

Ian Galloway Park Plan

July 2025

Draft for public engagement



Prepared by Wellington City Council's Parks, Sport and Recreation (PSR) business unit.

Revision control

Date	Description
21/07/2025	Draft for public engagement



Introduction

Purpose of the plan

This draft Plan provides a shared vision for the future of Ian Galloway Park and neighbouring spaces – Appleton Park and Wilton Park.

Background

Developing a masterplan for Ian Galloway Park is an action from the Suburban Reserves Management Plan.

The draft Plan is now complete informed by:

- Stakeholder engagement – early input was sought from community groups in March 2025.
- Strategic framework – relevant strategies, plans and policies.
- Site analysis – opportunities and constraints of the sites.

Next steps

We will incorporate your feedback on the draft Plan, which will then be finalised and approved by Council Officers.

Following completion of the Plan, the park will undergo some changes. Through the 2024-34 Long-term Plan, \$1 million from the Charles Plimmer Bequest has been allocated for 2026/27 to help deliver environmental and amenity enhancements guided by this Park Plan, alongside \$250,000 for a new local play space at Ian Galloway Park.

Beyond this funding, Council is not committed to delivering any other potential initiatives at this stage. Further investment opportunities identified may be **externally funded**. We will work with partners and the community to seek funding opportunities.

Scope

The scope for this plan is limited to three parks located in the Wharangi/Onslow-Western General Ward: Ian Galloway Park is a large multi-use community park whereas Appleton Park and Wilton Park are smaller neighbourhood parks, which service Karori, Northland and Wilton suburbs.

