Backyard Tāonga
Map Fact sheets

SPECIAL AMENITY LANDSCAPES (SALs)

For more information email
backyardtaonga@wcc.govt.nz
**Special Amenity Landscapes**

**Distinctive and widely recognised landscapes**

**Watts Peninsula**

**Description**

Watts Peninsula is the northern headland of the Motu Kairangi Miramar Peninsula. The landscape extends from Mt Crawford to include the steep escarpments and narrow beach platform from Shelly Bay around Point Halswell to Scorching Bay. Watts Peninsula contains sites from different periods in Wellington’s history, including Māori settlement and early European defence. The headland is important to Māori as it is the site of the Mataki-kai-poinga Pā and there are a large number of intact Māori sites. Historic military buildings, strategic posts, and a war memorial contribute to the landscape’s strong military character. The land cover can generally be described as exotic with some regenerating native species.
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Town Belt

Description
The Town Belt is a network of open spaces providing a scenic backdrop to the city. This portion of Town Belt forms a horseshoe shape from Point Jerningham near Matairangi Mount Victoria in the northeast, to Mount Albert at its southern end, then northwest to the boundary of the Karori Wildlife Sanctuary. Known as the ‘lungs’ of the city, the network of reserves has deep historical roots and was formed in the mid-19th century to establish public parks and gardens at the edge of urban development. In order to establish vegetation quickly, species that were hardy and fast-growing, primarily radiata pine, were selected in lieu of native species. While these non-native species continue to dominate the landscape, there are increasingly large areas of regenerating and planted native vegetation. Matairangi Mount Victoria, one of the city’s most iconic landmarks, is located within this area.

These maps are draft. Some boundaries may change based on feedback and further assessment. If you would like help to read them please call us on 021 952 836. Email backyardtaonga@wcc.govt.nz. For more information go to planningforgrowth.wellington.govt.nz.
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Te Ahumairangi Hill

Description
Te Ahumairangi is a steeply rising hill forming the northern backdrop to the central city. The landscape is a Wellington landmark and part of the Town Belt. Located along the Wellington faultline, Te Ahumairangi Hill is bound by the suburbs of Wadestown to the north, Wilton to the west, and Northland to the south. The vegetation is mostly exotic, but native forest is regenerating throughout. Te Ahumairangi Hill is the only undeveloped landform near the city’s central business district and provides an important green backdrop. The landscape has both important recreational and cultural values.

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Wellington Botanic Garden

Description
The Wellington Botanic Garden consists of 26 hectares of native bush, exotic forest, specialty gardens, and floral displays near the city centre between Kelburn and Thorndon. The landscape was originally an important food gathering area for Māori, forming part of the Kumutoto Pā. Later it became an important place for European settlers to import plant species to assess their economic potential, making it one of New Zealand’s oldest botanic gardens. While the stream systems are modified and there is a significant amount of exotic vegetation, the dense cover and remnant indigenous bush improve the ecological value of the garden. A network of trails connecting open space with several notable attractions, contribute to the garden’s popularity.

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**Wrights Hill/Makara Peak**

**Description**

Wrights Hill/Makara Peak are a series of hilltops forming a ridgeline that rises from the Wellington faultline escarpment, creating a distinct rural/urban edge. The landscape has distinctive flat-topped blocks with steep slopes that form gently undulating, relatively wide valleys. Located south and west of Karori, the landscape is bound by the Karori Wildlife Sanctuary to the east, Silver Stream to the south, South Makara Road to the west, and Makara Road to the north. The landscape is best known for its recreational and historical value, and amazing scenic views. There are walking and mountain biking tracks throughout. An extensive WWII fortification and tunnel system is located on Wright’s Hill. The land cover can generally be described as regenerating native vegetation with native shrubland present along the ridgeline of Wright’s Hill.

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Mount Kaukau

Description
Mount Kaukau is northwest of Khandallah along the Te Wharangi Ridge separating the rural and urban sections of the city. With a transmitter tower at its summit, Mount Kaukau is the most visible high point within the Wellington landscape. The landscape extends from Mount Kaukau to include the Crows Nest above Ngaio. It consists of mainly pasture with rocky outcrops that are expressive of the peneplain surface. There are areas of regenerating native vegetation on the southern slopes near Khandallah. The summit of Mount Kaukau is a destination along the popular Skyline Track with panoramic views of Wellington and to the South Island.

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Korokoro Stream Valley

Description
The Korokoro Stream Valley landscape covers the area between the Horokiwi Ridge and the eastern boundary of Wellington City, extending from Belmont Regional Park to the stream mouth into Te Whanganui a Tara Wellington Harbour. The landscape is a north/south complex system with steep spurs and gullies interweaving down to a narrow stream valley floor. The land cover is largely regenerating native vegetation with remnant native forest in many of the gullies. The landscape is known for its recreational, cultural, and historic value. The stream valley has high spiritual value, and a heritage concrete gravity dam is located just upstream of Korokoro Stream outlet into the harbour.

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