

# GARDENS AND BEACHES

## Wellington's parks, gardens and coastline are a natural playground.

From the rugged south coast to Oriental Bay, from the peace of Otari to the elegance of the city's botanic rose gardens, Wellington's parks, gardens and coastal areas provide locations for relaxation, enjoyment, and community/entertainment events. As natural gathering places, they are important for social cohesion. We aim to ensure that the city continues to offer high-quality outdoor environments that are attractive, accessible, and enhance the city's unique 'sense of place'.

## These areas need to be cared for in ways that balance nature with opportunities for enjoyment.

We:

- look after the city's **parks and gardens**, including the Wellington Botanic Garden, Otari-Wilton's Bush, Bolton Street Memorial Park, Truby King Park,

and many other reserve areas – these areas provide beautiful, high-quality venues for recreation and community festivals/events (the Wellington Botanic Garden alone has more than 1.3 million visitors a year)

- protect **native plants** through our work in the gardens and at the Berhampore Nursery, which grows around 80 thousand plants each year for use in parks, gardens and open spaces
- look after the city's **beaches and coastline**, from the wild south coast to Oriental Bay Beach – this work includes dune protection, planting, erosion control and maintenance of boat ramps, slipways and jetties.

We are currently working on upgrades for Scorching Bay Beach and the old Owhiro Bay Quarry site to provide better recreation opportunities and reflect its natural coastal values. In 2007/08, we plan to commence a restoration of Brooklyn's Central Park. Part of the Plimmer Bequest fund will go towards this work. Once a draft design has been developed the Council will be seeking public feedback before it is finalised. This is likely to happen in mid-2007.

### MEASURING OUR PERFORMANCE

We use a range of measures, including resident satisfaction surveys, to gauge our contribution to the city. In 2007/08, our targets are:

- 90% of residents surveyed have visited a park at least once in the previous 12 months, and for 80% of those to rate the quality and maintenance of the parks as good or very good
- 80% of residents surveyed have visited one of the city's four botanical gardens at least once in the previous 12 months
- 90% of the plant collection held by the botanical gardens meet our defined WCC plant performance standards for health and quality
- 75% of residents surveyed have visited one of the city's beaches or used wharves, jetties or boat ramps in the previous 12 months, and 85% of those rate the cleanliness and maintenance of the city's beaches and coastline as good or very good.

### VARIANCES

For the 2007/08 financial year, we are planning the following variance from our 2006–16 long-term plan: Wellington Botanic Gardens – reduce capital spending by \$500,000 by deferring the upgrade of the Tree House and the replacement of nursery buildings (this will allow further work to be undertaken on how to best integrate environmental education into the redevelopment).

### WHAT IT WILL COST

ACTIVITY	OPERATIONAL SPENDING			CAPITAL SPENDING	
	USER CHARGES AND OTHER REVENUE \$000	NET EXPENDITURE / RATES FUNDING REQUIREMENT \$000	EXPENDITURE 2007/08 \$000	EXPENDITURE 2007/08 \$000	
Local parks and open spaces (4.1.1)	(328)	6,605	6,933	539	
Botanical gardens (4.2.1)	(356)	3,372	3,728	428	
Beaches and coast operations (4.2.2)	(54)	828	882	608	
<b>Total for 2007/08</b>	<b>(738)</b>	<b>10,805</b>	<b>11,543</b>	<b>1,575</b>	

## GREEN OPEN SPACES

### MEASURING OUR PERFORMANCE

We use a range of measures, including resident satisfaction surveys, to gauge our contribution to the city. In 2007/08, our targets are:

- to carry out four hectares of restorative planting on Wellington Town Belts and reserves
- 60% of residents surveyed have visited the Wellington Town Belt or Outer Green Belt at least once in the previous 12 months, and 85% of those who had visited rate the cleanliness and maintenance of the Wellington Town Belt and Outer Green Belt as good or very good
- for community groups and volunteers to plant 25,000 eco-sourced native plants supplied by the Council
- 80% of residents surveyed rate the maintenance and quality of open space walkways and tracks as good or very good, and 80% of the walkway and track network meet required quality service standards
- to start a review of stream protection regulatory tools, complete a review of the Project Kaiwharawhara stream catchment project, and develop a stream protection model to apply to the Porirua and Owhiro catchments.