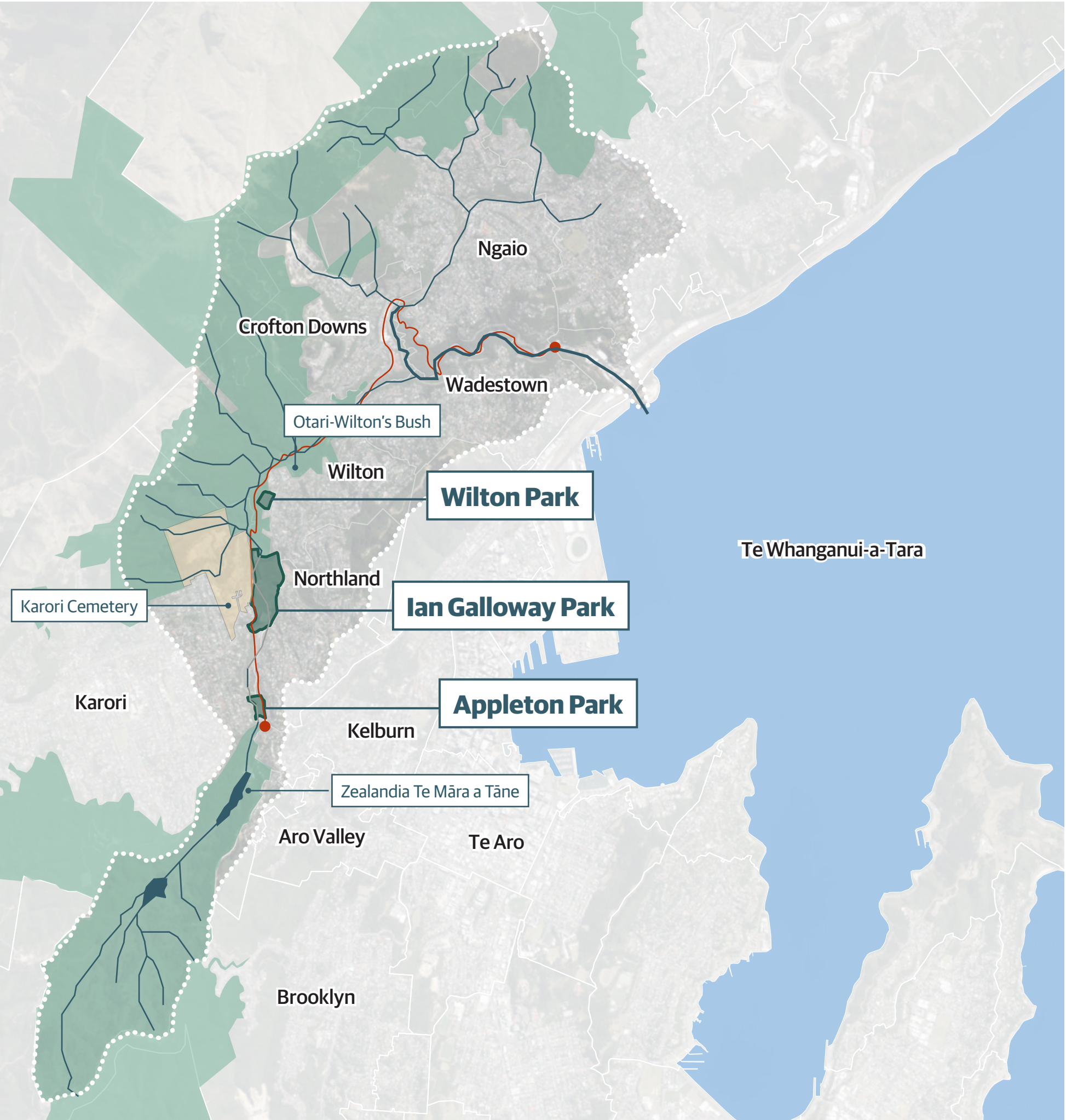
Context

These three park are situated along the Kaiwharawhara Valley between Zealandia and Otari-Wilton's Bush, connected by the Sanctuary to Sea Track, which runs from Zealandia through Otari-Wilton's Bush and Trellissick Park towards Wellington Harbour at Kaiwharawhara. The Kaiwharawhara whitua (catchment) is unique in Wellington City as the largest stream system, and only catchment with an open estuary on the Wellington harbour.



Legend

- Suburb boundaries
- Project parks
- Outer Green Belt (OGB)
- Karori Cemetery
- Kaiwharawhara catchment
- Catchment tributaries
- Sanctuary to Sea Walkway



Community engagement

Workshop

Prior to this Plan being developed, early input was gathered from key community representatives at a workshop on 19 March 2025. The primary aim was to:

- Establish a set of objectives for the project.
- Identify strengths, weaknesses and opportunities for each park.

The following key themes emerged from the workshop. For more detail, refer to the Ian Galloway Park Plan – Analysis Report.



Strategic framework



Our 10-year Plan 2024-34

The Long-term Plan (LTP) sets out how we will achieve the vision for Pōneke: the creative capital where people and nature thrive. It states our priorities for the next 10 years, including what we will do, how much it will cost and how we will pay for it.

Relevant projects funded through the 2024-34 LTP have been incorporated in this Park Plan:

- \$1M (FY26/27) from the Charles Plimmer Bequest for lan Galloway Park environmental and amenity enhancements.
- \$250,000 (FY26/27) for a new local play space.



Te Whai Oranga Pōneke 2023

This strategy sets the vision and key focus areas for developing our open space and recreation network:



Te Awe Māpara 2023

Te Awe Māpara guides the Council's provision and decision-making about community facilities for the next 30 years. The plan includes guidance for the public toilets and leases portfolio which are relevant for the lan Galloway Park Plan.

- A new public toilet has recently been installed at lan Galloway Park. Based on provision targets outlined in Te Awe Māpara, no new toilets are needed within these parks.
- Lease facilities should be reviewed to support thriving and accessible facilities.

