

Belmont Regional Park Management Plan

Part 1 : Aim, Objectives and Policies



Belmont Regional Park Management Plan

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September 1996

This management plan was prepared
and published by:

Wellington Regional Council
PO Box 11 646
WELLINGTON

Publication No. WRC/REC-G-96/52
ISBN 0-909016-46-1

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Preface

The quality of our regional parks is one measure of how we, as the people of Wellington Region, value our open spaces. Belmont Regional Park was conceived in the 1970's to provide recreational access and to protect important local landscapes. This has been achieved through community partnerships and a multiple ownership regime involving Wellington Regional Council, Territorial Authorities, Land Corporation Limited and the Department of Conservation.

Belmont is one of the five regional parks managed by the Wellington Regional Council. It is now enjoyed by more than 100,000 visitors each year. This is the park's second Management Plan. The previous plan was approved in 1989 following the preparation of drafts in 1977 and 1983. The 1989 plan set the scene for the main development phase, involving the establishment of key entrance areas and facilities. This plan consolidates and refines the Park's management, concentrating on key park assets and features.

Sitting alongside the Council's overall strategic direction for regional parks, this Management Plan provides for further enhancement to park assets (tracks, signs, etc.), environmental protection and reinforcement of the legal structures that will define and protect the park into the next millennium. The imminent gazettal of the Belmont Walkway is a significant step in this process, and demonstrates Land Corporation Limited's support for the park and its purpose.

The preparation of this plan was in accordance with Section 619 of the Local Government Amendment Act 1992. It included the establishment of an Advisory Committee to oversee the process, and two rounds of public submissions. The first round provided initial comments on park management. The second provided comments on the draft of the new plan. The final plan was approved by the Regional Council on the recommendation of the Landcare Committee on 24 September 1996.

The Regional Council thanks everyone who contributed to the preparation of this plan, including members of the public, agencies and organisations, advisory committee members and staff. Through this plan, and with support from affected agencies, groups and individuals, Belmont Regional Park will become an increasingly valued community asset of the Wellington Region.



STUART MACASKILL
Chairman, Wellington Regional Council

Belmont Regional Park Advisory Committee

The preparation of this plan has been assisted by the Belmont Regional Park Advisory Committee. Membership of the Advisory Committee is as follows:

Sylvia Allan (<i>Chairperson</i>)	Principal, Environmental Planning and Assessment
Mark Heffernan	Operations Manager, Landcorp Farming Limited
Paul Hughes	SCO, Department of Conservation
Councillor Stephen Wilson (till May 1996)	Upper Hutt City Council
Councillor Owen Anderson (from May 1996)	Upper Hutt City Council
Alice Heather (resigned 28 Feb 1995)	Parks Asset Manager, The Hutt City Council
Robyn Fisher (from May 1996)	Senior Planner, The Hutt City Council
Councillor Margaret Cousins	The Hutt City Council
Linda Kerkmeester (till Sept 1995)	Landscape Architect, Porirua City Council
Andrew Gray (from May 1996)	Landscape Architect, Porirua City Council
Councillor Terawhiti Arthur (till Oct 1995)	Porirua City Council
Jay Davison	Land Management Officer, Wellington City Council
Councillor John Gilberthorpe (till May 1996)	Wellington City Council
Peter Leslie (till May 1996)	Divisional Manager, Utility Services, Wellington Regional Council
Andrew Annakin (from 10 Apr 1995)	Divisional Manager, Landcare, Wellington Regional Council
Barry Chalmers	Manager, Recreation Department, Wellington Regional Council
Councillor Ernie Gates	Wellington Regional Council
Councillor Barbara Donaldson (till Oct 1995)	Wellington Regional Council
Councillor Margaret Bonner (from May 1996)	Wellington Regional Council
Kara Puketapu	Tangata whenua - Te Runanganui o Taranaki Whanui ke te Upoko o te Ika a Maui
Lynette Wharfe/Lewis Evans	Community Representative, Judgeford / Pauatahanui Residents
Simon Kennett	New Zealand Mountain Bike Association
Annette Cuttriss	Belmont Pony Club
Bill Milne	Lower Hutt Branch, Royal Forest and Bird Protection Society of New Zealand
Owen Moore	Kaumatua Tramping Club

Wellington Regional Council Staff Assisting:

Wendy Basire	Parks Planner, Recreation Department
David Clelland	Planner, Recreation Department
Chris Wootton	Belmont Regional Park Ranger

Advisory Committees are appointed by the Wellington Regional Council to provide direct public involvement in the development of management plans. Their role is to assist with the preparation of draft management plans for public release, to consider public submissions on draft management plans and to advise the Regional Council with regard to these submissions. An Advisory Committee is appointed to advise on a particular management plan. When that plan is complete, the Committee is disbanded.

Advisory Committees act only in an advisory capacity in making recommendations to the Wellington Regional Council. The resolution of contentious issues that may arise from the preparation of management plans is the responsibility of the Wellington Regional Council.

Acknowledgement

The Wellington Regional Council acknowledges with gratitude the extensive assistance given by the Belmont Regional Park Advisory Committee towards the preparation of the Belmont Regional Park Management Plan.

Introduction

Regard to Relevant Legislation

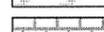
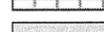
In developing this management plan, the Regional Council acknowledges the overriding legislation affecting Belmont Regional Park. This legislation includes, but is not limited to, the following.

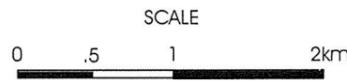
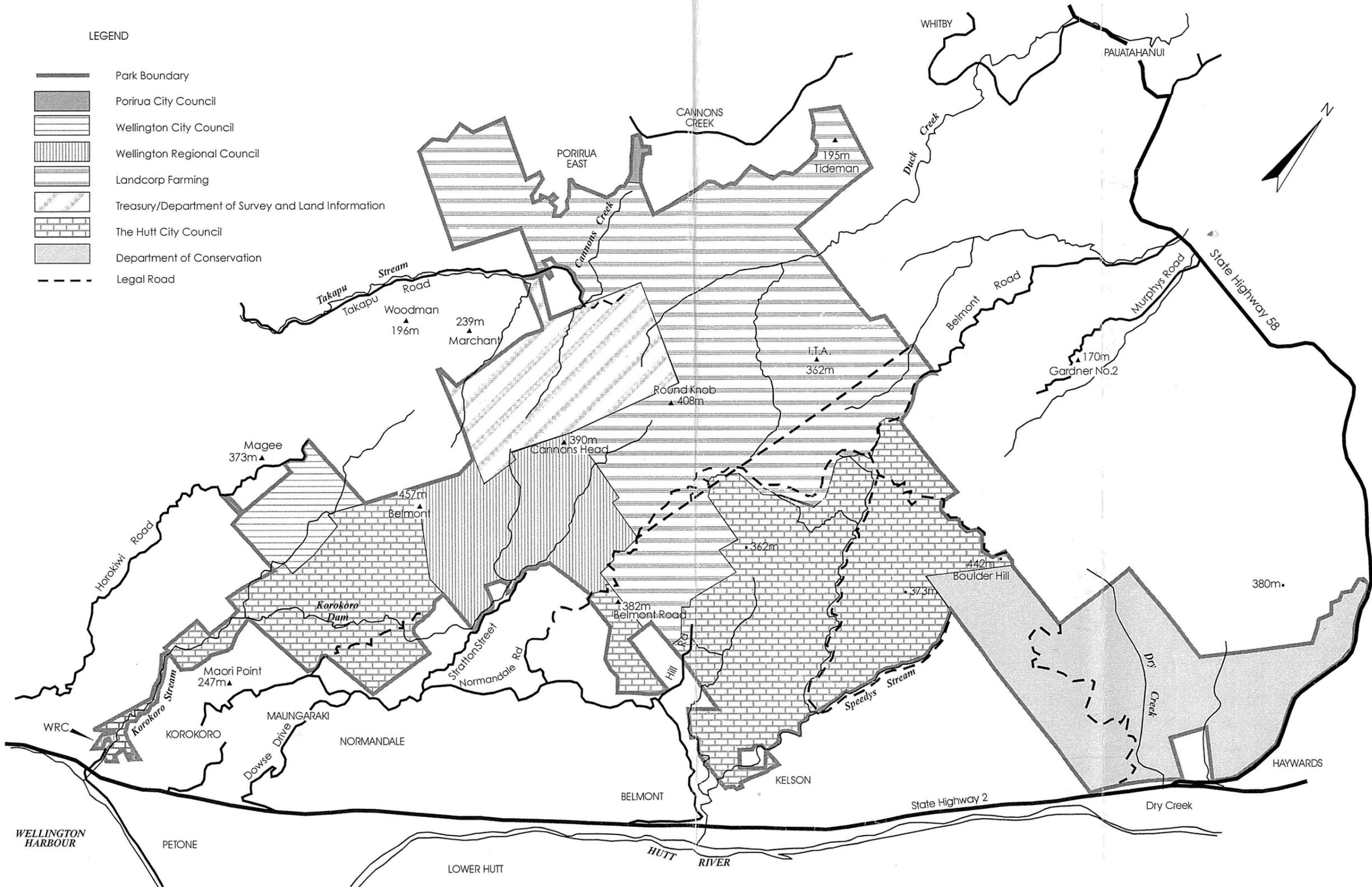
- Building Act 1991
- Health and Safety in Employment Act 1991
- Reserves Act 1977
- Resource Management Act 1991
- Treaty of Waitangi Act 1975

The requirements of these Acts take precedence over the policies within this management plan.

(Refer also to Section 3 : *Legislation* in the Background, Part 2 : Resource Statement of this management plan.)

