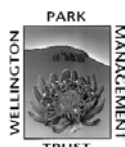


Wellington Park Walking Track Strategy

June 2003



NB: Maps are not included within PDF files.

Selected maps are available as separate downloads from
www.wellingtonpark.tas.gov.au




WELLINGTON PARK

WALKING TRACKS STRATEGY

Prepared for the
Wellington Park Management Trust
and the Wellington Park Walking Tracks Working Group

June 2003



CONTENTS

Section 1 Introduction.....	1
Section 2 Context.....	5
Section 3 Values and Vision.....	9
3.1 Values.....	9
3.2 Vision Statement.....	10
Section 4 The Strategy.....	15
4.1 Strategies for Improving Access to Walking Tracks and Visitor Facilities.....	15
4.1.1 Upgrading Access and Parking.....	15
4.1.2 Maintenance Works and Upgrading of Existing Walking Tracks.....	21
4.1.3 Constructing New Walking Track Links.....	23
4.2 Strategies for Improving Awareness and Experiences for Users of Walking Tracks.....	24
4.2.1 Improving Information and Signage.....	24
4.2.2 Providing Interpretation and Information Opportunities.....	26
4.2.3 Managing and Reducing User Conflicts.....	29
4.2.4 Managing for Natural Risks.....	33
4.2.5 Promoting and Marketing Walking Experiences.....	34
4.3 Strategies for Improving the Capacity to Manage Walking Tracks.....	39
4.3.1 Adopting a Track Classification System.....	39
4.3.2 Increasing Management Resources.....	40
4.3.3 Increasing Community Involvement Opportunities.....	41
4.3.4 Adopting Sustainable Management Practices.....	42
Section 5 Action Plan.....	47

References

Appendices

Appendix A Review of Progress on 1997 Management Plan Recommendations

Appendix B Wellington Park Track list

Appendix C walking Track maps

Appendix D Classification System (AS 2156.1-2001) for Class 1-6 Walking Tracks

Appendix E Walking Tracks listed by Duration of Walk

Appendix F Walking Tracks listed by Issues

Appendix G Community Track Maintenance and Clearance policy (Prepared by the Walking Track Working Group and adopted by the Trust

SECTION 1

INTRODUCTION

Wellington Park, extends to the west of the City of Hobart and covers some 18250 ha of land, which contains significant geodiversity values, biodiversity values and cultural values. The Park caters for a number of major uses and activities including nature conservation, tourism, recreation, water supply and telecommunications.

The Park consists of Crown land, and land either owned freehold by, or vested in, the Hobart City Council, Glenorchy City Council and Hobart Water. The managing authority is the Wellington Park Management Trust (referred to as the Trust hereinafter). However on-ground management responsibilities are fulfilled by the above Councils, Tasmanian Parks and Wildlife Service, and Hobart Water (for water storage critical to bulk water supply of fresh clean drinking water to the Greater Hobart area).

Management is carried out in accordance with the objectives and policies contained in the *Wellington Park Management Plan 1997* (referred to as the Management Plan hereinafter).

The *Management Plan* recommends (Action 1, pp. 27) the preparation of a Walking Track Strategy that would identify the range of walking experiences to be provided, including disabled access, existing gaps in walking track opportunities and the target market for tracks. The *Management Plan* also makes reference to the adoption of a track classification system (Action 2, pp.27) and recommended that the strategy will guide the management of approved walking tracks (Action 3, pp. 27) by detailing the condition and required actions, methods and levels of provision for track construction, signage and maintenance.

In addition, the *Management Plan* provides a further 14 specific recommendations concerning the implementation of actions for walking tracks within Wellington Park. Appendix A sets out the recommendations contained within the 1997 Plan and provides an indication of what action has been taken since then.

The Trust commenced work on the Walking Track Strategy with the establishment of a Walking Track Working Group (WTWG) made-up of representatives from the bushwalking community and Trust member organisations.

The WTWG proceeded to prepare a detailed inventory of all known and informal walking tracks within the Park and to adopt a track classification system for all the walking tracks.

Inspiring Place were commissioned to complete the strategy and to:

identify existing and potential multi-purpose tracks and any potential conflicts resulting from such multiple uses;

recommend signage requirements and facilities, including walker registration booths, to be located at key entry points to walking tracks within and on the boundary of the Park;

suggest relevant mechanisms by which the Trust may advocate safe and sustainable bush walking within the Park;

identify and locate current natural risks in relation to walking tracks, and appropriate remediation strategies;

identify options for marketing tracks for a range of track users;

outline mechanisms to maintain an environmentally sustainable presence of commercial bush walking operators within the Park;

prepare an Action Plan based upon the actions and recommendations resulting from identified issues; and

prepare a monitoring program to monitor the impacts of walkers on a regular basis, specifically the introduction of exotic species, erosion and impacts on water quality, but also including general track conditions, usage levels and trends, and recreational impacts.

The draft Walking Tracks Strategy was prepared by:

analysing the track data base information and classification system prepared by the WTWG;

reviewing other relevant reports prepared for Wellington Park (e.g. Management Plan, Bike Plan, Fire Management Plan, Signs Plan, Risk Management Report);

discussing a range of key strategic issues and options with the WTWG;

identifying use of walking tracks, potential conflicts and opportunities for improving access, marketing and management of the tracks system;

consulting with commercial operators; and

documenting the information into the draft strategy.

This Walking Track Strategy was completed with considerable information and assistance from the Walking Track Working Group. The WTWG consisted of the following members:

- Michael Easton (Executive Officer, Wellington Park Management Trust)
- Michael Bidwell (Natural Resources Co-ordinator, Glenorchy City Council)
- Grant Hall (Senior Ranger, Parks and Wildlife Service)
- Rob Mather (Manager Bushland Reserves, Hobart City Council)
- 2 representatives from the Hobart Walking Club - David Hardy and Blane Fitzgerald
- 4 representatives from the broader bushwalking community - David Leaman, Peter Franklin, Penny Tyson and Jan Hardy

Peter Franklin was involved in the preparation of the walking tracks inventory for the Trust. He was also engaged to undertake further analysis of the data base information to assist with the preparation of the Draft Walking Track Strategy.

SECTION 2

CONTEXT

There is a network of walking tracks in Wellington Park providing a variety of opportunities for walking that suit people with different levels of experience, age, mobility and interest. The fire trails also cater for walkers including providing key links between walking tracks and providing access to some of the more remote mountain peaks within the Park.

Some experienced bushwalkers are able to walk over many additional areas of the Park without the assistance of tracks or routes marked with cairns or poles. Most of the bushwalking is undertaken as short walks - day walks with only occasional overnight camping trips. Within the Park, the lower altitude tracks are generally easy to follow even in poor weather conditions, whilst the higher altitude tracks leading to and on the plateau are more exposed and can be difficult to follow in poor weather conditions.

Wellington Park is a major walking destination for walking clubs.

The WTWG has prepared an inventory of tracks within Wellington Park (refer to Appendix B) and the location is shown in Appendix C Map 1 (whole of Wellington Park), Map 2 (Eastern part of Wellington Park) and Map 3 (Glenorchy area). The maps show the tracks using the reference numbering system adopted in the listing. The inventory has identified 139 walking tracks totaling about 162kms in length.

Table 1 shows the current summary of the track sections¹ based on the classification system used by the WTWG. Appendix D sets out the AS 2156.1-2001 Track Classification system adopted by the WTWG for the inventory. This classification system provides for Class 1-6 of walking tracks based on an assessment of criteria such as track conditions, gradient, signage, infrastructure, terrain and weather. The WTWG considered the AS 2156.1-2001 Track Classification system was the best for Wellington Park as it was descriptive and would allow for some flexible assessments to be made.

About 37% of the walking track sections are formal tracks under management, 22% are fire or vehicle tracks, 16% are informal tracks and 7% are routes. Some 15 track sections have yet to be evaluated and some 9 track sections have been closed or are identified for possible closure. Some 57% of the walking track sections are located on

¹ The term sections because many of the walking tracks combine sections of tracks (e.g. the walk to Collins Cap from Big Bend uses the Mt Connection track). Accordingly the data base provides a realistic assessment of the tracks system.