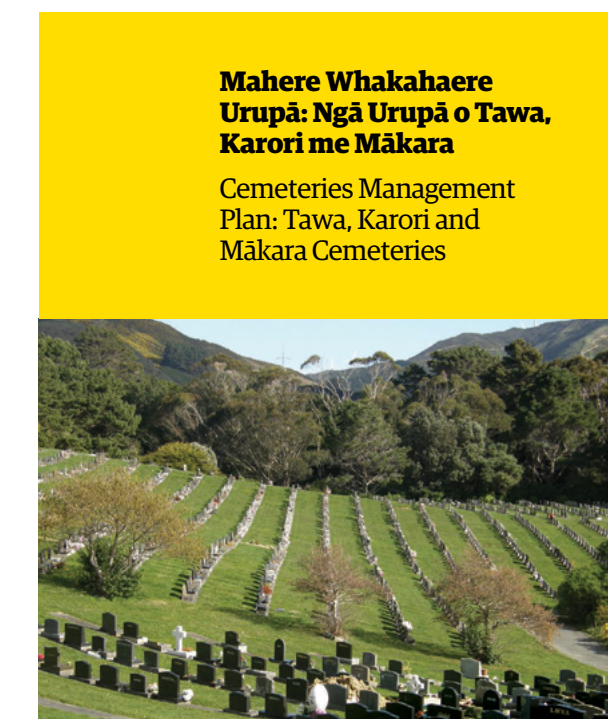
Suburban Reserves Management Plan 2015

- Action to retain and enhance large tree network and planting at lan Galloway Park and Appleton Park to support the Zealandia- Ōtari-Wilton's Bush corridor.
- Action for a plan for southern end of lan Galloway Park, completed in 2015. The park has developed in the last 10 years in accordance with this plan including relocation of the dog exercise area to its current location and development of the BMX track.



Play Spaces Policy 2017

- Identified a provision gap for a neighbourhood play space, and basketball courts (either half courts or full courts) in the east of Karori.



Cemeteries Management Plan 2021

- Action to work with the community and experts to investigate how to manage the riparian bank above the Kaiwharawhara Stream for stream health without damaging the graves on the lower slope.
- Action to develop a new walking-only track between the cemetery and lan Galloway Park.



Wellington Dog Policy 2024

- Public survey included requests for improvements for the dog park at lan Galloway Park including separation for large dogs and small dogs.
- Councillors agreed to maintain on-leash status at Appleton Park and re-visit off-leash provision in Karori as part of the next Dog Policy review.



Regional Sportsfield Report 2023

- Identified regional shortfall in provision for winter codes.
- Challenges include poor surface quality, lack of drainage impacting capacity, and absence of lighting and other amenities.



Paneke Pōneke 2022

- Paneke Pōneke is the bike network plan. This includes some planned secondary routes around and through lan Galloway Park, however this work is not yet scheduled.

Site analysis

Ian Galloway Park, Appleton Park and Wilton Park, and are important recreational areas for Wellington's western suburbs with the potential to play a greater role in connectivity for indigenous biodiversity with opportunities to better support accessibility and community use. However, these parks face challenges and limitations related to ground conditions and funding availability.

Comprehensive site analysis has been completed for these parks to clearly identify opportunities and constraints. For more detail, refer to the Ian Galloway Park Plan – Analysis Report.



Image above: Wilton slip.