LEGEND

-  Park Boundary
-  Porirua City Council
-  Wellington City Council
-  Wellington Regional Council
-  Landcorp Farming
-  Treasury/Department of Survey and Land Information
-  The Hutt City Council
-  Department of Conservation
-  Legal Road



The Wellington Regional Council, 1996

BELMONT REGIONAL PARK

Fig. 1
Land Ownership

Cartography by Explorer Graphics Ltd

1. **Location and General Description**

Belmont Regional Park is located in the hill country between Porirua and the Hutt Valley (Figure 1). There are five primary park entry areas : Cornish Street (Korokoro), Oakleigh Street (Maungaraki), Stratton Street (Normandale), Dry Creek (Haywards) and Cannons Creek (Porirua).

The park comprises steep hills and valleys. Belmont Trig (457 metres) is the highest point of the park. Several streams define and drain the park; Duck Creek to the north, Cannons Creek and Takapu Stream to the west, Korokoro Stream to the south and Speedy's Stream and Belmont Stream to the east. Most of the park is pasture land. Some of the steeper slopes and gullies are revegetating in gorse and native bush. Native vegetation clads the Korokoro and Dry Creek Valleys. Small blocks of radiata pine and macrocarpa are situated at Stratton Street and Korokoro Forks.

Belmont Regional Park offers wide open spaces and panoramic hill top views. A range of recreational activities occur in the park, including walking, running, hiking, orienteering, horse riding, mountain biking, picnicking, camping and swimming.

2. **Land Ownership and Management of the Park**

Belmont Regional Park is unique in the Region's network of regional parks. It is the only regional park to encompass land in both private and public ownership (Figure 1 following). Land contained within the park's boundary is owned by the following bodies:

- Wellington Regional Council
- The Hutt City Council
- Porirua City Council
- Wellington City Council
- Department of Conservation
- Treasury (Land Information New Zealand as Manager)
- Landcorp Farming Limited

Private land is defined as any land, or interest in land, held by a person or organisation other than:

- (1) the Crown; or
- (2) a Crown entity as defined within the Public Finance Act 1989.

The definition of "Crown Entity" in the Public Finance Act 1989 does not include local authorities (e.g., Wellington Regional Council, The Hutt City Council). However, reserves vested in the control of a local authority would be classified as public land.

Public and private lands in the park total 3,551 hectares.

A complete list of land titles and status for Belmont Regional Park is given in Appendix 2 in Part 2 of this management plan.

2.1 **Landcorp Farming Limited**

Land held by Landcorp Farming Limited is recognised as being under private, **not** public ownership. Landcorp's Waitangirua Farm property forms a large component of the park, being 1,243 hectares or 35 percent of the total park area.

The State Owned Enterprises Act 1986 established, amongst other SOE's, the Land Corporation of New Zealand (Landcorp). An implied partnership of ownership and management for Belmont Regional Park between Landcorp (and more recently, its subsidiary company, Landcorp Farming Limited) and the Wellington Regional Council since developed.

The Waitangirua Farm Sale and Purchase Agreement between the Crown and Landcorp Farming Limited provided a firm covenant "to protect forest and shrubland remnants, walking access".

Walkways across the Waitangirua Farm are, as at September 1996, being established under the Walkways Act 1990. They provide for the public to cross Landcorp Farming land along officially marked routes. Access is subject to periodic restriction for farm management purposes. Conservation covenants, pursuant to the Reserves Act 1977 requirements, have been placed over 82.55 hectares of farmland. (See Section 3.2 - Reserves Act 1977 in the Background Section, Part 2 of this management plan.)

2.2 **Treasury**

Land Information New Zealand (LINZ) - as from 1 July 1996, on behalf of Treasury, manages 290 hectares of Unallocated Crown Land within Belmont Regional Park known as the Takapu Block. Formerly under the ownership of the New Zealand Electricity Department, then the management of Electricorp and most recently the management of the Department of Survey and Land Information, this block is currently leased to Landcorp Farming Limited and managed as part of the Waitangirua Farm.

2.3 **Department of Conservation**

The Dry Creek Recreation Reserve, with an area of 532 hectares (15 percent of the park) and located at the junction of State Highway 58 and the Western Hutt Road, is owned by the Department of Conservation. Although control and management of the reserve has been formally handed over to the Regional Council (1991), land held and designated as a recreation reserve binds the owner to particular controls and requirements under the Reserves Act 1977.

An informal arrangement exists between the Regional Council and Landcorp Farming for the latter to graze the ridge tops of the reserve. A small area of land at the entrance to Dry Creek is leased by the Department of Conservation to the ACTS Institute as part of their employment orientated life skills programme for young people in the Hutt Valley.

2.4 **Wellington City Council**

The Wellington City Council owns a 105 hectare block of land with access onto

Horokiwi Road at the southern end of the park. This area was transferred from the former Lower Hutt City Council to the Wellington City Council during the local government reorganisation process of 1989. Wellington City Council intends to classify this area as a recreation reserve under section 17 of the Reserves Act 1977.

2.5 **Porirua City Council**

The Porirua City Council owns the 8 hectare Cannons Creek Lake Reserve. The majority of the reserve has been gazetted as a Recreation Reserve under the Reserves Act 1977 (6.8 hectares), with two smaller areas being: the first, declared as a recreation reserve within the meaning of the Reserves Act, and the second, classified as a Local Purpose Reserve (Community Use) under the Reserves Act.

2.6 **The Hutt City Council**

The Hutt City Council owns a total area of 1,078 hectares, or 30 percent of the park.

The 632 hectare Kilmister Block is leased to Landcorp Farming Limited for farming purposes. It was originally bought for “deferred urban” purposes. It is classified as private land in fee simple ownership. A further 336 hectares is situated in the Korokoro Valley/Maungaraki area and has a variety of past and present management regimes including local purpose esplanade reserve, recreation reserve, scenic reserve and Petone water supply. In the lower Normandale Road area (Sweetacres) are several recreation reserves (43 hectares in total), and a small area vested in the City Council in lieu of reserves. The Council also owns a 65 hectare block of land in the Speedy’s Stream/Belmont Stream area.

2.7 **Wellington Regional Council**

The Wellington Regional Council owns three areas of land within Belmont Regional Park, totalling 293 hectares (8 percent of the park). The first, a small 0.56 hectare block at the end of Cornish Street, Petone, is intended in the future to be developed as a public right-of-way into the park. The remainder, two properties in Stratton Street, are leased to Landcorp Farming Limited for farming purposes.

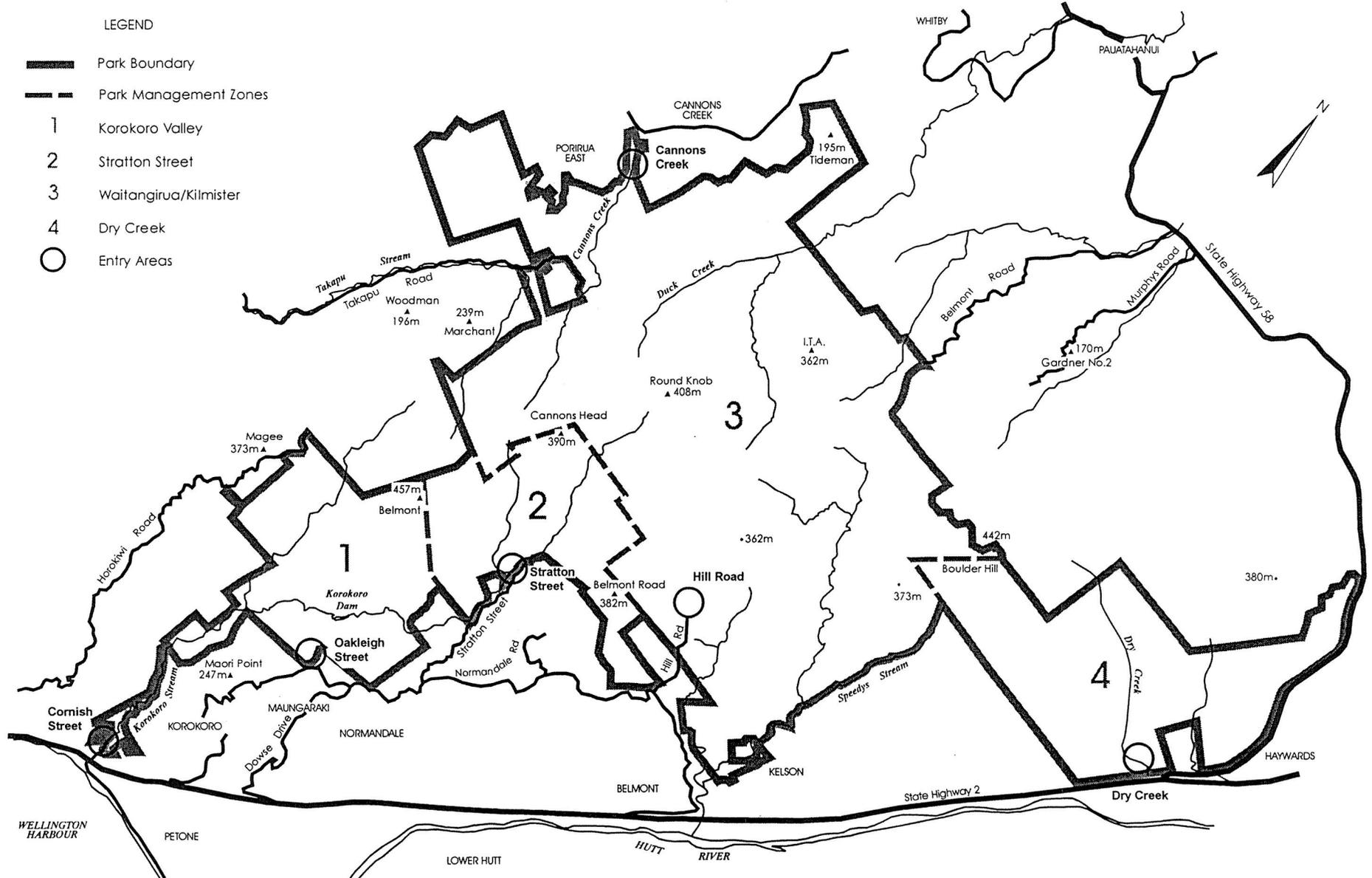
3. **Belmont Regional Park Management Zones**

As a result of the composite nature of land-ownership in Belmont Regional Park, management zones have been established to assist with the management of various land uses, including farming, recreation, native vegetation conservation and forestry (Figure 2 following).