### Wellington is unique: it is literally surrounded by nature.

One-eighth of Wellington's area is reserve land, much of it rugged and covered in bush. This land, protected for generations, is a vital part of Wellington's landscape. It contributes to the city's identity, and offers opportunities – within minutes of downtown – for walking, mountain biking and other outdoor recreation activities.

Our long-term vision is to substantially improve the natural biodiversity on Wellington Town Belt, Outer Green Belt land and elsewhere. We aim to protect these areas from development, restore native ecosystems, provide opportunities for enjoyment that do not compromise environmental values, and maintain these areas in ways that enhance the city and make it more attractive for residents and visitors. We recognise that the key to protecting the city's open spaces is for Wellington residents to feel a sense of ownership and kaitiakitanga/guardianship over those spaces, and we aim to foster that feeling by sharing information and supporting volunteer/community initiatives.

We will continue our work protecting and enhancing Wellington streams and catchments / surrounds. We also plan to be consulting on our draft Biodiversity Plan mid-way through 2007. The plan will address biodiversity issues in the city, including removing and replacing hazardous trees.

### The Town Belt and other natural areas need to be protected – and, over time, enhanced through the regeneration of native bush.

We:

- look after the city's 34.7 square kilometres of Wellington **Town Belt**, Outer Green Belt and other reserve land
- look after more than **300km of tracks** extending throughout the city's open space areas – including 160km of walking tracks, 25km of mountain bike tracks, 14km of four-wheel-drive tracks, and 100+ kilometres of dual use tracks
- remove exotic trees that may be in danger of falling during storms and replace them with **native trees** – one example is the mass planting of northern rata, with their distinctive red flowers, on Tinakori Hill
- manage and maintain heritage buildings on reserve land
- support **community volunteers** who help to look after reserve land – each year, volunteers plant 18,000 – 25,000 eco-sourced native plants throughout the city
- provide **grants** for projects that benefit the city's environment, promote sustainability, raise awareness of environmental issues, or otherwise contribute to our environmental objectives
- work with community groups to restore and protect the city's **streams** and surrounding areas
- support facilitators to implement the national **Enviroschools** programme in Wellington schools

- protect **native ecosystems** by controlling weeds and pest animals such as possums and goats on open space land
- maintain **roadside verges** and **clean city and residential streets**, keeping them safe and attractive, through litter collection, planting, mowing, and controlling pest plants and other weeds.

In 2007/08, we plan to complete the Draft Northern Reserve Management Plan.

## We plan to make these areas more accessible by upgrading the network of walkways and tracks.

We want to enhance and extend our network of Wellington Town Belt and Outer Green Belt tracks. The tracks make these areas accessible for walkers, mountain bikers and others.

Our long-term Open Spaces Access Plan aims to strengthen and improve the track network in order to increase recreation and tourism opportunities, and enhance links between communities and open space areas. The plan aims to ensure that tracks provide for a wide range of user interests and levels of fitness and ability.

Specific major track proposals include the Skyline Track along the Outer Green Belt ridgeline, the Urban Coastal Connection from Owairo Bay around the coast to the city, a Kaiwharawhara Stream track from the Karori Sanctuary to the sea, Harbour Escarpment Walk from Waihinahina Park to Ngauranga Gorge, as well as upgrading the existing primary network track, and rationalising secondary links and local networks.

In our long term plan, we budgeted just over \$350,000 for track upgrades for 2007/08. We're not changing that, but we are also increasing capital funding by \$200,000 per year from 2008/09 – this would allow us to upgrade existing tracks over 10 years and develop new tracks over 20 years. The depreciation, maintenance and interest costs associated with the upgrades will also increase to on average \$150,000 per annum.