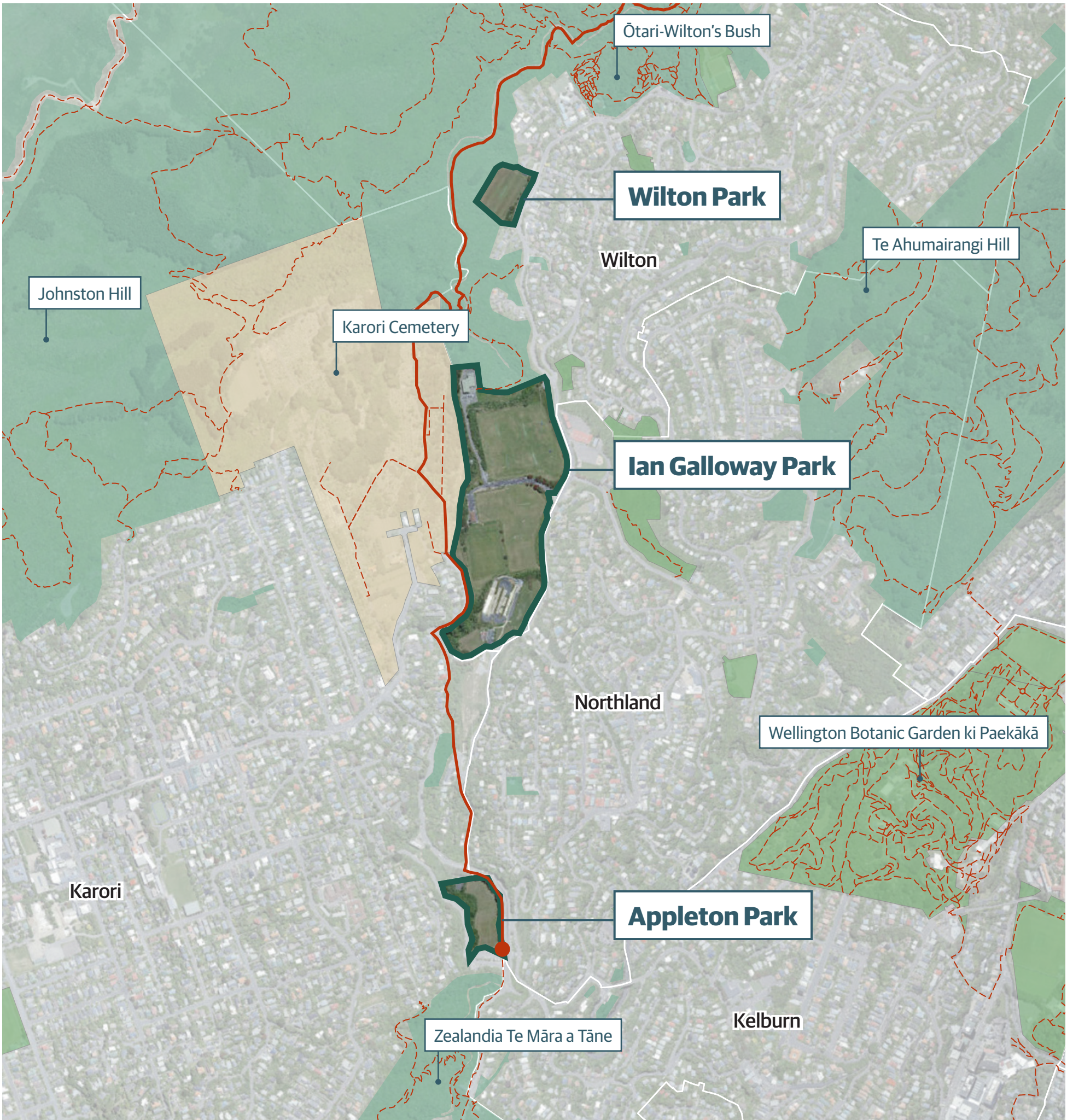
Ian Galloway Park
Strengths / opportunities
- Large community sports park with many existing assets and users. Opportunity to enhance current use, and explore a variety of new uses. - Adjacent to Karori Cemetery and Ōtari-Wilton's Bush.
Weaknesses / constraints
- Closed landfill with on-going issues. Recontouring works for improving ground conditions cannot take place for several years. - Some areas and buildings within the park feel disconnected, and are single-purpose. - Competing interests for space allocation, with some user conflict.

Appleton Park
Strengths / opportunities
- Well connected by active and public transport. - Adjacent to Zealandia Te Māra a Tāne, located along the Sanctuary to Sea Walkway. - Large tree framework and indigenous vegetation on the slopes.
Weaknesses / constraints
- Under-utilised park, due to poor ground conditions on a closed landfill which requires recapping. - Limited carparking for park users. Majority of current parking is restricted for Zealandia staff and visitors.

Wilton Park
Strengths / opportunities
- Surrounded by Otari-Wilton's Bush, with opportunities for better connection. - Flat grass area is important for sport and informal recreation in this hilly suburb.
Weaknesses / constraints
- Slip-prone ground conditions. No longer suitable for cricket due to a large slip in 2022 which requires on-going management. - Limited and steep access. - Poor visibility from the street.

Legend

- Suburb boundaries
- Project parks
- Outer Green Belt (OGB)
- Karori Cemetery
- Tracks





Ian Galloway Park Plan

Vision

Contribute to the vision of Te Whai Oranga Pōneke: a flourishing network of parks and recreation opportunities, interwoven into everyday life, that supports Wellingtonians to live well and connect to nature and each other.