3.1 **Zone 1 : Korokoro Valley**

The Korokoro Valley is a popular recreation area containing a substantial area of native bush close to the cities of Wellington and Lower Hutt.

Recreational uses include walking, horse riding, mountain biking, picnicking, camping and fishing. A variety of walks lead to the historic Korokoro Dam and beyond to Belmont Trig in Zone 2. The Horokiwi Bridleway from Horokiwi Road gives horse access to Stratton Street via Belmont Trig. It is also used for mountain



- LEGEND
- Park Boundary
 - Park Management Zones
 - 1 Korokoro Valley
 - 2 Stratton Street
 - 3 Waitangirua/Kilmister
 - 4 Dry Creek
 - Entry Areas



The Wellington Regional Council, 1996

BELMONT REGIONAL PARK

Fig. 2 Management Zones

Cartography by Explorer Graphics Ltd

biking. The Ridge Track (between Belmont Trig and Baked Beans Bend) and the forested section of track between Korokoro Dam and Stratton Street is not available for mountain biking. Korokoro Dam and Baked Beans Bend are popular picnic sites.

Dogs are permitted in this zone, provided they are kept under control and preferably on a leash. They are not permitted in the other three park zones.

At Korokoro Forks is a 15 hectare area of exotic “overmature” radiata pine forest with a few macrocarpa. Regenerating native vegetation is emerging under the pine forest. Native forest covers much of the upper valley above Korokoro Forks.

3.2 **Zone 2 : Stratton Street**

Much of this zone is marginal for farming. The steeper slopes and gullies covered in native vegetation have been fenced to encourage native vegetation regeneration. The main ridges are being left in pasture and grazed. A 24 hectare block of radiata pine is situated on the eastern side of Stratton Street.

Horse riding, mountain biking and walking are popular recreational uses in Zone 2. Other uses include picnicking and camping. A panoramic view of Wellington, Porirua, Mana and Kapiti Islands, Hutt Valley and the South Island can be gained from Belmont Trig (457 m).

3.3 **Zone 3 : Waitangirua/Kilmister**

The majority of Zone 3 is farmed by Landcorp Farming Limited (Takapu Block, Waitangirua Farm and Kilmister Block). Designated walkways are being created across the zone to provide for public access, including access for horse riders and mountain bikers. The Regional Council manages recreation in Zone 3 as part of Belmont Regional Park.

Waitangirua Farm

In the northeast corner of Landcorp’s Waitangirua Farm property is Boulder Hill. At 442 m, it is the second highest point within the park. Boulder Hill provides extensive views of the Hutt Valley and beyond. Panoramic views of the Region can also be gained from Round Knob (408 m) and the airstrip.

Old Coach Road, which passes through Zones 2 and 3, is a popular route for walkers and mountain bikers. The public can visit the World War II ammunition magazines, south of the airstrip at the top of Hill Road.

Cannons Creek Lake Reserve

Cannons Creek Lake Reserve, owned by Porirua City Council, is a popular area for walking and picnicking. It is also used by the adjoining schools for recreation activities and conservation and forestry projects. Access further into the park is gained via the boardwalk upstream from the lakes. From there, opportunities exist for longer walks and mountain biking to Cannons Head (390 m) and Round Knob (408 m).

Kilmister Block

The Kilmister Block provides a critical link between the Dry Creek and Waitangirua Farm areas of Belmont Regional Park. Three tracks pass over the Block, used by walkers and mountain bikers.

3.4 Zone 4 : Dry Creek

This zone consists of areas of grazed land, retired grazing areas and areas of regenerating native vegetation.

Recreational uses in Zone 4 include mountain biking, walking, horse riding, picnicking and camping. Mountain biking is permitted on all tracks in this zone except for the Waterfall Track. Picnicking occurs upstream from the area leased by the ACTS Institute. Limited opportunities are available for short stay camping at the top of Buchanans Road (no facilities provided). There are several walks in the Dry Creek zone, including the Loop Track, Waterfall Track and the track up to Boulder Hill.

4. Belmont Regional Park Identity Area Policy Document

The Belmont Regional Park Identity Area concept was used in the 1989 management plan as a means of promoting the protection of landscape values, natural features and recreational access opportunities on private land adjoining the park. Changes in planning and environmental law, and in land-ownership in the Identity Area since 1989, have required a review of this concept.

This management plan has been prepared in respect of land in public ownership, and private land in the ownership of Landcorp Farming Limited, making up the Belmont Regional Park. Areas of private land in the vicinity of the park, (to the south and east) recognised as the Belmont Regional Park Identity Area, are dealt with through a **separate** policy document. The intention of the policy document is to clearly state the Regional Council's interests as a neighbouring landowner through district plans, regional plans and the Regional Policy Statement prepared under the Resource Management Act 1991. The policy document is **not** part of this management plan.

The Belmont Regional Park Identity Area Policy Document is available on request.

(Refer also to Section 2 : *A History of Management* in the Background section of Part 2 of this management plan.)

5. Status of this Management Plan

Section 619 of the Local Government Act 1974, as inserted by the Local Government Amendment Act 1992, confers powers on the Auckland and Wellington Regional Councils in relation to regional parks and reserves. The Wellington Regional Council, under section 619C, is given continued responsibility for five regional parks in its Region, including the Belmont Regional Park. 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 the Local Government Act.

6. **Relationship Between Local Government Act 1974, Reserves Act 1977 and Resource Management Act 1991**

Local Government Act 1974

The Belmont Regional Park Management Plan, prepared by the Regional Council under the Local Government Act, sets out a policy framework for the Regional Council to manage and administer Belmont Regional Park.

Reserves Act 1977

Parts of Belmont Regional Park are protected as reserves under the Reserves Act 1977 (e.g., Dry Creek, Cannons Creek Lake, Sweetacres). The Regional Council acknowledges the requirement on park landowners who own land protected under the Reserves Act to prepare management plans for such reserves (e.g., Porirua City Council's Amenity Lakes Management Plan for the two Whitby lakes and Cannons Creek Lake Reserve).

In the case of Dry Creek Recreation Reserve, the Department of Conservation and Regional Council have agreed that the Belmont Regional Park Management Plan shall serve the dual function of the park's management plan under the Local Government Act, and the reserve's management plan required under the Reserves Act.

The Reserves Act also requires formal arrangements to be made for the Regional Council to assume administration and management of the entire park. In the case of public land (e.g., Wellington City Council's Horokiwi Road property), this means a written agreement or arrangement with the owner of the public land whereby the Regional Council is the administering body under the Reserves Act. In the case of Crown land (e.g., Dry Creek Recreation Reserve), it requires appointment of the Regional Council pursuant to Section 28 of the Reserves Act. The provisions of Section 38 (the control and management of land that is not a reserve for the purposes of a particular reserve) need to be strictly complied with for private land in the park. Furthermore, private landowners in the park (e.g., Landcorp Farming Limited) can not be bound by this management plan unless they have given written consent to their land being included in the park - this is being pursued.

Resource Management Act 1991

The Resource Management Act is acknowledged as the principal statute for the management of land, subdivision, water, soil resources, the coast, air, and pollution and noise control. It sets out requirements for the preparation of regional policy statements, regional plans and district plans by local authorities. This management plan must comply with regional and district plans prepared under the Resource Management Act. Ensuring consistency is an iterative process, as many of the regional and district plans are still under preparation as at September 1996.

It is requested that territorial authorities inform the Regional Council when they receive a resource consent or subdivision consent application, that is on land adjacent or in close proximity to Belmont Regional Park, for comment.

See also Section 3 - *Legislation* in Part 2 : Resource Statement of this management plan.

7. **Financial Considerations**

The Belmont Regional Park Management Plan contains policies affecting resource planning, operational needs and future development priorities. These policies are, to an extent, generic in nature and are specified in Appendix 1 at the end of Part 1 : Aim, Objectives and Policies of this management plan.

Action statements, time frames and priorities for implementing the policies of the Belmont Regional Park Management Plan are set out in:

- the Regional Council's 10 Year Strategy, *Facing the Future*;
- the Recreation Department's 10 Year *Business Plan*, including the Annual Plan; and
- specific area development plans (e.g., for Stratton Street entrance).

Facing the Future and the associated Recreation Department's *Business Plan* set out agreed long-term priorities and broad costs, including revenue streams (reviewed at intervals). The Annual Plan section of the *Business Plan* outlines agreed short-term priorities and costs. The *Business Plan* is reviewed on a year by year basis and the *Facing the Future* Strategy every three years. Opportunities exist for public input and scrutiny of these documents.

The policies in this management plan are constant over a five year period unless formally changed. The budget allocations vary according to priorities resulting from changing circumstances in the broader park environment and political climate.

Aim, Objectives and Policies

Aim

1. To provide for the development and management of Belmont Regional Park for outdoor recreational use, while protecting and enhancing its natural character, intrinsic values and cultural heritage.

Objectives

The objectives are not listed in any order or priority.

Regional Parks Network

- The development and management of the park as an integral part of the Wellington regional parks network.

Park Management

- Integrated management of the park will be achieved through a co-ordinated approach between the Regional Council and other affected and interested parties.

Heritage

- The natural and cultural heritage of the Belmont hills within the park will be protected and enhanced in recognition of its scenic and recreational value.
- The grassed open hill tops of the park will be protected.
- The values of the park's soil and water resources will be retained and where appropriate, enhanced.
- The native plant and animal communities in the park will be conserved and enhanced.
- Significant wildlife habitats in the park will be conserved and enhanced.

