

Working in Wellington Park

Covering 18,011 ha, Wellington Park was established as a reserve by the Wellington Park Act 1993 to preserve or protect natural, cultural and drinking water values. It is a prominent landscape valued by the community that offers extensive tourism and recreation opportunities. The Park also provides around 20% of Hobart's drinking water. Operators working in Wellington Park must help protect and promote these important qualities.

This kit has been prepared by the Wellington Park Management Trust to provide basic guidelines for anyone working in Wellington Park. These are in addition to responsibilities that may also be outlined in Works Contracts, Standard Operating Procedures or organisational Operations Manual.

What is protected in Wellington Park?

In short, there is very little in Wellington Park that is not afforded some level of protection by either the *Wellington Park Act 1993*, or the *Wellington Park Regulations 2019*. Permits issued for works, events, commercial operations, research, driving vehicles on closed tracks, filming and other activities contain a host of conditions to ensure that Park values are protected. Anyone working under a permit has a legal responsibility to adhere to those conditions.

Who manages Wellington Park?

The Wellington Park Management Trust (the Trust) is the strategic management authority for Wellington Park. The Trust is made up of nominees from the City of Hobart, Glenorchy City Council, TasWater, the Department of Natural Resources and Environment, Tasmania Parks and Wildlife Service and Tourism Tasmania.

The Trust works closely with on-ground management agencies (the Councils and PWS) that are responsible for maintenance activities within their respective sections of the Park.

The Trust also acknowledges and supports the value of the land within the Park to Palawa and is working closely with members of the Palawa community to reconnect the community to country.

The Park is managed in accordance with the Wellington Park Management Plan, a statutory document prepared and revised periodically by the Trust. The Plan also establishes Management Zones and Restricted areas that govern what activities can and cannot occur in Wellington Park.

Operator Guidelines to protect Wellington Park Values

Operators in Wellington Park have a responsibility to ensure that their activities do not adversely affect Park values.

When working in Wellington Park:

- ☒ Do not remove anything from the Park. Everything is protected and a permit is required for removal. This includes all plants, animals, rocks and cultural items.
- ☒ Do not litter. All rubbish must be removed, no matter the size. The Trust monitors sites for compliance.
- ☒ Do not contaminate watercourses, especially in Drinking Water Catchment Zones. Contamination includes inappropriate toileting, washing equipment and disposing of liquids.
- ☒ Minimise the risk of fire.

- ☑ Comply with all signage within Wellington Park, unless authorised otherwise by a permit.
- ☑ Always shut and lock gates within Wellington Park, unless otherwise authorised by a permit.
- ☑ Ensure your organisation prepares a Job Safety and Environmental Analysis and applies appropriate safe work methods. This must cover safe conditions for operation, procedures to protect Park values and be approved as part of works permits.
- ☑ Ensure that all workers adhere to the following operator guidelines to minimise impact on Wellington Park.

Natural Values

Wellington Park is one of the most biologically diverse areas of its size in Tasmania.

However, a variety of introduced plants have found their way into the Park, which causes degradation of the natural environment and can increase fire risk and intensity. The most significant weed infestations generally occur in areas of high disturbance including fire trails and infrastructure easements. Many weed species were introduced to the Park as seed on vehicles and machinery entering the Park from other areas.

The challenge for operators is to prevent the introduction of new and more weeds from outside the Park, and to contain the spread of weeds already found in the Park.

Phytophthora cinnamomi is an introduced plant pathogen that causes 'root rot' disease which can lead to the decline of susceptible plants. Human activities often facilitate the spread of this pathogen by transporting contaminated soil between infected and non-infected areas via boots, vehicles and equipment.

Chytrid fungus is a water-borne disease that has had a major impact on native frog populations. Chytrid is present in some dams and waterholes in Wellington Park. It can be spread by transferring water from one waterhole to another, and via wet, muddy equipment, vehicles and clothing.

Operators can reduce the spread of weeds and pathogens by following the hygiene protocols in the Tasmanian Government's [Weed and Disease Planning and Hygiene Guidelines](#).

When working in Wellington Park:

- ☑ All vehicles entering the Park must be clean and free of any clumped dirt or mud.
- ☑ All vehicles should carry a hard bristle brush to remove loose dirt and mud from footwear and equipment.
- ☑ Footwear and equipment should be cleaned if they have been worn or used in a weed affected area, particularly during wet conditions when mud is easily collected and transported.
- ☑ All footwear and equipment should be cleaned at the source of the weed infestation prior to re-entering a vehicle to move to another area.
- ☑ Don't transfer water from one waterhole/dam to another.
- ☑ Equipment and clothing, particularly footwear, that has been used in any waterhole/dam in the Park should be cleaned and dried before coming into contact with another water body. If drying is not possible, they should be cleaned and disinfected with a suitable fungicide such as F10™.
- ☑ Minimise vehicle movements from weed affected areas into non-affected areas.
- ☑ Ensure that any materials imported into the Park for construction (soil, gravel, sand etc) are from a weed and pathogen free source.