Principles

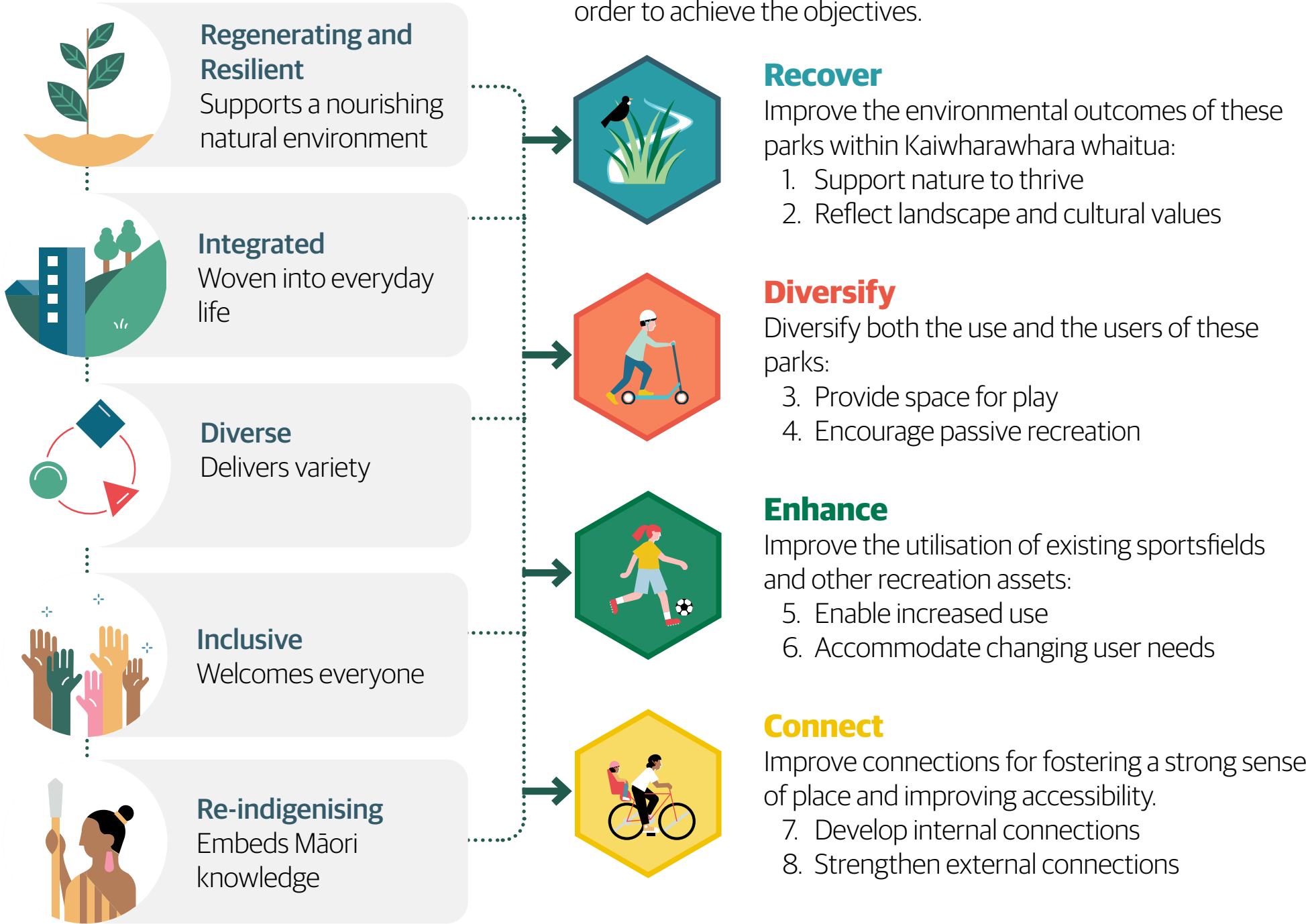
- Tiakitanga
- Whanaungatanga
- Pārekareka
- Wairuatanga
- Manaakitanga

Strategic direction

Te Whai Oranga Pōneke provides the strategic direction for this plan.

Objectives and key moves

This park plan has four key objectives: recover, diversify, enhance and connect. Within these objectives are key moves which outline the intended direction of change over time for these parks in order to achieve the objectives.



