

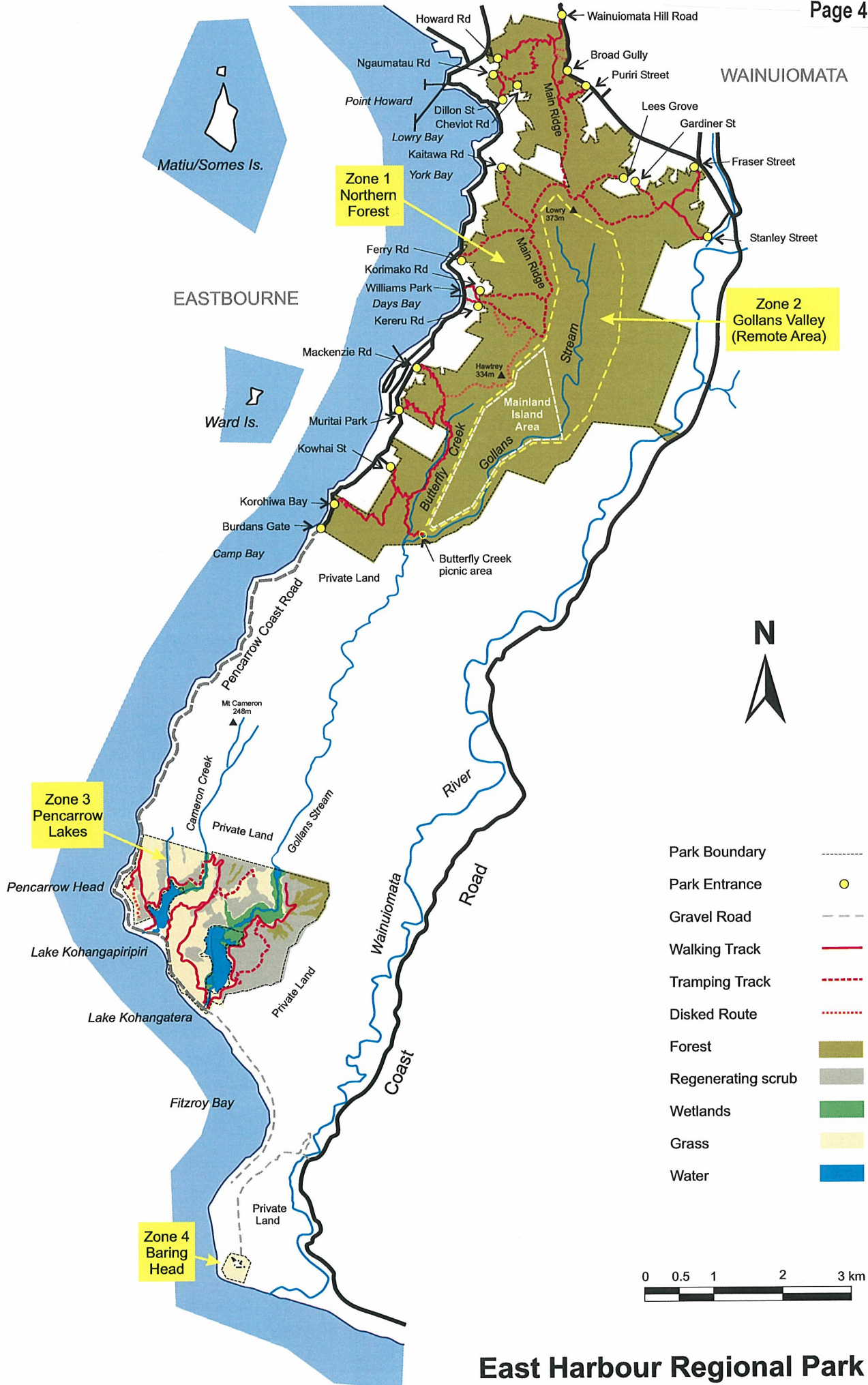
East Harbour Regional Park

Draft Management Plan

Draft

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East Harbour Regional Park

East Harbour Regional Park

East Harbour Regional Park is located on the eastern side of Wellington Harbour. The Park covers just over two thousand hectares and is made up of three separate blocks; the Northern Forest, the Pencarrow Lakes and Baring Head. The Park is managed by Greater Wellington Regional Council¹ and includes land owned by the Crown, Hutt City Council and Greater Wellington.

The Northern Forest block covers the steep hill country between Eastbourne and Wainuiomata. These hills, clothed in beech/rata forest, provide the forested backdrop to the eastern side of Wellington Harbour. The valley floors contain lush lowland podocarp/broadleaf forest. The area provides excellent opportunities for walking, tramping, dog walking in designated areas and picnicking which can be accessed from various points behind Eastbourne and Wainuiomata. A designated 'remote' zone in the upper Gollans Valley provides wilderness experiences close to the city. The community is very actively involved, undertaking predator control and other management activities to the high biodiversity values in the area.

The Pencarrow Lakes block lies just outside the main harbour entrance and contains the nationally significant freshwater lakes, Kohangapiripiri and Kohangatera. These lakes and their associated wetlands are home to a wealth of native plants and wildlife. There are also a number of important cultural and historic sites within the block. The lakes are managed as Wildlife Management Reserves by the Department of Conservation and the remainder of the block is managed by Greater Wellington. The area provides opportunities for walking and mountain biking as well as access around the rocky coastline. Public foot and bike access to the Lakes blocks is from Burdans Gate, via the Pencarrow Coast Road, which is managed by Hutt City Council.

Baring Head is situated at the southern terminus of the East Harbour hills and consists of a reserve of less than one hectare around the Baring Head lighthouse. The site, with its lighthouse above the cliffs, provides an important visual backdrop for Wellington Harbour. The rocks below the lighthouse are an important rock climbing destination in the region. Public access to the site is severely restricted and, to date, efforts by Greater Wellington to improve legal access have been unsuccessful.

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 hills above Eastbourne have been popular with walkers from the Wellington region since the late 1800s and the popular Butterfly Creek picnic area was developed in the early 1900s as a stop-off point when walking through to the Rimutaka Ranges. Parts of the Park have been protected for many years, and a regional park was first formally put forward for East Harbour in 1975 with a report on a proposed Pencarrow Regional Park. This proposal was much larger than the current park and included areas of private land. The park concept has since been substantially reworked to include only publicly held land and the name changed to East Harbour Regional Park. Greater Wellington

¹ Greater Wellington Regional Council is the promotional name of the Wellington Regional Council, hereafter referred to as Greater Wellington

purchased the Pencarrow Lakes block for addition to the Park in 1991 in recognition of the importance of the lakes and wetlands. Stock were removed from the block after the grazing lease expired in 2004.

Greater Wellington developed the park's first management plan in 1995, attempting to coordinate management of land being managed by the Department of Conservation, Hutt City Council and Greater Wellington. Since then the three agencies have rationalised land management within the park's boundaries to enable Greater Wellington to administer the entire park as a single unit. Since the 1995 plan there have also been a number of operational and concept plans developed for improving the tracks, infrastructure and undertaking environmental restoration in the park. The East Harbour Regional Park Resource Statement provides further background information about the park's values.

Plan's Framework

This plan represents a common understanding between Greater Wellington, the Department of Conservation, Hutt City Council, and the community about the future management of the park and its values. The plan guides Greater Wellington when managing East Harbour Regional Park and making decisions about land use, development and activities. It also sets out the policies and expectations that Greater Wellington has for others wishing to use the park or its facilities. In order to realise the plan's vision and objectives the plan's objectives and policies will need to be considered alongside each other in decision-making affecting the park.

The plan is prepared in accordance with the provisions of the Reserves Act 1977, the Local Government Act 1974 and the Local Government Act 2002. Many of the policies and objectives reflect the Greater Wellington Regional Council's legal obligations in managing the land. These have been included for clarity and to provide the legal context governing management decisions.

Greater Wellington officers and rangers are empowered by the Local Government 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. Note that the Pencarrow Lakes Kohangapiripiri and Kohangatera are managed by the Department of Conservation as Wildlife Management Reserves and the Pencarrow Lighthouse Historic Reserve is managed by the Historic Places Trust. Hutt City Council owns and manages the Pencarrow Coast Road.

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 East Harbour Regional Park Management Plan is consistent with the vision and direction set in the Network Management Plan.

Land Status

The majority of land in the Northern Forest block is held as Scenic Reserve, while land in the Pencarrow Lakes block and Baring Head is held as Recreation Reserve.

East Harbour Regional Park is managed by Greater Wellington but incorporates land owned by the Crown, Hutt City Council and Greater Wellington. Management responsibilities for the Hutt City Council land in the park have been delegated to Greater Wellington under section 17 of the Local Government Act 2002. Land owned by the Crown has been vested in Greater Wellington pursuant to Section 26 of the Reserves Act 1977. Lakes Kohangapiripiri and Kohangatera are managed by the Department of Conservation as Wildlife Management Reserves. The Pencarrow Lighthouse Historic Reserve is managed by the Historic Places Trust.