Hobart City Council land, 28% on Parks and Wildlife Service land and 15% on Glenorchy City Council land.

Formality of track	HCC	GCC	PWS	Total
Formal track under management and usually on maps	41	2	7	50
A fire or vehicle track that is managed as such	6	14	10	30
An informal track but recognised for management purposes	11		11	22
Closed or to be closed	6	1	2	9
A route (class 6) used by walkers to recognised destination	4	1	5	10
A track to be further evaluated	7			7
Yet to be considered	3	2	3	8
Total number of tracks	78	20	38	136

Table 1 : Summary of Walking Track Sections by Management Agency

Table 2 provides a break-down of the track sections by different management zones adopted within the *Management Plan*. Some 47% of the tracks are within the Natural Zone, 31% within the Recreation Zone and 15% in the Remote Zone. Ten tracks (7%) are located within the Restricted Zone.

Zone	HCC	GCC	PWS	Total
Recreation zone	39	3		42
Natural zone	35	7	22	64
Remote zone	4		16	20
Restricted zone		10		10
Total number of tracks	78	20	38	136

Table 2 : Numbers of Walking Track Sections in Management Zones by Management Agency

Table 2 also shows that 57% of the walking tracks are located within land owned by the Hobart City Council, 15% are within the Glenorchy City Council land area and 28% of the walking tracks are within land managed by the Parks and Wildlife Service.

Appendix E provides a listing of walks within the Park by identification number, duration, main entry point, walk type (e.g. circuit, return, through walk one-way), classification, estimate of walking usage (low, moderate, high), length and key features of the walk.

The summary of the walks by duration is indicated in Table 3. Some 30% of the total walks can be undertaken within 2 hours, 39% are half day walks and about 30% are day walks. It should be noted that the track system in Wellington Park allows for many different combinations of track sections depending on the interest, time availability and skills of the walker.

Duration of Walk	General Description	Number of Walks
Very Short Walks (less than 1hr)	Usually well formed tracks that attract high use by visitors (e.g. Silver Falls, Sphinx Rock, Fern Glade) or connecting links to other tracks.	16
Short Walks (1-2 hours)	Usually well formed tracks attracting a range of use depending on accessibility, location, features or interest etc. Examples include Ice House, Myrtle Gully, Organ Pipes	15
Half Day Walks (2-4 hours)	Variety of tracks including some well formed and informal tracks where some walking experience may be required. Range of use levels depending on accessibility, location, features of interest, available information etc. Examples include Collins Bonnet, Collins Cap, Zig Zag - Ice House	40
Day Walks (over 4 hours)	Track conditions vary and some bushwalking experience (including appropriate clothing, navigation etc) is desirable for many of these walks. Examples include Cathedral Rock - Wellington Falls circuit, Collins Bonnet from Big Bend, Fern Tree to Lenah Valley, Snake Plains Circuit.	31
TOTAL WALKS LISTED		102

Table 3 : Summary of Duration of Walks in Wellington Park

The Trust has implemented a number of actions for improving walking track opportunities and experiences within Wellington Park, as listed in Appendix A. Some of the key initiatives include:

preparing the walking tracks data base;

upgrading of sections of the Ice House track and Zig Zag track;

assessing options for re-routing the Pipeline Track to protect water quality values and find a safer route to Wellington Falls (avoiding landslip area) with the involvement with Hobart Water;

upgrading visitor access at the Pinnacle site;

developing the Springs - Sphinx Rock as a Great Short Walk (in progress);

assessing route options for a new link from the Chalet to the Pinnacle;

re-aligning and upgrading of some tracks e.g. Collins Bonnet, Myrtle Forest; and

installing new track signs

SECTION 3

VALUES AND VISION

3.1 VALUES

Wellington Park provides for a broad range of outdoor recreational opportunities in an area of outstanding natural beauty, which is easily accessible to visitors. The Park offers an array of different recreational settings that can cater for:

- a wide range of different walking activities;
- a spectrum of different opportunities to suit the varying levels of experience and interests of different users;
- a range of opportunities for people of differing abilities, ages, physical capacities, etc.; and
- the ability to undertake walking without significantly degrading the experience of other users.

Amongst all of the Park's recreational destinations, Mt. Wellington has pride of place and on any weekend of the year hundreds if not more walkers spread across its slopes seeking recreation in a natural setting, steeped in history. The Park is also a popular walking destination for many walking clubs given ease of access, variety of walking tracks and diversity of natural and cultural values.

Mt. Wellington is also one of the most important tourist destinations in Tasmania, visited by interstate, overseas and Tasmanian visitors alike – in the last 12 months, over 100,000 interstate and overseas visitors visited Wellington Park, making it the third most visited natural area within the State. Wellington Park has the natural and cultural attractions to maintain strong appeal to the major growth markets in the tourism industry (notably nature based tourism), offering a variety of differing experiences and activities within a remarkable setting.

3 . 2 V I S I O N S T A T E M E N T

The *Wellington Park Management Plan 1977* sets out four broad management goals, those being to:

- protect the Park's environment for the long term;
- manage water catchments in the Park as sources of clean water;
- retain the essential cultural characteristics of the Park; and
- provide for community, tourism and recreational use and enjoyment of the Park consistent with the above goals.

Consistent with these goals, the Management Plan presents a set of management objectives for the Park, which is relevant to the preparation of the walking tracks strategy. These objectives are to:

- conserve and maintain, in perpetuity, the biophysical processes and biodiversity of the Park, including indigenous species, communities, ecosystems, and genetic diversity;
- conserve the geological, geomorphological, pedological, hydrological, scenic and landscape features of the Park;
- protect the supply and purity of water available from the Park catchments;
- protect and retain culturally representative and significant areas, features or artifacts of use and enjoyment of the Park;
- protect and retain the special tourism and recreational character and community sense of place, which the Park provides;
- provide high quality tourism and recreational opportunities and facilities consistent with and based on appreciation and enjoyment of the environmental, water catchments, and cultural values of the Park; and
- develop the organisational and procedural capacity required to achieve the above objectives.

The following vision statement has been prepared for Wellington Park based on review of the *Management Plan* goals and objectives:

"Wellington Park provides a diversity of accessible and enjoyable walking experiences consistent with achieving sustainable use and management of its natural and cultural values."

Out of the vision statement, three key principles for the management of the Park's walking track system have been identified². These Principles are:

PRINCIPLE 1 : THE PARK'S WALKING TRACK SYSTEM SHOULD BE SUSTAINABLY MANAGED TO PROTECT THE NATURAL, CULTURAL AND UTILITARIAN VALUES OF THE PARK.

Sustainable management of walking might entail the:

- promoting and marketing tracks that can be sustainably managed;
- monitoring use and impacts on walking tracks;
- rationalising walking tracks where duplication exists or sustainable management practices cannot be achieved;
- managing access and sites to prevent major impacts;
- protection of drinking water catchments and water quality; and
- providing selected facilities, which ameliorate or eliminate impacts.

Criteria related to Principle 1 include:

- utilising robust landforms (i.e. those which have a low or manageable erosion potential);
- protecting flora and fauna (rare or ubiquitous) from trampling, the spread of disease, weed invasion or other impacts;
- protect drinking water catchment from adverse impacts caused by contamination by humans and dogs, increased turbidity due to trail erosion and vandalism of infrastructure; and
- protecting cultural sites (Aboriginal and historic) from impacts.

² These Principles have been largely derived from the Tasmanian Walking Tracks Strategy and marketing Plan 1997 prepared by Inspiring Place for Tourism Tasmania, Parks and Wildlife Service and Forestry Tasmania.

PRINCIPLE 2 : THE PARK'S WALKING TRACK SYSTEM SHOULD BE PROMOTED AND MANAGED TO ASSIST WITH COMMUNITY AWARENESS, ENJOYMENT AND MANAGEMENT OF THE PARK'S VALUES.

This may embrace such measures as:

providing information, directional signs and other communication tools to inform visitors of the walking opportunities, track condition, degree of difficulty and experience that may be required;

ensuring the standard of track maintenance, facilities and services are consistent with the class of walking track;

providing interpretation and educational materials to enhance visitor appreciation and enjoyment;

managing conflicts between users and other activities or uses of the Park; and

reviewing the sense of safety and security whilst using the track system.