Recover



Improve the environmental outcomes of these parks within Kaiwharawhara whitua, supporting nature to thrive. Design our recreation facilities to complement the surrounding natural landscape and reflect cultural values of mana whenua – helping people to engage with te taiao.



1. Support nature

The parks are located along the Kaiwharawhara Valley between Zealandia and Ōtari-Wilton's Bush. They have the potential to play a greater role in connectivity for indigenous biodiversity.

Potential initiatives include:

- Replant steep areas to reduce mowing and improve environmental outcomes building on existing restoration planting.
- Manage the riparian banks of Kaiwharawhara Stream.
- Replacing weed species with natives where possible.
- Investigate the potential for Wilton Park to support the Ōtari Landscape Plan.



2. Reflect the landscape

We can reflect the natural and cultural character of the landscape through planting, design, and storytelling. Although we can't restore features like the buried streams – due to the need to safely contain closed landfills and prevent environmental harm – we can help people understand how the land has changed over time and create meaningful ways to connect with its present values.

Potential initiatives include:

- Acknowledge the presence of our buried streams through storytelling.

Initiatives

Existing initiative

- Replant steep areas to reduce mowing and improve environmental outcomes building on existing restoration planting. Retain some grass area for play and seating.
- Manage the riparian bank above the Kaiwharawhara Stream for stream health without damaging the graves.
- Continue to manage the erosion of Wilton slip with native planting.

Could support now

- Acknowledge the presence of the buried streams through storytelling.
- Low native shrubs and grasses under existing trees, and along interfaces. Replace weed species with natives where possible, such as around the court.

May support in the future

- Investigate the potential for Wilton Park to support the Ōtari Landscape Plan. Initial scoping is scheduled for 2027/28.

Not feasible / out of scope

- Removal of Appleton Park and Ian Galloway Park closed landfill material, and other activities incompatible with closed landfill management.

Diversify



Make space for more informal recreation and play opportunities to diversify both the use and the users of these parks, responding to Wellington's current and future recreational needs.



3. Space for play

We are committed to ensuring equitable access to play, and other active recreation opportunities guided by the Play Spaces Policy 2017. This means diversifying our park spaces to create space for informal recreation in addition to formal playgrounds and sporting activities.

Potential initiatives include:

- New local play space at Ian Galloway Park inspired by the natural context.
- Modify the courts at Appleton Park to be multi-purpose.
- New sealed community-scale pump track.
- Loop track around sportsfields



4. Passive recreation

Passive recreation is about the ways we use our open spaces to relax and enrich our lives through contact with nature, social interaction, and cultural activities. We want these parks to be places that are enjoyable to spend time – where people want to sit and watch the world go by, feel the sun and wind, read a book, watch a dog play, or chat with friends.

Potential initiatives include:

- Increased passive recreation amenities, such as gathering spaces and seating.

Initiatives

Existing initiative

- New local play space at Ian Galloway Park inspired by the natural context.

Could support now

- Modify court at Appleton Park to be multi-purpose and welcoming.
- New sealed community-scale pump track.
- Increased passive recreation amenities such as gathering spaces and seating.

May support in the future

- Loop track around sportsfields at Ian Galloway Park, aligned with Paneke Pōneke shared path through the park.
- Improve drainage at Appleton Park, as part of the landfill recontouring, to provide grassed area for informal and passive recreation.

Not feasible / out of scope

- Relocation of the off-leash dog exercise area at Ian Galloway Park.

Enhance



Improve existing sportsfields and other recreation assets, for flexible and varied use to better utilise what we already have and accommodate changing user needs. New features may be required to enable increased use, such as multi-use playing surfaces, more lighting or changes to parking.



5. Enable increased use



Flat, green, open space can be hard to come by in Wellington, especially in the western suburbs, but these are incredibly important and versatile play spaces which should be maintained, and enhanced where possible, to enable increased use.

Potential initiatives include:

- Continue to provide flat grassed area for informal and passive recreation, and formal sports.
- Dog park improvements, informed by feedback in the Dog Policy Review.
- Sportsfield surface and lighting improvements.



6. Changing needs



Te Whai Oranga Pōneke guides us to design our open spaces and recreation facilities to be flexible and varied, to accommodate diverse and changing user needs. Furthermore, to empower our diverse communities to feel safe and comfortable, and to take an equity approach to reducing barriers to active recreation and sport.