The legal description of the land parcels within East Harbour Regional Park can be found in Appendix.1

LEGEND

Regional Parks



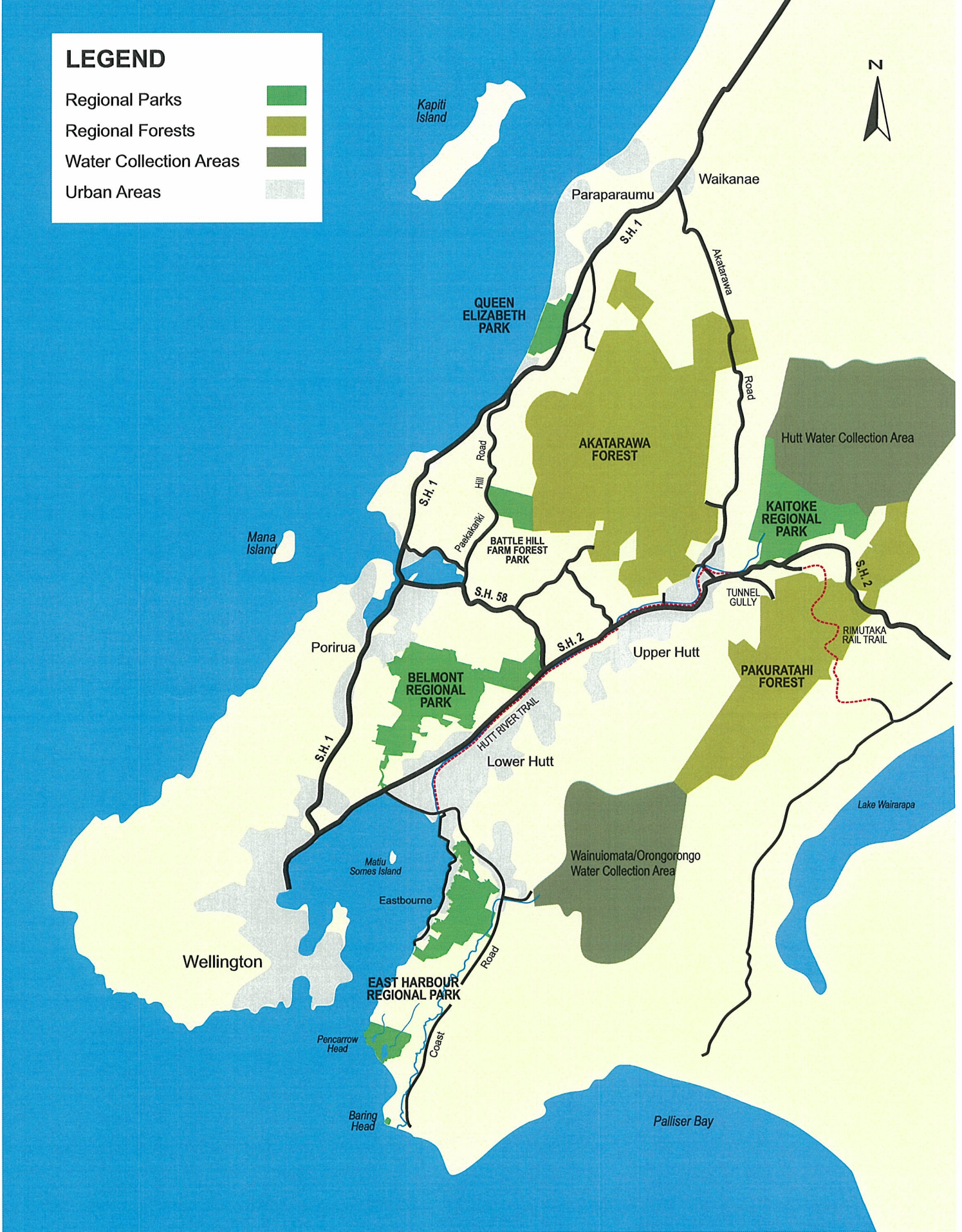
Regional Forests



Water Collection Areas



Urban Areas



Wellington Regional Parks and Forests

Attachment 1 to Report 06.247

Plan outline

Section 1 – East Harbour 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 – East Harbour Regional Park Management Plan Objectives and Policies

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

Part A – Overarching management policies

Part B – Conserving our environment and cultural heritage

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

Part C – Sustaining community and recreational opportunities and use

Part D – Partnerships in parks

- Involving community partners
- Working together with Tangata Whenua.

Part E – Research, monitoring and review

Section 3 – The way forward

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

Do you want to know more?

Please see our:
Park Brochures, available at Council Offices
Internet site www.gw.govt.nz
Regional Policy Statement
The East Harbour Regional Park Resource Statement

Vision

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

Environmental, cultural heritage and landscape values

- Manage the environment and cultural heritage for the benefit of current and future generations, by:
 - actively protecting and appropriately managing indigenous forest and wetland values.
 - ensuring ecosystems are healthy, their life supporting capacity is sustained, and they contribute to good water, air, soil and catchment values.
 - ensuring that East Harbour Regional Park will contribute to a diverse range of landscapes within the region.
 - protecting the park's landscape values, including the indigenous forest-covered hills, coastal escarpments, freshwater lakes and wetlands from inappropriate use and development.
 - protecting geological features such as the former drowned valleys occupied by Lakes Kohangapiripiri and Kohangatera, the raised beaches and interglacial marine terraces along the southern coast from inappropriate development and use.
 - protecting significant cultural heritage values and features relating to Maori and early European occupation and use of the area.

Use

- Ensure people use, pursue their chosen recreational activities in, enjoy and learn from these lands in a sustainable manner that is compatible with the environmental and cultural heritage values of the park by:
 - providing recreational opportunities consistent with the environmental, heritage and landscape values of the park, allowing for a range of uses within the different 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 in all park uses and activities.

People

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

Management Plan and Decision-making frameworks

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

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

The land in East Harbour Regional Park is also managed under the Reserves Act 1977. Most land in the Northern Forest block is held as Scenic Reserve (pursuant to section 19 of the Reserves Act 1977) and land in the Pencarrow Lakes Block and at Baring Head is held as Recreation Reserve (pursuant to section 17 of the Reserves Act 1977).

Scenic Reserves are managed for:

“protecting and preserving in perpetuity for their intrinsic worth and for the benefit, enjoyment, and use of the public, suitable areas possessing such qualities of scenic interest, beauty, or natural features or landscape that their protection and preservation and desirable in the public interest” (Section 19 (a) Reserves Act 1977)

Recreation 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 recreation 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 Greater Wellington Regional Policy Statement, the NZ Coastal Policy Statement, and the City of Lower Hutt District Plan. Other important regulatory frameworks relate to rural fire control, network utility providers, designations, roading and transportation.

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

Relationship with other public lands

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

Council Policies

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

- Regional Policy Statement and Regional Plans.
- Regional Pest Management Strategy.
- Environmental Strategies such as the Wetland Action Plan and the Strategy for Achieving Riparian Management in the Wellington Region.
- 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 in Greater Wellington's parks and forests.
- Environmental Asset Management Plan, setting out the service level standards for environmental assets in Greater Wellington's parks and forests.
- Environmental Management System, outlining how the Parks department implements its environmental policy.
- Bylaws – for controlling activities within the parks.

Land acquisition

Greater Wellington will consider future acquisition of land for East Harbour Regional Park according to the policies set out in the “overarching management policies” section. Current priorities for expanding the regional park network identified in the LTCCP are to maintain existing regional parks and recreation areas as well as add new parks to the regional parks network.

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 park zones will guide the day-to day management activities of the Park: Zone 1: Northern Forest, Zone 2: Gollans Valley Remote Area, Zone 3: Pencarrow Lakes and Zone 4: Baring Head. Map 1 shows the park and management zones. Further maps showing the predominant recreation activities, tracks and other management considerations are provided in the 'Way Forward' section of the plan.

Good relationships with the Department of Conservation, Hutt City Council, Iwi and neighbouring landowners are important to realising this plan's aims and aspirations. In particular, Greater Wellington will work closely with the Department of Conservation when managing the Pencarrow Lakes Block to protect the high ecological values of entire lake ecosystem. This plan does not seek to control the use of land outside of the park's boundaries.

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

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.

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 zones

Four management zones have been established reflecting the different locations, landscape values, reserve status and use of the areas. These zones provide a base for activities and future management directions proposed in this plan.

Zone 1: Northern Forest

The focus for this area is on informal outdoor activities including walking, tramping and picnicking. Dog walking is permitted, as long as dogs are under control at all times and droppings disposed of. There are a number of access points to the Northern Forest; from Eastbourne, Days Bay, York Bay, Pt Howard, Wainuiomata Hill Road and Wainuiomata. A picnic area is provided at Butterfly Creek. Camping and mountain biking are not permitted in this area.

Zone 2: Gollans Valley Remote Area

Located within the Northern Forest zone, the emphasis in the Gollans Valley Remote Area is on the enjoyment, appreciation and protection of the natural environment. The primary activity in the area is tramping/bush-walking. There is a very high level of community involvement in the forest block, with volunteers undertaking pest control and species monitoring to protect biodiversity values. A core area of more intensive predator control or 'mainland island' has been established the lower part of the Remote zone; located between the Butterfly Creek picnic area and Hawtrey. The only access to the Remote Area is by foot, through the Northern Forest zone. Low-impact 'remote' camping is permitted here. Dogs and mountain bikes are not permitted in the Remote Area.

Zone 3: Pencarrow Lakes

This area encompasses the freshwater lakes and wetlands of Kohangapiripiri and Kohangatera, and the surrounding grassland and regenerating native vegetation. The primary recreation activities are walking and mountain bike riding, with opportunities to enjoy panoramic views of the lakes, rocky coastline, historic lighthouses and Wellington harbour. Access to the area is by foot or mountain bike via the Pencarrow Coast Road. The area has high ecological and cultural values. Dogs and camping are not permitted here.

Zone 4: Baring Head

The rocks below Baring Head are a regionally important rock climbing destination, however, public use of the area is constrained by the lack of legal access to the area or any formal access agreement with neighbouring landowners. The site is used by a number of agencies including Ministry of Transport, NIWA and NZ police.

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, Local Government Act 1974, the Local Government Act 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 and Hutt City Council, is responsible for decision-making processes affecting the park. In some exceptional instances decision making may lie with the Crown in accordance with Sections 53 (for Recreation Reserve land) and Sections 55 (for Scenic Reserve land) of the Reserves Act 1977. The Hutt City Council also retains decision-making powers, on land owned by them, with regard to approving the placement of new utility structures, changes in reserve status, the granting of leases, licenses or concessions exceeding five years or the granting of easements on their land.

- 1.2 To reinvest revenue generated within the park for park management. The Reserves Act 1977 and the Local Government Act 2002 provisions govern expenditure.

Sustainable management

- 1.3 To support the use of the park as a place that encourages increased learning about the environment, cultural heritage and best practice for sustainable management of the environment.
- 1.4 To advocate and, where possible, demonstrate best environmental practice in the park.
- 1.5 To assess the environmental and recreational effects of proposed activities within the park in accordance with the objectives and policies set out in this plan.
- 1.6 To ensure adverse effects from management, development and other activities on the park's environmental, landscape, cultural, recreational, and heritage values are avoided, remedied or mitigated.
- 1.7 When considering applications for new or renewed activities and uses affecting the park to:
- provide for activities and uses that are sustainable and contribute to a sustainable region.
 - discourage or prohibit activities and uses that are unsustainable, detract from a sustainable region or are incompatible with park values.
- 1.8 To manage the risk from natural hazards to people, assets and the environment by:
- not siting facilities or structures in hazard zones, such as floodplains, on erosion prone or unstable land,
 - closing tracks or areas, either temporarily or permanently, that pose a risk to health and safety,
 - suitably identifying and signposting roads, tracks and trails,
 - adopting management practices that minimise erosion or sediment entering water bodies.
- 1.9 To take environmental values into account when mitigating hazard risks.