Criteria related to Principle 2 include:

diverse opportunities to experience unique, high quality natural and cultural environments;

part of a diverse system of walking tracks, which vary in class and length to meet the range of user requirements;

sense of remoteness and naturalness appropriate to the setting and the class of track;

good and reliable access;

social expectations suited to the class of walking track;

facilities appropriate to the class of walking track;

directional, interpretive and educational information suited to the class of walking track;

further education related to the drinking water catchments to preserve drinking water quality the catchment as its source;

appropriate levels of safety and security consistent with the class of walking track; and

realistic expectations amongst users in terms of grade, length, condition, physical and climatic context and preparation requirements.

PRINCIPLE 3 : THERE SHOULD BE SUFFICIENT RESOURCE CAPACITY TO SUSTAINABLY MANAGE THE PARK'S WALKING TRACKS SYSTEM.

The capacity to achieve the vision for the Park's walking track system requires:

achieving best management practices in the day-to-day activities of caring for the walking track system;

ensuring the skills, training and knowledge are appropriate to the management of the walking track system;

effectively market the walking track system;

assisting community involvement; e.g. co-operative efforts with bushwalking clubs and other community groups);

monitoring the situation including surveys of users, analysis of market trends, assessment of impacts on the environment and drinking water quality; and

providing an adequate budget to meet these requirements.

Criteria related to Principle 3 include:

the location of walking tracks accounts for adjacent land uses and activities (existing or potential);

adequate resources (human and financial) are available for management;

meets strategic needs for diversity of class, equity of location and location relevant to user demand;

safety, search and rescue and fire fighting capacity/contingency;

adequate instruments to meet duty of care; and

capacity to monitor uses and impacts.

SECTION 4

THE STRATEGY

This Chapter discusses the strategic direction that could be taken for managing walking tracks within the Park. This includes strategies for improving:

- walking access and facilities (Section 4.1);
- awareness and experiences (Section 4.2); and
- the capacity to manage walking tracks (Section 4.3).

4.1 STRATEGIES FOR IMPROVING ACCESS TO WALKING TRACKS AND VISITOR FACILITIES

The key strategies refer to upgrading access and parking, maintenance works and upgrading of existing walking tracks, and constructing new walking track links within the Park.

4.1.1 Upgrading Access and Parking

Brief History of Access

The history of access by Tasmanian Aborigines and European settlers to Mt Wellington is discussed in *Wellington Park : Values, Use and Management Inventory* (1996) and the following information has been largely drawn from that source.

It is possible that some of the traveling tracks used by the Aboriginal tribes over thousands of years to reach rock shelters, food sources and tool-making material may of been used by European settlers as some of the original historical tracks.

George Bass was the first European to climb the Mountain. In 1798 he had followed the New Town Rivulet up through what is now Lenah Valley and across to the summit via Mt. Arthur. This was the route used by Lady Franklin when she climbed the pinnacle in 1837³. Botanists such as Darwin were known to have made other routes in their exploration of the Mountain.

³ Until recently Lady Franklin was supposed to have been the first European woman to have climbed the Mountain but information has since been uncovered that Salome Pitt, the daughter of a New Town settler, was the first in 1810.

Early European settlers sought access to the Mt Wellington for a range of reasons - scientific study, exploitation of the timber resource, bee keeping, building small water schemes and hunting of wildlife. From the mid-1800s onwards there were a number of developments that led to Mt. Wellington, at least, being made more accessible to visitors for recreational purposes and tourism, which in turn coincided with a general but not complete decline in resource exploitation.

In the early 1840s, Wellington Falls were discovered and at first a tortuous route over the Pinnacle was followed. However, in 1845, following a series of newspaper articles on the attractions of the area, a track was cut through from The Springs with the necessary funds being raised by public subscription. Wellington Falls became a popular destination for painters and nature-lovers. In 1849-50 the first of the ice-houses were built by prisoners at the initiative of Lt. Governor Denison, a Royal Engineer, and a bridle track was cut to provide access.

The construction of the present Huon Road by 1869 not only provided easier access to the Huon but also to the Mountain. The Fern Tree Inn was built to provide refreshments to travelers on the road and gradually a small village grew up around it⁴. Access was further improved by the construction of Pillinger Drive, which began in 1888. By the turn of the century thousands of visitors each year were using the new carriage drive to reach The Springs or the tramway to Cascades, which was built in 1893 to reach the foot of Mt. Wellington. From the end of the tramline, walkers followed the old timber roads such as the Sled Track (Old Farm Road), the Middle Path (Rivulet Track) and the Finger Post Track to reach The Springs and other parts of the Mountain. The creation of the Mountain Park in 1906 led to an extension of the network of tracks, particularly during 1928-33 when such work was carried out under unemployment schemes. Bushwalking clubs and land managers have added walking trails over time to form an extensive network of walking track opportunities on land owned by the Hobart City Council. The development of fire trails has also extended the walking options within the Park.

However it was the construction of Pinnacle Road that dramatically altered access to the Mountain and walking tracks. Thousands of men were employed between 1934 and the end of 1936, as part of a government unemployment scheme, to work sometimes in extremely harsh conditions to create the controversial road which, at the time, was nicknamed "Ogilvie's scar".

Walkers continue to gain access to the Park through many walking tracks that connect with residential areas flanking the Park (e.g. Fern Tree, South Hobart, Mount Stuart, West Hobart) or adjoining Council reserves (e.g. Knocklofty Reserve, Ridgeway Park). Pinnacle Road and a number of roads to the 'edge' of the Park provide a multitude of possible access points into the Park.

⁴ de Quincey, E. 1987. History of Mount Wellington – A Tasmanian Sketchbook, Mercury Walch, Hobart.

Taking a Strategic Approach

In recognising the past history of track development and increasing community access to the Park, the *Management Plan* noted that little strategic planning had occurred in the past and that a walking track strategy (this report) should be prepared.

The maps within Appendix C show the current entry points into Wellington Park and categorises the tracks into major entry, minor entry/higher use and minor entry/lower use. Table 4 indicates the proposed range of 'ideal' facilities associated with each of the entry points.

	Major Entry	Minor Entry /Higher Use	Minor Entry /Lower Use
Bus parking area	Yes	No	No
Car parking area	Yes (large)	Yes (moderate)	Yes (small)
Public transport service	Yes (ideally)	No (unless existing)	No
Shelter	Yes	No (unless existing)	No
Toilets	Yes	No (unless existing)	No
Water supply	Yes	No (unless existing)	No
Picnic facilities	Yes (except Pinnacle)	No (unless existing)	No
Barbeque facilities	Yes (except Pinnacle)	No (unless existing)	No
Visitor interpretation and information centre	Yes (Springs being the major focus)	No	No
Interpretation sign boards	Yes	Optional (Yes with short walks/high use)	No
Access to well developed walks	Yes	Yes	No (unless existing)
Sign-board for Wellington Park	Yes	No (except Lenah Valley, Myrtle Forest and Tolosa Park)	No
Track head signs	Yes	Yes	Yes

Table 4 : Ideal Facilities for Walking Track Entry Points

Tables 5 to 7 indicate the existing role of the entry points, what facilities are required and specific comments on each of the entry points.

Major Entry	Existing Situation and Role	Access Comments and Requirements
Pinnacle	Well developed as a key destination for visitors and those starting/ending of walks e.g. Zig Zag Track	Implementation of the Pinnacle Site Plan has upgraded parking areas (buses and cars), traffic flow, signage, interpretation, catchment, trackhead signs. Promote short walk to the top of the Zig Zag track.
The Springs	Proposed development as the major visitor precinct in the Park with a visitor centre, short walks, interpretation, upgraded toilets, food and beverage etc. Public transport option with development of the site.	Major location for visitor interpretation (e.g. nature and cultural heritage) and information about the Park and drinking water catchments. Will require upgrading of track signs and development/promotion of short walks (e.g. Sphinx Rock, Rocky Whelan Cave, Radfords Track). Investigations into the tracks for the historic Exhibition Gardens need to be undertaken.
Fern Tree	Start to many walking tracks. Public transport to Fern Tree.	Major location for visitor information and starting walks in the Park. Some key issues need attention – parking, track signs, track head signs, safe connection to Ridgeway Park and quarry car park, interpretation and information, including drinking water catchment and cultural heritage opportunities. The parking capacity and related issues at Fern Tree need to be investigated by the Hobart City Council, including the various access points to the Pipeline Track

Table 5 Major Entry Points

The remaining entry points are considered to be a minor entry point into the Park and vary depending on where there is relatively higher use and lower use.