Recreation

- A wide range of outdoor recreation activities which are compatible with the park's heritage and farming values will be provided for in the park.
- The recreational activities of the park will be managed in a manner which protects the quality of experience for park users while providing maximum opportunity for recreation within the park.

Farming/Forestry

- Farming and forestry will be provided for in the park as sustainable land management tools to enhance the landscape of the park.

Education

- The park will be promoted as a regional educational resource.

Policies

Preamble : The following policies apply to Belmont Regional Park, and represent **mandatory** statements for the management of the park. They do not apply to land in the vicinity of the park known as the Belmont Regional Park Identity Area. These policies are binding on Wellington Regional Council, The Hutt City Council, Wellington City Council, Porirua City Council, Department of Conservation, Landcorp Farming Limited and Land Information New Zealand.

1. Management

1.1 *Management and Land Ownership*

Policy: (1) The Wellington Regional Council, in accordance with the Local Government Amendment Act 1992, has primary responsibility for the management of Belmont Regional Park.

Explanation: Formal written agreements between the Regional Council and each park landowner will also be pursued by the Regional Council to ensure compliance with the requirements of the Reserves Act 1977.

Policy: (2) The Regional Council acknowledges the land ownership rights of all landowners in the park.

Explanation: Ownership interests and jurisdiction in the park are shared among the following agencies:

- Department of Conservation
- Land Information New Zealand
- Landcorp Farming Limited
- Wellington Regional Council
- The Hutt City Council
- Porirua City Council
- Wellington City Council

Policy: (3) The Regional Council will continue its discussions with relevant public authorities and State Owned Enterprises to consolidate and rationalise ownership and management of existing public lands within the park.

(4) In the event of changes in land ownership of park land, the Regional Council will renegotiate with the new owner(s) to have their land recognised as being within Belmont Regional Park.

1.2 *Park Management Zones*

Policy: (1) The following established park zones will continue to guide the day-to-day management activities of the park.

- Zone 1 : Korokoro Valley
- Zone 2 : Stratton Street
- Zone 3 : Waitangirua/Kilmister
- Zone 4 : Dry Creek

1.3 *Land Acquisition and Disposal*

Policy: (1) The Regional Council may negotiate where appropriate for the lease, acquisition, right-of-way, caveat, disposal, purchase or gifting of land under public and private ownership within or adjacent to the Belmont Regional Park.

(2) The justification for purchasing, acquiring or disposing of land will be based on one or more of the following general criteria:

- It would enhance the benefit, enjoyment and use of the park by the public.
- It would improve public access to or use of the park in an area where this would be desirable.
- It would further protect the character of existing park land.
- It would protect important natural and cultural heritage values of the park.
- It would enhance or add to existing recreational opportunities.
- It would help to rationalise the boundaries of the park.
- It would benefit future management and development of the park.

1.4 *Financial Management*

Policy: (1) Belmont Regional Park will be managed in a financially responsible manner.

(2) Park landowners will be encouraged to reinvest any revenue generated in the park into the development of the park.

1.5 *Promotion*

Policy: (1) The Regional Council will provide information to encourage the safe use, awareness and enjoyment of the park, and interpretation and education programmes to enhance visitor appreciation and understanding.

1.6 ***Research***

Policy: (1) Research which would be beneficial to the management and use of the Belmont Regional Park will be encouraged by the Regional Council.

1.7 ***Consultation***

Policy: (1) The Regional Council will consult with public authorities, adjacent landowners and special interest groups to promote the co-ordinated planning and management of the park and its surrounds.

(2) The Regional Council will consult with the tangata whenua on the future use and development of the park taking into account their aspirations and cultural needs.

1.8 ***Consistency with Statutory Obligations***

Policy: (1) Development and management of the Belmont Regional Park will be consistent with policies contained within the Regional Policy Statement, and regional plans prepared by the Regional Council, and with relevant district plans.

(2) The Regional Council respects the provisions of the Reserves Act 1977 as it applies to areas of Belmont Regional Park (e.g., Dry Creek Recreation Reserve, Cannons Creek Lake Reserve, Korokoro Valley reserves) and the need for landowners of such areas to comply with the Reserves Act.

1.9 ***Bylaws***

Policy: (1) The management and use of Belmont Regional Park will comply with the *Wellington Regional Council Bylaws for Forests, Parks and Recreation Areas*, August 1994.

1.10 ***Procedures for the Approval of Works***

Policy: (1) Significant new works in the park proposed by the Regional Council or other agencies or organisations will be subject to the WRC's *Procedures for the Approval of Works in Wellington Regional Council forest lands, water collection areas, regional parks and recreation areas* 1994. (Refer to Appendix 2 at the rear of Part 1 of this management plan.)

1.11 ***Management Plan Implementation and Review***

Policy (1) Implementation of the management plan will be monitored.

(Refer also to Appendix 1 : *Implementation of Policies* at rear of Part 1 : Aim, Objectives and Policies of this Management Plan.

(2) A process of public notification and consultation will be carried out

by the Regional Council where there may be a need for significant alterations to this management plan.

- (3) The management plan will be reviewed at five yearly intervals.

1.12 ***Staff***

- Policy:*
- (1) The park will be managed by a resident Ranger and such other staff as are required to maintain the park in a satisfactory condition.

1.13 ***Volunteers and Work Schemes***

- Policy:*
- (1) The use of managed voluntary assistance in the development and maintenance of the park will be encouraged.
 - (2) Use may be made of work schemes to assist in the development and upgrading of the park.
 - (3) Public and private land administering agencies, including Landcorp Farming Limited will liaise with each other and with volunteer groups, to form a co-ordinated approach and to maintain high standards in the management and execution of voluntary work within the park.

1.14 ***Public Access***

- Policy:*
- (1) Non-motorised access in and across the park will be allowed at all times, subject to restrictions set out in Clauses (3), (4), (5) and (6) below.
 - (2) Maintenance and service vehicle access in the park is permitted. All other motorised vehicle access is presently restricted to entry area car parks (refer also to Clause (6) below).
 - (3) Access within the park, excluding land held under the Reserves Act (e.g., Dry Creek, Cannons Creek reserves), may be controlled as practicable during the hours of darkness. Access may also be restricted for management or public safety (e.g., tree felling activities, track maintenance, construction of recreational facilities), or for approved special events.
 - (4) In consultation with park landowners, the use of park tracks may be altered to reflect changes in recreation management (e.g., upgrading of tracks to accommodate mountain bikes or horses). Such changes will be publicly notified for comment.
 - (5) The general public will have right of access across Zone 3 - Waitangirua/Kilmister only along the designated walkways, with defined restrictions and limitations of use from time to time. Access restrictions may apply during lambing, and for other stock management purposes.
 - (6) The Regional Council and other park landowners will investigate

the status of public access on legal roads within the park.

- (7) Vehicle access for members of the community with special needs and for recreation events will be considered on application and co-ordinated between landowners by the Regional Council.

(Refer also to Policy 4.4 - Provision for Special Needs.)

- (8) The Regional Council will encourage the use of public transport for park users getting to and from the park.

(Refer also to Policies 2.3 - *Road Development*, 2.4 - *Track Development*, 4.8 - *Off-road Motorised Vehicles*, 4.9 - *Mountain Bikes and other Cycles*, 4.10 - *Horses*.)

1.15 **Public Safety and Health**

- Policy:*
- (1) The Regional Council and other park landowners will comply with the provisions of the Health and Safety in Employment Act 1992 to prevent harm to others (including the public) arising out of work activities in the park.
 - (2) Park land administering agencies will liaise on matters of public safety and health to ensure a co-ordinated and efficient response.
 - (3) All work activities carried out by the Regional Council will be developed in accordance with the Regional Council's Health and Safety Policies and Guidelines.

Explanation: The Health and Safety in Employment Act 1992 requires that workers and visitors in a work area be advised of any hazards to safety or health that may exist in a work place.

1.16 **Fires**

- Policy:*
- (1) Fires may only be lit in fireplaces, portable barbecues or other designated areas within the park.
 - (2) A fire permit must be obtained from the Park Ranger prior to the lighting of fires.
 - (3) The Regional Council, in association with other park landowners and the fire services, will endeavour to keep the risk of fire in the park to a minimum.

Explanation: In implementing this policy, the Regional Council will be guided by Bylaw 13 of its *Bylaws for Forests, Parks and Recreation Areas*, August 1994.

1.17 **Dangerous and Offensive Weapons**

- Policy:*
- (1) Except with the prior written permission of the Regional Council, the carrying or use of firearms or any other weapons or instruments

of a dangerous character in the park is prohibited.

(Bylaw 4, *Bylaws for Forests, Parks and Recreation Areas*, August 1994.)

1.18 ***User Charges***

- Policy:*
- (1) Park access and use for informal recreation will be free of charge.
 - (2) User charges may be established for recreation events and other events in the park.

(Refer also to Policy 4.5 - *Recreation Events*.)

- (3) User charges will be established for commercial recreation activities as set out in section 4.8 of the Regional Council's report, *Commercial Recreation and Related Services on Regional Council Lands : Concessions Policy*, 1994.

(Refer also to Policy 1.19 - *Commercial Recreation*.)

1.19 ***Commercial Recreation***

- Policy:*
- (1) Applications for commercial recreation activities in the park will be required to conform to the Regional Council's *Commercial Recreation and Related Services on Regional Council Lands : Concessions Policy*, 1994.

1.20 ***Leases, Licences and Permits***

- Policy:*
- (1) A lease, licence or permit will be required for recreation and property management activities on publicly owned lands in the park.
 - (2) The agreement of the relevant landowner(s) will be required for leases, licences and permits within the park where the area is not a reserve (under the Reserves Act) under this management plan.

(Refer also to Policies 1.19 - *Commercial Recreation* and 2.11 - *Network Utilities*.)