- to continue existing service levels for weed and pest management (based on pest management plans for 12 areas defined as 'key native ecosystems')
- 95% compliance with performance standards for CBD street cleaning
- 83% of residents surveyed agree that street cleaning in central Wellington is of a good or very good standard
- 83% of residents surveyed agree that roadside vegetation is maintained to a good or very good standard.

We also record the number of environmental grant applications we receive, the number receiving grants, and the total budget allocation. Our target is for all environmental grants to be distributed in accordance with eligibility criteria.

### VARIANCES

For the 2007/08 financial year, we are making the following variance from our 2006–16 long-term plan: to move our 'road side open spaces' budget from *transportation* to here. This reflects the environmental benefits of road side vegetation control and of keeping streets and waterways free of litter.

### WHAT IT WILL COST

ACTIVITY	OPERATIONAL SPENDING			CAPITAL SPENDING
	USER CHARGES AND OTHER REVENUE \$000	NET EXPENDITURE / RATES FUNDING REQUIREMENT \$000	EXPENDITURE 2007/08 \$000	EXPENDITURE 2007/08 \$000
Roads Open Spaces (2.3.2)	(446)	7,051	7,497	-
Town belts (4.2.3)	(221)	3,790	4,011	841
Community environmental initiatives (4.3.1)	-	330	330	-
Walkways (4.4.1)	-	369	369	350
Stream protection (4.7.1)	-	25	25	-
Pest plant and animal management (4.7.2)	-	751	751	-
<b>Total for 2007/08</b>	<b>(667)</b>	<b>12,316</b>	<b>12,983</b>	<b>1,191</b>

# WATER

## MEASURING OUR PERFORMANCE

We use a range of measures, including resident satisfaction surveys, to gauge our contribution to the city. In 2007/08, our targets are:

- 97% of service requests relating to the water network are responded to within one hour of the request being received ('response' includes initial investigation and prioritisation of work)
- 75% of residents surveyed about water network service are satisfied with work carried out
- all water delivered to Wellington properties complies with Drinking Water Standards for New Zealand (2005)
- no more than 19% of water in the network is unaccounted for.

## VARIANCES

For the 2007/08 financial year, we are planning the following variance from our 2006–16 long-term plan: Water reservoir/pump station renewals – reduce capital spending by \$3 million by deferring construction of the Messines Road water reservoir until 2008/09 (this will allow for further consideration to be given to the best option for the project).

## We want to provide Wellingtonians with safe, high quality drinking water, while also encouraging efficient water use.

Water is a fundamental need. It's crucial for people's health, and for quality of life. A city cannot survive without a steady supply of clean, safe, drinkable water.

It's also a resource that's in limited supply. Before it can be supplied to Wellington households, it has to be gathered in rainwater catchments, stored, and treated to ensure it is free of contamination. It is then piped to Wellington city. All of this requires costly infrastructure – reservoirs, pipes, treatments stations and so on.

Already, every day, more than 450 litres of water is consumed per person in Wellington city. And consumption has been increasing. If a one in 50 year drought occurs anytime from this year, the region's water supply may not be able to meet demand.

Our goal is to continue to provide safe, drinkable water to all households and businesses – while also moving the city towards a more sustainable approach in which water is used wisely and without waste.

## To achieve these goals, we own and operate the water supply network, and promote conservation measures.

We:

- own a **water supply network** that includes 75 reservoirs, 34 pumping stations and about 1,000km of underground pipes
- contract Capacity, a company that we own jointly with the Hutt City Council, to manage, maintain and operate the network and carry out **upgrades and renewals**
- buy more than **30,000 million litres of water** per year from Greater Wellington Regional Council and supply the water to Wellington properties.

We are currently investigating future water needs and conservation targets in conjunction with three councils in the region. As these plans are finalised decisions will need to be made about what water conservation tools are implemented in each city.

We will be considering options for how we can accelerate the construction of council district water meters. The provision of district water meters in various parts of the city is important for us to fully understand the trends and quantity of water consumption in different areas. This information is required to determine the impacts of developments and where water loss may be occurring in the network. This is vital information for **water conservation** purposes. By capturing this information we will know where we should be putting our efforts and resources to reduce our water consumption.