It is proposed that the minor entry/higher use points should generally provide for limited car parking spaces to cater for the general level of use (but not necessary peak time use), trackhead signs and possibly basic visitor facilities (but only at existing sites developed for picnic use like Myrtle Forest).

The minor entry/lower use points should only require a basic car parking space and a trackhead sign.

The Trust also needs to identify and trial tracks that are considered suitable for people with mobility difficulties. Where possible a short walk should be accessible to people with disabilities at the major entry points – The Springs (e.g. Sphinx Rock,

Milles Track), Pinnacle (e.g. track around car parking area to link with a viewing point above the Zig Zag Track) and Fern Tree (Fern Tree Circuit). The opportunity

Minor Entry Higher Use	Existing Situation and Role	Access Comments and Requirements
Big Bend	Start of extended walks out to Thark Ridge, Collins Bonnet, Mt Connection. Dangerous parking at Big Bend near Lost World (on corner and too close to edge of road). There is better parking area at barrier 5 but this would result in people walking on the road. It also caters for climbers to Lost World and mountain bike riders.	Review existing car parking facilities and the potential for a track from the larger carpark to Thark Ridge Track/Big Bend Trail/Lost World Track on top side of the road. Could put a few little car parks against road lower down to service local use. Sign from the big carpark could indicate direction to track heads but very little other signage is required. Track head signs would include directional and times information.
The Chalet	Start of Organ Pipes Track and connection with Hunters and Old Hobartians Tracks. Popular picnic and barbeque chalet.	Link to Panorama Track and to Pinnacle being investigated by the Trust. Opportunity for interpretation about cultural heritage and natural environment (<i>Anaspides tasmanica</i> - Darwin story)
Shoobridge Bend	Start of Shoobridge Track and Circle Track with connections onto Sphinx Rock, Betts Vale Track etc.	Parking limited and traffic speeds should be low. Possible short link between end of Circle Track and Shoobridge Bend to avoid people walking on Pinnacle Road. Improved car parking area will be required.
Strickland Bend	Start of short walk to Strickland Falls and informal links to Middle Island Fire Trail and Rivulet Track. Picnic area.	Possible formal link to Rivulet Track. Need for consultation with Cascade Brewery regarding protection of catchment area.
Old Farm Road	Start to number of tracks including Myrtle Gully Track. Limited car parking and varying condition of road.	Need for consultation with Cascade Brewery regarding the acquisition of Brewery land at the end of Old Farm Road, and the potential for a small car park under the existing cleared power line easement outside of the Park. Increased vehicle use would be subject to an assessment of road safety conditions.
Neika	Start of the Pipeline Track, which attracts high level of walking, and bike riding use. Dangerous crossing of the Huon Highway. Track head maps currently exist (at junction with Pipeline track from Fern Tree).	Issues with water quality control (St Crispins Well) and landslide area being investigated including alternative track to Wellington Falls. Improve road crossing safety and car parking layout. May need toilet at end of the track.
Lenah Valley	Start and end point to a number of major walks (e.g. Lenah Valley Track, Old Hobartian Track) and fire trails. Regular picnic area. Important public transport access point.	Site and facilities have been subject to vandalism problems and concerns by local residents about upgrading facilities. Possible to consider access link to Glenorchy. Creek crossing being investigated. Upgraded signs installed.
Betts Road	Start to Cathedral Rock and has limited parking, conflicting signs and poor directional signs. Walkers need to be aware of changed access to the Pipeline Track.	No further work at this stage other than better track definition and signage. Past difficulty with negotiating access agreements with current landowners.
Myrtle Forest	Popular picnic area and short walk to waterfalls. Concern about vandalism at the site. Start to track that continues onto Collins Cap and Collins Bonnet.	Improved track signs required. Proposed site plan to be prepared and consider options for improving walking experience and security. Toilet proposed.
Tolosa Park	Potential to be the main focal access to Wellington Park from the City of Glenorchy. Walking corridor between Restricted Zones (protecting water quality). Recreation Zone is used for dog	Growing interest from community to access Wellington Park. Will require change to Zones and provision of signs and track planning/development. Site with potential to become a more significant access point in the longer term for Glenorchy to the

	exercising.	Park and for developing short walks in the Merton area).
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Table 6 : Minor Entry/High Use

Minor Entry Lower Use	Existing Situation and Role	Access Comments and Requirements
Bracken Lane	Start of tracks to O'Grady's Falls and likely to be more used by local residents.	Need signs indicating track to O'Grady's Falls.
Jacksons Bend	Limited parking (2 spaces)	Parking and safety issues need re-assessing
Inglewood Road	Start to access Middle Island Fire Trail and often used by bike riders. Parking is limited.	Sign needs replacing to indicate entry into Wellington Park.
Mt Stuart/Knocklofty	No walking signage but short walks mainly into Knocklofty Reserve and limited numbers of walkers enter Wellington Park. Use by bike riders.,	No further work at this stage. However the Reserve does receive higher use in its own right rather than as an access to Wellington Park. Some issues with private land and access through Council tip area.
Pottery Road	Access onto tracks and fire trails within the Park. Used by both walkers and bike riders. Small car parking area but may be considered safer than Lenah Valley Road for leaving car.	No further work at this stage.
Montrose Road	Limited access being made at present.	No further work at this stage.
Chapel Street	Limited access being made at present. Potential to re-direct access onto Tolosa Park.	No further work at this stage.
Goat Hills	Many existing fire trails and tracks but not developed as an entry point.	Review the potential for improving public access and basic facilities.
Mountain River Road	Access via a disused fire trail to Collins Bonnet, Collins Cap and Trestle Mountain from the southern side of the Park. Vehicle access not possible due to closed fire trail.	No further work at this stage.
Jefferys Track	Start to East - West fire trail and access to Mt Charles and Mt Patrick. Use by four wheel drives under permit arrangement with PWS. Limited parking (roadside). No signs on Crabtree Road.	No further work at this stage other than better signage.

Table 7 : Minor Entry/Low Use

may also exist to upgrade the track from Shoobridge Bend to the Octopus Tree to cater for people with mobility concerns.

The Wellington *Park Management Plan* refers to the option of negotiating access over private land at Andersons Road to reach Cathedral Rock. Negotiations between the PWS and landowners have not secured approval for access agreements and the PWS does not have funds to purchase lands for this purpose at the present time. Similarly

access to the Pipeline Track via Cleggs Road, Browns Road and Grey Road is over private land not within the Park and require access agreements would need to be negotiated with the landowners. There is limited car parking with these locations and gaining public access is not considered to be a high priority.

4.1.2 Maintenance Works and Upgrading of Existing Walking Tracks

Over the past two summer seasons Hobart City Council has formed a seasonal walking track crew to augment it's track maintenance program. These added resources have allowed Council to undertake a number of significant track construction and upgrading projects both within Wellington Park and in other bushland reserves managed by the Council. Examples of achievements of the crew include the Lenah Valley Track - Springs extension and rebuilding of sections of the Zig Zag Track. Such work has received wide public praise, endorsement of Council's commitment to managing its track network.

The walking track inventory prepared for the Trust involved site assessments and input of knowledge from the WTWG members. Appendix F presents a listing of the identified issues for each of the walking tracks within the Park. The issues refer to problems with surface condition, track location, track marking, need for rehabilitation works, weeds, drainage and vegetation maintenance.

Recommendations for tackling these issues for each track are also listed in Appendix F. These works will need to be progressively undertaken as resources allow and in accordance with adopting some strategic priorities for walking tracks within the Park. Some of the minor issues will be fixed during normal maintenance and inspection of the tracks.