Land tenure, acquisition and disposal

- 1.10 To negotiate, where appropriate and subject to the provisions of the Reserves Act 1977, for the lease, acquisition, right-of-way, caveat, disposal, purchase or gifting of land under public and private ownership within or adjacent to the park
- 1.11 To seek the approval of Hutt City Council if negotiating the disposal, right-of-way or lease for more than 5 years of land owned by Hutt City.
- 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
- affordability

1.13 Any land acquired with the intent of being managed as part of East Harbour Regional Park will be managed in accordance with the aims, objectives and policies in this plan and/or the Reserves Act as appropriate.

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 from public transport and for non-vehicular access (e.g. walkers, mountain bikers).

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 eg roading, subdivision or changes in land use.

Developments or changes in land use outside of the park could adversely affect values within the park. In particular, the high ecological values of the Pencarrow Lakes and wetlands are highly dependent on the land coverage and use within their catchment areas. Greater Wellington will advocate for protection of areas outside the park where development would adversely impact on park values.

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 standards² and to reflect the character of the park and its values.

² Greater Wellington meets the NZ Building requirements for structures and in addition, for tracks, bridges, and board walks Greater Wellington

- 1.21 To maintain a network of tracks that provides access through the park and a range of recreational opportunities except within the Gollans Valley (Remote Area), which will remain free from formal tracks and developments.
- 1.22 To offer varied opportunities for park users by providing walking tracks of a variety of gradients and standards within the Northern Forest block and dual-use walking and biking tracks in the Pencarrow Lakes block, taking into account the terrain.
- 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 entry areas as focal points for park visitor information.
- 1.25 To liaise with Hutt City Council regarding provision of vehicle parking areas, where practicable, at key park entrances.
- 1.26 Park entrance points will be maintained at
- Eastbourne: Burdans Gate, Korohiwa Bay (Bus Barn), Kowhai Street, Muritai Park and MacKenzie Road
 - Days Bay: Williams Park, Ferry Road, Korimako Road
 - York Bay: Kaitawa Road
 - Lowry Bay: Cheviot Road, Dillon Street
 - Pt Howard: Howard Road, Ngaumatau Road
 - Wainuiomata Hill Road: near the lookout
 - Wainuiomata: Lees Grove, Fraser Street, Gardiner Grove, Stanley Street and near Puriri Street.

Most recreation undertaken in East Harbour Regional Park is informal in nature (such as walking, picnicking and mountain biking), thus there are few focal points for visitor activity and limited requirements for visitor facilities within the park. Small scale picnic facilities are provided at the Butterfly Creek picnic area in the Northern Forest. Hutt City Council provides toilet facilities at Williams Park and near the Burdans Gate park entrance.

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.
- 1.29 The spreading or burial of ashes and the burial of body parts within the park is prohibited, with the exception of re-interment of kōiwi.

Community involvement in protecting East Harbour's biodiversity

The Gollans Valley contains very high biodiversity values and a core area within it is being managed by the community group MIRO (Mainland Island Restoration Operation) and Greater Wellington as a 'mainland island', involving intensive pest control and species monitoring.

MIRO was formed in 1998 under the umbrella of the East Harbour Environmental Association. Its vision is to restore ecosystem health in the Northern Forest Block by reducing pests to low levels.

A successful 'possum busters' campaign run by the Hutt City Council acted as a catalyst for increased community involvement in pest control in the park. Since then, involvement has grown in scale and scope. MIRO and Greater Wellington have joined forces to establish a fixed network of over 360 kill traps for possums through the Northern Forest Block. Volunteers maintain these traps throughout the year, as well as being involved in a wide range of other pest-control and species monitoring tasks.

A 'mainland island' - a core area of more intensive pest control - has been established in the heavily-forested headwaters of Gollans Stream between the Butterfly Creek picnic area and Hawtrey. In 2006 Greater Wellington established an intensive rat-control programme in this 300 ha core area. Stoat control is also planned. Pigs, deer and key pest plants are controlled throughout the block. In the future, the plan is to reintroduce bird species that have been lost to the park.

If you wish to find out more or get involved visit the Greater Wellington website: www.gw.govt.nz/section607.cfm



Conserving our environment and cultural heritage

Sustaining our environment

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

East Harbour Regional Park contains significant biodiversity values, with diverse areas of mature indigenous forest and the nationally important freshwater Pencarrow Lakes and wetlands.

The Northern Forest block supports a diverse range of native plant communities. The hills have some of the best examples of beech/rata forest in the Wellington region and the valley floors contain semi-swamp broadleaf/podocarp forest. Two hundred and ten native plant species have been recorded in the area, including 14 species of national conservation concern. Most of the region's native forest bird species including tui, bellbird, fantails, tomtits, grey warbler, kereru, rifleman, silvereye, shining and long-tailed cuckoo, whitehead, morepork and New Zealand falcon can be found here. There are also good numbers of land snail *Wainuia* sp. in the area. The high biodiversity values in the upper Gollans Valley have been recognised by the establishment of an intensively managed 'mainland island' in the area. Greater Wellington works closely with the community group MIRO to undertake this management.

The Pencarrow Lakes and wetlands are recognised as nationally significant. Due to the area's isolation they have remained relatively free of introduced weeds. The wetlands and beaches at Pencarrow lakes support highly indigenous plant communities which are relatively unmodified by human activity. Vegetation on the hills in the Lakes block has been highly modified by more than 150 years of burning and grazing. Stock were removed when the grazing lease expired in 2004 and the area is now reverting to native vegetation.

Threats to the park's biodiversity values include pest plants and animals, natural hazards, and the effects of human activities. Land use outside the park, particularly upstream of the wetlands can also threaten values in the park. Management actions, park developments, inappropriate activities or overuse can pose a threat to ecosystems, by disturbing habitat or species, reducing soil or water quality, or fragmenting habitats.

Areas of high ecological value will be managed primarily to protect and enhance these values, sustain their life-supporting capacity and contribute to the region's indigenous biodiversity. Through this plan we aim to protect existing indigenous vegetation through the control of pests and management of activities undertaken in the park.

At the Pencarrow Lakes block the area of open grassland and gorse will be left to regenerate with native vegetation. It is expected that gorse will initially establish widely through the open grass area but that native species will eventually replace the gorse. Areas of mānuka, tauhinu and regenerating native bush are already present in the block.

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.

Objectives

The indigenous forests, areas of regenerating indigenous vegetation and wetland areas are actively protected and appropriately managed.

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

Policies

Ecosystem Protection and Enhancement

- 2.1** To protect, enhance or, where appropriate, 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.
- 2.2** The high priority indigenous areas in the park are listed in Table 1: Significant Environmental Areas and Features.
- 2.3** To base the nature and level of protection or enhancement upon the values of the ecosystem and its ability to restore itself, and the other key values of the area (such as recreational values).
- 2.4** 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.
- 2.5** Restoration in the Pencarrow Lakes block will be undertaken in accordance with current restoration plans for the area. Only plants sourced from the Tararua ecological district will be used for restoration planting.
- 2.6** When assessing and implementing enhancement and restoration projects, to also consider:

- opportunities for planting species that may be used for social and cultural purposes such as for medicinal uses and weaving, and plants of significance to Tangata Whenua.
- the 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.

The Pencarrow Lakes block has been highly modified by its farming history. The majority of the block is covered in pasture and gorse. There are small patches of native vegetation and some slopes and gullies are covered in mānuka and tauhinu. Since the removal of stock in 2004, significant regeneration of native vegetation has begun to occur throughout the block. Gorse has also spread. The area will be allowed to regenerate in native vegetation, with small areas being managed if required to protect archeological and historic sites. Vegetation on ridge-tops tracks may also be managed to maintain views and a sense of openness. It is considered impractical and unnecessary to undertake large-scale planting with native species, as there is a substantial area to cover and natural regeneration is already rapidly taking place. It is expected that gorse will become established through-out the area over the term of this plan, however, native species will continue to establish under the gorse and will eventually take over and block out the gorse. Extensive gorse control would be extremely expensive and do little to speed the establishment of native vegetation in the area. Small areas of planting may be undertaken to speed re-vegetation in key areas and/or to enhance species diversity.

As the Pencarrow Lakes block reverts to native vegetation Greater Wellington acknowledges that the establishment of large areas of gorse will increase the fire risk in the area. This risk will be managed as far as possible as part of Greater Wellington's role in the Rural Fire Authority but cannot be completely avoided. Over the long term, the re-growth of native vegetation should reduce fire risk in this area. Responsibility for Rural Fire Authorities lies with Territorial Authorities. Greater Wellington maintains a rural fire response force to deal with fire on its own land and assists Territorial Authorities. Greater Wellington publishes a Rural Fire Protection Plan each fire season that includes procedures for East Harbour Regional Park.

- 2.7** To maintain the native ecosystems of all waterways and wetlands in East Harbour Regional Park to minimise threats to the water quality and quantity in streams and the catchments for the Pencarrow lakes and wetlands, as far as practicable.
- 2.8** 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 ecology of the Pencarrow Lakes is currently being influenced by the presence of an artificial obstruction, in the form of an access road with culverts, at the outlet of both lakes to the sea. This obstruction may prevent the lakes breaching naturally to the sea and creates a barrier for fish entering the lakes and moving up into the associated wetland and streams. Greater Wellington will work with other interested parties to find and implement a solution that will allow the lake ecosystems to function naturally from the hill-tops to the sea.

Re-introduction of native fauna

- 2.9** To allow the introduction of species of native fauna when:
- the species has been recorded or is thought to have been present in the area historically and has since disappeared

- it is judged that the factors causing the original disappearance of the species are now being controlled sufficiently to allow it to survive in the area, and this control is expected to be continue for the foreseeable future.
- all appropriate translocation approvals and permits have been obtained from the Department of Conservation
- current best practice is followed for the release and post-release monitoring

To build on the biodiversity gains of the Gollans Valley mainland island, it is considered desirable to re-introduce native fauna which have disappeared from the area. Species suitable for reintroduction will depend on the level and type of predator control being undertaken and the ability to maintain this protection. Only species with a good chance of survival given current and likely future conditions should be considered for release. It is anticipated that reintroductions would be community-led projects, with support and advice being provided by Greater Wellington and the Department of Conservation.