1.21 ***Aircraft***

- Policy:*
- (1) The use of aircraft for farming or emergency purposes within the park is permitted.
 - (2) The use of the airstrip on Landcorp Farming Limited's Waitangirua Farm by nearby private landowners for farming purposes is provided for, subject to the prior permission of Landcorp Farming Limited.
 - (3) Parapenting and hang-gliding is allowed in the park with the prior permission of the Park Ranger.

Explanation: In implementing this policy, the Regional Council will be guided by Bylaw 10 of its *Bylaws for Forests, Parks and Recreation Areas*, August 1994.

2. Development

2.1 Park Development

- Policy:*
- (1) Existing development plans prepared for the Cannons Creek, Dry Creek and Stratton Street entrance areas will continue to be used as a guide by the Regional Council in its development of the respective areas of the park. These documents may be updated as necessary.
 - (2) Additional park development plans or landscape plans will be prepared for other park areas as the need arises and as resources permit. Areas which will be considered by the Regional Council for a development or landscape plan, are:
 - Upper Reservoir and Dam, Korokoro Valley and
 - Cornish Street entrance.

2.2 Park Entry Areas

- Policy:*
- (1) Park entry areas will continue to be developed as focal points for visitor activity in the park.
 - (2) Vehicle parking areas will be provided, where practicable, at the park entry areas.
 - (3) The following primary park entry areas will continue to serve as the main focal points for visitor activity.
 - Cornish Street (Korokoro)
 - Oakleigh Street (Maungaraki)
 - Stratton Street (Normandale)
 - Dry Creek (Haywards)
 - Cannons Creek (Porirua)
 - (4) The following entrances are recognised as secondary park entry areas.
 - Normandale Road (Normandale)
 - Kelson
 - Hill Road (Belmont)
 - Belmont Road (Pauatahanui)
 - Takapu Road (Tawa)

Explanation: These secondary entry areas have limitations relating to their location, topography, land tenure and land availability which prevent or deter their development as primary entry areas.

- Policy:* (5) The following potential entry areas will be considered for future development.
- Horokiwi Road (Horokiwi)
 - Ascot Park (Porirua)
 - Duck Creek (Whitby)
 - Pauatahanui
 - Haywards Hill Summit
 - Murphys Road (Judgeford)
- (6) The Regional Council recognises and will promote appropriate themes for each park entry area, e.g., Cornish Street - history, indigenous vegetation, Oakleigh Street - old reservoirs and water supply facilities and indigenous vegetation, Stratton Street - equestrian facilities and farming, Dry Creek - vegetation and outdoor skills and Cannons Creek - lake sports.

2.3 ***Road Development***

- Policy:* (1) The Regional Council will encourage territorial authorities to upgrade park approach roads to provide for improved traffic flow whilst preserving, as far as possible, the rural character of the area.
- (2) The Regional Council will identify and assess the environmental effects on the park of roading proposals intended to cross or come into the vicinity of the park, (e.g., Transmission Gully proposals).

2.4 ***Track Development***

- Policy:* (1) The Regional Council will seek to protect park tracks across non-Regional Council land under appropriate legislation.
- (2) The track network within the park will complement and where possible link with regional routes (e.g., Hutt River Trail, Western Hills of Lower Hutt and Upper Hutt).
- (3) The provision of public access tracks and recreational corridors into the park from land in the vicinity of the park will be encouraged, (e.g., Newlands/Horokiwi, Porirua East - Porirua Park and Warspite Avenue link road, Whitby/Pauatahanui).

(Refer also to Policy 2.12 - *Rural and Urban Subdivision Development*.)

2.5 *Facilities, Buildings and Structures*

- Policy:*
- (1) Buildings and other facilities (e.g., car parks, toilets, picnic facilities, shelters) will be limited to those necessary for park management and those directly associated with and required for the recreational, educational and farming use of the park. Development of such will generally focus on or near primary park entry areas.
 - (2) The design of new facilities, buildings and structures is to comply with the Regional Council's *Guidelines for the Design of Structures on Wellington Regional Council Land and in Regional Parks*, 1994 and should reflect the park's natural setting.

(Refer also to 2.7 - *Toilets*.)

2.6 *Signs and Track Markers*

- Policy:*
- (1) Signs and track markers will be provided for visitor information and interpretation, and to help promote the safe and enjoyable use of the park.
 - (2) The co-operation of other park landowners will be sought in order to achieve a unity in design, colour and placement for signs and track markers so that a single clear identity for the park is presented to the public.

2.7 *Toilets*

- Policy:*
- (1) Public toilets in the park will be installed and operated to recognised environmentally sound standards.

2.8 *Litter Control and Waste Disposal*

- Policy:*
- (1) A "take home" litter policy will be promoted.
 - (2) Rubbish receptacles will be provided at picnic sites and primary park entry areas.

2.9 *Water Supply*

- Policy:*
- (1) The Regional Council will provide drinking water to meet the New Zealand Drinking Water Standards at selected park entry areas and other sites as resources permit.

2.10 *Staff Accommodation*

- Policy:*
- (1) Additional staff accommodation may be provided on suitable sites in or adjacent to the park.

2.11 *Network Utilities*

Policy: (1) The construction of network utilities (e.g., electricity transmission lines, gas and water pipelines, communication facilities and roading developments) in the park will be considered in conjunction with recognised environmental effects assessment requirements and relevant district plans under the Resource Management Act 1991. Support for proposed works may be given, where there is not other alternative site or method, where the works are of direct benefit to the region or nation, and where their presence and location would not adversely affect the natural and cultural features of the park.

Explanation: Future work will be subject to policies in this management plan, and practical opportunities will be taken to construct utilities that are as unobtrusive as possible.

Policy: (2) The operation maintenance and upgrading of infrastructure for existing network utilities is permitted in the park, subject to meeting the requirements of the Resource Management Act 1991 and other appropriate legislation (e.g., Reserves Act 1977).

(3) Where appropriate, network utilities should be sited underground.

(4) A charge may be made for new public utilities in or crossing over public land in the park.

(5) In recognition of existing legal easements for gas pipelines across the park, park landowners desiring work permits and on-site locations are required to give at least 72 hours prior notice to Natural Gas Corporation (Transmission), and 24 hours prior notice for on-site locations and two days prior notice for work permits to Gas Direct (Lower Hutt).

Explanation: The pipelines are protected by the conditions on their easements from disturbance or planting of trees and shrubs on the easement strip (refer to Part 2, Section 16 - *Network Utilities*).

Policy: (6) Easement options for network utilities will be negotiated on a case-by-case basis.

Note : The Regional Council acknowledges the over-riding provisions of sections 166-186 of the Resource Management Act 1991.

(Refer also to Policy 1.20 - *Leases, Licences and Permits.*)

2.12 *Rural and Urban Subdivision Development*

Policy: (1) The Regional Council, in consultation with territorial authorities will encourage and create opportunities for the establishment of a network of linked access, open space and ecological corridors to and from the park when subdivision in areas adjacent to the park is proposed.

(Refer also to Policy 2.4 (3) - *Track Development*.)

3. **Natural and Cultural Heritage**

3.1 ***Landscape Management***

Policy: (1) The Regional Council, in association with other relevant park landowners, will seek to recognise, manage and conserve landscapes and features which are significant to the landscape character and recreational experience of the park. These include:

- the grassed open hill tops (generally above the 250 metre contour).
 - “fossil gullies” (filled with soil and associated materials from surrounding hills).
- (2) The Regional Council will promote the maintenance and enhancement of the amenity and intrinsic values of the landscape and landforms of the park.
- (3) The Regional Council will advocate to territorial authorities to protect, through their district plans, landscapes or landforms considered important to the character of the park.

(Refer also to Policy 3.10 - *Geological Features*.)

3.2 ***Soil and Water Management***

Policy: (1) Park management will undertake land use practices which ensure that where practicable, a vegetative cover is maintained or enhanced so that the adverse effects of soil erosion are avoided, remedied or mitigated.

- (2) The Regional Council will support initiatives to improve the quality of water in the park.

3.3 ***Flood Mitigation***

Policy: (1) The Regional Council will endeavour to use land use practices in the park to mitigate against the effects of flooding (e.g., tree planting, retirement of catchment areas).

- (2) Where land use practices are not appropriate or suitable, engineering solutions (e.g., stream realignment, rock rip-rap) may be used to reduce erosion and protect property from flooding.

3.4 *Protection and Enhancement of Indigenous Vegetation*

Policy: (1) Park management will protect and enhance significant areas of indigenous vegetation. As identified in Section 8.3 of the Resource Statement, these are:

- Cannons Creek Bush
- Belmont Hills Bush
- Hill Road Bush
- Korokoro Stream Bush
- Duck Creek Bush Remnant A (part)
- Belmont Bush
- Boulder Hill Bush
- Speedy's Bush (part)
- Haywards Shrubland
- Belmont Saddle Bush
- Belmont Road Bush A
- Belmont Road Bush B

(2) The Regional Council will continue to monitor the health and condition of existing and regenerating indigenous vegetation in the park.

(3) Threats to significant areas of indigenous vegetation will be identified and management solutions discussed with other park landowners.

(4) Natural regeneration of native vegetation will be encouraged in appropriate areas in the park. Regeneration will often be assisted by the retention of “nurse” species such as gorse. Fast growing species may also be planted to assist natural regeneration and rehabilitate degraded areas.

(5) The Regional Council will encourage the planting of indigenous vegetation and particularly species sourced from the Wellington Ecological District.

Note : This policy recognises cultural significance attributed to native vegetation (e.g., harvesting of flax for weaving), as included in Policy 1.7 - *Consultation*, and Porirua City Council's *Proposed Porirua City Amenity - Lakes Management Plan*, 1996.

3.5 *Protection of Wildlife and Wildlife Habitats*

Policy: (1) Where important wildlife habitats are identified, e.g., park watercourses and their associated native aquatic fauna, native bird areas, and rare or endangered species, measures will be taken to ensure their protection.