The proposed priorities for guiding resource allocation to upgrading existing walking tracks should be considered (in order of priority):

- ensuring the primary safety and avoiding unreasonable risk for users on the walking tracks;
- avoiding/reducing potential impacts on the significant natural and cultural values of the Park e.g. drinking water quality, environment, threatened species habitat, cultural sites;
- reducing environmental impacts that will impose ongoing problems or major costs for future rehabilitation works e.g. soil erosion, drainage, landslip, trampling, weed invasion;

- enhancing the access, enjoyment and experience of walkers on tracks with a high level of use; and
- enhancing the access, enjoyment and experience of walkers on tracks with a lower level of use.

Table 8 provides a preliminary listing of the proposed upgrading of existing walking tracks based on adoption of the higher order priorities 1-4. It is only an example of the type of upgrading actions that could be taken, and the WTWG will need to review and prepare a more definitive list of priorities in the future. It will be necessary to review the current track standard with the current track classification to assess what level of work is appropriate for the tracks, especially in remote or sensitive areas.

Priority	Track	Comment
Ensuring the primary safety and avoiding unreasonable risk for users on the walking tracks	3361	Re-route and remove unstable markings on Trestle Mtn track to prevent injury concerns and to minimize environmental damage
	1114	Review safety issues at Sphinx Rock given upgraded access from the Springs site.
	1252	Warning signs for steep sections of the track
	1274	Continue investigations into a new route to the Pinnacle from the Chalet to avoid walkers on Pinnacle Road.
	1253	Change the start to the OHA - Mt Arthur track as walkers may be diverted to the Lost World area
	1112	Discourage people walking down the bank creek below O'Gradys Falls to take photographs.
Avoiding/reducing potential impacts on the significant natural and cultural values of the Park e.g. drinking water quality, threatened species habitat, cultural sites	1112	Bridges need surface wire to reduce slipping
	1210/1222	Investigations are under-way to find an alternative route for the Pipeline Track to Wellington Falls that will by-pass the landslip areas and water quality concerns with St Crispins Well.
	Various	A number of historic paths associated with the Exhibition Gardens (1930's) at the Springs may be impacted by the proposed development of facilities and this needs to be addressed prior to any development approval being granted.
	3383	Look at re-alignment of the Mt Marion track to minimize environmental damage
	3240	Look at re-alignment of the Mt Connection track
Preventing environmental impacts that will impose ongoing or major costs for future rehabilitation works	2601	Repair of the Knights Creek washout to prevent occurrence(HW 2002)
	1207, 1222	Improving surface condition of the Ice House track where there is severe erosion taking place and poor drainage measures. May need consolidation of tracks , better signs and improvements to reach Smiths Monument. Improving markings on the Potato Field on the Wellington Falls Track via
	3230	Consolidate and rehabilitate multiple tracks near the Cathedral Rock summit
	1120	Investigate costs for preventing further degradation of the New Town - Breakneck track given role as access with Knocklofty Reserve with possible priority for Breakneck to Wiggins slate quarry
	1281	Consult with rock climbers to access the Organ Pipes without causing further severe erosion. Rehabilitate eroded areas.
3378	Re-routing of the Thark Ridge to old Montagu fire trail at start in wet area where environmental damage evident.	

Table 8 : Examples of Possible Priorities for Upgrading Existing Tracks (continues over page)

Priority	Track	Comment
	3245	Myrtle Forest - Collins Cap where some re-routing and drainage diversion is necessary.
	3244	Re-route and upgrade wet sections of the Myrtle Forest - Collins Bonnet track
	1222	Drainage work required to prevent stream running down the track and accelerating erosion problems
	Many tracks	Weed invasion by Gorse and Erica along many tracks as identified in the walking track data base.
Enhancing the access, enjoyment and experience of walkers on tracks with a high level of use	1114	Upgrading of the Sphinx Rock track to be a Great Short Walk for State promotion and marketing is occurring. Additional tracks near The Springs area may need to accommodate higher use and visitor interpretation opportunities on short walks.
	3244	Upgrade the first section to Myrtle Forest walk and investigate short looped return option.
	1117, 1115	Investigate option for stairs adjacent to Sphinx Rock to allow circuit via Octopus Tree back to the Springs
	1115	Upgrade access to the Octopus Tree on the Shoobridge Track
	1209	Further upgrading of the Zig Zag track including upgrading to promote as a short walk from the Pinnacle to a viewing location.

Table 8 : Examples of Possible Priorities for Upgrading Existing Tracks

4.1.1.3 Constructing New Walking Track Links

A number of potential new walking track links were identified with the advice and knowledge of the WTWG. These link opportunities were:

constructing a new link off the Big Bend Trail to the large car park (located about 500m past Big Bend on Pinnacle Road) and a continuation from the car park to the start of Lost World (thus creating a more central, convenient and safer parking situation);

developing a new link from the Chalet to the Pinnacle thus avoiding the safety concerns of walkers on Pinnacle Road;

investigating the potential of tracks that could link Glenorchy City to the Pinnacle (e.g. Old Hobartians Track) given that previously owned private land has now been acquired by the Hobart City Council;

finding an alternative route for the Pipeline Track to Wellington Falls to by-pass the landslip areas and water quality concerns with St Crispins Well (currently being investigated by the Hobart City Council);

avoiding wet areas by finding a better route to Mt Montagu;

building a new access loop from New Town Falls;

upgrading a link between Strickland Avenue and Strickland Falls;

providing a link from Circle Track back to Shoobridge Bend (thus avoiding walkers using Pinnacle Road);

relocating the track to Trestle Mountain given the inappropriate track location, poor condition and multiple routes/markings; and

creating a short return loop at Myrtle Forest.

4 . 2 S T R A T E G I E S F O R I M P R O V I N G A W A R E N E S S A N D E X P E R I E N C E S F O R U S E R S O F W A L K I N G T R A C K S

4.2.1 I m p r o v i n g I n f o r m a t i o n a n d S i g n a g e

The purpose of good information is to ensure that visitors can answer the “what, when and where” questions about walking within the Park.

It is recommended that the brochures, fact files, internet services and other mechanisms involved with the promotion and marketing of walking tracks should include references to:

basic information about entry and exit points, length of the walking tracks, surface conditions, time required, fitness requirements (if necessary), potential risks (e.g. changing weather conditions);

the conservation ethic as promoted through minimal impact walking education programs;

safety needs for users (e.g. stay on the tracks, carry liquid refreshments, use of sun screen/hat, what to do in the event of an emergency);

the location and importance of drinking water catchments; and

where to get more information about walking in the Park.

Public education programs may be necessary to help extend the messages of assisting with the care and management of the walking environments and cultural heritage values.

The *Management Plan* recommended that the Trust 'install park signage and bushwalking information at all existing car parks leading to walking tracks and/or fire trails'. The Trust has since proceeded to implement this recommendation with the preparation of a Signs Strategy⁵. for Wellington Park. The Strategy undertook a review of the previous Park signage system and found a number of issues with inconsistent sign types, poor siting, poor design (e.g. difficult to read, conflicting colours, inappropriate type face and symbols), too many signs, vandalism, lack of maintenance and the poor visibility of some signs in the Park. More detailed Sign Locational Plans have been prepared by the Hobart City Council, Glenorchy City Council and Parks and Wildlife Service.

An overall design system for new signs was prepared with priority given to erecting/replacing signs on the basis of:

Park entry signs;

road closure signs;

high use areas accessible by vehicles;

fire trail signs;

high use areas accessible by foot (e.g. walking tracks); and

Remote Zone signs.

Detailed designs were then prepared for these different sign types required within the Park including specific signs for walking tracks. The design features of walking track signs are:

track name;

⁵ Workhorse Design Group 2000. Wellington Park Sign Strategy

use of a colour band to identify Wellington Park and character of the area;

directional information (e.g. destination reached, arrow and time);
and

symbols indicated any management requirements for the use of the track (e.g. no bikes, no dogs permitted, toilets, drinking water, caution etc).

The Signs Strategy does not provide guidance on the marking of tracks by various techniques e.g. snow poles, cairns, metal or plastic markers, paint. The WTWG considered that whilst a variety of markers have been used in the past, careful consideration should be given to replacing existing markers or introducing new markers. The Working Group did not favor one type of marker for all tracks but that consideration be given to the most appropriate marker given the site conditions, existing markers, level of use, cultural values etc. However the WTWG considered that paint should not be used for any markers along the tracks.