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Table 1: Significant Environmental Areas and Features

General Area	Site/Description	Reasons for Significance
Northern Forest and Gollans Valley Remote Area	<p>Throughout northern block</p> <p>Eastbourne Hills - predominantly covered in lowland beech forest - black beech (<i>Nothofagus solandri var solandri</i>) dominate on dry, exposed ridges and hard beech (<i>N. truncata</i>) on shallow slopes</p> <p>Lowland podocarp/broadleaf forest found in valleys of lower Butterfly Creek and middle reaches of Gollans Stream</p>	<p>Diverse mix of native plant communities.</p> <p>264 species of native vascular plants recorded in area including 10 regionally threatened species and one endemic species (<i>Libertia edgariae</i>).</p> <p>One of richest orchid floras for an area of this size with 33 species recorded</p> <p>Wide range of native bird species present: tui, bellbird grey warbler, fantail, silvereeye, rifleman, tomtit, shining cuckoo, kereru, whitehead, morepork, longtailed cuckoo and NZ falcon</p> <p>Good numbers of <i>Wainuia</i> sp land snails present</p> <p>Northern rata (<i>Metrosideros robusta</i>) found throughout hills. There are large stand of terrestrial rata, but epiphytic rata also present.</p> <p>Podocarps present: mature rimu (<i>Dacrydium cupressinum</i>), miro (<i>Stachypitys ferrugineus</i>), matai (<i>Prumnopitys taxifolia</i>) and kahikatea (<i>Dacrydium dacrydiodes</i>). Pukatea also common emergent species.</p> <p>86 species of moss have been recorded in Butterfly Creek area and 105 species of fungi in the park as a whole.</p>
Gollans Stream, Butterfly Creek & Cameron Creek	<p>The upper reaches of these streams pass through relatively pristine beech and podocarp/broadleaf forest. Gollans Stream is c. 14km has a catchment of 1700ha and Cameron Creek is c. 5km with a 280 ha catchment</p>	<p>Nine species of native fish have been recorded in Gollans Stream and Butterfly Creek. Some of these species may no longer be present because of built and natural barriers at the coast that restrict fish migration between freshwater and the sea).</p>
Pencarrow lakes and wetlands	<p>Kohangapiripiri –freshwater lake fed by Cameron Creek. Lake c. 13ha, and 1-2m deep with 43ha of wetland</p> <p>Kohangatera - slightly more brackish than Kohangapiripiri. Fed by Gollans Stream, 17 ha with 150 ha of wetland</p> <p>The lakes are separated from sea by gravel beach ridges.</p>	<p>Wetlands support highly indigenous plant communities in a relatively unmodified state. There are a number of regionally threatened species, including two aquatic plants; <i>Lepilaena bilocularis</i> and <i>Ruppia polycarpa</i> and three semi-aquatics; <i>Crassula kirkii</i>, <i>Glossostigma diandrum</i> and <i>Ranunculus macropus</i>. Also regarded as locally significant are: <i>Eryngium vesiculosum</i> (sea holly), <i>Glossostigma elatinoides</i>, <i>Gratiola sexdentata</i>, <i>Limosella lineate</i>(mudwort) and <i>Scheonoplectus validus</i> (clubrush).</p> <p>30 bird species have been recorded for the two lakes.</p> <p>Gravel beaches are outside the park but are important because they preserve unique record of historical uplifts, support rare biotic community (including <i>Muehlenbeckia ephedroides</i>) and are a natural water levelling mechanism for the lake and gateway for fish populations.</p>
Baring Head		<p>The rare spotted skink (<i>Oligosoma lineocellatum</i>) present</p>

Pest Plants and Pest Animals

- 2.10** To actively control pest plants and pest animals to allow for the recovery of indigenous ecosystems and sustain their life-supporting capacity.
- 2.11** To base pest plant and pest animal control on the:
- 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.
- 2.12** To take all practicable steps to prevent new pest plant and pest animal infestations and to survey regularly for new infestations.

Use of vehicles and other equipment for management purposes near the Pencarrow lakes and wetlands will be avoided as far as practicable to avoid damage to the lake edge and the risk of introducing aquatic weeds. Any vehicles, machinery or equipment used in or near the lake will be thoroughly cleaned, using best-practice biosecurity procedures, prior to use in this area.

- 2.13** To control pest plants and pest animals using the most efficient and effective techniques available. Assessments of effectiveness will take into account the adverse effects on non-target species, the environment and human health.
- 2.14** To monitor the:
- locations, nature and extent of pest plant and pest animal infestations in the park.
 - results of pest plant and pest animal control operations in terms of the distribution and size of the pest population.
 - ecological outcomes of pest plant and animal control.
- 2.15** To ensure that the management of pest plants takes into account the need for a restoration plan for the area, to prevent re-infestation of weed species.
- 2.16** Only native, ecosourced species will be planted in the park
- 2.17** To enable existing introduced plants to be removed for ecological purposes, except where they:
- Are of historical or cultural significance; or
 - Are acting as a “nurse crop” for native species; or
 - Have a high amenity value and are not regarded as pest plants; or
 - Provide another important facility such as erosion control or protection of heritage features.

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.

East Harbour Regional Park is a highly valued part of the region's natural landscape and forms an important component of Wellington's harbour setting. The forested hills above Eastbourne, complemented by the Rimutaka Ranges behind, provide a spectacular backdrop to the eastern side of the harbour. The eastern side of these hills also provides a forested backdrop for the Wainuiomata urban area. The coastal hills in southern section of the park are largely absent of forest cover, reflecting the farming history of the area. Pencarrow and Baring Head, at the seaward terminus of the eastern harbour hills, mark the point where the hills meet the sea. The upper Gollans Valley has a remote character that is unique for an area so close to the city. Wetlands have disappeared throughout New Zealand at an alarming rate and the Pencarrow lakes and wetlands provide nationally rare landscape values.

East Harbour Regional Park contains a number of significant geological features. Lakes Kohangapiripiri and Kohangatera occupy valleys that were drowned when the sea level rose to the present day level, around 6,500 years ago. Initially narrow inlets to the sea, the valleys have gradually been cut off from the sea by successive earthquakes and the lakes now drain to the sea by seeping through a raised gravel bar.

The interglacial marine terraces at Pencarrow and Baring Head and the small remnant raised beaches between Pencarrow and Baring Head are also regarded as regionally important geological features. The extensive interglacial marine terrace at Baring Head is thought to have been cut by the sea during the last Interglacial (100,000 – 150,000 years ago). It is now 90 metres above sea level as a result of tectonic uplift.

People value landscapes for a variety of reasons and there may be conflicts between the level of land use change that is acceptable to land users and the regional community's desire for the protection of landscape values. This management plan aims to protect those values in a way that is sympathetic to the park's character. Regional parks are places where sustainable activities are encouraged. Some of these activities may have effects on the landscape, which need to be balanced against their other benefits.

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.

Assessing activities and future development against the objectives and policies in this section 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.

Objectives

East Harbour Regional Park will continue to contribute to the diverse range of landscapes within the region.

The park's landscape values are protected from inappropriate use and development.

Geological features are protected from inappropriate use and development.

Policies

- 2.18** To recognise and take account of the landscape values of East Harbour Regional Park in its management, use and development.
- 2.19** To manage the use, development and protection of landscapes significant to Tangata Whenua.
- 2.20** To protect the park's key landscape features and values from inappropriate use and development. Key landscape features include:
- Forested hills overlooking Eastbourne and Wainuiomata
 - Upper Gollans Valley
 - Coastal hills and escarpment at the eastern entrance of Wellington harbour
 - Pencarrow lakes and wetlands
- 2.21** To protect significant modified landscape features such as the historic Pencarrow lighthouse and the Baring Head lighthouse from inappropriate use or development.
- 2.22** To promote the maintenance and enhancement of the amenity and intrinsic values of the landscape and landforms of the park.
- 2.23** To advocate for the protection of the park's key geological features and values from inappropriate use and development. Key geological features include:
- the former drowned valleys occupied by Lakes Kohangapiripiri and Kohangatera
 - the raised beaches and interglacial marine terraces along the southern coast
- 2.24** To apply policies for 'assessing activities and uses' to address effects on landscape and geological values and to ensure any adverse effects from developments or activities on those values, or cultural values, are avoided, remedied or mitigated.

Protecting cultural heritage

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

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

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

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

East Harbour Regional Park is rich in both European and Maori cultural heritage, particularly in the Pencarrow Lakes block.

There has been a long history of Maori occupation of the coast along the eastern side of the harbour and it was occupied throughout most of the 19th century. A large number of archaeological sites, including pa, pits, terraces, middens and stone rows are located on the coastal platform within the Pencarrow lakes block. Lakes Kohangapiripiri and Kohangatera, as well as the coast and forest provided an important food source for the local Maori population. Agriculture, including planting of karaka groves, was also undertaken in the area. Dendroglyphs (carving into the bark of trees) were recorded at the site in 1961 on a number of karaka trees in the Lakes block. This art form is extremely rare, having been recorded at only two sites on mainland New Zealand, and a number of sites in the Chatham Islands. Maori used a network of routes along the eastern harbour ridges to connect settlements on the Pencarrow coast, Fitzroy Bay and beyond. The current Butterfly Creek track was one of these routes.

The eastern harbour land and beaches were important routes to and from the Wairarapa for European settlers. The importance of Pencarrow Head for shipping was recognised as early as 1842 when a white beacon was established there. Following a series of shipwrecks along the coast, New Zealand's first permanent lighthouse was opened at Pencarrow in January 1859, with Mary Bennett, New Zealand's first and only woman lighthouse keeper in charge. A second light was built on the shoreline at Pencarrow in 1906 and another at Baring Head in 1935. The stretch of coastline remained very dangerous and up to 21 wrecks have been recorded.

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.

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.

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.

Objective

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

Policies

Identification and Information Gathering

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

Management and Protection

- 2.26** To manage historic and cultural heritage features based on their significance and the level and urgency of threat to them.
- 2.27** To ensure assessments of the "significance" of features take into account:
- Age, rarity and representativeness.
 - The nature and level of information available about the features.
 - The historical, social, architectural, archaeological, cultural, educational and scientific value of the features.
 - Whether the features are collective, i.e. part of a wider historical and cultural complex and/or encompassing a number of heritage features.
- 2.28** To develop conservation plans for significant heritage features as appropriate.