Note: Permits issued by the Trust require ongoing monitoring of works sites using imported material for weed infestations arising from the works, and the permit holder is responsible for the control of any infestation detected.

- ☑ Do not bring plant mulches or other plant material into the Park.

If you require natural values advice:

Wellington Park Office
General Manager
gm@wellingtonpark.org.au
ph: 6238 2176

Cultural and Aboriginal Values

There is an extremely rich and diverse cultural and Tasmanian Aboriginal (Palawa) heritage evident in Wellington Park.

The range of heritage places known or expected in the Park include Aboriginal campsites, stone quarries and

art sites; historic tracks, roads, tramways, camps, convict places, huts, quarries, sawmills, dams, aqueducts, pipelines, scientific observatories, cairns, ski fields, picnic shelters, hotels, schools, farms, tree rows, isolated plantings, gardens and homes. Many heritage places occur close together, forming distinctive and important historic cultural landscapes.

Palawa also attribute cultural value to less tangible Park features that represent spiritual connection and feature in stories and traditional lore.

All cultural heritage in the Park is protected under the *Wellington Park Regulations 2019* and must not be disturbed without a permit. Suspected cultural heritage must be assessed by an expert before the heritage is modified in any way. This enables places of significance to be identified and protected.

In addition, the Tasmanian *Aboriginal Heritage Act 1975* protects all Aboriginal archaeological sites and objects that were made prior to 1876 from disturbance unless a permit has been issued through Aboriginal Heritage Tasmania. Some historic heritage is also protected via listing on the Tasmanian Heritage Register or in local government planning schemes.

When working in Wellington Park:

- ☒ Respect cultural heritage places – even if they are not important to you or your staff, they may be important to someone else and they have legal protection.
- ☒ Avoid disturbing heritage places in any way unless authorised (it is illegal to disturb or destroy any Aboriginal site without a permit). Disturbance includes, but is not limited to, walking, driving, digging holes, cutting or removing vegetation erecting structures, taking parts away, covering over, leaving rubbish, writing graffiti, or lighting fires.
- ☒ Be familiar with the known heritage in the area where you will be working and know the management policy for all heritage you will be working near.
- ☒ If unsure request a heritage site induction from the Wellington Park Management Trust, or depending on the area in which you are working, the City of Hobart, Glenorchy City Council or the Parks and Wildlife Service.

Note: a mandatory heritage site induction is a common condition of works permits issued for Wellington Park.

- ☒ Understand what work you are required to do when working at or near a heritage place. Check relevant policies, management plans, maintenance plans, & other specific heritage maintenance advice.
- ☒ Do only what you are authorised to do when working at or near a heritage place.
 - If you find a new heritage site or place
 - report the find to the relevant cultural heritage officer; and
 - avoid further work in the place/site area or otherwise disturbing it until you get advice from the relevant cultural heritage officer.
- ☒ If carrying out maintenance or repairs on a cultural heritage place:
 - Make sure you understand what work you are required to do (check relevant policy, management plans, maintenance plans, &/or other specific heritage maintenance advice);
 - Do only what you are required to do;
 - Avoid undue damage to the heritage place e.g., avoid walking or driving on it unnecessarily, avoid careless grass cutting and removal of plants, and avoid digging in the area (except where authorised); and
 - Report all works and any problems or noticeable changes to heritage places or items to the relevant manager.

Note: Following the completion of maintenance or works, the Trust will visit the site and update Data Sheets for the relevant listings in the Wellington Park Heritage Database.

- ☒ If you encounter damage to a cultural heritage place or item report this to the relevant cultural heritage officer. Provide as much detail as possible (e.g., when the damage occurred or was noted, who did it (if you know this), nature of damage, photos, risk to heritage, and risk to visitors).

If you require heritage advice:

City of Hobart
 Sarah Waight, Senior Cultural Heritage Officer
waights@hobartcity.com.au
 ph: 6238 2175

Glenorchy City Council
David Parham, Heritage Officer
dparham@gcc.tas.gov.au
ph: 6216 6771

Wellington Park Office
General Manager
gm@wellingtonpark.org.au
ph: 6238 2176

Drinking Water Catchment Values

There are a number of drinking water catchments in Wellington Park. The most important of these are located on the northern and southern slopes of kunanyi / Mount Wellington.

Hobart has relied on drinking water from these catchments since its establishment in 1804, and they continue to be a key component in TasWater's bulk water supply system, currently providing approximately 20% of Hobart's water supply.

The water is of such good quality, that it requires limited treatment before being delivered to the taps in people's homes. Therefore, any activity that reduces water quality can have a significant impact. Existing water treatment may be insufficient to deal with unexpected contaminants before the water enters the domestic supply.

To ensure the protection of drinking water quality sourced from Wellington Park, there are designated Drinking Water Catchment Zones, which include Restricted Areas for particularly sensitive areas within these zones. Access to Restricted Areas is minimised and signage indicates permissible activities in Drinking Water Catchments.