The maintenance of existing signs should also be seen as a priority within the Park.

No specific need has been identified for introducing walker registration facilities within the Park given the standard of walks, limited overnight walks occurring within the Park, multiple access and egress points into the Park. It would be difficult to rely on the information for any search and rescue situation. However the option of a register for those walking to the higher altitude area from The Springs could be considered in the longer term – possibly more for monitoring some walker use and playing an interpretation role within the proposed visitor centre.

Visitors need to be informed (by signs and other means) of the current problem with electronic car controls at the Pinnacle as covered in the Pinnacle Site Plan.

Information should also provide sufficient data to allow a walker to make an estimate of walking time on the tracks e.g. length, grade, steepness. The proposed walking track map should be clear, concise and convey all the necessary information to make an informed judgment about the suitability of the walk – at one level this can be conveyed by different colours or keys which indicate walks under 1hour, 1-2 hours, 2-4 hours, 4 hours plus.

4.2.2 Providing Interpretation and Information Opportunities

A co-ordinated approach to the delivery of interpretation, education and information services for walking tracks is required within Wellington Park.

Tilden⁶ defined interpretation as “an educational activity, which aims to reveal meanings and relationships through the use of original objects, by first-hand experience and by illustrative media, rather than simply to communicate factual information.” Through interpretation managers try to alter an individual’s attitude and behaviour with a view to fostering a richer understanding of the significance of a place, features, issues or events.

Interpretation communicates what is known about the natural and cultural values of an area, what is significant about them, how they are valued and what is threatened and how they are managed. Good interpretation can significantly enhance a visitor experience and, indeed, can be an effective tool for engaging users in minimising impacts within the Park.

To be successful, interpretation needs to:

- be tailored to meet the needs and interests of a defined audience;
- and
- to present information in a creative way that is authentic, interesting and motivating.

Walking tracks are one of the principal ways in which visitors can access and enjoy the many values of Wellington Park, and hence provide some opportunity for visitor interpretation. The opportunities for interpretation might include:

- presenting a story of the cultural and historic significance of the community walking on the Mountain as a feature of the proposed new visitor centre at The Springs;
- encouraging guided and educational walks in the Park, and in particular starting from The Springs, Fern Tree and Tolosa Park, focusing the Park’s natural, cultural and drinking water catchment values;
- providing themes to a few selected walks for self guiding experiences (e.g. walk map, information sheet, interpretation panels);
- use of well designed features or art installation that may incorporate some interpretive text, or may stand alone, adding another dimension to the experience associated with the walk (e.g. dry rock wall, seating bench); and

⁶ Tilden, F. **Interpreting Our Heritage** University of North Carolina Press, Chapel Hill. This text is recognised as one of the seminal references for modern interpretation and in identifying the role and importance of interpretation in managing natural and cultural heritage sites.

supporting a range of creative methods that link walking with the Park e.g. performing arts (e.g. music, dance, poetry, drama), Mountain Festival etc.

The walking tracks considered to be suitable for interpretation would be the short walks currently or likely to receive high use by visitors e.g. Sphinx Rock from The Springs, Fern Glade, Ice House Track, Pinnacle to top of Zig Zag, Pipeline Track, Myrtle Forest and possibly Circle Track in the future (works required).

The Management Plan recommends that the Trust prepare an Interpretation Strategy to formulate a co-ordinated approach to the Park and that the Strategy address:

target audiences for the interpretation;

development of themes and topics for interpretation and presentation and then assessed with respect to the overall network of walking tracks;

the range of techniques and services for delivery of the messages, including programming of interpretation programs;

the suitability and consistency of existing interpretation, and what program of works may be required to improve the quality of interpretation;

guidelines for the siting, design and development of interpretation facilities to enhance visitor experience, satisfy maintenance needs and minimise safety risks;

guidelines for interpretation of natural and cultural sites in conformity with the Australian Natural Heritage Charter and the Australian ICOMOS Burra Charter; and

resource requirements to upgrade and extend interpretation.

This recommendation remains valid and the Interpretation Strategy, when prepared, should include the opportunities for introducing interpretation with the walking experiences in the Park.

4.2.3 Managing and Reducing User Conflicts

The multiple use tracks within the park, as allowed under the provisions of the *Management Plan*, are:

use of Pinnacle Road, White Timber trail and Jefferys Track by vehicles;

use of selected fire trails (East West, Montrose, Mount Hull, Collins Cap and Ringwood) by four wheel drive vehicles under a permit system administered by the PWS;

use by horseriders of certain fire trails, some by permit at the discretion of the Trust and others require the formal agreement of the adjoining landowner where legal access does not exist [The current situation is open horse riding access on the Jefferys Track and White Timber Trail (both form part of the Tasmania Trail), non permit horse riding access on the East West Trail, Collins Cap Trail, upper section of the Montrose Trail (between East West Trail and Chapel Trail) and Chapel Trail. Permit horse riding access on the Ringwood Trail and lower part of the Montrose Trail (Montrose Road to Chapel Trail junction)];

use of all formed roads and fire trails open to public access by bike riders;

shared use of the Pipeline Track, Radfords Track, Silver Falls Track and Knights Creek Trail under the provisions of the Wellington Park Bike Strategy (2000); and

dogs on leads on the walking tracks, and roads and vehicular tracks in the Recreation Zone (Hobart City Council and Glenorchy City Council owned land).

The potential risks with other users of walking tracks and trails in the Park are listed in Table 9 along with existing and possible measures for reducing conflict. The limited park staff and management resources for managing Wellington Park will continue to be a hurdle for reducing these conflicts however the Trust has employed a Regulation Awareness and Education Officer.

Potential Risk to Walkers with Multiple Use of Tracks	Possible Measures
Safety concerns with walkers having to use sections of Pinnacle Road to access or return from tracks	Trust is aware of these issues and has initiated investigations into alternative routes to minimise risk e.g. Chalet to the Pinnacle, Sphinx Rock link back to The Springs. Problem with Circle Track also identified.
Possible collisions with bike riders when used on the approved walking tracks/fire trails or illegally on other walking tracks (seen to be more of a cultural issue on walking tracks and safety issue on fire trails)	Management issues covered in Bike Strategy and Risk Assessment Report with recommended adoption of general track upgrades, maintenance, speed controls, new signage, Code of Conduct and other measures. Continuing user awareness and education will be required as bike riders are making extensive use of the tracks and trails. Difficulty to manage illegal use with limited resources. New Regulations Awareness Officer will be able to assist with minimising potential problems.
Safety concerns with shared use of fire trails with horseriding	Fire trails are generally wide enough to cope with shared use by walkers and horseriders. Limited evidence of any problems in the past.
Safety concerns with use of Hobart Water vehicles on the Pipeline Track	HW have adopted practices to reduce potential conflict - signs of vehicle use, horns prior to sharp bends, low vehicle speed etc. These practices have been written into the Bike Strategy.
Safety concerns with snowboards/skiers using Pinnacle Road after snowfalls	Difficult to manage and common sense should prevail rather than any regulative measure. The Trust has formulated a draft snow management policy.
Safety concerns with rocks being dislodged by rockclimbers when climbing the Organ Pipes	Tracks below the Organ Pipes need rationalising with input of climbers - discourage walkers from using the access tracks to the base of the Organ Pipes (not shown in maps or information sheets).
Safety concerns with any events/races being held in the Park that may use walking tracks (e.g. running events, bike riding courses)	All organised events need approval of the Trust and temporary track signs/advertising can be used to minimise risks. New Regulations Awareness Officer will be able to assist with minimising potential problems.
Dogs not under the control of their owner (e.g. off lead)	Difficulty to enforce with limited Park staff but better community awareness, sign boards and on-track presence will help. New Regulations Awareness Officer will be able to assist with minimising potential problems.
Possible collisions with illegal trail bikes	Difficulty to enforce in the Park with multiple access points but trail bikes will often be heard by walkers in advance of any meeting.
Safety conflict with four wheel drive use of fire trails	Low risk given location of trails, width of fire trails and low vehicle speeds.