- 2.29** To restore or enhance degraded heritage areas or features where possible and appropriate.
- 2.30** To adhere to nationally established procedures where historic and cultural heritage features or artifacts are unearthed (established by the Historic Places and Antiquities Acts).
- 2.31** No removal or damage of cultural heritage sites and areas is permitted except for management purposes

Interpretation

- 2.32** To actively inform the public about the heritage values of the park through interpretation, information and events.
- 2.33** 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.
- 2.34** To work with Tangata Whenua in the management of historic and cultural heritage.
- 2.35** 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.
- 2.36** To repatriate artifacts to Tangata Whenua in accordance with the Antiquities Act 1975.

Involving the community

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

Pencarrow Lakes and Lighthouses

Lakes Kohangapiripiri and Kohangatera, tucked away on the south-east coast of Wellington Harbour, have been referred to as ‘Wellington’s best kept secret’. A seven-kilometre walk or bike ride along the often windswept Pencarrow Coast Road deters many people from visiting this fascinating area. An advantage of the lakes’ isolation is that they have remained relatively pristine, with very few introduced aquatic weeds. Natural wetland habitat are becoming increasingly uncommon. The lakes were once tidal inlets but, over time, wave action and earthquakes have raised the foreshore and the lakes now drain slowly through the gravel to the sea. The area supports a rich diversity of wetland vegetation, including oioi (jointed wire rush), glasswort, raupo, toetoe, flax and giant umbrella sedge. The wetlands also support a wide variety of native fish and birdlife.

There is a long history of Maori occupation in this area and it is rich in archaeological sites. The coast provided an important route to and from the Wairarapa for early European settlers. However, the rugged coastline also proved treacherous for shipping. At least 40 shipwrecks are recorded on the stretch between Eastbourne and Baring Head. Traces of most have long gone but the remains of the small steamer ‘Paiaka’ can be seen beside the road east of Lake Kohangatera. In response to the frequent shipwrecks, New Zealand’s first lighthouse was opened at Pencarrow in 1859. The first lighthouse keeper, Mary Jane Bennett, was New Zealand’s only woman lighthouse keeper. Additional lights were built on the shoreline at Pencarrow in 1906 and at Baring Head in 1935.

The coastal hills around the lakes provide spectacular views across the wetlands, the rocky coastline and Wellington harbour. To the south, on a clear day, you can see Mt Tapuae o Uenuku in the inland Kaikoura mountain range. From the city-side of the harbour, the open hills and lighthouses of East Harbour Regional Park provide a familiar outlook to all Wellingtonians.

I am at the sea – at Island Bay in fact – lying flat on my face on the warm white sand. And before me the sea stretches.

To my right- shrouded in mist, like a fairy land - a dream country, the snow mountains of the South Island; to my left, fold upon fold of splendid golden hills. Two white lighthouses, like great watching birds perched upon them.

Katherine Mansfield in *Journal 1907*

Sustaining opportunities and use

East Harbour Regional Park provides a range of opportunities for the community, with the most common recreational activities being walking, tramping, picnicking and cycling. Generations of Wellingtonians have enjoyed holiday excursions, often travelling by ferry, to the shores of the eastern harbour.

The park is regionally important for the excellent areas of indigenous forest that are readily accessible to locals and residents of the wider Wellington region. While the hills are generally steep, the park provides tracks suitable for walkers of a variety of ages and levels of fitness, from well-graded tracks close to the park entrances to the large untracked 'remote' area in the Gollans Valley for experienced trampers.

The Pencarrow Lakes block provides walking opportunities with spectacular views of the coast and harbour as well as the nationally important freshwater lakes and wetlands. This area also provides excellent mountain biking opportunities.

For many years there has been a high level of community involvement in management activities in the park. The Eastbourne Forest Rangers have been involved with track maintenance and other activities since their inception in 1933. More recently, MIRO has been working in conjunction with Greater Wellington to undertake intensive pest control and species monitoring work to protect the high biodiversity values of the Gollans Valley.

Increasing urbanisation and development means open spaces and quiet places are becoming scarcer. The challenge is managing recreational, community and commercial uses in a sustainable way, while protecting environmental and cultural heritage values. Where environmental or heritage values are high, areas will be managed primarily to protect those values, and social and economic activities will be more constrained. This plan seeks to manage recreation activities in a sustainable way that recognises the area's heritage and environmental values. The Pencarrow Lakes block will be managed in close consultation with the Department of Conservation, which manages the Pencarrow Lakes, to ensure both agencies work together to protect the ecological values of the lake ecosystem. Department of Conservation policies on recreation and other activities permitted in and on the Lake are outlined in Appendix 2. This section's objectives and policies contribute to quality of life outcomes; culture, meeting needs locally, leisure, safety, distinctive sense of place, and health.

Maps are provided in the last section of the plan showing the activities available at the park. This section should be read in the context of the plan's other objectives and policies and also identifies activities and uses that are allowed, managed, restricted or prohibited across the park.

Objective

Provide opportunities for people to use, pursue their chosen recreational activities, enjoy and learn from the park in a sustainable way, compatible with the park's environmental, landscape, cultural and heritage values.

Policies

Access

- 3.1 To allow free public access to the park, subject to necessary restrictions relating to:
 - Protection of environmental values, particularly in fragile ecosystems such as the wetlands, raised beaches and bird nesting areas.
 - Protection of heritage and Tangata Whenua values.
 - Maintenance of public health and safety.
 - Management purposes including pest control
 - Approved special events, leases, licences and concessions.
- 3.2 To minimise the impact of any necessary restrictions on public access in accordance with the Reserves Act 1977 (section 53 for the Pencarrow Lakes Block and section 55 for the Northern Forest Block and Gollans Valley Remote Area).
- 3.3 To ensure current access points to the park are protected and maintained
- 3.4 To investigate development of a 'marked route' access from behind the Wainuiomata Golf Course, linking into the existing tracks in the Northern Forest Block.
- 3.5 To explore opportunities for periodic public transport service to the Pencarrow Lakes Block to enable people of a range of fitness levels to reach the area

Use and occupation

- 3.6 To grant exclusive use of park resources that are 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 towards the end of this section of the 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

- 3.9 To provide small scale 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 provide small-scale picnic facilities at Butterfly Creek.

- 3.11** To require park visitors and concessionaires to remove any rubbish they bring to, or generate in the park (except at designated picnic sites where limited rubbish facilities may be provided).
- 3.12** When developing new tracks, to give priority to³:
- Developing links to other important recreational areas.
 - Developing circuits and loop tracks.
 - Providing a range experiences for walkers of different abilities
 - Protecting environmental and heritage features.
- 3.13** To provide opportunities for educational and recreational programmes within the park.
- 3.14** To allow special events which are consistent with this plan's objectives at the discretion of the Manager, Parks.

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³ Please refer to Section 4 'The Way Forward' for park maps and potential tracks that may be developed in the future

Table 2 East Harbour Regional Park activities and uses by zone

Category	Description	Zone 1 Northern Forest	Zone 2 Gollans Valley Remote Area	Zone 3 Pencarrow Lakes	Zone 4 Baring Head
Allowed	These activities do not require the use of services or facilities other than those provided to all casual forest users and are not undertaken for financial gain. Designated areas only	Walking, tramping, running, picnicking, dog walking, swimming.	Walking, tramping, picnicking, swimming,	Walking, tramping, running, picnicking and cycling	Walking, rock climbing
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. A permit may be required, please refer to the Ranger	Collection of natural materials	Collection of natural materials, camping	Collection of natural materials	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 concessions (events, filming, tourism operations) (Please refer to the Regional Parks Network Plan, Part B – Sustaining community and recreational opportunities and use for further information)			
Prohibited	Activities that have long-term adverse effects on the environment, or would detract from the enjoyment of other forest users.	Hunting, camping, motorised recreation, mountain biking, horse riding, lighting fires	Hunting, motorised recreation, dog walking, mountain biking, horse-riding, lighting fires	Hunting, camping, motorised recreation, dog walking, horse-riding, lighting fires.	Camping, motorised recreation, dogs, horse-riding, lighting fires.

General recreation policies

- 3.15** To permit public access on foot to all parts of the park, subject to temporary or localised restrictions for management purposes or to protect environmental, heritage and Tangata Whenua values.
- 3.16** To offer a range of opportunities for walkers in the Northern Forest by providing tracks of varying length and difficulty and to provide, where possible, dual-use tracks and facilities for walkers and cyclists in the Pencarrow Lakes Block. No formal tracks or facilities will be developed in the Gollans Valley Remote Area.
- 3.17** To make linkages and connections with other open space recreational opportunities, such as walkways and parks managed by Hutt City Council and the Department of Conservation as well as opportunities provided by Greater Wellington in other recreation areas.
- 3.18** To maintain recreational structures, facilities and tracks to standards specified in the asset management plan⁴.

Dogs

- 3.19** To permit dogs in the Northern Forest Zone only. Dogs must be kept under control at all times and all dog refuse disposed of. Dogs are not permitted in the Gollans Valley Remote Area or the Pencarrow Lakes block.

Cycling

- 3.20** To permit cycling on the tracks in the Pencarrow Lakes block only. Bikers must stay on the formed tracks and give way to walkers.

Note that Hutt City Council allows bicycle access along the Pencarrow Coast Road from Burdans Gate to the Pencarrow Lakes. Dogs are also permitted along the Coast Road as far as the Pencarrow lighthouse.

Horses

- 3.21** Horses are not permitted in the park

Camping

- 3.22** To permit low impact 'remote' camping within the Gollans Valley Remote Area. Stays are for a maximum of one night except at the ranger's discretion. No camping is permitted in other areas

Fires

- 3.23** No fires are permitted within the park.
- 3.24** To allow the use of portable camping stoves in the park with appropriate controls.
- 3.25** Greater Wellington staff to use open fires for operational purposes only where the necessary fire permits have been obtained from the relevant authority.

⁴ 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'

Private Huts

- 3.26 Private huts are not considered appropriate in the park.
- 3.27 All existing huts in the park will be removed at the end of their current license and no new licenses will be granted.

Recreational Hunting

- 3.28 No recreational hunting is permitted in the park.

