



## COMMENTS FOR WCC ANNUAL PLAN 2016 FROM TRELISSICK PARK GROUP

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The Trelissick Park Group (TPG) wants to ensure that WCC have sufficient budget in 2015-16 to ensure the protection and enhancement of our special environment within the city boundaries.

The Group's specific requests are:

Animal pest control - A review would be welcomed of bait station and trap bait types/deployment/design to ensure all animal pest species are more effectively targeted, in the light of recent experience and research. Some points to consider: bait station safety (dogs, children) and rain ingress, Norway rats - poor climbers and bait stations are too high for them, possums still need covering in case of new visits. The review could be city-wide.

Plant pest control - TPG continue to control small outbreaks of pest plants. However, adequate WCC resources for pest weed control are absolutely vital. It is a continuing struggle to counter weed invasions and to ensure all the past work is not wasted with the situation going backwards. Particular targets include:

- wandering willie on steep areas bordering the original forest remnant, requiring abseilers
- large tracts of wandering willie under regenerating forest
- invasion of climbing asparagus below Oban Street
- patches of Japanese honeysuckle in the park and on railway land
- more cooperation with KiwiRail to better control pest weeds coming into the park from steep slopes of the railway corridor.

Stormwater - Specific requests:

- Mandatory Water Sensitive Urban Design - Sufficient funds/staff being made available to ensure the Water Sensitive Urban Design Guide becomes mandatory so that all developments have neutral effect on stormwater run-off. All stormwater from the entire catchment from Khandallah to Karori (about 22 km<sup>2</sup>) flows into the Kaiwharawhara Stream. During heavy rain this becomes a raging torrent up to 2 m deep, tearing away stream banks, building sediment on the stream bed, affecting riparian planting and aquatic life. This is the upshot of fast run-off from hard surfaces (eg roads, roofs and paved areas) and removal of vegetated areas from housing developments. We do not want this to get even worse.
- Public Education - More public education on the proper use of stormwater versus waste water drains both around each house and in the streets to avoid stream pollution (eg from car washing, cleaning paint brushes and cleaning cement mixers).
- More Monitoring of Developments by WCC - More resources put into monitoring of urban developments by WCC officers. We were disturbed to learn of the recent approval

of extensive earthworks in a 'problem' area in the valley beyond the end of Silverstream Road, Crofton Downs on a non-notified basis, despite strong advocacy from the community over many years.

Sewer and Stormwater Piping Maintenance - We appreciate recent sewer upgrades along Ngaio Gorge Road and would like to see such work continued throughout the catchment. Sewer leaks all end up in the streams of the park, affecting public health, dogs (off-leash in this park) and aquatic life.

Track/Footbridge from Oban Street, Highland Park - We ask that some contribution be made by WCC in its budget for a track entering the Park from Oban St, Highland Park. An entrance from this area has been mooted for many years and a track has been made in this extensive bush-clad area of the park. However, WCC is not prepared to acknowledge it formally until a footbridge is constructed at the bottom of the hill across the Kaiwharawhara Stream. Currently a plan/price estimate for the bridge is being prepared from a well known company and the Group is prepared to seek funds from charities for the bridge. But some contribution from WCC for the entrance from Oban Street, with steps and fencing for this important link would be appreciated. Currently there is only one entrance to the park on the western side, ie from Hanover St, Wadestown, whereas there are six entrances from Ngaio/Crofton Downs.

Lower Kaiwharawhara Stream/Estuary/Reclamation - TPG interest extends down to the these areas because they are part of the ecological corridor through the park. Being the only open estuary entering the harbour within the city boundaries, it is especially important that its natural character is preserved. It provides inland passage for fish and birds as well as a most attractive scene for the public who can walk along the sea edge from the terminal as well as those car owners awaiting ferry boarding.

We would like WCC to provide for the completion of the Sanctuary-to-Sea Walkway in its budget, so that the public can actually access the harbour at the attractive public beach (managed by DOC) on the northern side of the Kaiwharawhara reclamation. We believe WCC should get more involved with negotiating such access with GWRC, CentrePort, KiwiRail and NZTA. In past years the public has accessed this beach for fishing, boating, swimming and picnicing, but this is now denied. It appears that WCC has opted out of trying to make this piece of public coast accessible to the public.

Linked with the Sanctuary to Sea Walkway, we would like to see some clearing/tidying of the small commercial area downstream from Trelissick Park so that walkers traverse through a more attractive area. WCC owns No. 57 which adjoins the stream, and recently cut down some pest trees, but the site is still a weedy eye-sore. It could be made into an attractive lunch spot for local workers and a 'stopover' for walkers with a seat beside the water – at very little cost.