Table 9 : Possible Conflicts and Response Strategies

An overview of the different ways to avoid or minimise conflicts on multiple-use trails is provided by Moore and Barthlow (1994)⁷. They undertook a comprehensive survey of literature and management practices in North America and then identified 12 key principles for minimising conflicts on multiple-use trails. These principles were:

- Recognise conflict as goal interference attributed to another user's behaviour.
- Provide adequate trail opportunities for a variety of experiences.
- Minimise the number of contacts in problem areas, wherever possible.
- Involve users as early as possible to avoid and resolve conflicts.
- Understand user needs so as to better anticipate and manage conflicts.
- Identify actual sources of conflict (i.e. the roots of any problems that exist).
- Work with affected users to reach mutually agreeable solutions.
- Promote responsible trail behaviour.
- Encourage positive interaction among different users to build better understanding, goodwill and co-operation.
- Favour 'light-handed management' approaches.
- Plan and act locally so as to allow greater sensitivity to local needs and better flexibility for difficult issues.
- Monitor the ongoing effectiveness of decisions made.

The Trust may need to seek the services of a professional risk assessor to identify the potential liability issues associated with multiple use of walking tracks and fire trails within the Park, and in particular, how to respond to:

the duty of care obligations of the Trust and other landowners;

⁷ Moore, R and Barthlow, K (1997) Principles for Minimising Trail Conflicts : Applications to Mountain Biking. Trends. Volume 34, Number 3, pp 11-15

matters of reasonable foresee ability;

breach of duty;

standard of care to be provided;

the onus upon the Trust as an occupier with a general duty of care responsibility; and

the options available to the Trust to reduce, transfer, manage or make safe within the guidance of sound management practice and management systems.

The Trust received a risk assessment for the shared use of the Pipeline Track, Lenah Valley Track and Old Farm Track following the preparation of the Bike Strategy. It was found that an appropriate and cost effective risk management approach could be undertaken with an array of risk control actions and eliminating risk by track section closures. The Pipeline Track (Neika- Fern Tree, Neika – St Crispins Well turn-off) were suitable but beyond St Crispins Well, further works would be required to allow bike riding. The Lenah Valley Track required a range of risk management measures (e.g. speed control barriers, containment fencing at some locations, upgrading of track surface, dismount and walk-thru barriers). Old Farm Track required cross track parallel dish drains in 2-3 locations, danger speed signs etc).

4.2.4 Managing for Natural Risks

The following natural risks have been identified with walking in Wellington Park:

being stranded in adverse climate conditions including snowfalls, low temperatures (wind chill and increased risk of hypothermia), storms, exposure to high winds and flash floods in the creek beds;

walkers approaching steep drops/over-hanging cliffs/crevices without knowledge (e.g. Lost World);

out-of-control bushfires sweeping through the Park;

landslip and mud slides;

tree falls;

rock falls (e.g. natural falls or dislodged by tree failure, rock climbers);

snake bites; and

insect bites for people with allergies.

The Trust can take some measures to reasonably respond to the risks but not necessarily prevent the problems occurring. For instance the Trust can:

inform walkers of the risk of adverse weather conditions and what skills, experience and equipment may be required in the more exposed walking areas;

close some walking tracks (possibly by signs, advertising, proposed visitor centre) until the risk is mitigated;

issue no access warnings (e.g. periods of high fire danger evident);

limit the risk by adopting measures to pre-warn users of potential risks (e.g. steep drops) or other management measures (e.g. re-route the track);

instigate a regular maintenance check of walking tracks based on the track classification system;

seek the co-operation of walkers with identifying evident risks and provide a easy means for obtaining the necessary information;

create a greater user awareness of the need to be self-reliant when walking e.g. equipment, maps, personal first aid; and

encouraging walkers to take mobile phones as reception is available at many locations within the Park.

4.2.5 Promoting and Marketing Walking Experiences

User Market

A survey into participation in exercise, recreation and sport by the Australian Sports Commission (2001)⁸ found that recreational walking is the most popular activity undertaken by the Tasmanian population. Bushwalking was ranked the fourth most popular activity undertaken.

A recent participation in sport and recreation survey for Southern Tasmania also identified recreational walking as the most popular activity undertaken within the regional community and bushwalking was ranked as the 5th most popular activity⁹

⁸ Australian Sports Commission (2001) Participation in Exercise, Recreation and Sport

⁹ Office of Sport and Recreation (2002) Participation in Sport and Recreation Activities in the South of Tasmania

(Office Sport and Recreation 2002). Wellington Park is one of the most accessible destinations for these walking activities to occur.

The Tasmanian Visitor Survey¹⁰ identified that the number of interstate and overseas visitors undertaking a bushwalk of less than 2 hours has increased by 46% since 1996/97 and that 51.6% of all holiday visitors to the State are undertaking such an activity. Bushwalking for 2 hours to a full day increased by 33% over the same time period and is undertaken by 28.8% of total holiday visitors. Bushwalking overnight or longer has increased by 42% over the same time period and is undertaken by 5.7% of total holiday visitors to the State. The number of interstate and overseas holiday visitors to Mount Wellington increased from 87,500 in 1996/97 to 106,600 in 2000/01 – an increase of about 22% over the five years.

Mount Wellington attracted 39.2% of the total holiday visitors to Tasmania in 2000/01, which ranks it the third most visited natural area after Cradle Mountain (43.1%) and Cataract Gorge (40.0%).

The proposed development of the visitor centre and facilities at The Springs will lift the marketing of Wellington Park as a destination to visit and undertake walking activities. It is expected that there will be a subsequent increase in the numbers of visitors undertaking walks within the Park, and in particular, well constructed short walks with interpretation and/or strong features of interest e.g. views, vegetation, cultural heritage.

Marketing Objectives

Marketing should be used as a way of positioning Wellington Park as a place, within easy reach of the City that offers an outstanding range of walks to explore and enjoy the natural and cultural values of the Park.

The following objectives are proposed for marketing walking in Wellington Park:

- only promote and market the walking tracks that can be managed on a sustainable basis;

- promote a choice of walking experiences that suit the diverse range of visitors – very short walks, short walks, half day walks and day walks;

¹⁰ Tourism Tasmania – Tasmanian Visitor Survey 1996/97 – 2000/01, March 2002

ensure that the expectations of walking in the Park are realistic by providing information and advice about weather conditions, degree of difficulty, duration of the walk, suitable experience and equipment etc;

provide a range of interpretation opportunities linked to walking within the Park;

educate and inform walkers about minimal impact walking and how they can care for the Park; and

co-ordinate the delivery of information to walkers.

Marketing and Promotion Opportunities

The following opportunities should be considered for promoting and marketing walks within the Park:

organising a portfolio of quality photographic images of the Park that will assist with promotion and marketing of the key values and experiences of walks within the Park (i.e. images that are accurate and consistent with management ideals);

including Wellington Park walks in key Tasmanian tourism industry web sites for travel trade and customer access e.g. Tourism Tasmania, Tasmania South, Hobart City and Wellington Park Management Trust;

continuing to support the inclusion of a short walk, half day walk and day walk in Wellington Park as part of the 60 Great Short Walks marketing collateral for the State;

including walking experiences within Wellington Park in any promotional brochure prepared for Wellington Park;

producing a free tear-off map with short walks for distribution within the proposed new visitor centre, Tasmania travel centre and other local visitor information outlets;

producing and selling a special walks map for the Park that provides a professional presentation of the walks, destinational/interpretative text and information on the walks, access, facilities, experiences etc;

implementing the Signs Strategy and in particular the installation of trackhead signs, walking track signs and directional route markers;

including Wellington Park on the international fact sheets for the international travel trade market to assist with consumer inquiries;

encouraging and managing appropriate commercially based guided walking tours to operate within the Park;

liaising with Tourism Tasmania about involvement of walks within freelance journalist programs within the State; and

supporting events and festivals that link appropriate activities with Wellington Park and awareness of walks e.g. Mountain Festival, Three Peaks Race, Summer Festival.