The policies in this management plan apply to all land managed by Greater Wellington in the East Harbour Regional Park. The Pencarrow lakes are managed by the Department of Conservation as Wildlife Management Reserve. Greater Wellington and the Department of Conservation are committed to working together to protect the high ecological values of entire wetland ecosystem. This fragile environment is highly sensitive to modification and special vigilance is needed to ensure no new aquatic or other weeds are introduced. The Department of Conservation has indicated its intention to phase out recreational duck-shooting on the Pencarrow Lakes (see Appendix 2). The Department will also prohibit the use of boats, except for management purposes, and prohibit commercial and recreational fishing, recreational diving and swimming in the lakes. Greater Wellington will not allow dogs, the use of firearms or the use of recreational motorised vehicles within the Pencarrow Lakes block. Access into wetland areas will be restricted to protect their environmental values.

Firearms

- 3.29 The carrying 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. Off-road motorised vehicles will be allowed for management purposes only.

Farming/ Grazing

- 3.31 Farming/grazing is not considered an appropriate activity in the park.

Forestry

- 3.32 Forestry is not considered an appropriate activity in the park

Aircraft

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

Mineral exploration, prospecting and mining

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

Removal of natural materials

- 3.35** To provide for the use and removal of natural materials (plants, animals, soil, rocks etc.) from the park for management purposes subject to the provisions of the Reserves Act 1977 and policies in this section.
- 3.36** 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).
- 3.37** 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.
- 3.38** 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.
- 3.39** 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.
- 3.40** 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

- 3.41** To assess applications according to the policies set out in the Regional Parks Network Plan and the Greater Wellington Policy for Recreation and Tourism in Wellington Regional Council's Parks and Forests. Applications may be approved in full, with conditions, or declined.
- 3.42** When approving restricted activities, Greater Wellington may charge a fee or require a bond to be posted and require mitigation or compensation.
- 3.43** To forward to the Department of Conservation, for consideration, any application for activity not contemplated within this plan.
- 3.44** To forward to Hutt City Council, for consideration, any application for activity not contemplated within this plan that is proposed on land owned by Hutt City Council.

3.45 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.

3.46 All leases and licenses will be granted on a case by case basis at the discretion of Greater Wellington and are subject to the Reserves Act 1977 provisions.

Draft

Network Utilities⁵

Network utilities and public works such as water, wastewater, 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 legislation establishing the utility operators' rights and responsibilities. For health and safety reasons, there are also national standards regulating safe distances from network utilities for activities and developments.

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

New network utilities structures will be considered as "restricted" activities and will be subject to the provisions of the Reserves Act 1977. As the park has high natural, cultural and recreation values, our preference is that structures are located outside the 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

Network utilities associated with East Harbour Regional Park include the Wainuiomata to Wellington water main, which runs underground for a short distance across the north-eastern corner of the park, and the Pt Howard Reservoir, located above Pt Howard, with pipes running towards Gracefield and Cheviot Roads.

The Pencarrow Coast Road, that links the Northern Forest and Pencarrow Lakes block, is owned and managed by the Hutt City Council. The sewer pipe from the Seaview Treatment Plant to the Pencarrow Sewer outfall, just beyond the Pencarrow lighthouse, runs in this road.

⁵ The meaning of "Network Utility Operator" in this plan is the same as that defined in the *Regional Policy Statement* for the Wellington Region (1995), Wellington Regional Council.

Existing Network Utilities

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

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

Network Utility Development

- 3.52 To comply with relevant legislation relating to the construction, development, operation and maintenance of network utilities.
- 3.53 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.
- 3.54 Easement options for network utilities will be negotiated on a case-by-case basis.
- 3.55 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.
 - Approval will be subject to agreement from owner of the land where this is not Greater Wellington and subject to the provisions of the Reserves Act 1977.

- 3.56 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.
- 3.57 Where appropriate, network utilities should be sited underground.

In the agreement between Hutt City Council and Greater Wellington regarding Greater Wellington management of Hutt City Land within the East Harbour Regional Park, Hutt City Council identified a future need for a water reservoir within East Harbour Regional Park. Greater Wellington agreed to jointly identify and set aside a suitable area at the appropriate time. This will be done in accordance with the policies set out in this management plan.

Draft

Partnerships in the park

Involving community partners

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

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

- Department of Conservation
- Hutt City Council
- Iwi
- Neighbours
- Network utility network operators
- Community groups, volunteers, and environmental groups
- Other parts of Council, including the Environment Division (environmental education, consents management), Biosecurity, Transport and Utilities
- Historic Places Trust

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 East Harbour Regional Park in a number of ways, including a range of recreation use and a high level of volunteering in the park, notably the involvement of MIRO in their work to protect biodiversity values in the Gollans Valley.

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

- 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..

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.

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, other agencies and the community to ensure their needs are met and reflected in park management.

Policies

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

Working together with Tangata Whenua

Tangata Whenua have ongoing relationships with and interests in the East Harbour 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.

In addition, an East Harbour Iwi Working Group has been established to provide a mechanism for Greater Wellington and Tangata Whenua to discuss issues of strategic significance to East Harbour Regional Park. The working group comprises of two regional Councillors and a representative each from Te Tatau o te Po Marae Trustees (appointed in consultation with the Wellington Tenth Trust) and the Waiwhetu Marae Trustees (appointed in consultation with Te Runanganui o Taranaki Whanui ki te Upoko o te Ika a Maui).

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

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

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

Tangata Whenua have also highlighted the importance of Treaty claims registered with the Waitangi Tribunal across the region. Although a report has been released on the Port Nicholson Block, many claims are potentially years away from a Tribunal hearing or resolution. When managing its lands, Greater Wellington needs to be aware of Treaty claims and settlements and ensure that the ability of the Crown and Tangata Whenua to settle grievances is not compromised. Only Crown land is available for settlement of

Treaty claims⁶, although settlements may also include recognition of other values. Greater Wellington's lands are considered private land and are not available for use in Treaty settlements.

The objectives and policies outlined in this section are relevant to, and should be read in conjunction with the remainder of the plan. Greater Wellington will honour the obligations articulated in the policies and objectives in this section. 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.

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

4.9 Consistent with Greater Wellington's management role and reasonable public use and enjoyment, to work with Tangata Whenua to:

- Develop and maintain relationships based on good faith, co-operation and understanding.
- Consult with Tangata Whenua in accordance with the provisions of the Local Government Act 2002.
- Determine opportunities for the practical expression of 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.

4.10 Take account of relevant Treaty of Waitangi claims when developing policies and plans and making management decisions, and acquiring or disposing of lands.

4.11 Identify and, where appropriate, make provision for the specific recreational needs of Tangata Whenua.

⁶The only exception to this are some lands formerly owned by State Owned Enterprises. In these cases, there is a memorial over the title specifying the encumbrance.

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 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 conducted regularly. Feedback from visitor's comments and submissions are also important for Greater Wellington to understand the community's needs and requirements. Participation in the plan review allows everybody the opportunity to put their views forward and have them considered.

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

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

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

Greater Wellington will monitor the park environment and the effects of land use and development as necessary to assess the appropriateness and effectiveness of this plan. Greater Wellington will review its management techniques in response to new information and changing circumstances. This may lead to changes in the methods Greater Wellington chooses to implement the plan or by reviewing the plan itself. Monitoring programmes will be identified and implemented through Greater Wellington's annual operational planning process. Table 3 outlines some of the ways in which the park's values are monitored.

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 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 enhancement</p> <p>Environmental Asset Management Program</p> <p>Environmental Management Strategy</p>	<p>Ecosystems, habitats, flora and fauna surveys</p> <p>Photographic monitoring</p> <p>Permanent forest plots, rare & threatened plant monitoring, fruiting and flowering surveys</p> <p>Bird counts, stream monitoring, Pest surveys, insect and pathogen surveys, fruit-fall plots, rata health monitoring , foliar 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 , regional outdoors surveys</p> <p>Benchmarking exercises (against similar areas and settings)</p> <p>Reviewing site bookings and permit numbers for camping /hunting/ events/filming etc.</p> <p>Concession numbers and type.</p>
<p>Community values and partnerships</p> <p>People's expectations and preferences of the forests' uses and protection</p> <p>People's awareness and involvement in understanding park resources and values</p> <p>Success of community partnerships</p>	<p>Surveys, as above, management plan reviews</p> <p>Education programmes – number of participants</p> <p>Number of volunteer groups and days</p> <p>Liaising with MIRO, Eastbourne Environmental Association, Eastbourne Forest Rangers and other community groups.</p>

Objective

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

Policies

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

The way forward

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

East Harbour Regional Park: proposals for management and development

This narrative accompanies the concept plans for the park and further describes the proposed way-forward for East Harbour Regional Park. The potential developments are consistent with the plan's objectives and policies.

Habitat protection

The protection of the high ecological values in the East Harbour Regional Park will remain a high priority for park management. The control of pest animals and plants will continue to be implemented to protect the park's unique biodiversity and habitat values.

Park Interpretation

To provide further interpretation of

- The park's ecological values, particularly in the Pencarrow Lakes block
- History of land use and occupation in the park
- Community involvement and biodiversity protection work in the park

Park information boards are being developed for the Burdans Gate park entrance and for inside the Pencarrow Lakes block. Further interpretation will be developed in the future, including entrance signage for the access route behind the Wainuiomata Golf Course once this has been developed.

Track developments

A variety of tracks will be maintained to cater for people of different ages and levels of fitness. Shorter, easy-grade walking tracks will be provided in the most popular areas close to park entrances, while tracks from secondary entrances and along the main ridge will be maintained to tramping track standard. The perimeter of the Gollans Valley Remote Area will be maintained as a 'disked route' and the inner remote area will remain without formal marked tracks, providing opportunities for more experienced trampers. Most tracks in the park will be maintained at their current standard with few new developments planned. Tracks in Pencarrow Lakes block are mainly of walking track standard due to the area's relatively gentle topography and farming history. The tracks will be maintained at this standard. The Cheviot and Fern Gully tracks will be upgraded to walking standard. It is proposed that a 'disked route' access track be developed from behind the Wainuiomata Golf Course, linking into a disked route along to eastern ridge, going from Butterfly Creek to the Rata Ridge track at the northern end of Wainuiomata.

