FUTURE TRAILS WELLINGTON

Community engagement event · 10-year Masterplan

Thursday 15 October 2026

Mt Vic Bowling Club · 5.30pm



Once in a decade — the opportunity to shape Wellington's trail future

Who We Are

10

Years advocating for Wellington trails

8

Trail areas across the city

$1m+

Co-invested in trail development

10yr

Masterplan to shape WCC's OSAP 2026

Trails Wellington is a Wellington-based charity working with WCC, volunteer trail groups and the riding/walking community to develop and maintain an outstanding trail network across the city's parks and reserves.

Tonight we share our 10-year Masterplan, hear your ideas, and ask you to help us make the case to WCC through the 2026 Open Space Access Plan.

The Trail Advantage



Health & Wellbeing

Active recreation reduces health system pressure and improves mental wellbeing for thousands of Wellingtonians daily.

Conservation

Volunteers plant thousands of native trees and remove weeds, weed trees and rubbish per year.
Trails provide access ways for predator trapping efforts.

Economic Value

Trail tourism generates significant visitor spend. Destination trails attract riders from across NZ and internationally.

Community

Trail groups build social connection and maintain hundreds of kilometres of track with volunteer labour every year.

The Economic Case for Great Trails

Ge

$1.28B

Great NZ rides expenditure per annum attributable to great rides

$10-$12M

Wellington Estimated annual health benefits

$2m- $5m

Forecast Wellington Annual revenue attributable from talent attraction and retention

$964

Average spend per trail visitor

Wellington has world-class topography, proximity to a major airport, and an established trail culture. Investment in the Masterplan positions Wellington as a genuine trail destination — bringing visitors, supporting local businesses, and making Wellington a place where people stay.

"Destination trail networks attract riders who stay longer, spend more, and return regularly. The infrastructure investment pays back multiple times."

Our Plan for Wellington's Trail Future

The Masterplan identifies trail development opportunities across 8 existing areas and 1 new area, aligned with WCC's 2026 Open Space Access Plan.

Short-Term Projects

Approved, funded or in-progress works. Volunteer builds, WCC capital projects, TW co-investments.

Long-Term Trail Development

New trails, area expansions and destination-grade experiences. Subject to OSAP approval.

Connections & Commuter Routes

Nature-based commuter trail linking across the city greenbelt, reducing car dependency.

Conservation & Ecology

Pest management, revegetation and ecological monitoring integrated with trail development.

Current TW Investments

In Progress

Matairangi Skills Area Rebuild

Redesign and build of the Matairangi bike skills area. TW investment together with further community fundraising.

In Progress

Mākara Peak Skills Area Rebuild

Redesign and build of the Mākara Peak skills area. TW investment together with further community fundraising.

In Progress

T18 Trail — Te Kopahou

T18 G4 descent trail at Te Kopahou. Co-Funding from WCC currently on hold.

In Progress

Miramar Snitch Trail

New descent trail on Miramar Peninsula. Designed by Bryn Dickerson. Awaiting WCC sign off

Mākara Peak

SHORT-TERM PROJECTS

Wellington's flagship MTB destination. 350+ hectares, 50+ km of trails. WCC + Mākara Peak Supporters partnership.

G3 Completed

Peak Flow armouring

Major drainage and surface hardening on the popular Peak Flow trail. WCC + volunteer effort.

ALL In progress

Skills Area Rebuild

Rebuild of Mākara Peak skills area for all rider levels

G5 In progress

Gnarleys

New Grade 5 trail. Volunteer hand-built

G4 In progress

New section of Leaping Lizard

New 650m section of track in south end of Mākara Peak that will provide a new option for connecting to Leaping Lizard and Super Kanuka. Volunteer hand-built.

G4 Planned

"G4T" trail

Exciting new 1.7km Grade 4 trail from the Mākara Peak summit into the Trickle Falls valley. Approved and ready for construction as volunteer hand-built.

G4 Planned

New G4 Backcountry Trail

Exciting new Grade 4 trail line at Mākara Peak. Approved and ready for construction. WCC funding on hold

G3 Planned

"Missing Link Return"

New Grade 3 trail linking southern end to centre of park, traversing above Missing Link — WCC funding on hold

G3 Planned

Karori Park ascending and descending trails

Mixed use ascending and dedicated descending MTB trail linking Karori Park to Mākara Peak and Skyline trail — WCC funding on hold.

Mākara Peak

LONG-TERM VISION

Complete the Mākara Peak Master Plan: a world-class MTB park in regenerating native forest.

1 **New Mākara Peak management plan**

To give direction to and govern the future management and development of Mākara Peak.

2 **Karori Park Hub**

Develop Karori Park as a key Wellington recreation and trails hub

3 **Zealandia Connector Trails**

Shared-use connection trails between Mākara Peak, Waimapihi, Te Kopahou and the city via the Zealandia perimeter and Wright's Hill.

4 **South Coast Connection Trail**

Trail linking Skyline, Mākara Peak and Karori to South Coast and Te Kopahou.

