Green infrastructure for central Wellington after COVID Adam Auditorium, Wellington, 29 July 2020









Absolutely Positively Wellington City Council Me Heke Ki Põneke

### Introduction

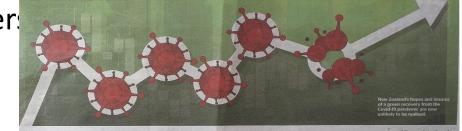
- How will Wellington's central city develop as we gradually recover from COVID?
  - o can we even assume we are in a post-COVID period?
- Will Wellington's population continue to grow Plan to cram 80,000 in city forecast rate?
- Does the current and future population have adequate opportunity to relate to our green and open spaces?
- What about the ongoing climate change and biodiver crises?
  - other sustainability and planning challenges that central Wellington is facing?



asked whether they want to

patial plan would allow pre-1930s character areas to be demolished without consent to make way for



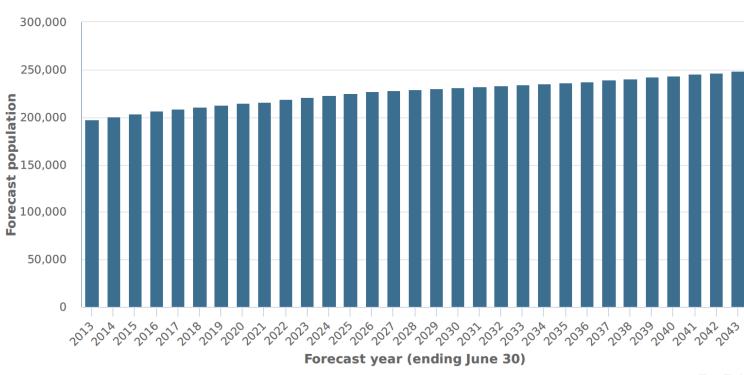




### **Population projections**

#### Forecast population

Wellington City

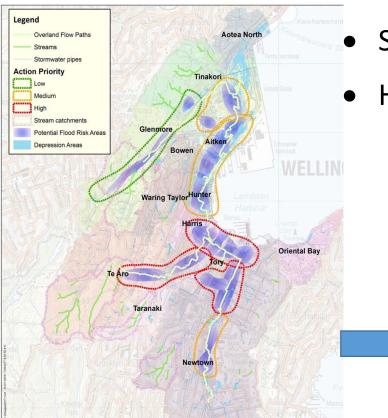


- Current population c. 215,000
- Effect of internal and international emigration/ immigration?
- Commuting patterns into the central city?

Population and household forecasts, 2013 to 2043, prepared by .id, November 2019.



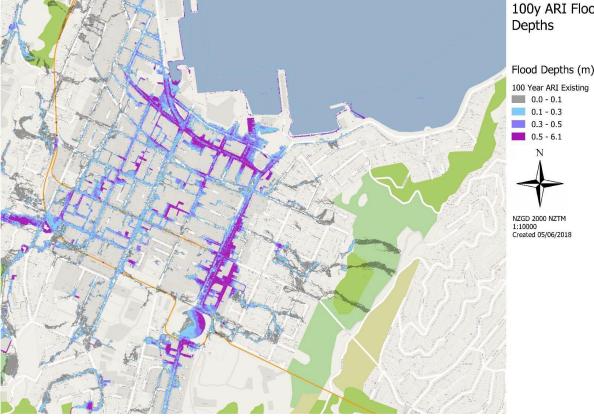
### **Climate change projections**



#### Sea level rise

- Higher intensity rainfall
  - >25% increase in the daily precipitation on the top 1% of rainy days per annum by 2100



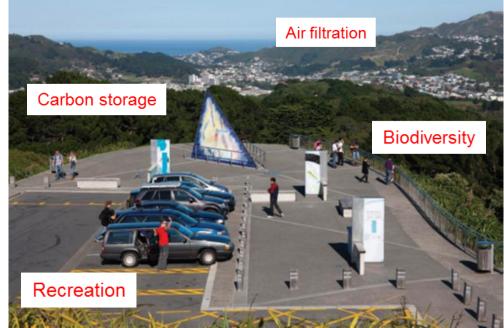


Stantec, for Wellington Water, 2018

# Why focus on green infrastructure and green space in central city?

- Contact with nature very important for health & wellbeing
- Mostly this contact is provided by urban green and blue spaces
- They provide many other values
- A critical part of the city's infrastructure
- Green infrastructure: "a network providing ingredients for solving urban and climatic challenges by building with nature"

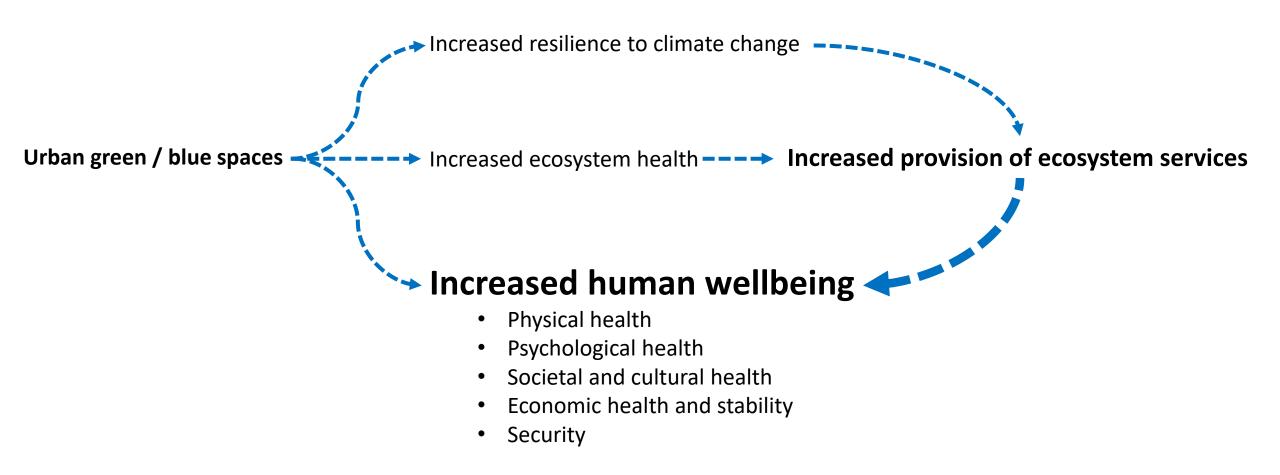
In the central city, most green infrastructure needs to be provided for by council, directly or through policy



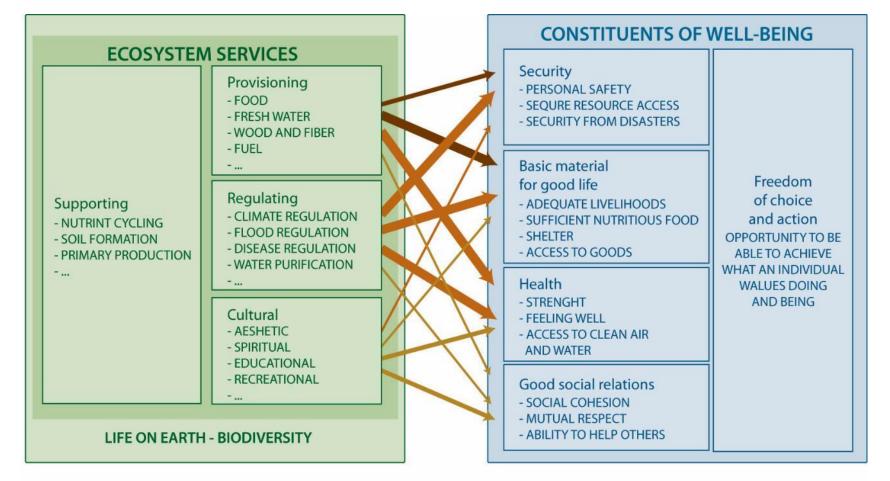
#### **Council brief:**

- Assess current provision (supply) of public green space within Wellington central city area
- Assess current and potential need (demand) for public green space
- Recommend on GS provisions

### **Benefits of urban green/blue space & infrastructure**



### **Ecosystem services and human wellbeing**



Arrow's color

Arrow's width

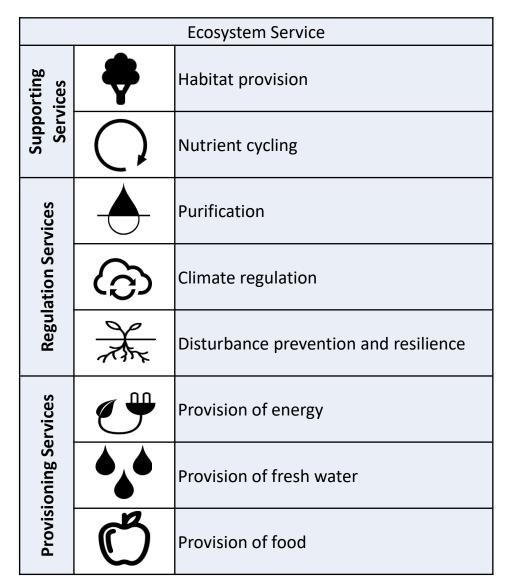
potential for mediation by socioeconomic factors in

