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
Natural Materials policies	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
Hunting permits	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
Resource Consents	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
Non Regulatory Methods										
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.					✓	✓	✓	✓		✓

Table 5: Queen Elizabeth Park – Legal Description of Lands

Title	Legal description	Area	Land Owner
987/6	Sec 99 and 100 and pt Sec 2&3 Block II Paekakariki Survey District	637.4239	Crown – Her Majesty the Queen (DoC)
Queen Elizabeth Park – Other Lands			
987/6	Sections 1,2,3,4&5 SO 315517 (taken for Road) and	3.2227	Currently held by Transit NZ by NZ Gazette
	Sections 6,7 & 8 SO 315517 (land vested in exchange) Agreement dated 17 August 2000	1.8418	
987/6	Pt Sec 3 Blk II Paekakariki Survey District	3.3200	Currently held by Transit NZ by NZ Gazette
	(Land to be taken for Road) Pt Lots 15 DP 5751 contained in Blk II Paekakariki Survey District (land to be vested in exchange) Agreement dated 17 March 2004	17.6132	

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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Cover photo of Kapiti from dunes by Jessica Dewsnap

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