## WHAT IT WILL COST

ACTIVITY	OPERATIONAL SPENDING			CAPITAL SPENDING
	USER CHARGES AND OTHER REVENUE \$000	NET EXPENDITURE / RATES FUNDING REQUIREMENT \$000	EXPENDITURE 2007/08 \$000	EXPENDITURE 2007/08 \$000
Water network (4.5.5)	(173)	15,073	15,246	12,988
Water collection and treatment (4.6.1)	-	12,764	12,764	-
<b>Total for 2007/08</b>	(173)	27,837	28,010	12,988

# WASTEWATER AND STORMWATER

We want to safeguard public health and safety, and protect the city's waterways from pollution.

Wellington's stormwater network keeps residents and property safe by protecting the city from flooding. Each year, the network carries about 80 million cubic metres of runoff from roofs, paths, kerbs and channels and drains to streams and the harbour.

The sewage network, which carries about 29 million cubic metres of wastewater a year, protects human health and the environment by removing wastewater from homes and treating it to make it safe for disposal.

In this work, our key aims are safety and sustainability: wastewater should be disposed of in ways that protect public health and don't compromise ecosystems.

To achieve this, we provide comprehensive stormwater drainage and sewerage networks.

We:

- own the city's **stormwater and wastewater network**, including thousand of kilometres of pipelines, as well as pumping stations and sewage treatment plants
- contract Capacity, a company that we own jointly with the Hutt City Council, to manage, maintain and **operate the networks** and monitor the network and carry out **upgrades and renewals**
- ensure that sewage and trade waste is treated to **safe** levels before disposal – treated wastewater is piped to Cook Strait and sludge is piped to the Southern Landfill where it is combined with green waste to make **compost**
- **monitor and regulate** trade wastes to ensure that harmful substances don't enter the sewage system.

## WHAT IT WILL COST

ACTIVITY	OPERATIONAL SPENDING			CAPITAL SPENDING
	USER CHARGES AND OTHER REVENUE \$000	NET EXPENDITURE / RATES FUNDING REQUIREMENT \$000	EXPENDITURE 2007/08 \$000	EXPENDITURE 2007/08 \$000
Stormwater management (4.6.2)	(13)	11,649	<b>11,662</b>	<b>3,360</b>
Sewage collection and disposal network (4.6.3)	(120)	14,236	<b>14,356</b>	<b>8,171</b>
Sewage treatment (4.6.4)	(700)	19,037	<b>19,737</b>	-
<b>Total for 2007/08</b>	<b>(833)</b>	<b>44,922</b>	<b>45,755</b>	<b>11,531</b>

## VARIANCES

For the 2007/08 financial year, we are planning the following variance from our 2006–16 long-term plan: Sewerage network renewals – reduce capital spending by \$250,000 by 'phasing' the work over more than one year. Investigations have shown that some planned renewal works can be delayed without compromising the long term renewal needs.

## MEASURING OUR PERFORMANCE

We use a range of measures, including resident satisfaction surveys, to gauge our contribution to the city. In 2007/08, our stormwater targets are:

- 97% of service requests relating to the stormwater network are responded to within one hour of the request being received ('response' includes initial investigation and prioritisation of work)
- 75% of residents surveyed about stormwater network service are satisfied with work carried out
- stormwater discharges are free of scums or foams, floating or suspended material, abnormal colour or clarity, and fats or gross solids, on 100% of sampling days
- annual faecal coliform counts are less than 1,000 per 100ml at 80% of monitored freshwater sampling sites (lower levels of bacteria mean the water is cleaner)
- water quality at monitored bathing beaches comply with Ministry for the Environment guidelines on 90% of sampling days (green status).

Our 2007/08 wastewater network (sewage collection and disposal) and treatment targets are:

- 97% of service requests relating to the wastewater network are responded to within one hour of the request being received ('response' includes initial investigation and prioritisation of work)
- 75% of residents surveyed about wastewater network service are satisfied with work carried out
- annual median faecal coliform counts are less than 2,000 per 100ml at 80% of monitored harbour/coastal sampling sites (lower levels of bacteria mean the water is cleaner)
- 100% of businesses producing trade waste are inspected throughout the year
- no infringement notices are received for breaches of resource consents relating to wastewater treatment plants.