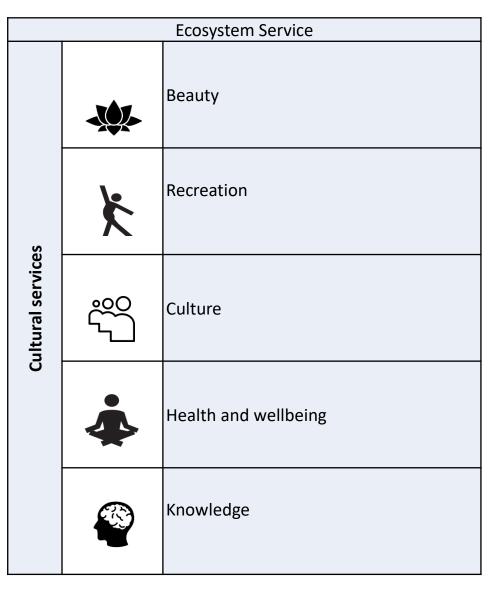
intensity of linkages between ecosystem services and human well-being





### **Ecosystem services in a Wellington City context**



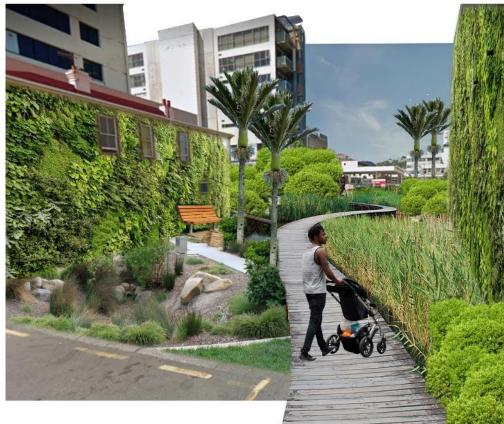


### **Cuba Quarter Green Nexus**

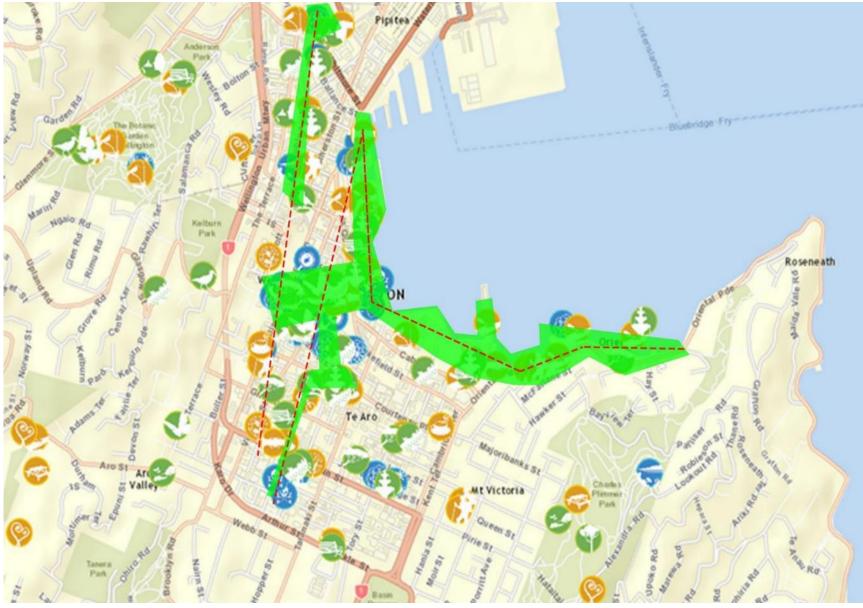




Ecosystem Service		
Supporting Services		Habitat provision
Regulation Services		Purification
	X	Disturbance prevention and resilience
Cultural services		Beauty
	رجی ا	Culture



### The importance of connected green spaces



http://wellington.govt.nz/recreation/enjoy-the-outdoors/wellington-nature-map

#### The Wellington Nature Map (Biophilic Wellington)

*Zones (green) and corridors (red lines) of inner city biophilic intensity in Wellington* 

PEDERSEN ZARI, M. 2019. Understanding and designing nature experiences in cities: a framework for biophilic urbanism. *Cities & Health.* 

Acknowledgements: Funding for the Wellington Nature Map from the Wellington City Council is gratefully acknowledged. Dr M. de Roiste (Victoria University of Wellington) provided technical assistance in relation to the GIS and Story Map process. Research assistance and photography was provided by R. Whale (Wellington Living Architecture), E. Cruz (École Centrale de Lyon), and K. Milne (Victoria University of Wellington). Icons were developed by K. Spencer (Kelly Spencer Graphic Design).



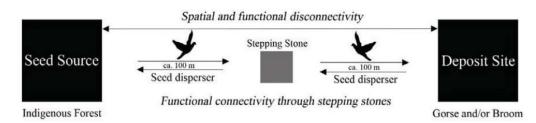
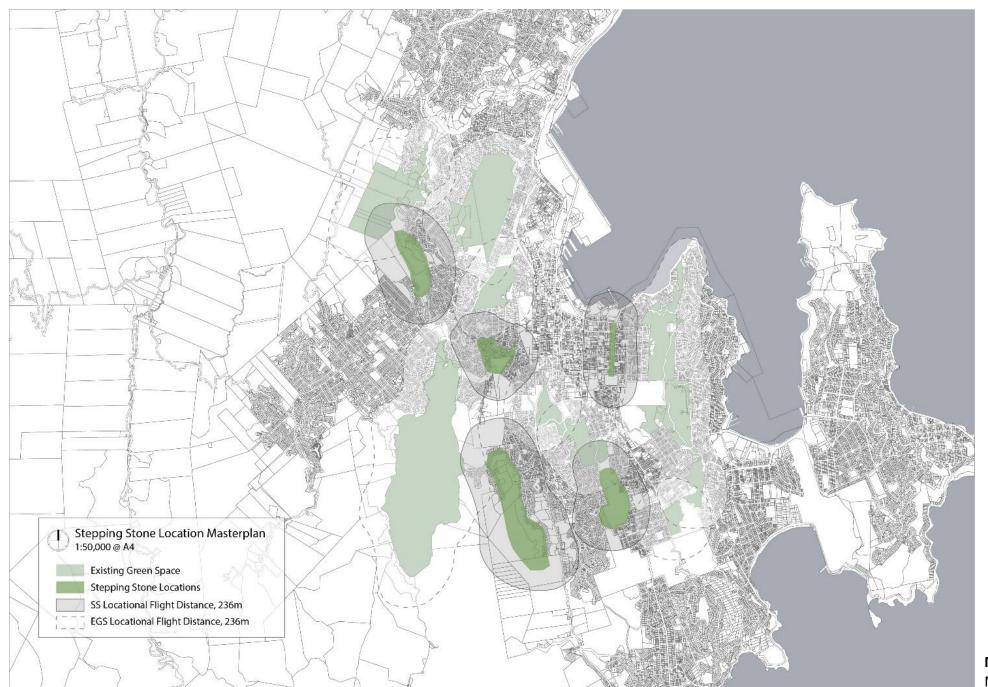


Figure 6.7. A conceptual spatially-explicit landscape pattern for providing functional connectivity for facilitating species movement and seed dispersal mechanisms between seed sources and deposit sites through stepping stones





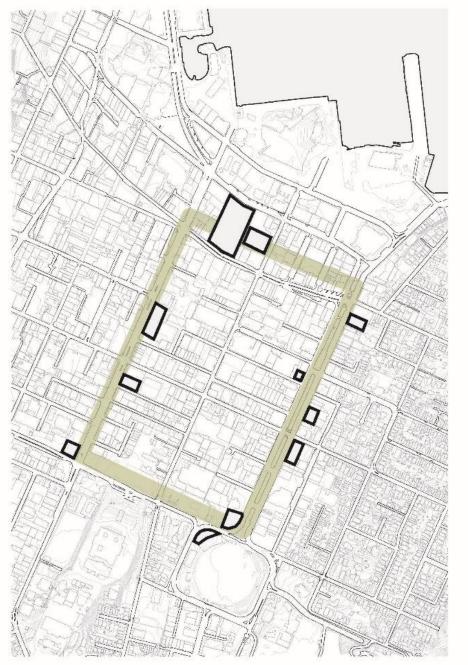
Urban biodiversity in an era of climate change: Towards an optimised landscape pattern in support of indigenous wildlife species in urban New Zealand Rastandeh, Amin PhD (2018) <u>https://researcharchive.vuw.ac.nz/xmlui/handle/10063/7979</u>