Potential initiatives include:

- Review of the community facilities at Ian Galloway Park to ensure they are fit-for-purpose. For example, upgrade changing facilities to be inclusive and gender neutral.

Initiatives

Existing initiative

- ↑ Continue to provide flat grassed area for informal and passive recreation, and formal sports.

Could support now

- ↑ Minor skate ramps improvements.
- ↑ BMX track modifications, such as access changes, to reduce user conflict.
- ↑ Dog park improvements, informed by feedback in the Dog Policy Review.

- ↑ Undertake a parking resolution at Appleton Park to ensure it can be accessed by park users during the day, informed by the Parking Policy.

May support in the future

- ↑ Sportsfield surface and lighting improvements – new artificial turf and renewal of drainage systems part of the landfill remediation work. This may require car parking upgrades.
- Review of the community facilities at Ian Galloway Park to ensure they are fit-for-purpose. For example, upgrade changing facilities to be inclusive and gender neutral.

Not feasible / out of scope

- Public toilets at Appleton Park, informed by Te Whai Oranga Pōneke and Te Awe Māpara.

Connect



Enhance connections, both within the parks and with the surrounding area for fostering a strong sense of place and improving accessibility.



7. Internal connections



Due to its size, Ian Galloway Park supports a range of recreational uses. However, due to various factors such as topography, different parts of the park can feel detached and disconnected undermining the benefits typically associated with co-location of recreation assets. Improving access and wayfinding, particularly between southern Ian Galloway and the sportsfields, will be critical for enhancing connectivity within Ian Galloway Park.

Potential initiatives include:

- Improve internal connectivity and wayfinding between southern Ian Galloway Park and the sportsfields.
- Improve entrance experience and wayfinding for all parks.



8. External connections



These parks have unique characteristics, located within the Kaiwharawhara catchment, with connections to Zealandia, Ōtari-Wilton's Bush, Karori Cemetery and the Outer Green Belt. There is potential to strengthen these external connections and enhance the sense of place experienced, utilising a common narrative and consistent visual identity along the Sanctuary to Sea Walkway.

Potential initiatives include:

- Formalise walking track between Ōtari-Wilton's Bush and Karori Cemetery.
- Strengthen the role of these parks within the Sanctuary to Sea Walkway.

Initiatives

Existing initiative

- ↑ Formalise walking track through Ian Galloway Park, between Karori Cemetery and Ōtari-Wilton's Bush.

Could support now

- ↑ Improve internal connectivity and wayfinding between southern Ian Galloway Park and the sportsfields, exploring ways of managing user conflict between wheeled users and dogs.

May support in the future

- ↑ Improve entrance experience and wayfinding for all parks, aligned with other park upgrades.
- ↑ Bike connections and parking, informed by Paneke Pōneke Bike Network Plan work programme. This could enable or contribute to a loop track around Ian Galloway Park sportsfields.
- ↑ Investigate the feasibility of a track connecting Wilton Park down to Kaiwharawhara stream.
- ↑ Investigate strengthening the role of these parks within the Sanctuary to Sea Walkway.
- ↑ Review the names of these parks, informed by the Naming Policy – Te Māpihi Maurea.