Links

There are no direct links between East Harbour Regional Park and other recreation areas; however, there are a number of other recreation areas nearby. In planning, development and management of recreation opportunities within East Harbour an effort will be made to complement recreational opportunities available nearby. For example, Greater Wellington is developing dual walking/mountain biking opportunities in the Wainuiomata Recreation Area, while the tracks in the Northern Forest Block will be managed for walkers only.

Park Development Plans

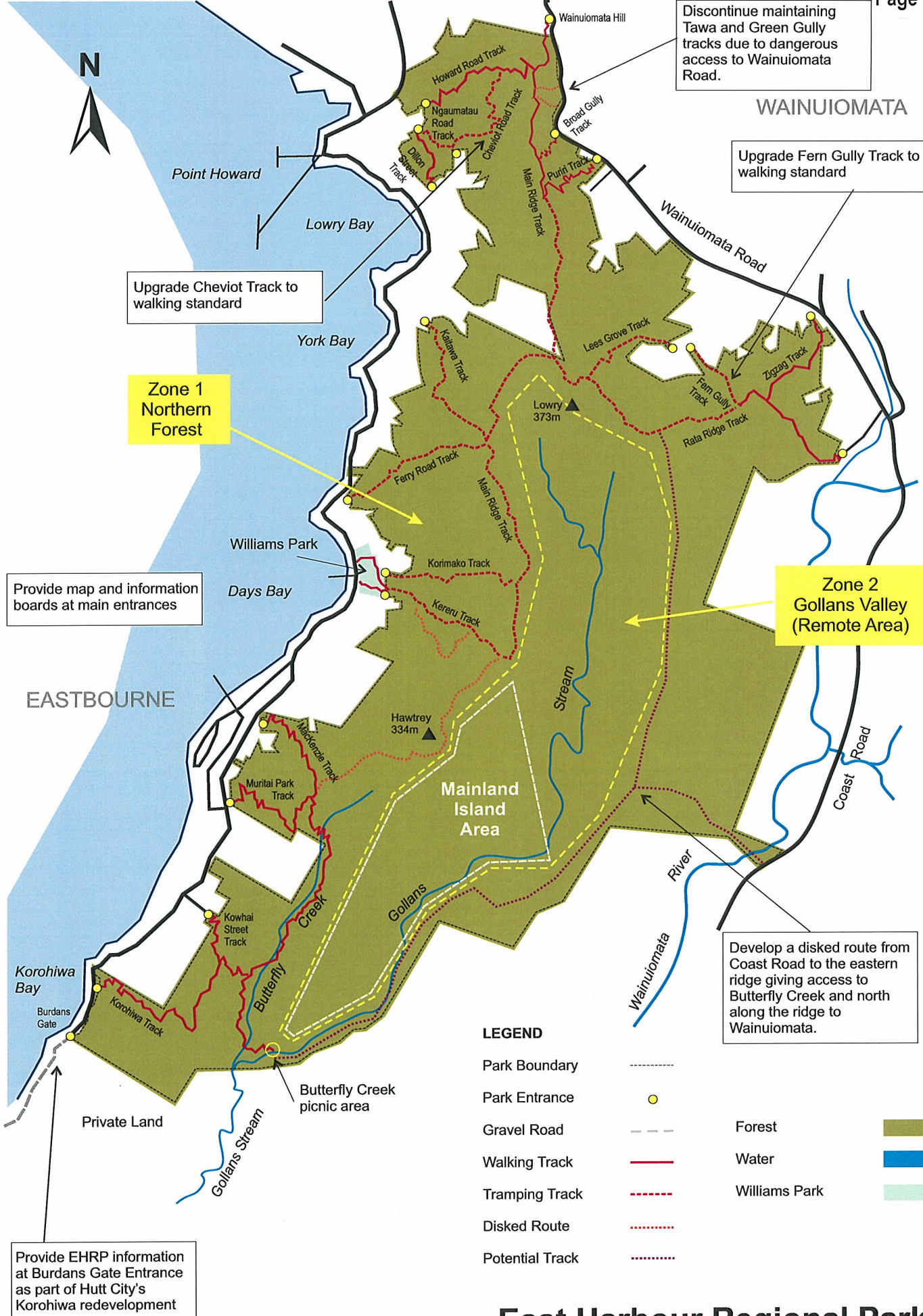
Additional park development plans or landscape plans will be prepared for other park areas as the need arises and as resources permit. No other areas are currently being considered for further development.

Heritage

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

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

Draft



Discontinue maintaining Tawa and Green Gully tracks due to dangerous access to Wainuiomata Road.

Upgrade Fern Gully Track to walking standard

Upgrade Cheviot Track to walking standard

Zone 1 Northern Forest

Provide map and information boards at main entrances

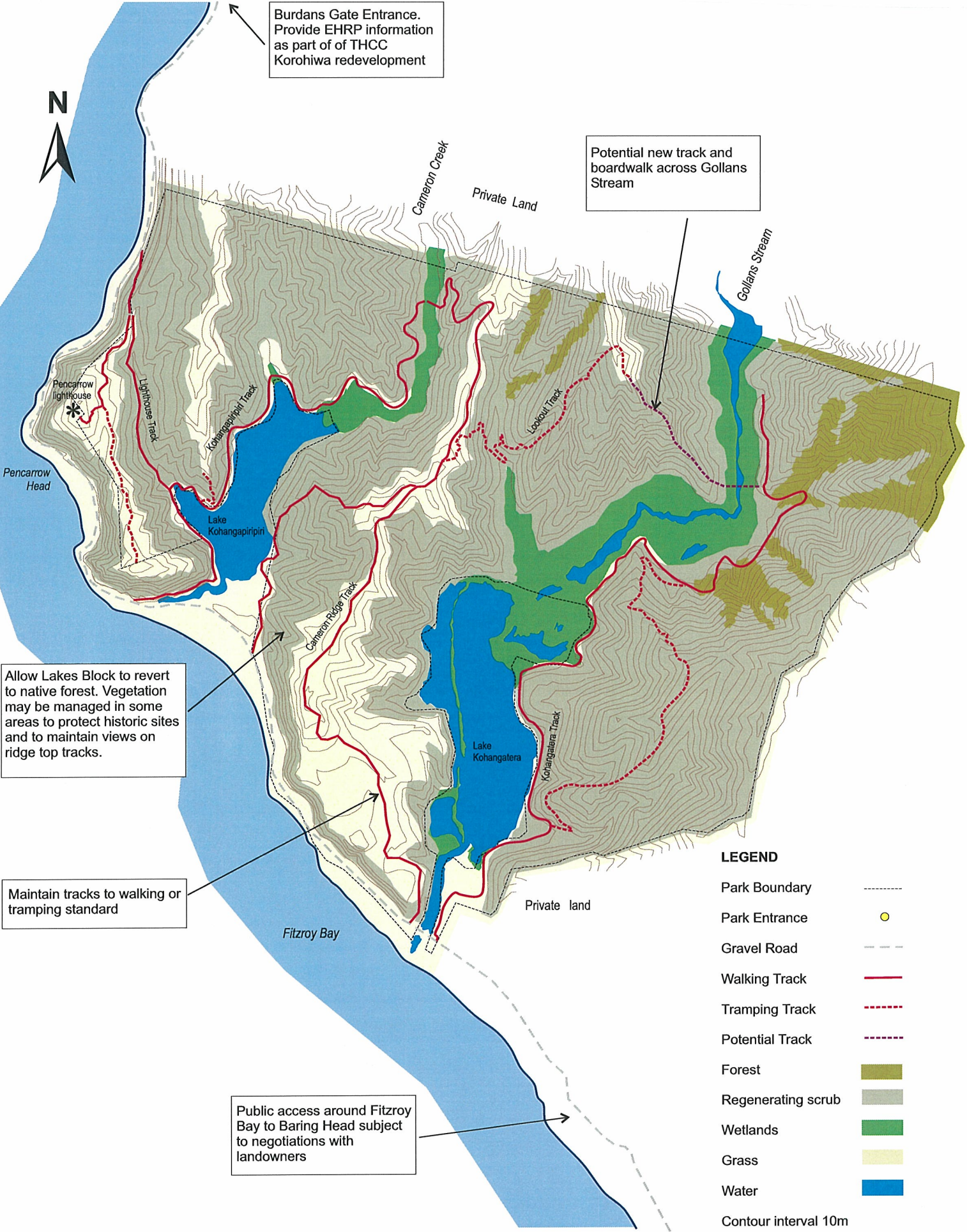
Zone 2 Gollans Valley (Remote Area)

Develop a disked route from Coast Road to the eastern ridge giving access to Butterfly Creek and north along the ridge to Wainuiomata.

Provide EHRP information at Burdans Gate Entrance as part of Hutt City's Korohiwa redevelopment

Burdans Gate Entrance. Provide EHRP information as part of THCC Korohiwa redevelopment

Potential new track and boardwalk across Gollans Stream



Allow Lakes Block to revert to native forest. Vegetation may be managed in some areas to protect historic sites and to maintain views on ridge top tracks.

