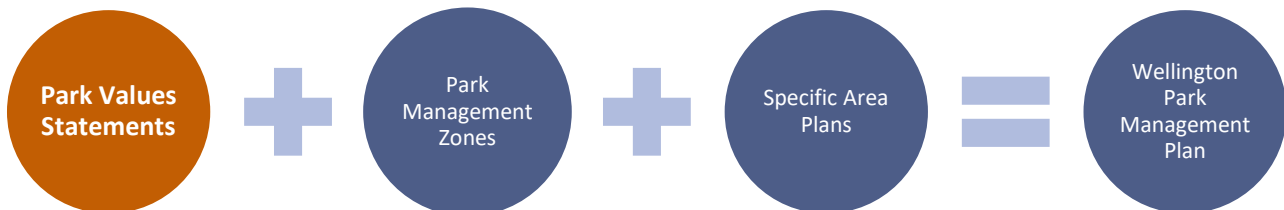


Articulating Park Values



Before we set out to protect the values of Wellington Park in the revised Management Plan, we need to build consensus on what the Wellington Park Values are.

We talk a lot about protecting the values of Wellington Park, but what exactly are those values?

In its simplest form, a value is an opinion on what is important. Everybody has their own opinion, and therefore values will differ.

Defining our Wellington Park Values Statements is where we begin our review of the Management Plan.

How will Values Statements be used?

The Wellington Park Management Trust will use the Wellington Park Values to produce guidelines for assessing use and development in Wellington Park.

The assessment guidelines are made up of an 'Objective', an 'Acceptable Solution' and 'Performance Criteria'. This is the same framework as the Tasmanian Planning Scheme.

The Objective is the standard that must be met.

The Acceptable Solution and the Performance Criteria are two different ways that the Objective can be met.

The Acceptable Solution is very specific, clear and measurable. If a proponent meets the Acceptable Solution, by default they meet the Objective.

If a proponent doesn't meet the Acceptable Solution, they can instead satisfy the Performance Criteria to meet the Objective.

The Performance Criteria are not as clear-cut as the Acceptable Solution. The Performance Criteria are more qualitative, and indicate the range of matters that the planning authority must consider in making a discretionary decision. This is where the Wellington Park Values come in.

If a Performance Criteria requires that 'adverse impacts on natural and cultural values be avoided', and this is currently the case in the 2013 Management Plan, having a clear understanding of what the natural and cultural Wellington Park Values are is essential.

The Park Values Statements provide an expanded definition of 'natural values' and 'cultural values'. In doing so, the Values Statements promote awareness by the planning authority of the 'range of matters that are to be considered when making a discretionary decision' as outlined in the Tasmanian Planning Commission's *Practice Note 8*.

Where do the draft Values Statements come from?

For the Trust, the starting point is the law – the *Wellington Park Act 1993*.

The law says that Wellington Park is set aside as a reserve to:

- Provide for recreational and tourism uses (where these are consistent with the rest of the points below)

- Preserve or protect flora and fauna
- Preserve or protect the natural beauty of the land, or any features of the land of natural beauty or scenic interest
- Preserve or protect any features of the land that are of historical, Aboriginal, archaeological, scientific, architectural or geomorphological interest
- Protection of water catchment values of the land

This points to the values that the Trust must recognise – recreation and tourism uses, flora and fauna, natural beauty and scenic interest, drinking water supply, and features of historical, Aboriginal, archaeological, scientific, architectural and geomorphological interest.

In the 2013 Wellington Park Management Plan, these values were clustered into three groups.

- **Use values** – tourism, recreation, drinking water supply, scientific interest
- **Natural values** – flora, fauna, geomorphology. This was further refined to ‘geodiversity’ and ‘biodiversity’.
- **Cultural values** – natural beauty and scenic interest, Aboriginal heritage, historic heritage, architecture

For each cluster, a set of Statements of Significance were determined, which justified those values.

The Statements of Significance contained a mix of values statements and specific features of significance.

In the next Management Plan, it is proposed to separate these, and instead prepare a set of Values Statements, and a Register of Features of Interest. Using the word ‘interest’ instead of ‘significance’ maintains consistency with the *Wellington Park Act 1993*.

The Register of Features of Interest will sit outside the Management Plan, much like the Trust’s Heritage Database. Like the Heritage Database, the Register will need to be checked when assessing use and development in Wellington Park.

Aboriginal Values

The Trust will work with a Guiding Council of Senior Knowledge Keepers and a youth representative to facilitate Palawa involvement in the review of the Management Plan.

The Trust is aware of evolution in the consideration of Aboriginal heritage. This has previously been addressed under the general umbrella of ‘cultural values’, grouping Aboriginal heritage with post-invasion European heritage, and focusing on tangible things like artefacts and sites.

We now recognise that the term ‘Aboriginal heritage’ does not reflect the ongoing relationship between Palawa and their country, and does not properly recognise the intangible qualities of that relationship, like the stories of place, the interpretation of seasonal patterns and the significance of places imbued with the spirit of Palawa ancestors.