(2) To prevent the isolation and fragmentation of wildlife habitats in and adjacent to the park, the Regional Council will promote linking corridors and buffer zones in and through the park.

- (3) The Regional Council will investigate the habitat requirements of indigenous freshwater fisheries to enhance the wildlife of the park.
- (4) Research to identify and monitor wildlife and wildlife habitats (including their “health”) will be carried out as resources permit.

Explanation: The park provides a relatively natural habitat for a range of communities. Belmont Regional Park and other regional parks in the Region are a significant component of the remaining unmodified lowland habitats in the Wellington Region. Often the best measure for protection of these habitats is to allow natural processes to take their course.

3.6 *Effects on Ecosystems*

- Policy:*
- (1) The Regional Council will encourage landowners in the park to avoid, remedy or mitigate adverse effects on ecosystems which arise as a result of their activities.
 - (2) The Regional Council will avoid adverse effects on ecosystems by careful management of its activities.

Explanation: The above policy will help to safeguard the life supporting capacity of ecosystems in the park.

3.7 *Damage to, or Removal of, Plant Material and Animals*

- Policy:*
- (1) Damage to, or unauthorised removal of, plant materials and animals from the park is prohibited.

Explanation: Protection for native animals is provided under the Wildlife Act 1953 and the Reserves Act 1977. Protection for native plants is provided for under the Reserves Act 1977. Bylaws 16 and 27 of the *Wellington Regional Council Bylaws for Forests, Parks and Recreation Areas*, August 1994 provides further guidance for this policy.

3.8 *Pest Plant Management*

- Policy:*
- (1) Pest plants will be monitored and controlled in compliance with the *Wellington Regional Council Pest Plant Management Strategy*. Support will be sought from other landowners, user groups and volunteers in implementing this policy.
 - (2) The Regional Council, as a landowner, will be responsible for the management of pest plants, which may include species not specified in the *Pest Plant Management Strategy*, on its own land, particularly those which have a detrimental effect on indigenous forest habitats and species of value.

3.9 *Animal Pest Management*

- Policy:*
- (1) Animal pests will be monitored and controlled in compliance with the *Wellington Regional Council Animal Pest Management Strategy*. Support will be sought from other landowners, user groups and volunteers in implementing this policy.
 - (2) The Regional Council, as a landowner, will be responsible for the management of animal pests, which may include species not specified in the *Animal Pest Management Strategy*, on its own land, particularly those which have a detrimental effect on indigenous forest, habitats, species and plant communities of value.

3.10 *Geological Features*

- Policy:*
- (1) Regionally or locally significant geological features identified in the park will be protected as far as practicable, and interpretation provided where necessary. These features are:
 - Peneplain remnants of Boulder Hill (442 m), Belmont (457 m), Cannons Head (390 m), Belmont Road Trig (382 m), Round Knob (408 m), Northeast of Hill Road (362 m) and ITA (362 m).
 - Belmont Block Field (part)
 - Hill Road Block Field (part)
 - Solifluxion debris tongue, Hill Road
 - Fault related: Korokoro Stream, Speedy's Stream, notched ridges and spurs along the western hills of Lower Hutt, fault zones, (e.g., Duck Creek, Takapu Valley).

(Refer to Part 2, Section 4 - *Geology*.)

- (2) The removal of sandstone boulders from the park is discouraged by the Regional Council.
- (3) The Regional Council will advocate to territorial authorities to protect, through their district plans, regionally and locally significant geological features within the park.

3.11 *Cultural Heritage*

- Policy:*
- (1) Cultural heritage sites and areas of regional or local significance within the park will be protected, where practicable, and interpretation provided where necessary. These sites and areas are:
 - Belmont magazines and associated facilities.
 - That portion of the Belmont - Pauatahanui Old Coach Road and associated early settler homestead sites within the park.
 - The lower reservoir in Korokoro Valley.
 - The upper reservoir and dam in Korokoro Valley.
 - (2) The removal or damage of cultural heritage sites and areas

identified in clause (1) above is discouraged by the Regional Council.

- (3) Public and private landowners in the park will be encouraged to take advantage of legislative provisions (e.g., Resource Management Act 1991, Historic Places Act 1993,) to protect cultural heritage sites and areas on their land. The Regional Council will encourage and assist landowners in the park to give adequate protection status to significant cultural heritage sites and areas on their land.
- (4) The Regional Council, with the assistance of other relevant park landowners, will investigate developing a heritage trail in and through the park.
- (5) Research on cultural heritage sites and areas which have or may not have been identified in this management plan, will be carried out as resources permit.
- (6) Any identified site of cultural, spiritual or historical significance to the tangata whenua will be managed in a manner determined through consultation by the Regional Council with the tangata whenua.

Explanation: An “identified site” includes sites which are as yet unknown but may be revealed or discovered sometime in the future. The Regional Council operates a “silent file” of waahi tapu and other sensitive sites of significance to tangata whenua. This “file” will be referred to when park management and development proposals arise.

3.12 ***Belmont Magazines***

- Policy:*
- (1) The Regional Council will encourage and provide for the recognition, protection and appropriate management of the historic ammunition magazines in the Belmont - Judgeford area of the park.
 - (2) Protection will initially focus on a representative sample of magazines, determined between relevant park landowners.
 - (3) A Conservation Plan for the Belmont magazines will be prepared as resources permit.

Explanation: The importance of the magazines lies not only in their individual value but also in their value as a group. The Regional Council accepts the use of the magazines for recreational purposes or leasing for appropriate uses as a means of providing for their maintenance, provided that work carried out on the magazines is in keeping with their historical character.

(Refer to the Resource Statement Document, Section 11.4 - *Belmont Magazines.*)

4. Recreation

4.1 Recreation Use

Policy: (1) The Regional Council will promote and encourage a range of recreational activities in the park, including, but not limited to, walking, running, horse riding, mountain biking, environmental studies, outdoor education, picnicking, orienteering, camping, fishing and swimming.

4.2 Management of Recreational Uses

Policy: (1) Recreation in the park will be managed to minimise adverse social and environmental impacts between activities.

(2) The Regional Council will encourage harmony and consideration for others between the users of the park.

(3) The Regional Council in accordance with relevant legislation (e.g., Reserves Act 1977, Local Government Amendment Act 1992) and district plans, reserves the right to restrict or prohibit activities in the park which have or may have an adverse effect on the park environment.

(Refer also to Policy 1.9 - *Bylaws*.)

4.3 Provision for Changing Needs

Policy: (1) Management will be responsive to the changing recreational needs of the public. Recreational uses of the park other than those specified in this management plan may be permitted, provided they are consistent with the provisions of this management plan.

4.4 Provision for Special Needs

Policy: (1) Recreational access, opportunities and facilities will be provided in the park, as far as possible, for people with disabilities and other members of the community with special needs.

4.5 Recreation Events

Policy: (1) The holding of recreation events will be approved provided they are consistent with the provisions of this management plan.

(2) Proposed recreation events will be assessed according to the criteria set out in Policy 4.6 : *Activity/Event Assessment*.

(3) Applications for recreation events must be made to the Manager, Recreation Department, Wellington Regional Council.

(4) Applicants seeking permission for recreation events shall be required to consult as appropriate with affected landowners and

interest groups.

(Refer also to Policies 1.18 - *User Charges*, 1.19 - *Commercial Recreation*, 1.20 - *Leases, Licences and Permits*, 4.3 - *Provision for Changing Needs* and 4.6 - *Activity/Event Assessment*.)

4.6 *Activity/Event Assessment*

Policy: (1) Proposed activities and events will be assessed in terms of:

- type and duration of activity/event
- proposed location within park boundaries
- extent of the area required
- potential effects on other activities and on adjoining properties
- potential effects on areas or structures of geological, historical or archaeological significance
- cultural sensitivity
- effects on the park's natural values
- safeguards to avoid or minimise adverse effect on the environment
- whether the activity is likely to stimulate further developments which could have a cumulative effect on the environment
- the extent to which the activity/event is provided for elsewhere in the Wellington Region
- the demand for the activity.

4.7 *Camping and Overnight Stays*

Policy: (1) Camping is permitted in a limited number of sites in the park and with the permission of the Park Ranger. A charge will be made for this use in accordance with Council's charging policy.

Explanation: Charges may be made where the Regional Council has provided added services (e.g., toilets, barbecue facilities, water supply, Ranger presence) for camping, including the exclusive use of a camping site by a group.

In implementing this policy, the Regional Council will be guided by Bylaw 28 of its *Bylaws for Forests, Parks and Recreation Areas*, August 1994.

4.8 *Off-road Motorised Vehicles*

Policy: (1) The recreational use of off-road motorised vehicles (including trail bikes) is not permitted, except for special events which are subject to specific authorisation by the Manager, Recreation.

Explanation: The Regional Council's report *Trail Bike Riding in the Wellington Metropolitan Area*, November 1992, recommended that general use of trail bikes in Belmont Regional Park should not be allowed.

Reasons given included noise and disruption to other existing uses.

4.9 *Mountain Bikes and Other Cycles*

Policy: (1) Mountain biking and other cycling (excluding motor cycling) is permitted on the following tracks in the park in accordance with any specific provisions for each track. (See also Figures 6, 6a and 6b : *Recreational Activities* in Part 2 of this management plan.) (NB: Changes to the use of tracks in Zones 1, 2 and 4 will comply with the Regional Council's *Mountain Biking Policy*.)