**Michaela Thomson, VUW** Master of Landscape Architecture 2019 Wellington inner city green belt / block: biodiversity + human wellbeing



Wellington Inner City Green Belt: Architecture as green space and stepping stone habitat 4<sup>th</sup> Year Architecture Biophilic Design Studio, VUW, 2019 and 2020



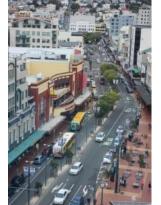
Wellington Inner City Green Belt / Block: Architecture as green space and stepping stone habitat

Taranaki Street,

Courtenay Place,

Kent / Cambridge Terraces, Pukeahu National War Memorial



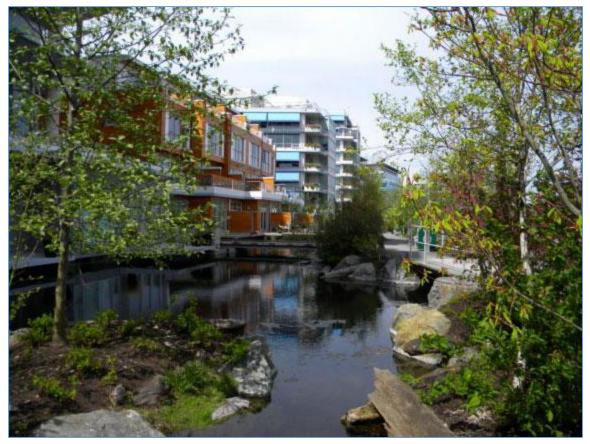








Stacking Green by Vo Trong Nghia + Daisuke Sanuki + Shunri Nishizawa, Ho Chi Minh, Vietnam



Dockside Green community on Vancouver Island, Canada



25 Verde, Turin, Italy, Luciano Pia



Bosco Verticale de Milano, Boeri Studio



EDITT Tower, Ken Yeang, Singapore





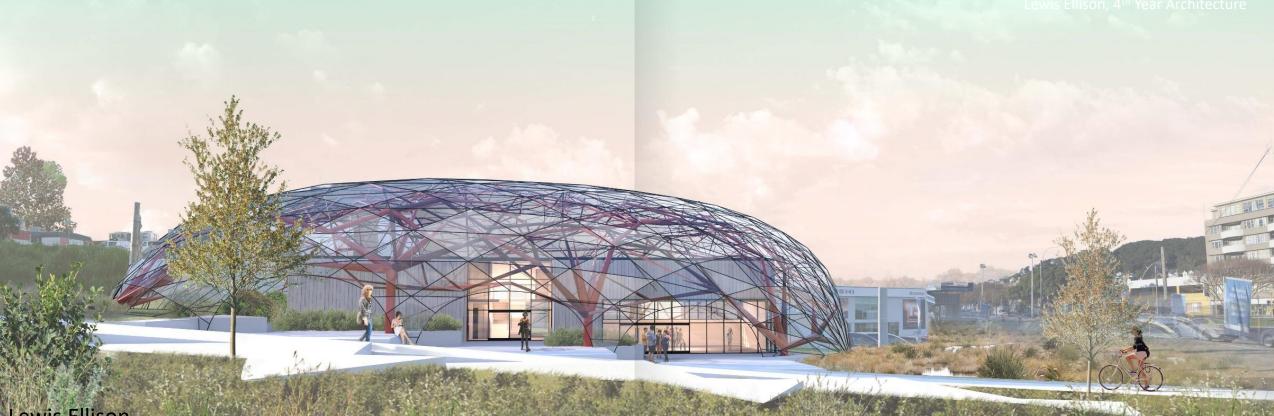














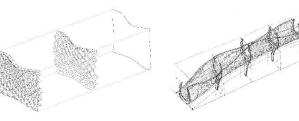




#### Tom Westend

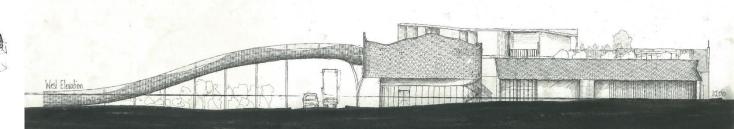


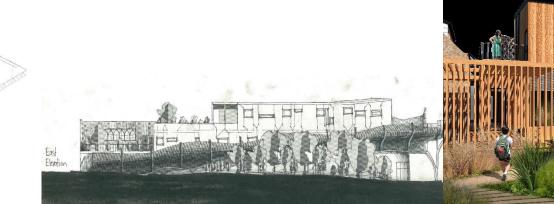




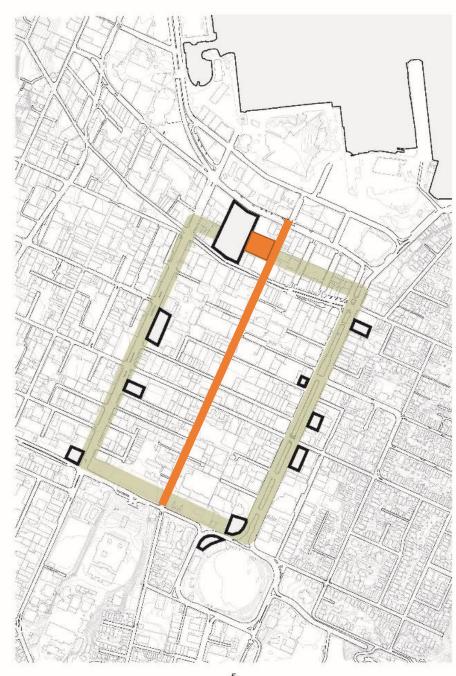
Major Design Interventions Exploded isometric of how the façade skin was made up for the wall from a lofted surface made with graph mapper, to an extruded geometric graf formed with the Rhino/Grasshopper plugins Parakeet, Pufferfish and Voronol.

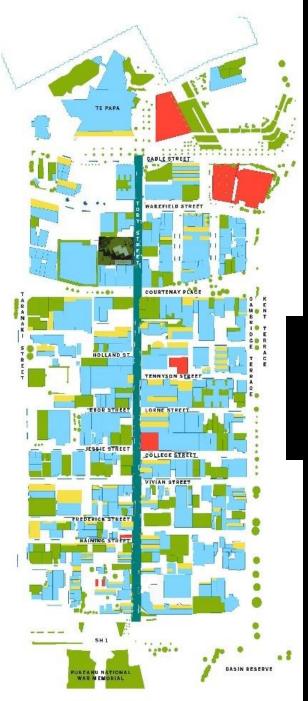
Similarly, the bridge form was also generated parametrically on Rhino/Grasshopper after many sketch studies. It was designed to provide views up and down Vivian Street but also offer protection and ease of access to the users.











### **BIODIVER\_CITIES**

Through an ecosystem services framework, and by incorporating biophilic design principles; how can architecture and urban design contribute to regeneration and increased native biodiversity in Wellington?

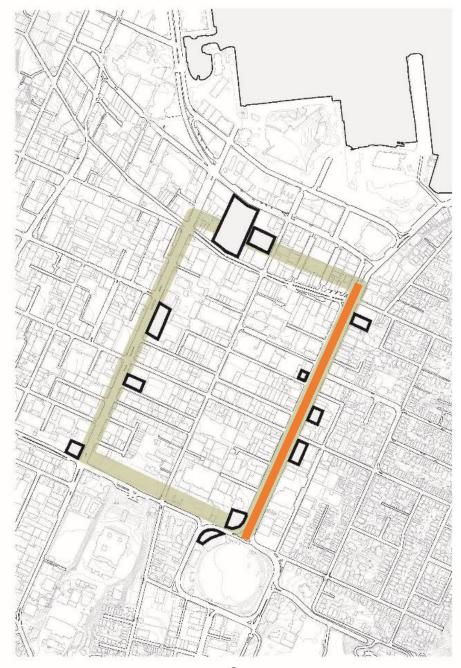
. .







Jennifer Koat, 5<sup>th</sup> Year Architecture



BRIDGING THE DISTANCE: ACCOMMODATING WILDLIFE INTERACTION IN AN URBAN SETTING

#### HOW CAN URBAN HABITATS ACCOMMODATE NATIVE WILDLIFE SPECIES AS WELL AS PROVIDING ELEMENTS FOR HUMAN/WILDLIFE INTERACTION?