For these reasons, the Trust has resolved to add a new, stand-alone Park value – Aboriginal Values – and is working with Palawa Knowledge Keepers to properly define and provide for protection of these values.

Draft Values Statements

The draft Values Statements are not new, and instead build on work done in the past. They are an updated version of statements found in the 2013 Management Plan, realigned to the *Wellington Park Act 1993*, and using information in newer documents like the Wellington Park Visitor and Recreation Strategy 2023.

The draft Values Statements are provided as a starting point for consultation, with the aim to build consensus within the Wellington Park community.

The Wellington Park community comprises anyone that shares a common interest in the protection and preservation of Wellington Park.

The Values Statements are to reflect the values that the Wellington Park community will expect statutory planning authorities to consider when assessing development applications against the Wellington Park Management Plan

Public consultation on the draft Park Values Statements will be via an online consultation through the Wellington Park website.

<https://wellingtonpark.org.au/step-1-park-values>
Submissions close **15 September 2023**.

USE VALUES – Recreation & Tourism

- Close to and accessible to a major urban area, while retaining elements of wilderness, with remote areas of minimal infrastructure, intact ecosystems and substantially undisturbed landscapes.
- Natural beauty, tranquillity and inspiration.
- Attractive to local, interstate and international visitors.
- An extensive network of tracks and trails that facilitate exploration and recreational activities.
- Opportunities to connect with the natural and cultural history and significance of the Park.
- Opportunities to engage in activities to improve physical health and mental wellbeing.
- Opportunities to undertake a wide range of different activities.
- All visitors are able to experience the Park without significantly degrading the experience for other users.
- A spectrum of different opportunities within individual recreational activities suits the varying levels of experience and interests of different users.
- A range of opportunities for people of differing abilities, ages and physical capabilities.
- Connectivity to the surrounding landscape including neighbouring urban and regional centres, other parks, reserves and natural attractions.
- Generally unrestricted access enabling year-round enjoyment and exploration of Wellington Park.
- Recreation and tourism features listed on the WPMT Register of Features of Interest.



**Complete the Recreation and Tourism Values
online survey**

USE VALUES – Drinking Water Catchment

- Excellent water quality.

USE VALUES – Scientific Interest

- An accessible natural area for research and teaching.
- An important location for the scientific study of periglacial processes.
- Scientific interest features listed on the WPMT Register of Features of Interest.



**Complete the Drinking Water & Scientific Values
online survey**

NATURAL VALUES – Biodiversity

- Outstanding and unbroken sequence of vegetation types, from dry sclerophyll through wet sclerophyll, rainforest, sub-alpine to alpine communities.
- Outstanding diversity of dry sclerophyll communities in a relatively limited area.
- One of the richest avifaunas for an area of its size.
- The scale, integrity and diversity of the Park's ecosystems are extremely significant.
- One of the most biologically-diverse areas of its size in Tasmania.
- One of Tasmania's richest sites in terms of number of endemic species.
- Biodiversity features listed on the WPMT Register of Features of Interest.



Complete the Biodiversity Values online survey

NATURAL VALUES – Geodiversity

- The bedrock geology of Wellington Park is a well-developed representative example of the lithologies and structures that are characteristic of Tasmania’s ‘Fault Structure Province’ (Davies 1965).
- The geology is the foundation of the Park’s ecosystems and forms the physical foundation for soil and landscape.
- Well-expressed, accessible and representative examples of landform systems and geomorphic processes that occur widely in central and eastern Tasmania.
- Geomorphology that has a major influence on the visual landscape, ecosystems and character of the Wellington Range.
- Geomorphological features listed on the WPMT Register of Features of Interest.



Complete the Geodiversity Values online survey

CULTURAL VALUES – Natural beauty and scenic interest

- kunanyi / Mount Wellington is the signature landmark for the city of Hobart and is a visual reference point for much of south-east Tasmania.
- Outstanding aesthetic characteristics owing to the geology, striking landform, cultural history, running waters, diverse vegetation and temporal changes of lighting, climate and atmospheric effects.
- Inextricably linked into the psyche and being of the community of southern Tasmanians who live in its shadow.
- Opportunities for use by the community for a variety of religious, spiritual, cultural and educational purposes.
- Natural beauty and scenic interest features listed on the WPMT Register of Features of Interest.



Complete the Natural Beauty & Scenic Interest Values online survey

CULTURAL VALUES – Historical interest

- kunanyi / Mount Wellington is an iconic manifestation of an Associative Cultural Landscape in Australia.
- Shaped by post-European settlement uses including sourcing of drinking water, food, timber, recreational pursuits and tourism.
- Historical features listed on the WPMT Register of Features of Interest or WPMT Heritage Register.



Complete the Historical interest Values online survey

ABORIGINAL VALUES

- To be determined by Palawa.

If you would prefer to provide written feedback, please send your submission to:

review@wellingtonpark.org.au

or

GPO Box 138

HOBART TAS 7001

Submissions close 15 September