# WASTE REDUCTION AND ENERGY CONSERVATION

## MEASURING OUR PERFORMANCE

We use a range of measures, including resident satisfaction surveys, to gauge our contribution to the city. In 2007/08, our targets are:

- collect 12,600 tonnes of kerbside recycling
- 85% of residents surveyed say they have used kerbside recycling weekly in the previous 12 months
- 76% of residents surveyed say our kerbside recycling service is good or very good
- divert 33,900 tonnes of recyclable waste from the landfill, while total waste to the landfill will be maintained at no more than 65,000 tonnes
- maintain domestic waste collection once a week and inner-city waste collection six days a week (excluding Christmas, New Year and Easter)
- landfill and hazardous waste facility open 9.5 hours a day, seven days a week, 52 weeks a year (excluding Christmas, New Year and Easter)
- landfill resource consent quality standards are met on all occasions
- 76% of closed landfills that need monitoring systems have systems in place measured as a percentage of all known landfills requiring such work (NB: our long-term target is 100%).

We have also set a longer-term target of stabilising Wellington City Council (corporate) greenhouse gas emissions at 2003 levels by 2009/10 and reducing them by 20% by 2020.

## VARIANCES

For the 2007/08 financial year, we are planning the following variance from our 2006–16 long-term plan: Southern Landfill Improvements – deferred capital spending by \$225,000. These costs were associated with obtaining resource consent for stage 4 of the landfill. The costs are now expected to be incurred in 2008/09.

## We want Wellington to be a sustainable city.

Sustainability is about meeting today's needs in ways that don't cause future harm. A truly sustainable city meets its energy needs from renewable supplies. It uses resources efficiently, and it finds ways to re-use or recycle instead of adding to the amount of rubbish sent to landfills. Wellington can't yet claim to be a truly sustainable city – but in some areas we are heading in the right direction. The city's recycling volumes, for example, have been steadily increasing in recent years.

## We dispose safely of the city's waste. For the sake of future generations we're also working to promote recycling and energy efficiency.

We:

- provide weekly **household recycling collections** in suburban areas and the CBD – residents strongly support this work and the vast majority recycle
- provide weekly **rubbish collections** from households and daily collections in the CBD
- operate the **Southern Landfill**, with the aims of minimising the amount of waste disposed off and ensuring that waste is disposed off safely – the landfill operates a transfer station where recyclables

are separated, a Second Treasure Shop where second-hand items can be dropped off, and facilities for collection and disposal of hazardous waste such as paints, batteries, gas bottles, garden chemicals, oils and solvents; green waste is combined with sewage sludge to make high-quality compost

- manage the city's 30+ closed landfills to reduce any environmental impacts
- provide residents with information about **waste reduction**, and carry out research about the impact of waste on the city
- have progressed the **Kai to Compost** trial into a permanent service for businesses that produce food scraps
- enforce waste bylaws (which can include fines for disposing of waste in inappropriate ways)
- are working to **encourage energy efficiency** in the city through our energy manager who will identify ways to reduce our own energy use, and by developing guidelines on sustainable building covering areas such as water conservation, energy reduction and waste reduction.

In 2007/08, we will be continuing our review of the viability of waste-to-energy and solid waste material recovery facilities (which use advanced technology to extract re-useable material such as paper and metals from the waste stream). As part of this review, we will be considering our approach to recycling and to disposal of biosolids.

We are working in partnership with Nova Gas to convert landfill gas (methane) into electricity. The resulting electricity will be plugged directly into the main grid. We aim to have the system operational by the end of 2007.

We also plan to upgrade the Carey's Gully stream diversion in the coming year.