- Belmont Trig and Korokoro Valley (Zones 1 and 2) - farm track from Stratton Street car park to Belmont Trig, Horokiwi Bridleway, Bridleway to Baked Beans Bend and Korokoro Forks, Korokoro Forks to Korokoro Dam and Oakleigh Street, Korokoro Forks to Cornish Street.
- Belmont Dress Circle (Zones 2 and 3) - Stratton Street - Old Coach Road - Round Knob - Cannons Head - Stratton Street (Cannons Head to Stratton Street either via Middle Ridge track or Belmont Trig).
- Belmont Traverse (Zone 3) - Hill Road, Belmont Road, short link track just beyond Shearer's quarters on Hill Road westwards to the Belmont Dress Circle, track between Natural Gas Corporation's facility at Belmont and the airstrip linking through to Belmont Dress Circle.

Permitted use status (as of right) for mountain bikes to use the Belmont Traverse is on an agreed trial basis for the term of this management plan, commencing at the end of the 1996 lambing season (after Labour Weekend). A review of this decision will take place after the trial period.

- Belmont Road to Boulder Hill (Zone 3).
- All tracks within Dry Creek block (Zone 4) except the Waterfall Track. Permitted on Buchanan's Road to Boulder Hill (Zone 3) and track from Kelson (Kaitangata Crescent) to the Dry Creek block.

Explanation: This policy recognises legal Walkway Agreements between the Regional Council and several other park landowners. Any extension to the above tracks used by mountain bikes and horses will require the specific approval of the landowner(s) concerned.

Note : Mountain bikes and cycles are not permitted from Belmont Road to Cannons Creek or Takapu Road via the metalled vehicle tracks - these are private farm tracks and not legal roads for public use.

Policy: (2) The Regional Council will provide signs which:

- urge riders to adhere to the off-road code for mountain bikers;

- urge riders to have consideration towards other park users in the park; and
 - encourage clubs to convey to their riders better riding techniques in the park (e.g., avoid skidding and riding on soft wet tracks).
- (3) The Regional Council will work with park landowners and territorial authorities to identify and resolve problems arising from the use of mountain bikes in the park and their use on park access roads.

(Refer also to Policy 1.13(5) - *Public Access*.)

4.10 *Horses*

Policy: (1) Horse riding is permitted on the following tracks in the park in accordance with any specific provisions for each track. (See also Figures 6 and 6a : *Recreational Activities* in Part 2 of this management plan.)

- Horokiwi Bridleway (Zone 1)
- All tracks within Zone 2
- All tracks within Dry Creek block (Zone 4) except the Waterfall Track. Permitted on track from Kelson (Kaitangata Crescent) to the Dry Creek block.

Explanation: This policy recognises legal Walkway Agreements between the Regional Council and several other park landowners. Any extension to the above tracks used by mountain bikes and horses will require the specific approval of the landowner(s) concerned.

Note: Horse use within Zone 3 is by agreement with the relevant park landowners.

Policy: (2) The Regional Council will urge pony riders to comply with the provisions of the *Pony Club Manual No. 1*.

(3) Group activities and special events for horses within the park will be considered on application to the Regional Council.

(4) Grazing rights on Regional Council land will be permitted where considered appropriate.

(Refer also to Policies 1.14(5) - *Public Access* and 1.20 - *Leases, Licences and Permits*.)

4.11 *Dogs*

Policy: (1) The public may take dogs into the lower Korokoro Valley south of Belmont Trig (Zone 1), provided they are kept under control and preferably on a leash. Pest control programmes carried out may require additional controls on dogs from time to time.

- (2) Dogs are prohibited from all other areas of the park (Zones 2, 3 and 4), except for management purposes.
- (3) Dogs assisting people with special needs (including special “companion dogs”) are permitted in all zones of the park.
- (4) Dog owners will be required to pick up and remove their animals faeces from the park.
- (5) Dogs worrying stock in the park may be seized or destroyed, in accordance with the Dog Control and Hydatids Act 1982.

Explanation: Dogs can disturb and worry domestic stock and wildlife. Dogs can transmit diseases such as hydatids and sheep measles. Accordingly, and subject to Clause (3) above, dogs are prohibited from all areas of the park except for Zone 1.

This policy complies with Bylaw 20 of the *Wellington Regional Council Bylaws for Forests, Parks and Recreation Areas*, August 1994.

5. Non-recreational Land Uses

5.1 *Landcorp Farming Limited’s Farming Operation*

Policy: (1) The Regional Council recognises the primary objective of Landcorp Farming Limited’s farming operation, namely:

To manage Landcorp Farming Limited’s Waitangirua Farm, the Hutt City Council’s Kilmister Block and Land Information New Zealand’s Takapu Block in an efficient, caring and profitable manner as determined by the Board of Directors of Landcorp Farming Limited. In partnership with the Wellington Regional Council, Landcorp Farming Limited at the same time will encourage recreation and conservation uses that are compatible with a viable farming operation.

(2) Supporting policies of Landcorp Farming Limited, as follows, are also recognised.

(a) *Farming*

To develop existing farm land, expand existing operations and undertake any farming and business enterprises on a commercial basis that optimises profits.

Explanation: Landcorp Farming Limited currently has a number of different livestock enterprises and business ventures and if it decides new enterprises provide commercial opportunity it may consider moving into these.

Policy:

(b) *Natural and Cultural Heritage*

To integrate farming with the protection of natural and cultural features and values using sensitive landscape management techniques.

(c) *Recreation*

To provide and secure for the public appropriate informal recreational opportunities which cause minimum inconvenience to farming operations.

(d) *Education*

The Regional Council, Landcorp Farming Limited and other landowners in the park will continue to provide opportunities for educational visits to farms managed by Landcorp Farming Limited to increase understanding of the rural countryside, farming and farm management practices.

Information on farm management and urban/farming use conflicts, and signs interpreting farming activities will be provided as necessary and in conjunction with Landcorp Farming Limited.

Explanation:

Specific natural and cultural heritage, recreation and education values within Zone 3 (Waitangirua/Kilmister) will be managed in line with policies for the rest of the park.

(Refer also to Policies 1.8 - *Consistency with Statutory Obligations*, 1.9 - *Bylaws* and 1.10 - *Procedures for the Approval of Works*.)

5.2 *Forestry*

Policy:

(1) The Regional Council will adopt, and encourage other park landowners to adopt, the following general principles for forestry within the park:

- Forestry should enhance the landscape of the park.
- Forestry will be discouraged from land above the 250 metre contour, in recognition of Policy 3.1 (1) - the recognition and conservation of the grassed open hill tops.
- Forestry should enhance the recreational opportunities of the park.
- Forestry will take into account the Logging Industry Research Organisation's *New Zealand Code of Practice*.
- A mixed species, multiple purpose regime will be pursued in preference to a single species, single purpose regime for any

forestry proposal.

- Revenue gained from the harvesting of planted trees should be used specifically for the future development and redevelopment of the park.

(Refer also to Policies 1.8 - *Consistency with Statutory Obligations* and 1.9 - *Bylaws*.)

5.3 ***Mineral Exploration, Prospecting and Mining***

Policy: (1) Mineral exploration, prospecting and mining are not considered, in principle, appropriate activities in Belmont Regional Park.

Explanation: The Regional Council acknowledges the provisions of the Resource Management Act 1991 and Crown Minerals Act 1991 with respect to the use and development of mineral resources in the Wellington Region. However, the Regional Council, under its Local Government Amendment Act 1992 responsibilities for managing Belmont Regional Park, is required to:

- provide for and ensure the public use, enjoyment and benefit of the park; and
- the conservation and protection of the intrinsic worth of the park.

Mineral exploration, prospecting and mining are not considered compatible with these factors for Belmont Regional Park.

Appendices

Appendix 1 : Financial Priorities of Policies

The policies contained in this management plan affect one of three Regional Council's areas of spending: land use and resource planning, management and operational needs and future development.

Land Use and Resource Planning

Responding as needed to planning issues and resource management requirements (consents, designations, etc). Providing a framework from which to respond to proposals and changes in land use to secure the direction of the park. Costs are overhead related and provided within the planning budgets.

Management and Operational Needs

Costs are provided within the park operating budgets and relate to Park Ranger and planning staff costs. Includes ranging, maintenance and minor works.

Future Development

Works and services requiring funding subject to prioritising through the 10 Year *Business Plan* process within the Regional Council. Includes Capital works and capital expenditure budgets.

Following is a breakdown of these areas with their corresponding policies.

1. *Land Use and Resource Planning*

- Policy 1.1 - Management and Land Ownership
- Policy 1.2 - Park Management Zones
- Policy 1.5 - Promotion
- Policy 1.6 - Research
- Policy 1.7 - Consultation
- Policy 1.8 - Consistency with Statutory Obligations
- Policy 1.11 - Management Plan Implementation and Review
- Policy 1.14 (1), (6), (7), (8) - Public Access
- Policy 1.15 - Public Safety and Health
- Policy 2.11 (1), (2), (4), (6) - Network Utilities
- Policy 3.1 - Landscape Management
- Policy 3.4 - Protection and Enhancement of Indigenous Vegetation
- Policy 3.10 - Geological Features
- Policy 3.11 (1)-(3), (6) - Cultural Heritage
- Policy 3.12 (1) - Belmont Magazines
- Policy 4.6 - Activity/Event Assessment
- Policy 5.2 - Forestry
- Policy 5.3 - Mineral Exploration, Prospecting and Mining

2. *Management and Operational Needs*

- Policy 1.4 - Financial Management
- Policy 1.9 - Bylaws
- Policy 1.11 (2) - Management Plan Implementation and Review