Michaela Thomson

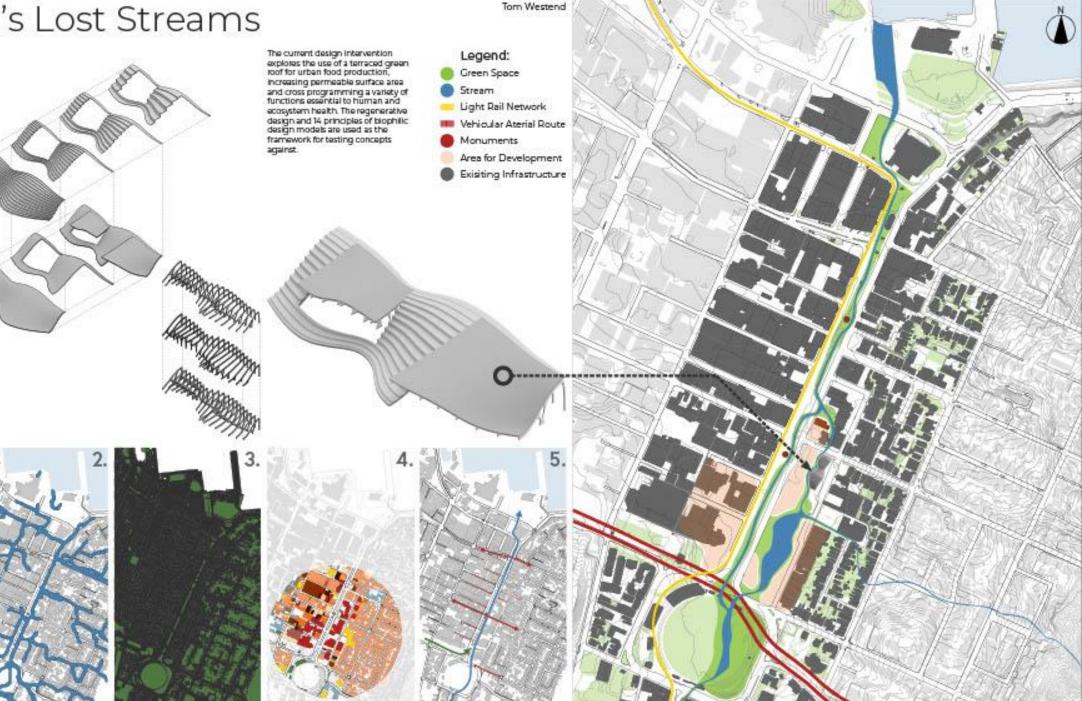
#### + POTENTIAL AREAS TO START INTERACTIONS



Michaela Thomson, 5<sup>th</sup> Year Land<sup>5</sup>scape Architecture

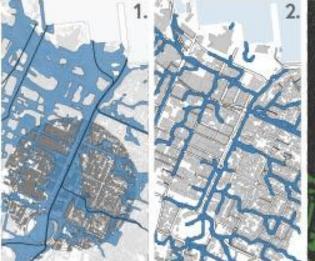
#### Wellington's Lost Streams

The Waltangi stream catchment region encompases the subrurbs of Mt Vic, Te Aro, Mt Cook and Newtown, Historically there was a lagoon that was located where the Basin Reserve cricket grounds are with a stream that ran down Kent and Cambridge Terrace. This thesis is looking at bringing the stream and lagoon back to the surface for flood mitigation, increased central city biodiversity, remediation of urban water quality, human health and permacuiture.



#### Diagrams Legend:

- Flooding and existing piped stream loactions
- 2. Simulated Stream locations
- 3. Figureground study of existing permeable vs impermeable surfaces
- 4. Building programme study
- 5. Connectivity oportunities between Te Aro and Mt Vic



Urgent biophilia: green spaces to aid in psychological resilience

## An Investigation on Urgent Biophilia during the COVID-19 Pandemic

"When faced with an urgent disaster or hazardous situation, humans as individuals and as communities and populations, seek out doses of contact and engagement with nature to further their efforts to summon and demonstrate resilience in the face of a crisis." Tidball (2012)







Rebecca Barbara Mackinnon, Msc Bio-inspired Innovation

## Biophilia

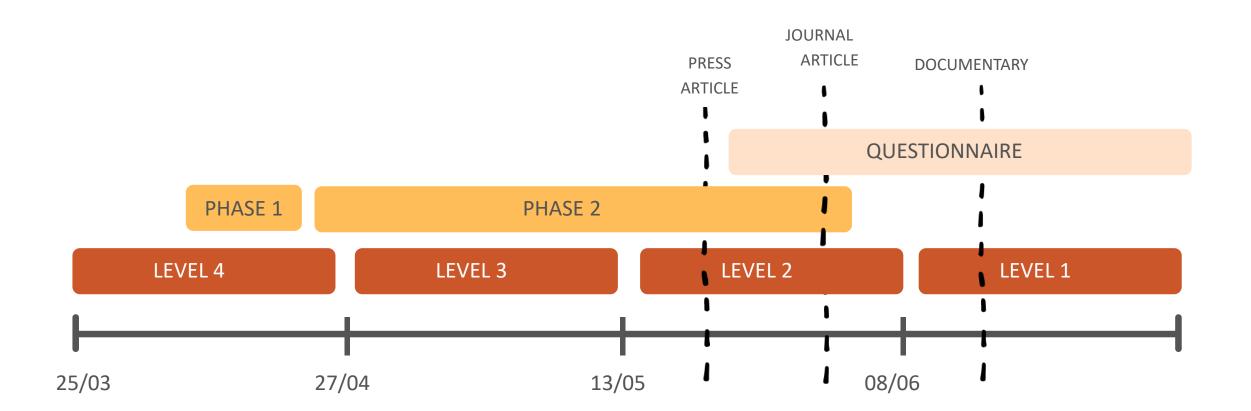
- Subconscious
- Stable periods: expressed at varying degrees
- Often used for recovery of personal hardship

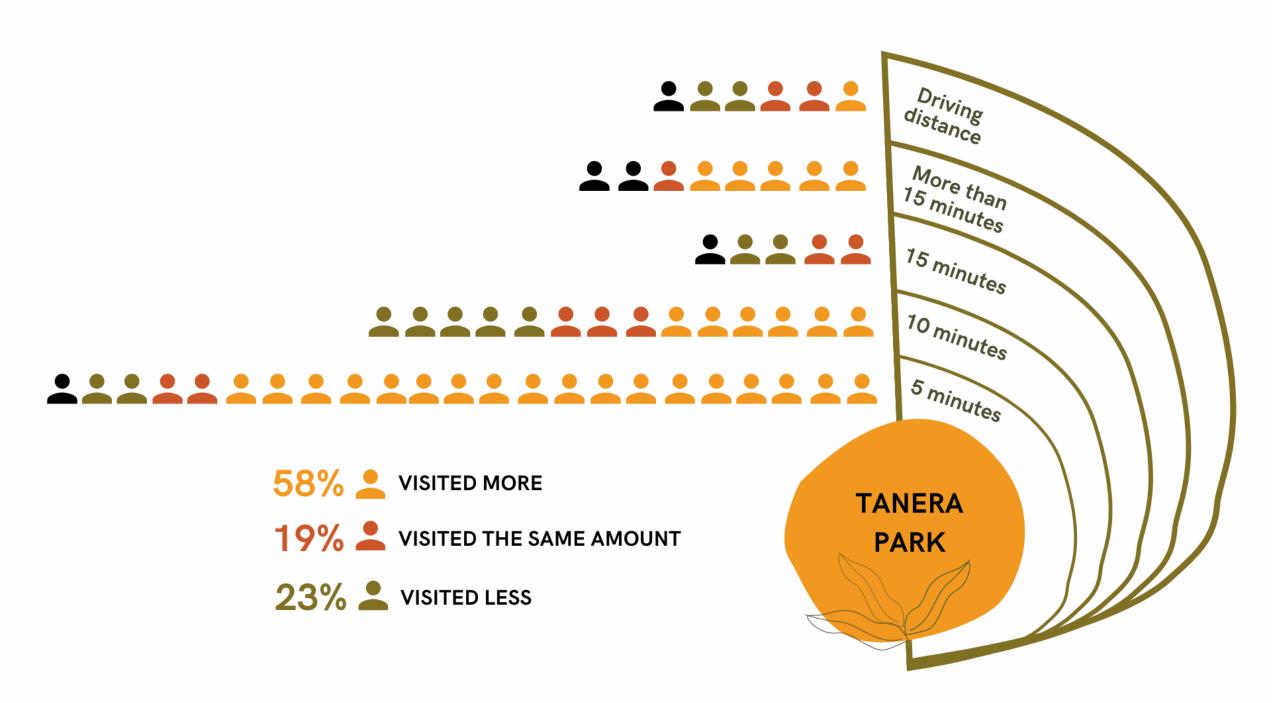
## **Urgent Biophilia**

- Conscious
- Post-disaster context: 'highly sensitized'
- May compellingly and suddenly come to the fore
- In seeking the affiliation, aiding themselves in recovery