## WHAT IT WILL COST

ACTIVITY	OPERATIONAL SPENDING			CAPITAL SPENDING	
	USER CHARGES AND OTHER REVENUE \$000	NET EXPENDITURE / RATES FUNDING REQUIREMENT \$000	EXPENDITURE 2007/08 \$000	EXPENDITURE 2007/08 \$000	
Energy efficiency and conservation (4.5.1)	-	9	9	100	
Recycling (4.5.3)	(1,781)	(58)	1,723	-	
Waste minimisation and disposal management (4.5.4)	(6,857)	431	7,288	1,807	
<b>Total for 2007/08</b>	<b>(8,638)</b>	<b>382</b>	<b>9,020</b>	<b>1,907</b>	

# ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION ATTRACTIONS

## Nature is one of Wellington's biggest attractions.

In the Karori Sanctuary and Wellington Zoo, Wellington has two facilities that play crucial roles in wildlife conservation, and educating people about nature. The sanctuary has a 500-year vision of restoring pristine native forest and bird life in a valley just minutes from the city.

The Zoo has a programme of breeding and rearing endangered species from New Zealand and abroad. In the next few years, these facilities will be joined by the Aquarium of New Zealand – Te Moana Tamariki. Together, these will make vital contributions to conservation while also benefiting the economy by positioning Wellington as the natural centre of nature-based visitor attractions.

## We're helping to keep it that way by supporting initiatives that put conservation at the heart of the city's visitor experience.

We:

- support the **sanctuary** by providing land and a loan to contribute to development of new visitor facilities
- fund **Wellington Zoo** (which attracts more than 160,000 visitors each year)
- are supporting the development of the proposed Marine Education Centre, to be known as the **Aquarium of New Zealand – Te Moana Tamariki**, by offering to provide a loan.

The loans for the sanctuary and the aquarium have been approved in past years.

### MEASURING OUR PERFORMANCE

We use a range of measures to gauge our contribution to the city. In 2007/08, our target is:

- Karori Wildlife Sanctuary will attract 90,000 visitors.

We will also monitor the number and type of endemic bird species recorded at the Karori Wildlife Sanctuary.

Performance measures for Wellington Zoo are shown in the council-controlled organisations section of this annual plan – see the appendix.

Performance measures for the Marine Education Centre will be developed as the project progresses.

### WHAT IT WILL COST

ACTIVITY	OPERATIONAL SPENDING			CAPITAL SPENDING
	USER CHARGES AND OTHER REVENUE \$000	NET EXPENDITURE / RATES FUNDING REQUIREMENT \$000	EXPENDITURE 2007/08 \$000	EXPENDITURE 2007/08 \$000
Environmental and conservation attractions (4.8.1)	-	5,702	5,702	2,197
<b>Total for 2007/08</b>	-	5,702	5,702	2,197

## QUARRY

### MEASURING OUR PERFORMANCE

We use a range of measures to gauge our contribution to the city. In 2007/08, our targets are to meet all commercial objectives, and to comply with all District Plan, resource consent and quarry licence requirements.

### To be viable, Wellington needs roads and other infrastructure.

The Kiwi Point Quarry's output is needed for the region's roads and other infrastructure. It contributes to a community goal of ensuring that 'Wellington's long-term environmental health is protected through well-planned and well-maintained infrastructure'.

We ensure raw materials are provided for this infrastructure, while also aiming for long-term restoration of the environment.

We own the Kiwi Point Quarry in Ngauranga Gorge and manage a contract for the operation of the quarry, which provides aggregate to the local construction market. Each year, about 250,000 tonnes of rock are extracted for use on roading and other infrastructure. In our management of this resource, we aim to minimise environmental impacts by restoring and developing the area while contributing to the city's development needs.

### WHAT IT WILL COST

ACTIVITY	OPERATIONAL SPENDING			CAPITAL SPENDING
	USER CHARGES AND OTHER REVENUE \$000	NET EXPENDITURE / RATES FUNDING REQUIREMENT \$000	EXPENDITURE 2007/08 \$000	EXPENDITURE 2007/08 \$000
Quarry (4.5.2)	(650)	(288)	362	-
<b>Total for 2007/08</b>	<b>(650)</b>	<b>(288)</b>	<b>362</b>	<b>-</b>

*Each year, about 250,000 tonnes of rock are extracted for use on roading and other infrastructure.*