



Submission of Trelissick Park Group on Wellington City Council's

Tō mātou mahere ngahuru tau | Long-term Plan 2024 – 2034

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1. My/our comments

1.1 The Trelissick Park Group **strongly supports increased investment in stormwater and sewer infrastructure.**

1.2 **Trelissick Park** – A WCC Reserve, lies in the valleys between Ngaio/Crofton Downs and Wadestown. The Kaiwharawhara and Korimako Streams flow through the park, key city sewer lines traverse the park, and stormwater from the surrounding suburbs flows into the park and streams.

1.3 **Trelissick Park Group** – Volunteers who work to support the Council's long-term plan for the Park.

1.4 Importance of the **Kaiwharawhara and Korimako catchments** - From Zealandia and Ōtari Wilton's Bush in the south to Khandallah in the north, the catchments provide important corridors for native birds and fish through Trelissick Park to the Wellington Harbour estuary. The catchments are **rich in biodiversity** and are a key tourist attraction for visitors to the city. Any threat to this environment is seen by the Group as a threat to Wellington's image as a showcase for native ecosystem regeneration. The catchments provide **important amenity value** for the community and are used extensively by walkers, runners and dog-walkers for recreation and personal wellbeing.

1.5 **We strongly support the proposal to spend \$2.8 million – or more - in the CAPEX program for wastewater upgrades for a trunk sewer in the Kaiwharawhara stream in Ōtari-Wilton's Bush.**

For many years the sewer line above Trelissick Park has been leaking into the Kaiwharawhara Stream at Ōtari-Wilton's Bush northern carpark, contaminating the stream as it flows through Trelissick Park to the Harbour. This **leak at Ōtari-Wilton's Bush**, and other leaks along the sewer lines that traverse Trelissick Park are placing human health at risk, especially in the summer months when local youths are seen swimming in the deep swimming holes below Wadestown and Crofton Downs. We strongly urge Council to prioritise upgrades to the aged sewer lines above and

throughout the park to **ensure acceptable water quality** for native fish and invertebrates, but also to **protect the health of locals** who swim in the streams.

1.6 We strongly urge Council to consider ways to **slow down stormwater** so that our steep and fragile hillsides and our streams are not adversely affected during rain events. With global warming, these events are only going to increase in number and in intensity. We agree that **green infrastructure is needed** to help manage stormwater runoff in terms of quantity and quality.

Trelissick Park and the Kaiwharawhara catchment receives all stormwater from Wadestown, Wilton, Crofton Downs, Ngaio and some of Khandallah. Whenever there is a significant rain event water runoff is disgorged into the catchment through drains and pipes. The huge volume of water entering the catchment has, in recent times, caused bridges to be washed out in the park, has eroded the banks of the streams, damaged tracks, washed away restoration planting and carried contaminants, rubbish and silt into and down the streams. Infrastructure damage is a cost to Council.

We urge Council to:

1. Make it **mandatory** for new builds to include **water tanks** to retain water during rain events;
2. Make it **mandatory** (not just encouraged or recommended) to include **swales and other water-slowing devices** in all new subdivision design.
3. **Educate** the public about keeping our stormwater system free of contaminants eg. not washing cars or cleaning paint brushes directly into stormwater drains;
4. **Design and install engineered solutions to the stormwater infrastructure that will slow and/or retain stormwater** during rain events to minimise the damage to the steep slopes, track and bridge network, and rivers.

We thank the City Council for the opportunity to submit on this 10 year plan.

We wish to be heard in support of our submission.