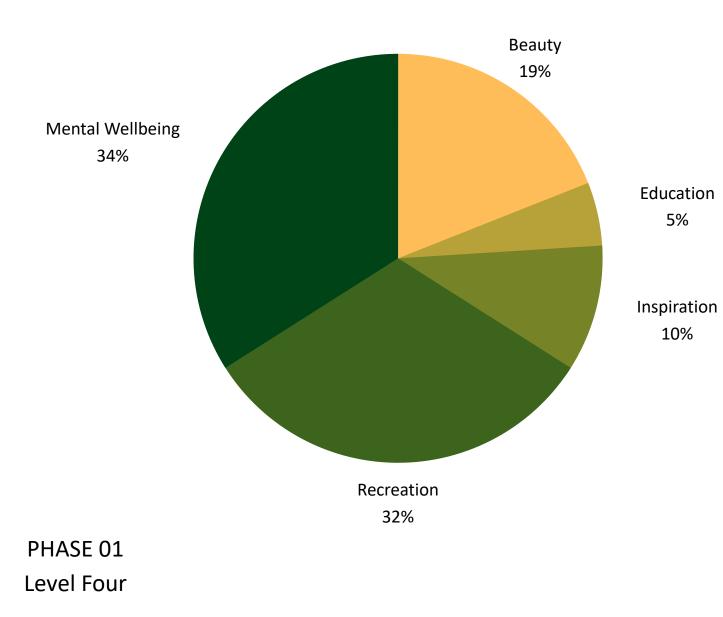


Tanera Park, Aro Valley

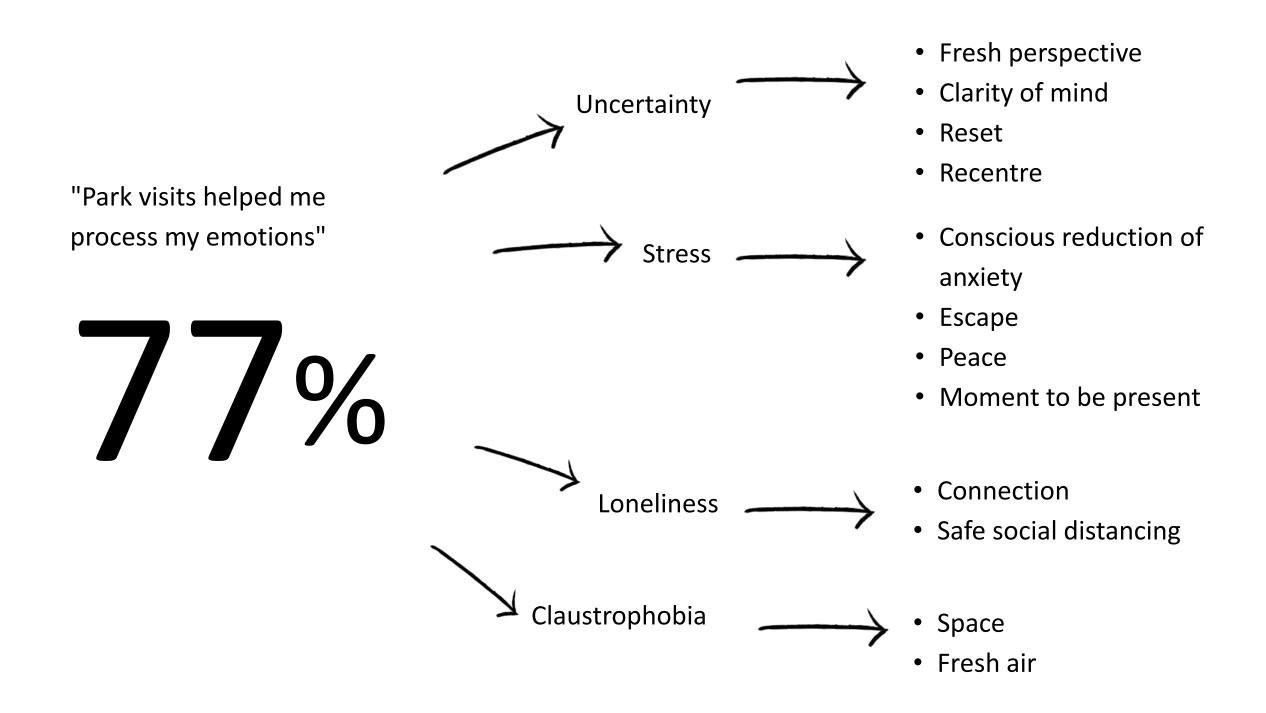




### Why visit the park?









### Insights

- People were visiting the park for mental wellbeing as much as leisure
- They were satisfying physical AND psychological needs
- There was a rediscovery, enhanced interest, and realisation of the value of local nature for many

# Implications in a post-Covid19 world

• Understanding responses to socio-ecological

upheaval is important

- The climate crisis likely to increase the frequency and severity of 'events'.
- We must consider who gets access to nature
- Urban green/blue design should be strategic
- There is an opportunity to harness a refreshed appreciation of the value of green/blue space

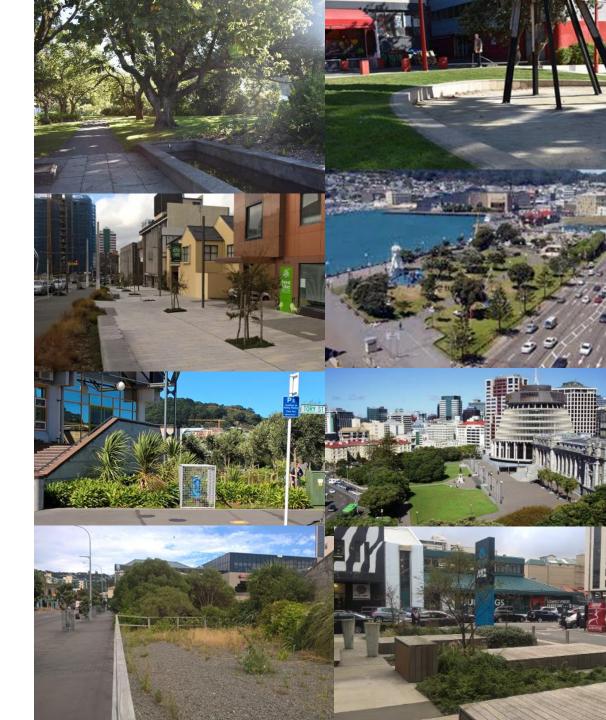


'Urgent Biophilia' Documentary. By G. Pittar youtu.be/HsLSEAfeH8E

In Crisis, Do We Turn To Nature? May 20, 2020 http://business.scoop.co.nz/2020/05 /20/in-crisis-do-we-turn-to-nature/

# Urban green space

- "An area of trees, grass, or other vegetation providing for environmental, recreational or cultural values"
- Not just WCC Parks and Gardens also road reserves, other land tenures
- Different types of vegetation cover
  - Trees, horticulture, grass areas
- Green spaces and blue spaces
- Public spaces and private spaces



Central Wellington census area units and population



CAU	Popula tion (2013)	Pop'ln (2043) High- growth scenario	Popl' growth (%) High- growth scenario
Thorndon- Tinakori Road	4,100	6,400	50
Lambton	5,600	11,150	92
Willis St - Cambridge Tce	7,300	15,900	110
Total Central City	17,400	31,080	90

2020 population approx. 25,000

Plus 76,300 commuters coming into central Wellington (2013)

# Amounts of green space

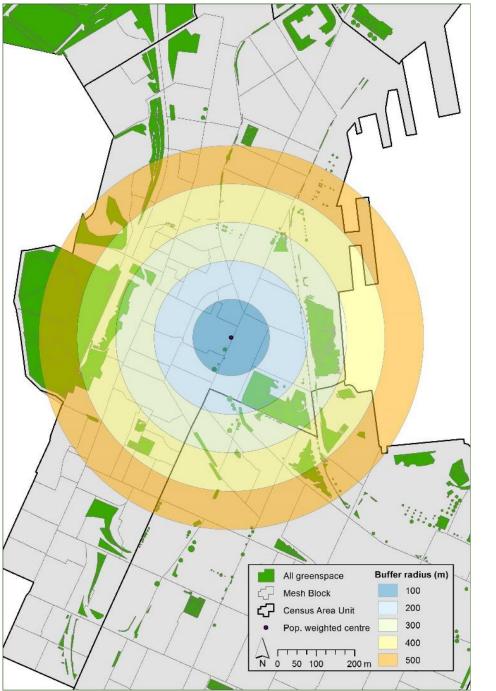
	Area (ha)					
Land cover	Thorndon- Tinakori	Lambton	Willis St- Cambridge Tce	Central City (total)		
Discontinuous trees	9.2	1.8	1.3	12.3		
Continuous trees	3.2	6.8	0.5	10.5		
Hard surfaces	1.4	2.9	2.3	6.6		
Grassed areas	4.2	4.5	1.9	10.6		
Bushes & horticulture areas	0.5	0.3	1.1	1.9		
Total (ha)	18.5	16.3	7.1	41.9		