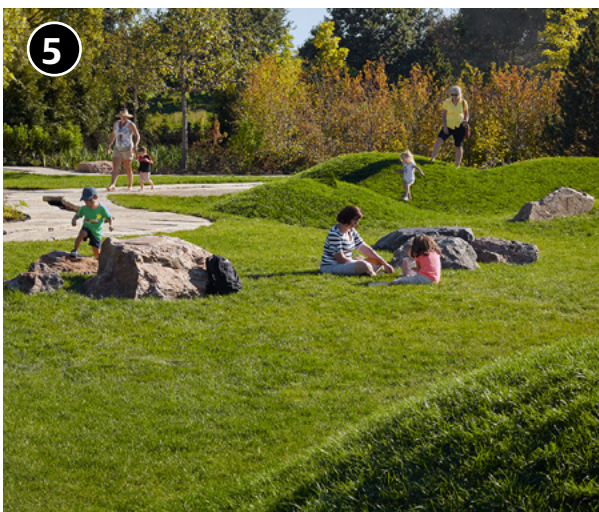
Ian Galloway Park

Ian Galloway Park initiatives		Existing initiative	Could support now	May support in the future
Recover				
1	Replant steep areas to reduce mowing and improve environmental outcomes building on existing restoration planting.	✓		
2	Manage the riparian bank above the Kaiwharawhara Stream for stream health without damaging the graves, as per the action from the Cemeteries Management Plan.	✓		
3	Low native shrubs and grasses under existing trees, and along interfaces. Replace weed species with natives where possible, such as around the courts.		✓	
Diversify				
4	New local play space at Ian Galloway Park inspired by the natural context. Location to be confirmed.	✓		
5	New sealed community-scale pump track. Location to be confirmed.		✓	
6	Increased passive recreation amenities such as gathering spaces and seating.		✓	
7	Loop track around sportsfields, aligned with Paneke Pōneke shared path through the park.		✓	
Enhance				
8	Continue to provide flat grassed area for sport, and informal and passive recreation.	✓		
9	Minor skate ramps improvements.		✓	
10	BMX track modifications, such as access changes, to reduce user conflict.		✓	
11	Dog park improvements, informed by feedback in the Dog Policy Review.		✓	
12	Sportsfield surface and lighting improvements – new artificial turf and renewal of drainage systems part of the landfill remediation work. This may require car parking upgrades.			✓
13	Review of the community facilities at Ian Galloway Park to ensure they are fit-for-purpose. I.e., upgrade changing facilities to be inclusive and gender neutral.			✓
Connect				
14	Formalise walking track through Ian Galloway Park, between Karori Cemetery and Ōtari-Wilton's Bush, as per the action from the Cemeteries Management Plan.	✓		
15	Improve internal connectivity and wayfinding between southern Ian Galloway Park and the sportsfields, exploring ways of managing user conflict between wheeled users and dogs.		✓	
16	Bike connections and parking, informed by Paneke Pōneke Bike Network Plan work programme. This could enable or contribute to a loop track around Ian Galloway Park sportsfields.			✓
17	Improve entrance experience and wayfinding, aligned with wider park upgrades.			✓



Appleton Park

Appleton Park initiatives	Existing initiative	Could support now	May support in the future
Recover			
1 Low native shrubs and grasses under existing trees, and along interfaces. Replace weed species with natives where possible, such as around the courts.		✓	
2 Acknowledge the presence of our buried streams through storytelling.		✓	
Diversify			
3 Increased passive recreation amenities such as gathering spaces and seating.		✓	
4 Modify court at Appleton Park to be multi-purpose and welcoming.		✓	
5 Improve drainage as part of the landfill recontouring, to provide grassed area for informal and passive recreation.			✓
6 Review additional-off-leash dog exercise area at Appleton Park, as part of the next Dog Policy Review, subject to need and demand. Consider using planting for separation with the shared path.			✓
Enhance			
7 Informed by the Parking Policy, undertake a Traffic Resolution to ensure Appleton Park can be accessed by park users during the day.		✓	
Connect			
8 Improve entrance experience and access options, aligned with wider park upgrades.			✓
9 As part of the Play Spaces Policy review and Open Space Access Plan review, consider further opportunities for activating Appleton Park, as part of the Sanctuary to Sea Walkway.			✓



Wilton Park

Wilton Park initiatives	Existing initiative	Could support now	May support in the future
Recover			
1 Continue to manage the erosion of Wilton slip with native planting.	✓		
2 Investigate the potential for Wilton Park to support the Ōtari Landscape Plan. Initial scoping is scheduled for 2027/28.			✓
Diversify			
3 Review additional-off-leash dog exercise area at Wilton Park, as part of the next Dog Policy Review, subject to need and demand.			✓
Enhance			
4 Continue to provide flat grassed area for sport and informal and passive recreation subject to need and demand.	✓		
Connect			
5 Improve entrances to Wilton Park, including signage at the northern steps.		✓	
6 Investigate the feasibility of a track connecting Wilton Park down to Kaiwharawhara stream. Some concerns regarding slip-prone ground conditions.			✓