Maintain tracks to walking or tramping standard

Public access around Fitzroy Bay to Baring Head subject to negotiations with landowners

LEGEND

- Park Boundary
- Park Entrance
- Gravel Road
- Walking Track
- Tramping Track
- Potential Track
- Forest
- Regenerating scrub
- Wetlands
- Grass
- Water

Contour interval 10m

Implementation, funding and methods

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

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

Methods

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Table 4: Management Plan Implementation Methods

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

Appendix 1: Legal Description of Land in East Harbour Regional Park

Title	SO	Legal description	Area	Land Owner	Land Status	Comments
	30449	Sec 131 & 132 Harbour District	34.6695 ha	DOC	DOC in process of re-classified Scenic Reserve and vesting in GWRC	Formerly Marine Drive Recreation Reserve. Gaz 1975 p570. GW water pipe runs between blocks
8A/1460	28270	Section 115 Harbour District	43.6555ha	DOC	DOC in process of classifying as Scenic Reserve and vesting in GWRC	unnamed Scenic Reserve
		Lots 35 and 36 DP 1714	Total - Lowry Bay Sc. R. 119.229ha 1.1609 & 0.5167	DOC	DOC in process of revoking HCC control and mgmt, classifying as Scenic Reserve, and vesting in GWRC	Formerly Lowry Bay Scenic Reserve
D3/1011		Lot 1 DP26137	In above (4.5666ha)	DOC	As above	
513/292		Lot 6 DP 13855	In above (0.2737ha)	DOC	As above	
		Lot 47 DP 11205	In above (50.749ha)	DOC	As above	Gaz 1972 p1394
		Part Lot 4 DP 12030	In above (65.941)	DOC	As above	Gaz 1941 p5
		Lot 1 DP 42208	1784m2	DOC	DOC in process of vesting in GWRC	Formerly Cheviot Road Scenic Reserve. Gaz 1982 p 1951
15C/1192		Lot 15 DP42970	3007m2	DOC	Scenic Reserve	
	10756	Sections 38, 40 Harbour District.	Total for Eastbourne Domain 343.7288 ha (46.9435 & 42.492ha)	DOC	DOC in process of revoking HCC control and mgmt, re-classifying as Scenic Reserve, and vesting in GWRC	Formerly Eastbourne Domain. Gaz 1919 p2576
469/285	20330	Section 94, 95 & Sec 92,93 Part Lot 6 DP 4468	In above 94 (11.2057ha) 95 (9.6088ha) Lot 6 – 0.5557 ha	DOC	As above	As above

195/138 354/149	10756	Section 37 & 39 & Part Sec 35 Harbour District	In above (37 -405m2)	DOC	As above	As above
Title	SO	Legal description	Area	Land Owner	Land Status	Comments
	10756, 19403, 10429	Part Sec 42,43,44, 46,45, 47, 48 Harbour District	In above. Pt Sec 42 (42.492ha), 43 (48.1576ha), 44 & 46 (77.9425ha), 47 (11.8042 & 7.4968ha)	DOC	As above	As above. Gaz 1908 p. 2504
483/41		Part Lot 268 DP 993	In above (0.5018ha)		As above	As above
		Sec 2 Block V Pencarrow SD	14.3158ha	DOC	Classify as Recreation Reserve and vested in GWRC	Pencarrow Head Recreation Reserve. Land around lighthouse
437/249		Lot 1 DP10555	5819m2	THCC	Fee Simple	
7A/604	10686	Pt Sec 31 Harbour District DP7015	3832m2	THCCC	Quarry Reserve Subject to Reserves and Domains Act 1953	
354/149	10756	Pt Sec 41 Harbour District	6.5906 ha	THCC	Scenic Reserve	Gaz 67 April 2005
493/283	10686	Pt Section 45 Harbour District	3.1600ha	THCC	Reserved for preservation of scenery	
352/187	10755	Section 43 &44, Pt Sec 40 & 42 Wainuiomata District	329.8795	THCC	Scenic Reserve	Gaz 67 April 2005
24B/514		Lot 1 DP53598	22.5604	THCC	Scenic Reserve	Gaz 67 April 2005
24B/515		Lot 2 DP 53598	1.1248ha	THCC	Scenic Reserve	Gaz 67 April 2005
30C/888		Lot 1 DP 59024	13.1403	THCC	Scenic Reserve	Gaz 67 April 2005
6A/343	23718	Sec 77 & 78 Harbour District	87.8547	THCC	Scenic Reserve	Gaz 67 April 2005
		Lot 8 DP 48950	0.2355ha	THCC	Reserve for recreation and public enjoyment	
33B/777		Lot 1 DP51972	191.4687ha	THCC	Scenic Reserve	Gaz. 2000 p4264

Title	SO	Legal description	Area	Land Owner	Land Status	Comments
54B/641	10755, 10686	Sections 29, 30 & 32 and Pt Sections 31, 33(x2), 34 and 35 (x2) Harbour District Pt Sec 28 H.D	253.3383	THCC	Pt Sec 28 H.D.- Land acq for plantation reserve, Gaz. 1918 p 1071	To be reclassified as Scenic Reserve by HCC
		Lot 10 DP53891	3.25ha	TTHCC	Local Purpose Reserve, Esplanade. Management to be transferred to GWRC	Strip around Lake Kohangapiripiri
		Lot 11 DP53891	7.8ha	THCC	Local Purpose Reserve, Esplanade. Management to be transferred to GWRC	Strip around Lake Kohangatera
41A/384		Lot 1 DP74247	362.5320	WRC	Recreation Reserve Gaz 1995, p1285	Lakes Block
50B/88		Lot 3 DP 83139	43.6700	WRC	Purpose - Scenic Reserve	Ex Rose property. Subject to Reserve Act 1977.
40D/366		Lot 1 DP 72418, in Block VIII Pencarrow Survey District	10.5892	DOC	Recreation Reserve Gaz. 1995 p 324	Baring Head & escarpment.
485/47	10756	Pt Sec 45 Wainuiomata District	117.4606 (114.3492)	WRC	Fee simple	Land behind Wainuiomata golf-club
20B/1221		Pt Sec 7 & 8 Wainui district in Block XVI Belmont Survey District & Block I Pencarrow S.D.	In above 3.7159	WRC	As above	Access arm behind Wainuiomata golf-club
38D/49		Lot 2 DP 66889	0.6750	WRC	As above	Coast Rd block next to Wainuiomata golf-club

09 June 2006

Ian Buchanan
Chairperson
Greater Wellington Regional Council
PO Box 11646
WELLINGTON

Dear Ian

I write to establish an understanding regarding Lakes Kohangapiripiri and Kohangatera with respect to the East Harbour Regional Park. I suggest you use this letter as context for and an appendix to the draft management plan for the park.

Management Understanding Regarding the Lakes and Foredunes

The (below) précis of natural values shows the lakes are of national importance as relatively pristine coast edge waterbodies. The lakes have excellent water quality and few introduced weeds.

The associated foredunes are nationally rare and have a rare ecological community containing several endangered plants and would be easily damaged by uncontrolled visitor access.

As the lakes and foredunes are of national importance, it is inappropriate to offer control and management to GWRC, however it is acknowledged that provided there is careful placement of recreation facilities, no encouragement of inappropriate activities and strict control of visitor behaviour, the lakes can play a key role as an attraction in the surrounding East Harbour regional park.

Thus the management plan can prescribe policy and management for the surrounding park land, which provides for the enjoyment of the lakes by the public in a way which will protect the lakes and foredunes. However the plan cannot prescribe management of the actual lakes. That is the role of the Department of Conservation.

The Department acknowledges that the lakes will form an attraction to park visitors in the manner described in this plan and his letter expresses support for that, subject to the proviso that park policy and facilities aim to protect the lakes and dunes and management discourages all activities and behaviour that might damage the lakes and dunes.

GWRC has acknowledged that in implementing the management of the park as described in the plan, it will consult closely with the department and always consider the protection of the lakes as a priority.

The Department's policy focuses on avoiding impacts to the high natural values. To this effect the Department will not allow boats, (other than for management purposes),

no commercial take of fish will be allowed on or in the lakes and no recreation fishing, diving or swimming in the lakes will be allowed.

Further, the Department intends to consult iwi regarding allowing a cultural take and consult duck shooters with the intention of phasing out duck shooting.

Natural Values of the Lakes and Foredunes

The Pencarrow Lakes, Kohangatera (17ha) and Kohangapiripiri (13 ha), are formed in drowned valleys exposed to Cook Strait. Kohangapiripiri has been freshwater for at least 7000 years but the closing date of Kohangatera is still uncertain, with evidence to suggest it was open prior to the 1855 earthquake. The lakes, wetlands and raised beaches together support a wide range of native plants and animals, including ten species of significant plants, nine of native freshwater fishes and three rare wetland birds. Banded dotterel nest on the open sand, probably the most significant area in the Wellington region where this occurs.

These two lakes possess distinct characters. The catchment of Kohangapiripiri, Cameron Creek, includes 43 ha of wetland and drains intact bush and regenerating farmland, and has a length of about 5 km and an area of about 280 ha. The beaches at Kohangapiripiri support sensitive plant and invertebrate communities

The Kohangatera catchment, Gollans Stream, extends north to Mount Lowry (373 m), a distance of 14 km and passes through undisturbed beech forest, a picnic area, a farm and about 150 ha of wetlands. Its total catchment area is about 1700 ha. The larger lake thus has a catchment six times larger than its neighbour. At Kohangatera the beach ridge system is notable for the presence of a nationally uncommon, regionally threatened plant, *Muehlenbeckia ephedroides*.

The wetlands and beaches support highly indigenous plant communities in a relatively unmodified state, some of which are not represented elsewhere in the region. Of the nine species of true aquatic plants, two are regarded as regionally threatened: Three regionally threatened species, five species of plants classified as 'Locally Significant' have been recorded in the semi-aquatic flora. Thus a total of ten significant plant species are reported from within the Wildlife Management Reserves.

Fifteen of the 61 lake or lake margin plant species are endemic, the remainder being natives shared with Australia. Apart from the water buttercup, the wetland vegetation is essentially free of introduced plants.

Botanical surveys have led to the discovery of the dwarf musk (*Mazus novaezeelandiae subsp. novaezeelandiae*) from the wetland seepages around the lake but this species has not been seen in recent times and may now be extinct. The presence of the leafless prostrate shrub, *Muehlenbeckia ephedroides*, a naturally uncommon species, on the high beach ridge of Kohangatera, is of particular interest since it represents one of only two known populations in the Wellington Conservancy. The beach ridges have their own intrinsically important flora. The ridge at Kohangapiripiri is by far the best example. Although the beach ridges are largely bare sand surfaces, endemic species dominate the plant cover that is present.

The Pencarrow Lakes provide excellent open water and wetland habitat for a number of waterfowl species, including the rare species Australian bittern and spotless crake. Many species of coastal birds are seen in Fitzroy Bay, but only two, banded dotterel (*Charadrius bicinctus*) and variable oystercatcher (*Haematopus unicolor*) nest on the raised beaches. Black shag (*Phalacrocorax carbo*) are often seen overhead, passing back and forth from a nesting colony in a grove of karaka trees in lower Gollans Valley about 1 km above the head of Kohangatera.

Lake Kohangapiripiri lacks brown trout and the two Pencarrow Lake catchments support some notable freshwater fishes. The New Zealand Freshwater Fish Database (2006) and recent research records 8 native freshwater fish species in the Pencarrow lakes with a further additional species in the Gollans Stream catchment; a total of nine native species of freshwater fishes in the two catchments. The most notable are the nationally threatened giant kokopu (*Galaxias argenteus*) and longfinned eel (*Anguilla dieffenbachi*) that are present in both lakes and their stream systems (also note the other threatened spp. referred to in introductory paragraph).

Yours sincerely



Allan Ross
Conservator

Draft