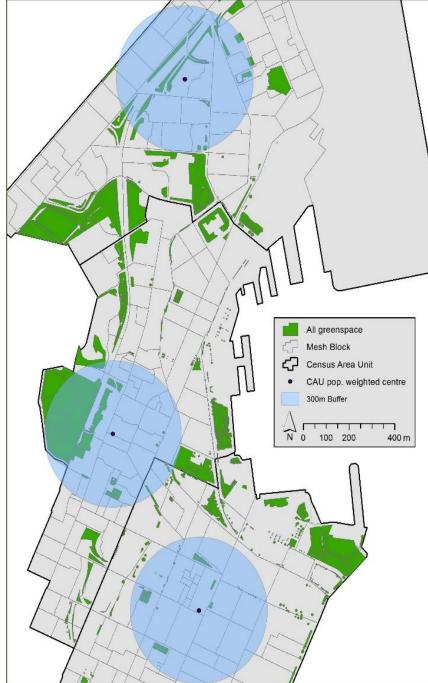


# Per capita green space availability

CAU	Population (2013)	Total green space* (ha)	Green space per capita 2013 (m <sup>2</sup> /person)	Green space per capita 2043 (m <sup>2</sup> /person)
Thorndon-Tinakori Road	4,100	17.3	41	26
Lambton	5,600	12.5	22	11
Willis St-Cambridge Tce	7,300	6.1	8	3
Central City	17,400	34.6	20	10

\* Excluding hard surfaces





"Buffers" of green space around populationcentred centroids

# Supply and demand conclusions

- The supply of accessible GS to the current population is unequally distributed between the three census area units (CAUs) comprising the central city
- These inequalities will increase as the CAU populations grow at different rates
- As population and housing density increases, the case for improving green space supply increases
- Accessibility issues for young, old & people with disabilities quality considerations

# Green space provision as Wellington densifies

- GS "interacts" with other urban infrastructure
  - Other public or accessible private space (waterfront, central govt, churches, private residential) helps augment council GS
- \$ into GS justified as city intensifies: need to maintain QOL & other cobenefits (e.g. resilience; climate change); benefits to property owners & users
  - e.g. small "pocket parks"; street corner parks
  - Do we need so much car parking as city densifies?
- Council can lead way with policies to encourage & where necessary require GS provision
  - Take advantage of opportunities for (small) property acquisition

# Recommendations: Improving quantity and quality

- Plan for increased availability, accessibility & quality of green space in the central city...
  - ...in order to provide for the health & wellbeing and amenity benefits of the significantly larger future population of the central city
- Green spaces should be seen as vital green infrastructure and an integral part of functioning urban (eco)systems
- Resources needed for maintenance and replacement
- "Central city green spaces that enhance ecosystem and community health"
- 11 more specific recommendations

# Wellington - a city set in nature

Amy HobbsMahi Hoahoa Tāone (Senior Urban Designer)

Absolutely Positively Wellington City Council Me Heke Ki Põneke

## Why a green + blue network plan?

We want to enable well informed decision making for our green and blue spaces. It is more important than ever that we have targeted and deliberate investment in green + blue space to ensure our city will adapt to climate change, will function in sync with natural environment systems and support the health and wellbeing of people and communities.

# **Benefits**



Economic Reduced flood risk Reduced health care costs Capitalise on Wellington's identity - a city set in nature Diversity of inner city jobs Increased property values Return on investment Happy tenants/less turnover



Resilience Climate change mitigation Social equality Kaitiakitanga Response to growth Reduced flood risk Emergency food supply Civil defence Seasonal shade Future proof World health epidemic

# $(\mathbf{f})$

Health & Wellbeing Areas to gather - socialise Areas to rest + connect with nature Reduced stress Promote active lifestyle Accessible + safe Inclusive Increase amenity Livable city



Cultural Education Te Ao Māori Past, present future Connect to our local histories Community gardens Amenity Spiritual



Ecological Walking the clean/green talk Mātauranga Water quality Biodiversity Sequester carbon Air quality Soil health

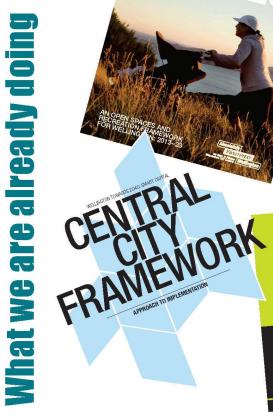
### Our City Tomorrow Planning for Growth



Our environment is the foundation of our city - it holds everything together.

The green network plan is one part of a broader piece of work that Council will progress on how we provide for the necessary parks and other green spaces that are a critical part of city infrastructure.

# **Strategic Alignment**



Our Natural Capital
Wellington's biodiversity strategy and action plan 2015

regionally Positively Regions City Cot

Te Atakura First to Zero

> The Wellington Waterfront Framework

Wellington Resilience Strategy

To natou mahe Vir 10-Year Plan To reading to existing WCC strategic frameworks.

Let's GET Wellington MOVING

TeTauinu

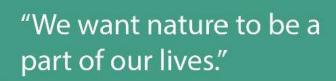
This pandemic won't be our last pandemic and we have to be resilient to other shocks that could happen.





-2043

olutely Positively Region City Council In Rule



Comments from the Our City Tomorrow pop-up engagement container 2017:



What we've heard

"A thriving, green capital city framed by the harbour and hills, composed of interconnected, cohesive neighbourhoods that support people to lead healthy lives".

**Draft vision** 

# Identity

There is only one Wellington

Let's cherish our flora and fauna, our unique landscape and cultural richness



### Taonga

Every tree, plant, green space counts.

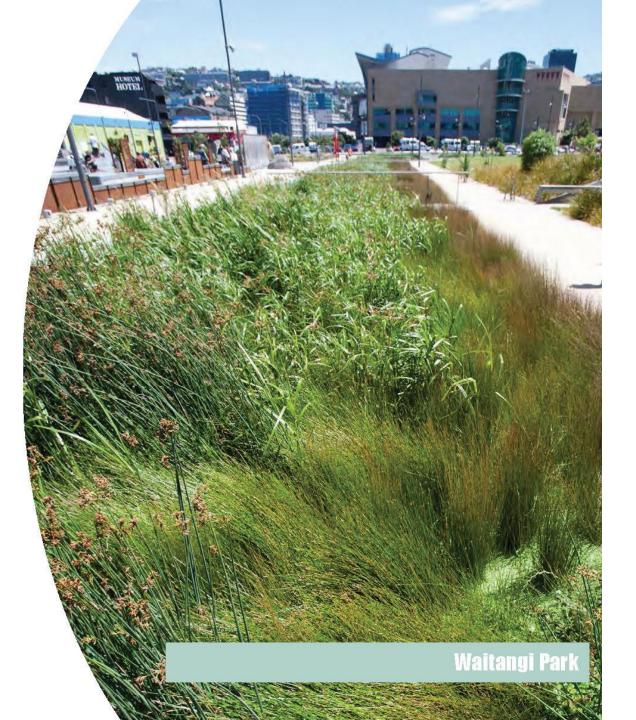
The strong presence of the town belt and harbour have perhaps influenced people's perception of Wellington and led to a degree of complacency about our central city environment

## Make nature visible

A successful green and blue network will respond to climate change and help our city adapt to having more water in our lives.

There is compelling evidence based research that confirms people's health and wellbeing is significantly improved when they can connect with nature.

We can sequester more carbon through setting tree and vegetation targets.



# **Partnerships**

Nature doesn't have cadastral boundaries so a successful green and blue network relies on people working together across private and public ownership boundaries.

This includes making both our open spaces and our built environment work harder.