When working in Wellington Park:

- ☒ Be familiar with the location of Water Catchment Zones and Restricted Areas in the Park.
- ☒ Do not contact streams within the Drinking Water Catchment Zone.
- ☒ Do not enter, wade or swim in drinking water intakes.
- ☒ Stay on formed trails to reduce erosion, particularly on trails in the Restricted Areas.
- ☒ Avoid toileting in Drinking Water Catchment Zones and Restricted Areas at all costs. If there are no toilets, walk 100m away from water and

the track, and dig a 15cm hole to bury your waste and toilet paper.

- ☒ Ensure you have the necessary permits for use of herbicides, particularly in Drinking Water Catchment Zones. Follow permit conditions and herbicide instructions at all times.
- ☒ When possible fuel up equipment e.g. brush cutters, chainsaws etc., outside the Park, or outside Drinking Water Catchment Zones and Restricted Areas.
- ☒ Reduce fire risks by following fire safe protocols.

If you require water catchment information advice:

TasWater
John Fawcett, Senior Water Quality Scientist
john.fawcett@taswater.com.au
ph: 6237 8253

Reducing Fire Risk

Fire poses a significant risk to Wellington Park, to the surrounding community and to water supply. You are responsible for minimising your fire risk when working in Wellington Park.

When working in Wellington Park:

- ☒ Carry fire suppression equipment for hot work activities (during the fire permit period).
- ☒ Observe any Total Fire Bans declared by the TFS, including prohibitions on any machinery that might produce a spark such as welders, grinders and brush cutters with metal blades.
- ☒ Do not enter the Park on days of Extreme or Catastrophic fire danger in either the Southeast or Upper Derwent Valley forecast districts, except for emergency works. The Park is closed on these days and all permits are cancelled.
- ☒ Ensure machinery is frequently and adequately serviced.
- ☒ Smokers must carry cigarette butt containers and use them. Do not flick butts.
- ☒ Do not obstruct fire trails and keep gateways clear. They may be needed for emergency access.
- ☒ Whenever possible, park vehicles on fire trail pull offs where vegetation is low or absent.

Tourism and Recreation Values

Wellington Park provides a broad range of tourism and outdoor recreational opportunities in an area of outstanding natural beauty which is easily accessible to visitors.

Operators must be aware that many of the tracks and trails in the Park are shared use, and may be frequented by bushwalkers and mountain bikers. Some fire trails may also be used by recreational 4WD or horse riders. Other staff may also drive along fire trails.

When working in Wellington Park:

- ☒ Drive vehicles at a slow and safe speed in the Park. On fire trails, this means 30km/hr with the hazard lights on to caution other track users.
- ☒ Do not obstruct public access to facilities.
- ☒ Visitors may see you as a source of information or authority. Please be friendly and professional. If you are not able to provide the information required, please refer visitors to the Wellington Park Management Trust (6238 2176 or www.wellingtonpark.org.au).
- ☒ Permit holders for works and activities in Wellington Park are responsible for everyone's safety at the work/activity site, including that of the general public. Provisions for the erection of any required safety signage and barriers should be sought in the permit application to the Trust.

Regulations Awareness Program

The Regulations Awareness Program (RAP) promotes Park values through visitor education and, when necessary, enforcement. The program provides a mechanism for the care, control and management of the Park.

Regular Park visitors, neighbours, and staff from Trust member agencies assist the Trust by reporting Park misuse and abuse. In some cases, for example when the vehicle registration of an offender is discreetly and safely secured, the Trust is able to follow up details with Tasmania Police. General offender information helps the Trust to better understand issues in the Park, and directs strategic compliance initiatives.

When working in Wellington Park:

- ☒ Be familiar with prohibited activities in the Park by reading signage.

- ☒ Report activity contrary to Park signage, general anti-social conduct or other suspicious behaviour to your management supervisor, or call the Trust Ranger on 0408 517 534. All reports are confidential.

Workplace Health and Safety

Wellington Park has multiple hazards that need to be taken into account when planning works in the Park to ensure the safety of staff. These include:

- Severe weather conditions that can change rapidly
- Steep slopes with a risk of landslips and rockfalls
- Trees that may fall or drop branches at any time
- Venomous snakes and insects
- Higher UV exposure at higher elevations.

Some parts of the Park are remote from roads and tracks and difficult to access.

Agencies and companies undertaking works in the Park are responsible for the health and safety of their staff while in the Park, except where they have been engaged by, and are operating under the direction of, the Trust or its employees.

When working in Wellington Park:

- ☒ Be familiar with the hazards associated with your job site and the work you are undertaking.
- ☒ Check weather forecasts daily so you are aware of likely weather conditions and particularly any forecast changes in the weather
- ☒ Undertake an Activity Risk Analysis (or similar) and brief staff on the safety measures that will be employed during the works.

To report an incident in Wellington Park, please contact:

Wellington Park Office
General Manager
gm@wellingtonpark.org.au
ph: 6238 2176