Policy 1.13 - Volunteers and Works Schemes
 Policy 1.14 (2), (3), (4), (5) - Public Access
 Policy 1.16 - Fires
 Policy 1.17 - Dangerous and Offensive Weapons
 Policy 1.18 - User Charges
 Policy 1.19 - Commercial Recreation
 Policy 1.20 - Leases, Licences and Permits
 Policy 1.21 - Aircraft
 Policy 2.2 (1), (3), (4) - Park Entry Areas
 Policy 2.5 - Facilities, Buildings and Structures
 Policy 2.6 - Signs and Track Markers
 Policy 2.8 - Litter Control and Waste Disposal
 Policy 2.11 (3), (5) - Network Utilities
 Policy 3.2 - Soil and Water Management
 Policy 3.3 - Flood Mitigation
 Policy 3.4 (1), (4), (5) - Protection and Enhancement of Indigenous Vegetation
 Policy 3.5 - Protection of Wildlife and Wildlife Habitats
 Policy 3.6 - Effects on Ecosystems
 Policy 3.7 - Damage to, or Removal of, Plant Material and Animals
 Policy 3.8 - Pest Plant Management
 Policy 3.9 - Animal Pest Management
 Policy 4.1 - Recreation Use
 Policy 4.2 - Management of Recreation Uses
 Policy 4.3 - Provision for Changing Needs
 Policy 4.4 - Provision for Special Needs
 Policy 4.5 - Recreation Events
 Policy 4.7 - Camping and Overnight Stays
 Policy 4.8 - Off-Road Motorised Vehicles
 Policy 4.9 - Mountain Bikes and Other Cycles
 Policy 4.10 - Horses
 Policy 4.11 - Dogs
 Policy 5.1 - Landcorp Farming Limited's Farming Operation
 Policy 5.2 : Forestry

3. *Future Development*

Policy 1.3 - Land Acquisition and Disposal
 Policy 1.4 - Financial Management
 Policy 1.10 - Procedures for the Approval of Works
 Policy 2.1 - Park Development
 Policy 2.2 (2), (5), (6) - Park Entry Areas
 Policy 2.3 - Road Development
 Policy 2.4 - Track Development
 Policy 2.5 Facilities, Buildings and Structures
 Policy 2.6 - Signs and Track Markers
 Policy 2.7 - Toilets
 Policy 2.9 - Water Supply
 Policy 2.10 - Staff Accommodation
 Policy 2.12 - Rural and Urban Subdivision Development
 Policy 3.5 (3), (4) - Protection of Wildlife and Wildlife Habitats
 Policy 3.11 (4), (5) - Cultural Heritage
 Policy 3.12 (2), (3) - Belmont Magazines
 Policy 4.9 - Mountain Bikes and Other Cycles

Policy 5.1 - Landcorp Farming Limited's Farming Operation
Policy 5.2 - Forestry

Appendix 2

Procedures for the Approval of Works

in Wellington Regional Council forest
lands, water collection areas, regional
parks and recreation areas

1994

Recreation Department
Wellington Regional Council

WRC 10

5 August 1994



caring about you & your environment

The Purpose and Scope of this Document

Proposed works of the Regional Council or any other body which are on Regional Council controlled lands require, in addition to applicable resource consents, formal approval by the Regional Council or its designated officers.

This document describes procedures and principles to guide managers in the consideration of proposed works and the level from which final approval should come.

The overriding principle forming this policy is that single use land management strategies are not sustainable or in keeping with modern standards of resource management. Therefore decisions affecting land resources may impinge in areas of interest and responsibility of more than one department or division.

In all cases the management plan for the area involved will be the principal standard for assessment of proposed works.

Three general scenarios are anticipated by this policy:

1. Works are proposed by a department of the Regional Council which are anticipated by, and consistent with, the operative management plan. Assessment of the detailed plans of the proposal is required.
2. Works are proposed by a department of the Regional Council which are not anticipated by the operative management plan. Assessment of the proposal and any detailed plans is needed to determine consistency with the management plan.
3. Works are proposed by an outside organisation. Assessment of the proposal and any detailed plans is needed to determine consistency with the management plan.

Levels of Approval

The level at which final approval is needed will depend upon:

- the scale of the proposed works
- the nature and level of any prior assessment or approval, including any provision within the management plan
- the degree of public interest
- the advice of affected departments or divisions
- the nature and scale of statutory resource consent requirements.

Decisions on the level of final approval for proposed works will be matters of judgement, by the relevant divisional managers, and the General Manager, as the details of each case dictate, and in accordance with these guidelines.

Levels of Approval

- Level 1: Divisional Managers
- Level 2: General Manager
- Level 3: Council Committees
- Level 4: Full Council

Procedures for the Approval of Works

1. Review and Approval of Works by the Divisional Managers (Level 1)

- 1.1 All works within the scope of this policy will be reviewed in the first instance by the Divisional Manager, Landcare and/or the Divisional Manager, Utility Services, depending on the nature of the work and its implications for each Division.
- 1.2 The Divisional Manager most closely involved will seek comment from all Council divisions and departments that may be affected by proposed works.
- 1.3 A Divisional Manager has authority to approve works that only affect departments within his or her division, after providing an opportunity for other divisions to comment.
- 1.4 In reviewing proposals for such works a Divisional Manager shall refer to the relevant management plan. Approval may be given for works subject to their implementation and purpose complying with the aims, objectives and policies of the management plan.
- 1.5 If a proposal for particular work conflicts with the objectives and responsibilities of another department within the same Division, the Divisional Manager will resolve the issue in a manner that best complies with the management plan.

The lands covered by these procedures are managed by the Landcare Division and the Utility Services Division. This section ensures that all departments within these divisions and other groups within the Council that may be affected by proposed works have the opportunity to comment. It provides for the identification and resolution of issues arising between departments within and between divisions in relation to works on Council lands.

2. Review and Approval of Works by the General Manager (Level 2)

- 2.1 Where a proposal for a work affects or conflicts with the objectives and responsibilities of both the Landcare Division and the Utility Services Division, it shall be reviewed by the General Manager.
- 2.2 In reviewing such works the General Manager shall be guided by the aims, objectives and policies of the relevant management plan.
- 2.3 The General Manager has authority to approve such works provided that they comply with the aims, objectives and policies of the relevant management plan.
- 2.4 The General Manager may have an issue referred to the respective committees for their consideration and direction.

3. Approval of Works of Other Agencies

- 3.1 Approval in accordance with these procedures may be given to works of other agencies subject to their implementation and purpose complying with the aims, objectives and policies of the management plan.

4. **Approval of Non-complying Council Work and Publicly Notified Work (Levels 3 and 4)**

- 4.1 Where a particular issue arising from a proposed Council work cannot be resolved in compliance with the relevant management plan, it may be referred to the respective committees for consideration.
- 4.2 Approval for a non-complying work by the committees (Level 3) or the full Council (Level 4) shall be made as a revision to the relevant management plan. An application for a revision of the management plan for a non-complying work shall be subject to public review prior to its being heard by a Committee (see section 7.2 below).
- 4.3 Proposals for works which have been publicly notified subject to section 7.2 below, are to be resolved by concurrence between more than one committee. If concurrence is not found then the matter will be referred to the full Council.

5. **Procedures for the Approval of Works which also require Resource Consents**

- 5.1 In the case of works which also require resource consents under the Resource Management Act 1991, and for which no Council approval has previously been given, approval within the Council will be applied for in addition to the application for any resource consent.
- 5.2 Public notification of an application for Council approval shall be made in addition to, but separate from, the public notification of the application for any resource consent that may be required for the work.

The public review of resource consent applications under the Resource Management Act 1991 is limited to the immediate effects of the issues for which consent is sought. Special provision for the public review of works in their entirety as part of the Council approval process, in addition to the resource consent process, ensures that the full scope of proposed works is subject to public review. In effect, the same public review process can be used for both the Council approval process and the resource consent process. However, care is needed to convey to the public the difference between the two processes so they can make it clear as to which process their submissions relate.

6. **Content of Proposals**

Proposals for Council works and applications from other agencies for approval for works shall contain the following:

- 6.1 A description of the proposed work. This shall contain sufficient information to convey a clear understanding of the proposed work and its purpose.
- 6.2 An account of the necessity for the proposed work. In the case of applications for approval of works from other agencies this shall include a summary of alternative sites considered and an account of the reasons for selecting the chosen site.

- 6.3 An outline of the plan showing the extent of the proposed work, identifying the components of the work and showing the location of these on the site.
- 6.4 An account of the proposed works' compliance with any planning designation that may apply to the site.
- 6.5 An account for the proposed works' compliance with the management plan for the land affected by the land.
- 6.6 An assessment of the effects that the proposed work will have on the site including its effects on the site's physical, biological and cultural values. Cultural values include matters of significance to the tangata whenua, other historical and archaeological values, landscape values and recreational values.
- 6.7 An account of the measures to be taken to mitigate any adverse effects expected to result from the proposed work.
- 6.8 Evidence of consultation with interested and affected parties, including a list of persons and organisations consulted, a statement of issues identified in the consultation process, and an account of steps to be taken to meet any concerns expressed about the proposed work.

7. Projects to be Subject to Public Review

- 7.1 Non-complying works for which a revision of the relevant management plan is sought under section 4.2 above are also to be subject to public review, as set out below.
- 7.2 If, in the opinion of a Divisional Manager or the General Manager, a proposed work is likely to have significant environmental impacts or is likely, by virtue of its scale and extent, to arouse public concern it may be subject to public review as set out below.
- 7.3 Proposals for work which have been publicly notified are to be considered by the relevant committees, following the period for public comment.

8. Procedures for Public Review

- 8.1 A notice will be placed in appropriate newspapers to inform the public of the review of the proposed work and inviting public comment on it. The Regional Council shall take reasonable efforts to ensure that all persons likely to be affected by the proposed work are made aware of it.
- 8.2 The public will have 20 working days from the date of notification to submit comments on the proposed work.
- 8.3 A summary of public submissions received and recommendations from the officers in respect of these submissions shall be submitted with the application when it is presented to a committee for determination.
- 8.4 Prior to the committee meeting, a copy of the summary of submissions and the officers'

recommendations will be sent to all submitters. Submitters may attend the committee meeting to speak in support of their submissions.

This review process is based on the process for consulting with interested and affected parties set out in section 1 (h) of the Fourth Schedule of the Resource Management Act 1991, enabling simultaneous but separate public review of applications for Council approval and applications for resource consents under the Resource Management Act 1991 for the same work.