WHAT'S HAPPENING NOW

Matairangi

SHORT-TERM PROJECTS

Central Wellington's local trails hub. Active volunteer rebuilds and maintenance the Matairangi Trail Builders group.

G4 | In progress

New section of Rockdrop

Relocating entrance next to the start of V trail creating a new section and improving features on the trail below.

G4 G5 | Planned

Relocate top sections of Damien's and Groms

This relocation will reduce walker conflict, deliver more single track and a seamless trail from Damien's into Groms.

ALL | In progress

Maintenance Programme

Ongoing trail maintenance and ecological restoration. A focus on improving and building new features on existing trails across Matairangi.

G3 | Planned

Mt Alfred Rebuild

Redesign of the Mt Alfred descent trail that connects to Water Tower for improved flow & tech.

ALL | Planned

Skills Area Rebuild

Rebuild of Matairangi skills area — TW investment planned

Matairangi / Karitane

LONG-TERM VISION

New descending trails connecting the eastern aspects of the hill.

1 **Waitoa Rd Descending trail**

New descending trail starting part way along Te Tuarā 1 down to Waitoa Rd Hataitai.

2 **Wall of Death (Karitane eastern side)**

Technical steep descent on the Karitane eastern aspect.

8 **Karitane Dirt Jumps**

Retain the long-standing community/volunteer built and managed Karitane Dirt Jumps at Truby King Park in Melrose (pictured below).

Proposed purpose-built Dirt Jumps "Wheels Hub" facility at Ian Galloway Park, Karori - WCC managed.



Waimapihi

SHORT-TERM PROJECTS

The Aro Valley reserve network connecting Brooklyn and the inner city. Led by the Brooklyn Trail Builders.

ALL | In progress

Trail Maintenance Programme

BTB - ongoing drainage, trail repairs, native tree planting, vegetation and weed management. Making the Reserve attractive to Kiwi (photo taken on Hawkins Hill Road, by wind turbine, on 14 October 2026).



Waimapihi Reserve

LONG-TERM VISION

New connector and descending trails expanding the trail network in Waimapihi.

1 Forsyth Grove to Te Kete Connector

New trail connection from Forsyth Grove through to Te Kete (the Trail 16 uphill trail).

2 George Denton – Zealandia Connector

Shared-use connector from the George Denton trail to Zealandia perimeter - linking Waimapihi to the wider greenbelt.

3 Turbine to Lookout Knob (walking only)

New walking-only trail from Turbine to Lookout Knob. Dedicated non-cycling access.

4 GD Playground Bypass (G3)

George Denton playground by-pass (about 350m) - two way for all users. Better wayfinding, avoids two pinch climbs and user conflict.

5 Ikigai to Serendipity Connector

New trail link from the exit of Ikigai to Serendipity, behind transmission pylon. Removes riders from the 4WD road.

6 Secret Seat (walking only)

New, very short walking-only trail to a quiet viewpoint over Wellington City, the harbour and the hills beyond.

7 Fenceline Descent to Holloway Rd (G4)

Downhill from Fenceline (entry between Ikigai + Rollercoaster) down to Holloway Rd. Expanding rider options in Waimapihi - similar terrain to Ikigai.

Te Kopahou

SHORT-TERM PROJECTS

Wellington's rugged south coast Reserve. Delivering on the WCC approved Te Kopahou masterplan and seeking approval to some improvements to this plan

G3 | In progress

T20a — Climbing Trail from Happy Valley Rd

New Grade 3 climbing trail from Happy Valley Rd into Te Kopahou reserve. Under construction.

G5 | Approved

T21 — Descending Trail to Happy Valley Rd

New Grade 5 descent from Tip Track to Happy Valley Rd. Approved — ready for construction.

G5 | Planned

T23 Realignment + T20b to Barking Emu

Realignment of upper T23 descent and T20b climbing trail to Barking Emu. Awaiting WCC approval for new alignments.

G4 | Planned

T18 — Descent Trail

Grade 4 descent trail at Te Kopahou. Design phase — WCC funding currently on hold.

Te Kopahou

LONG-TERM VISION

New descending and connector trails expanding Te Kopahou into a destination-grade south coast trail network.

1 **Barking Emu "Sister" Trail (G3)**

New Grade 3 shared uphill trail alongside Barking Emu — removes conflict between bikers and walkers/runners.

2 **Carparts Extension (CPX) "Sister" Trail (G4)**

New trail replicating the CPX alignment — removes user conflict and adds trail capacity in the area.

3 **Hawkins Hill / TK Fenceline (G3)**

Fenceline at south end of Zealandia to Barking Emu via private land (old Southern Thread Rd). Two way all users. Better connection between Wrights Hill and Te Kopahou - avoids long, steep, rutted Fenceline climb.

4 **Te Kete extension to Elliot Park (G3)**

Extension of the Te Kete trail through to Elliott Park in Mitchell Street, Brooklyn - expanding the trail network and loop options.

5 **3 New Descents off Windmill Track (G4 and 5)**

Three new descending trails off Windmill trail down to Te Kete - Grade 4–5 variety (similar terrain to Trail 16).

