

Report 12.9
Date 20 January 2012
File PK/11/01/03

Committee Council
Author Sharon Lee, Parks Planner

Managing additional local authority land as part of Belmont Regional Park

1. Purpose

To seek approval to formally incorporate land adjacent to Belmont Regional Park into the land management responsibilities of Greater Wellington Regional Council, as pursuant to Section 17 of the Local Government Act.

2. The decision-making process and significance

The matters requiring decision in this report have been considered by officers against the requirements of Part 6 of the Local Government Act 2002 (the Act).

2.1 Significance of the decision

Officers have considered the significance of the matter, taking into account the Council's significance policy and decision-making guidelines. Officers recommend that the matter be considered to have low significance. Officers advise that a decision-making process is explicitly prescribed for this decision by Section 17(4) of the Local Government Act 2002.

3. Background

Greater Wellington (GW) owns regional parks and also manages land on behalf of the Department of Conservation (DOC) and city councils for the purposes of regional park. This is achieved through a delegation under the Reserves Act 1977 or through an agreement under the Local Government Act 2002. For example, the majority of East Harbour Regional Park (Northern Forest) is owned by Hutt City Council (HCC) but managed by Greater Wellington as part of the Greater Wellington parks network.

When the Greater Wellington Parks Network Plan was being prepared, it was highlighted that an area of land at the southern end of Belmont Regional Park (owned by Wellington City Council, WCC) was being managed as part of the park, but that there was no formal agreement between the agencies. Greater

Wellington and WCC officers agree that it is prudent to formalise the existing management arrangement.

Further it was found that the Council had previously agreed to manage a section of Porirua City Council (PCC) land (refer to **Report PE 05.266**). When Waitangirua Farm was purchased in 2006 from Landcorp, PCC also purchased some of the former farm. As part of the overall purchase agreement Greater Wellington agreed to manage a section adjacent to Cannons Creek area of Belmont Regional Park (owned by PCC). This has never been formalised.

4. Process for managing land on behalf of another Council

To manage land on behalf of another Council, both Councils must have resolved to approve the management of the land and then consult with the community over this decision. Consultation must be done through the special consultative procedure outlined in Section 83 of the Local Government Act, or in the Annual Plan or the Long Term Plan, which effectively follow the same procedure. Both councils must also notify the Minister of Local Government about the proposal.

Once consultation is completed, and the Minister notified, the agreement between the two Councils is finalised and signed by the chief executives.

Greater Wellington has been through this process previously with Hutt City Council for the management of its lands in Belmont and East Harbour Regional Parks. This document was signed in 2004 and continues to function well. The agreements with PCC and WCC have been drafted in the same format.

In the case of the PCC land, Greater Wellington resolved to manage this land in 2005. This report recommends that the Council also resolve to manage the WCC land.

5. Description of the land in question

5.1 Wellington City Council land

This land, comprising section Part Section 14 -16 and Part Section 20 Horokiwi District (a total of 105.9 hectares), lies to the west of the right tributary of the Korokoro Valley. It includes the Horokiwi Bridle way that links this section of the park to Horokiwi Road. It is described by WCC as land with steep topography and vegetation cover of emerging primary native bush. The upper slopes are still heavily gorse covered but mahoe, coprosma and rangiora is readily identifiable throughout the gorse when viewed from Horokiwi Road. It appears that the native bush is more diverse further down the slopes and with less gorse. It is to be set aside as Scenic Reserve B and is awaiting DOC to finalise the gazettal.

WCC would undertake as a condition of the agreement to absorb any costs associated with this final gazettal. The tracks are currently being maintained by Greater Wellington and this would continue. Refer to map in **Attachment 1** to see the location of this land.

5.2 Porirua City Council land

This parcel of land, comprising Section 2 SO 368657 and Section 1 – 2 Survey Office Plan 413953 (44.29) is recreation reserve and lies at the south-west corner of the Cannon's Creek valley. The land contains some gorse but is slowly regenerating back to native bush. The land provides an additional entrance to the park from Carnavon Place, Cannons Creek East. This is particularly beneficial for the park, given the deficiency of entrances from the western side of Belmont Regional Park.

While some of the land is included in the Transmission Gully designation it is anticipated that when the motorway is finished that this section of land will still provide an entrance to the park and will link up with the existing network of tracks. Refer to the map in **Attachment 1** to see the location of this land.

6. Comment

The WCC land has been assessed against Section 4.9 of the Parks Network Plan which outlines the criteria for which Greater Wellington would acquire land (in this case, not ownership but management responsibility). The land provides for additional access points to the park on the south-western side, improving the opportunities for the public to enjoy and use the park, and officers believe it fits within our agreed policy approach. A copy of the draft agreement between Greater Wellington and WCC is in **Attachment 2**.

7. Communication

It is proposed that the agreement to manage land is included in the Long Term Plan 2012-2022/Annual Plan 2012/13.

To progress these matters, Councils on both sides of the agreement must consult with their communities. Officers are working with PCC and WCC to ensure that the process is completed in tandem. If any objection from the community is upheld – this will be reported back to Council.

8. Recommendations

That the Council:

1. **Receives** the report.
2. **Notes** the agreement by Council in 2005 to manage a section of Porirua City Council land adjacent to Belmont Regional Park as pursuant to Section 17 of the Local Government Act 2002.
3. **Resolves** that the Wellington City Council land adjacent to Belmont Regional Park be managed by Wellington Regional Council as pursuant to Section 17 of the Local Government Act 2002.
4. **Agrees** to publically notify and receive comment on the proposal to manage sections of Porirua City Council land and Wellington City

Council land as part of Belmont Regional Park, through the Long Term Plan 2012/2022 and Annual Plan 2012/13 consultation process.

5. *Notes that Council officers will continue to negotiate the management agreement details and those will be reported to the Council following consultation.*

Report prepared by:

Report approved by:

Sharon Lee
Parks Planner

Luke Troy
Manager,
Corporate Planning

Jane Davis
Group Manager, Strategy and
Community Engagement

Attachment 1: Map – parcels of land to be managed by Greater Wellington

Attachment 2: Copy of the draft agreement to manage land (between WCC and GW)