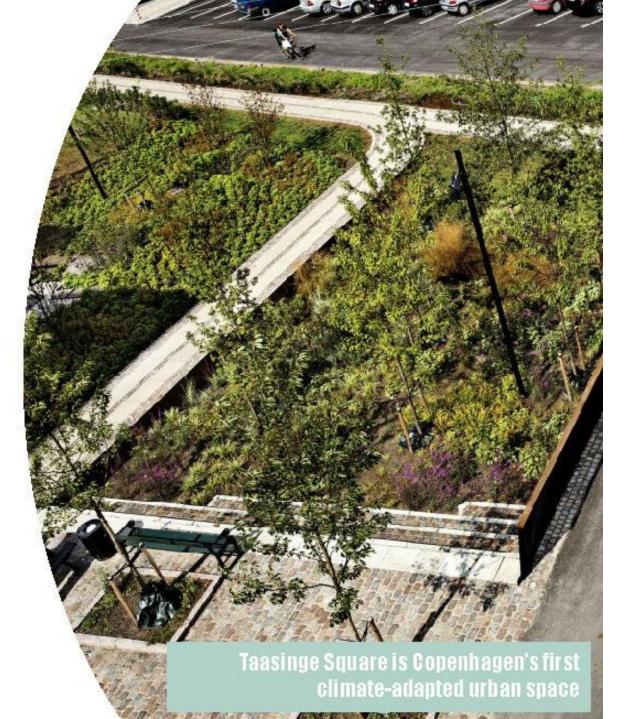


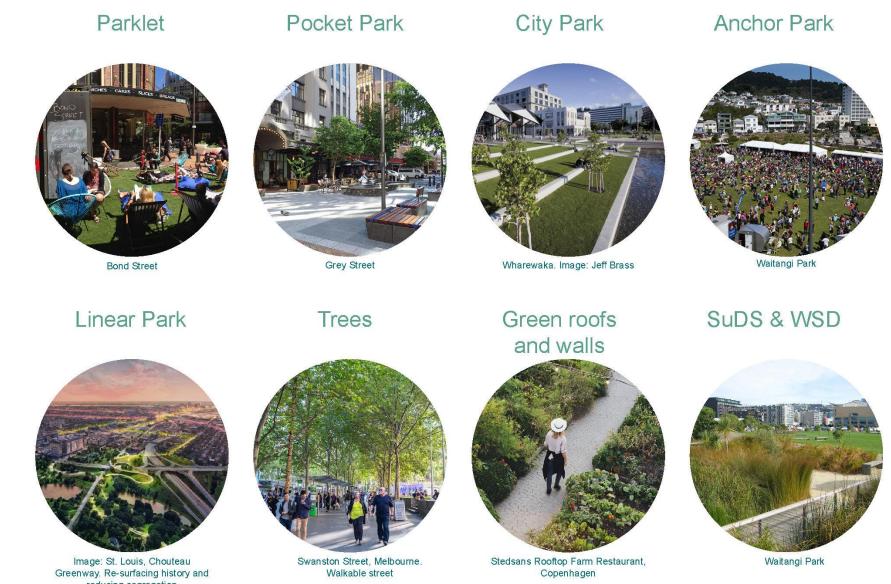
# Think green

'Thinking Green' underpins every project in Wellington. It is seen as a value add and a non negotiable.

Green space typologies and connectors are defined to identity opportunities for greening across the city.

A green and blue investment plan is endorsed along with recommended design solutions and increased asset management and whole of life costs.

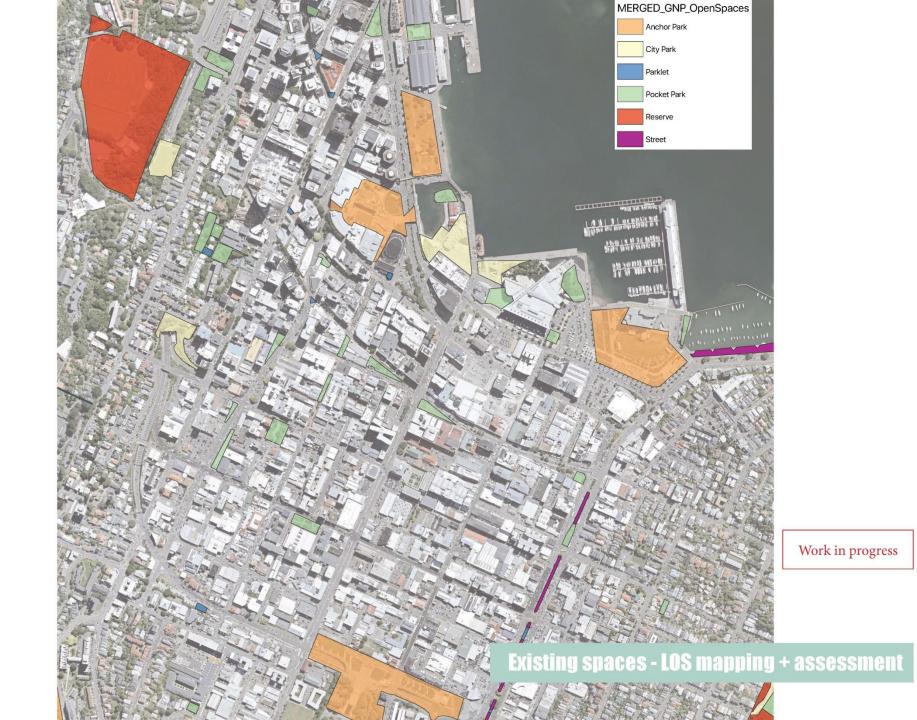




**Draft typologies** 

reducing segregation

# **Our central city**



# **Urtrees**





#### International









Fresh Air Park, London



Rua Padre João Manuel, São Paulo

Local





Denton Park



Cobblestone Park. Image: Jeff Brass

**Pocket Park examples** 









Derbyshire Street Park

Franklin Street Park

# What will we end up with?

A plan that will influence decisions and align green + blue initiatives with projects such as LGWM, P4G, our Long Term Plan, roading and utility projects, park and streetscape projects, private sector developments and more.

Possible recommendations/outcomes:

- Regulatory and policy?
- · Identify key relationships;
- Strategic acquisitions;
- Repurposing areas of road reserve;
- Street tree budget;
- Bringing under performing public open spaces up to a higher level of service;
- Invest and deliver over time;
- Funding models;
- Management and maintenance budget that reflect the level of service we need.

### **Dr Paul Blaschke**

Blaschke & Rutherford Environmental Consultants, Wellington

### Dr Maibritt Pedersen Zari

Wellington School of Architecture Victoria University of Wellington

#### paul@blaschkerutherford.co.nz (

www.linkedin.com/in/ paul-blaschke-4868991b1





VICTORIA UNIVERSITY OF

#### **Amy Hobbs**

Urban Design Wellington City Council





Me Heke Ki Põneke

Wellington City Council

# **JIGENEDIG**

# Wellington - a city set in nature

Amy Hobbs Mahi Hoahoa Tāone (Senior Urban Designer)

> Absolutely Positively Wellington City Council Me Heke Ki Pöneke

### Why a green + blue network plan?

Future proof World health epidemic

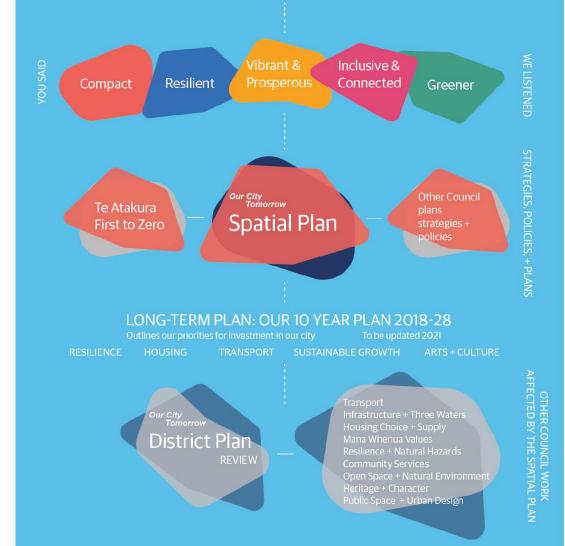
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# are already doing FRAMEWORK What we

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Absolutely Positively Stullington City Coti

Te Atakura First to Zero

> The Wellington Waterfront Framework

Wellington Resilience Strategy

The critical mass of support for more green infrastructure and taking back our streets for people and nature witnessed during level 3 and 4 lockdown is very timely and relates strongly to existing WCC strategic frameworks.

Let's GET Wellington MOVING

TeTauinu

This pandemic won't be our last pandemic and we have to be resilient to other shocks that could happen.



Wellington Urban Growth Plan Urban Development and Transport Strategy 2014-2043 "We want nature to be a part of our lives."