6 **Te Kete Extension Phase 2 to Happy Valley Road**

Te Kete extension Phase 2 – through T&T landfill out to Happy Valley Rd.

7 **Wind turbine to Happy Valley Road**

Descending trail following the ridge through WCC land leased to T&T landfill and exits on Happy Valley Rd.

8 **Trail 16 alternative exit**

Branching off to the right of lower Trail 16 to meet the extended Te Kete trail.

Te Ahumairangi

LONG-TERM VISION

A Grade 3 trail commuting loop and range of advanced and experts descending trails making Te Ahumairangi a commutable city-edge destination.

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1 **Grade 3 Commuting Route**

A dedicated Grade 3 climb and descent loop making Te Ahumairangi a key enabler for commuting from Western suburbs to city

2 **Advanced/expert descending Trails**

Grade 4–6 trails exploiting the steep terrain and technical features of the hillside.

Miramar

SHORT-TERM PROJECTS

Miramar Peninsula trails managed by Geoff Drury. Snitch trail under construction.

G3 | In progress

Snitch Trail

New descending trail on Miramar Peninsula designed by Bryn Dickerson. Currently awaiting ecology review

Miramar

LONG-TERM VISION

Develop Miramar Peninsula as a compact quality trail destination linked to the eastern harbour ridge.

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1 **Uphill Connector Route**

A formal shared-use uphill connector completing loop options on the Peninsula.

2 **Matai Moana Trails**

New trail development in partnership with DoC, WCC and Iwi — connecting Miramar to the wider harbour ridge trail network.

3 **Massey Rd closed to cars (bike and walk only)**

Massey Rd runs between Shelly Bay and Scorching Bay

Crows Nest/Crofton Downs

SHORT-TERM PROJECTS

Northern suburb trail area, steep and rocky. Supported by Crows Nest Trail Builders.

G4 | In progress

Upper Silversky Trail

New Grade 4 trail in the upper Silversky area. Wildlife permit being obtained.

G5 | Planned

G5 Descent

Planned Grade 5 technical descent at Crows Nest, fast ridgeline and rocks

G6 | Planned

G6 Descent

Planned Grade 6 in and around the rocky gullies

Crows Nest/Crofton Downs

LONG-TERM VISION

Develop Crows Nest into a trail hub serving riders of all ability levels.

1 **Grade 3 Trail in the Basin**

New intermediate Grade 3 trail in the Crows Nest basin — accessible for a wide range of riders.

2 **Grade 5/6 Trails in the Basin**

Advanced Grade 5 and 6 lines in the basin — technical terrain for experienced riders.

3 **Chartwell Reserve Trails**

Trail development extending into Chartwell Reserve, expanding the Crows Nest trail network.

4 **Family Trail Zone**

Grade 1–2 family circuit making Crows Nest accessible to beginners, families and casual walkers.

Johnston Hill

LONG-TERM VISION

Revisit the stalled Johnston Hill proposal from the last OSAP — technical trails under pines







Nature Based Commuter Trail

A multi-use trail through Wellington's greenbelt connecting the city's north-south spine — reducing car journeys and unlocking the city's natural corridor.

~20km	11	Car-free
Total route length	Key trail nodes	Commuter potential

THE ROUTE

1. **Oriental Bay**
   Eastenn anchor
2. **Matairangi**
   Central Wellington
3. **Mt Albert**
   Via Matairangi
4. **Berhampore Golf Course**
   Southern suburbs- under construction
5. **Macalister Park / Prince of Wales**
   Berhampore / Island Bay
6. **Central Park → Aro St**
   Brooklyn / Aro Valley
7. **George Denton Park**
   Aro Valley
8. **Zealandia**
   Via Waimapihi connector
9. **Otari-Wilton's Bush**
   Native bush corridor
10. **Trelissick Park**
    Ngaio Gorge
11. **Ngaio Gorge — Te Ara Tupua**
    Northern terminus

Trails & Nature Working Together

Pest Management

TW volunteer groups support GWRC and WCC pest management programmes. Trail networks facilitate bait station and trap access, as well as monitoring.

100,000 plus trees planted

TW volunteer groups have planted more than 100,00 native trees as an integral part of their trail building and maintenance work.

Kaitiakitanga

Trails provide people access to the environment. With access comes connection, bonding, and a duty of care. What follows is almost magical: restoration, trapping and rejuvenation of the land and of the people.

Reduction in CO_2 Emissions

More people walking and riding on trails, less cars on the roads

CALL TO ACTION

Have Your Say

Four ways to support Wellington's trails right now

01

Submit on the WCC OSAP

Go to letstalk.wellington.govt.nz and complete the Open Space Access Plan survey. Say you support trail development in Wellington's reserves.

02

Support our Masterplan submission

Trails Wellington is lodging a full submission to the OSAP on behalf of the trail community. Add your name as a supporter at trailswellington.co.nz

03

Get involved in your trail area

Join a local trail group. Volunteer for a working bee. Each area has people leading the charge — meet them at the stations tonight.

04

People power — join us

Trails Wellington and the eight trail groups need members, volunteers, advocates. If you care about Wellington's trails — sign up tonight.