Comments from the Our City Tomorrow pop-up engagement container 2017:



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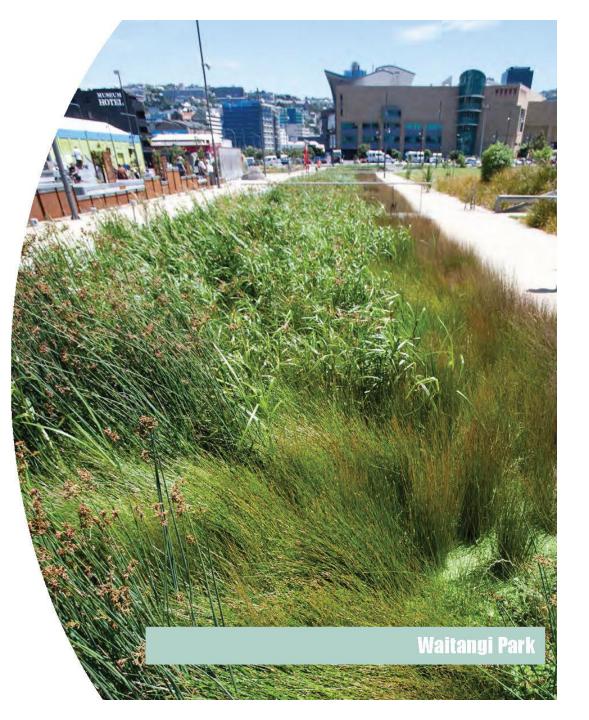


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Detail of map of Wellington compiled from information supplied by Elsdon Best

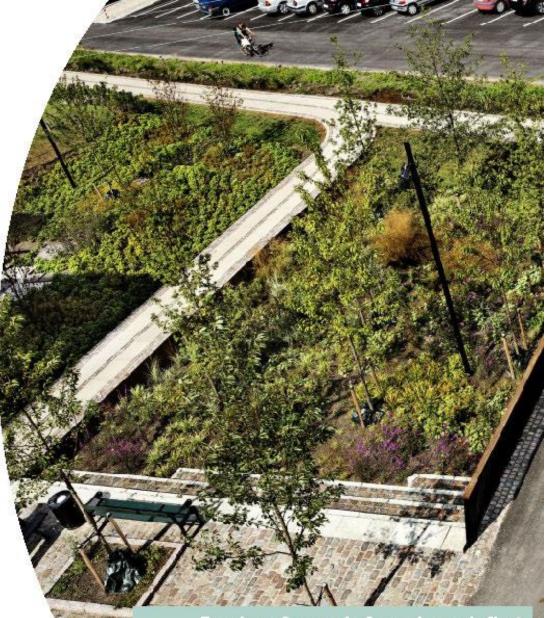
A TOWN VILLE

#### Think green

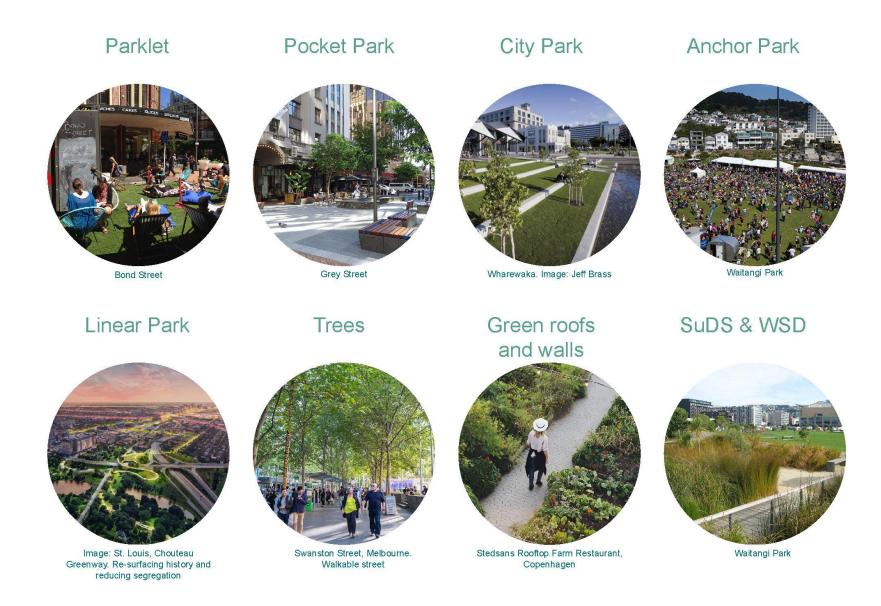
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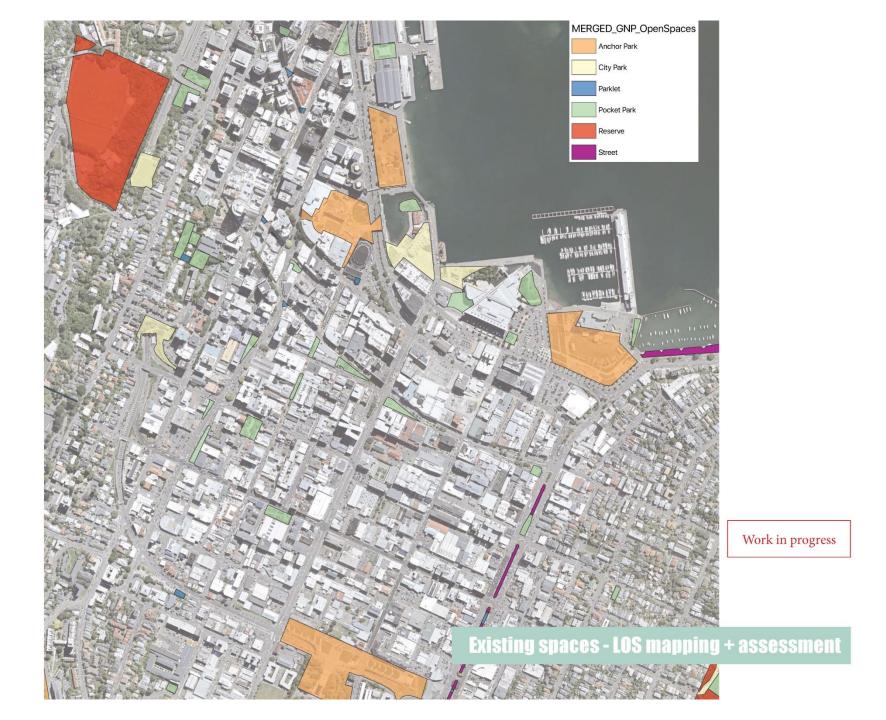


Taasinge Square is Copenhagen's first climate-adapted urban space



# **Draft typologies**

# **Our central city**



# **Our trees**



#### 2019 WCC tree planting statistics

#### Street + park trees (WCC GIS)

Local "Parklets re-purpose two to three parking stalls along a block into a public space for people to enjoy the city".







#### International





Ship Wreck Park, San Francisco



Fresh Air Park, London



Rua Padre João Manuel, São Paulo







Denton Park



Cobblestone Park. Image: Jeff Brass







Derbyshire Street Park







Franklin Street Park

#### What will we end up with?

A plan that will influence decisions and align green + blue initiatives with projects such as LGVVM, P4G, our Long Term Plan, roading and utility projects, park and streetscape projects, private sector developments and more.

Possible recommendations/outcomes:

- Regulatory and policy?
- · Identify key relationships;
- Strategic acquisitions;
- · Repurposing areas of road reserve;
- Street tree budget;
- · Bringing under performing public open spaces up to a higher level of service;
- · Invest and deliver over time;
- Funding models;
- Management and maintenance budget that reflect the level of service we need.

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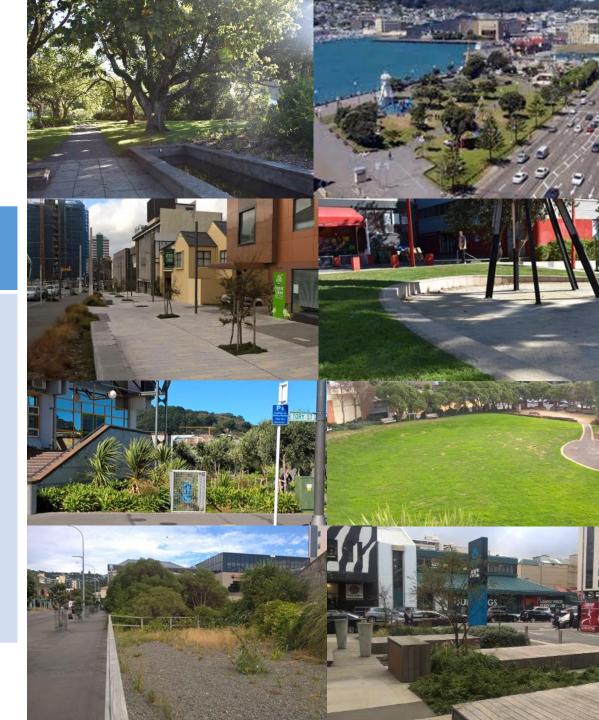




## Spares

## Categories and types of public green space

Parks and reserves	Road reserves	Other zoned areas
Continuous trees and forest	Treeland (discontinuous trees)	Waterfront Central Government grounds Schools NZTA etc Classification As for parks and reserves
Treeland	Treeland	
Bushes, shrubs, horticulture areas	Individual trees	
Grassed areas	Grassed areas	
Impervious surfaces	Impervious surfaces	



### Urban green spaces as centres of resilience









### Accessibility, quality, and universal design



 Maibritt incorporates a couple of key ideas from following 5 slides?

Children and adult visitors at the Botanic Gardens, Wellington (photographer: 'Wanderer')