Table 10 indicates the selected walks considered to provide the best opportunities for promotion and marketing of walks within Wellington Park – in the longer term, other tracks may be added to the list, but this initial list provides a guide to priorities for future improvements of the tracks to meet higher use. Initially it is considered that the best walks for inclusion in the Great Short Walks promotion for visitors to Tasmania would be:

short walk – The Springs to Sphinx Rock and return;

half day walk - The Springs - Lenah Valley Track - Hunters-Organ Pipes - The Springs; and

day walk - The Springs - Lenah Valley Track - Hunters Track - Chalet - Pinnacle - Zig Zag - The Springs

Type of Walk	Suggested Priority for Promotion and Marketing
Very Short Walks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sphinx Rock from The Springs • Start of Zig Zag to lookout • New short walk (loop) at Myrtle Forest • Circle Track • Silver Falls • Fern Glade circuit • Fern Tree to Silver Falls and return • Possibly former Exhibition Gardens tracks at The Springs
Short Walks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fern Glade - The Springs return • Milles Track to lookout and return
Half Day Walks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Springs - Lenah Valley Track - Hunters Track- Organ Pipes - The Springs (or in reverse order) • The Springs - Pinnacle - Zig Zag return • The Chalet - Pinnacle - Zig Zag - Organ Pipes • Fern Tree - Neika return • Myrtle Forest - Collins Cap • Lenah Valley Track (Springs - Lenah Valley)
Day Walks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Springs - Pinnacle Track - Zig Zag - South Wellington - Ice House- The Springs • Milles Track to Wellington Falls • Lenah Valley - OHA - Panorama - Pinnacle - The Springs - Lenah Valley • Myrtle Forest - Collins Bonnet (including Collins Cap)

Table 10 Proposed Priority for Promotion and Marketing of Walking Tracks

Presentation of the Tracks Classification System

The Trust's classification system (refer to Appendix D) for the walking tracks provides a useful guide for the promotion and marketing of walking tracks within the Park. For instance the classification can be used to determine three simple categories of walks, tracks and routes, these being:

Walk - Well formed walk that is typically suitable for all people regardless of age, fitness, skill and experience. To be constructed to 'dry shoe ' standard and may include facilities to allow access by people with mobility limitations. It may incorporate interpretation facilities.

Track - Walks that are suitable for people with reasonable fitness, appropriate equipment and some previous walking experience. To be constructed to 'boot' standard. Users may expect to encounter some sections that are steep, rocky, muddy or subject to inundation. Not suited to access by people with mobility limitations. Some tracks may incorporate interpretation.

Route - Unmarked routes, which are only suited to well equipped and experienced walkers with the capability of surviving in adverse weather conditions. These routes are not to be strongly promoted or marketed and remain for self discovery.

In addition there should be promotion of another layer of information relating to the general assessment of the track - whether it is considered to be easy, moderate or hard for an average person. The basis for these categories would be:

Easy - Unlikely to cause difficulties for inexperienced walkers (e.g. no steep grades requiring climbing).

Moderate - Some sections may be demanding for people with limited fitness, experience or without appropriate walking equipment (e.g. some climbing but not overly steep or sustained).

Hard - Sections of the track require walkers to be relatively fit, experienced and carrying appropriate walking equipment.

This system would be easily understood by the general community and has been adopted in various versions within walking guides and brochures including the Tasmanian Walking Tracks Strategy and Marketing Plan for Tasmania (Interagency Working Party 1997).

4 . 3 S T R A T E G I E S F O R I M P R O V I N G T H E C A P A C I T Y T O M A N A G E W A L K I N G T R A C K S

4.3.1 Adopting a Track Classification System

The WTWG reviewed the walking tracks inventory and undertook walking track assessments to determine the appropriate classification of the tracks, based on the AS 2156.1-2001 Track Classification system (refer to Appendix D).

The WTWG identified two problems with the AS2156.1-2001 Track Classification System when applied to mountainous areas such as Wellington Park – these being its dependence on terrain-grade factors and weather conditions. Neither of these factors are readily compensated by management, nor do they add anything useful about track quality, usage, importance or similar elements. The WTWG found that the use of the AS2156.1-2001 Track Classification System could potentially downgrade the primary track within the Park, and thus it could not carry signage or further development. The WTWG consider that future standards should be based on the other classification factors and that cautionary/advisory signage (not any part of the classification system) should be employed to inform track users of any special

terrain or weather issues. By doing so, the classification system would be unified with management, environmental and route quality factors and not downgrade high quality tracks involving climbing terrain.

Appendix B indicates the assessed class for each of the walking tracks within the Park. The classification system provides a valuable tool for the future planning, development and management of walking tracks within the Park.

4.3.2 Increasing Management Resources

The *Wellington Park Act 1993* sets out the various functions and powers of the Management Trust as the managing authority for Wellington Park. The Trust employs an Executive Officer but the day to day land management is currently the responsibility of various land owners and occupiers of land within the Park, namely the Hobart City Council, Glenorchy City Council, the Parks and Wildlife Service (PWS) and Hobart Water.

The PWS has very limited on-ground resources for park management and considering the whole of the reserves under their management control within Southern Tasmania. The Hobart City Council has outdoor field staff, largely involved in maintenance of visitor facilities, Pinnacle Road, traffic control, fire control and general supervision and maintenance within the Council owned land within the Park. The Glenorchy City Council has committed minimal resources for park management but is responsible for maintenance, management and development of Tolosa Park (entry point adjoining Wellington Park). Hobart Water principally operates and maintains water supply headworks located within the Park boundaries. A draft Wellington Park Drinking Water Catchment Management Strategy¹¹ has been recently produced and if implemented, it will require significant management resources to be allocated towards protection works and management of the drinking water in the Park.

The *Management Plan 1997* stated that “the total staffing resources available for Wellington Park are not sufficient to provide effective management of such a diverse and important area.” (pp 99). Limited resources will continue to constrain what can be achieved in the future but the Trust and it’s member agencies have been able to secure assistance for tracks work e.g. Green Corp teams. The implementation of the walking track strategies will require a substantial increase in resource allocation to achieve a successful outcomes in improving track maintenance, track upgrading, new track links, promotion and marketing, reduction of conflicts, staff training and facilitating greater community involvement.

¹¹ Hobart water 2002. Draft Wellington Park Drinking Water Catchment Management Strategy

There are limited revenue streams available to the Trust to generate sufficient funds to effectively cover costs and manage the Park. An increase in funding assistance is essential to managing Wellington Park on a sustainable basis given ongoing management issues associated with a significant area and with increasing visitor use.

4.3.3 Increasing Community Involvement Opportunities

Increasingly land managers are looking at the opportunities for encouraging greater involvement by community groups in the management of parks and reserves. Throughout Tasmania there has been a growth in the level of community groups supporting a range of functions undertaken by land managers e.g. Landcare, Coastcare, Bushcare, Wildcare, Friends of (Groups). For instance, Wildcare Inc. managed under the PWS now promotes community involvement in a range of programs, including:

CARes – community action to assist PWS in reserve management e.g. general management assistance, visitor education, Adopt-a-Track Program;

Naturecare – conserving Tasmania’s plants and animals; and

Heritagecare – conserving Tasmania’s cultural heritage.

The Adopt-a-Track Program is available to the Trust and could generate assistance in on-ground works and training of volunteers. The volunteers are listed on a data base, which the Trust could then use to plan working days with insurance covered by Wildcare, or via the land managing agency. The PWS maintenance guidelines were considered by the WTWG to be very useful but that they may need to be tailored to suit different volunteer ability.

Bushwalking Clubs have often provided valuable resources to land managers in the planning, development and ongoing management of walking tracks. The Trust should continue to maintain these arrangements with the Clubs. One option may be to have a contact list for people willing to undertake work on walking tracks outside of the Wildcare program.

The WTWG have prepared a Community Track Maintenance and Clearance Policy that has been adopted by the Trust (refer to Appendix G). It sets out procedures and maintenance guidelines covering use of tools, vegetation clearing, surfaces, drainage and structures.

The Trust should continue to explore the benefits from involvement of clubs and individuals in the Wellington Park track system and particularly through schemes

such as Adopt-a-Track Programs which encourage volunteers to become actively involved in maintaining a track, monitoring use and impacts.

4.3.4 Adopting Sustainable Management Practices

Minimal Impact Awareness

The key messages of the PWS minimal impact bushwalking awareness programs can equally apply to Wellington Park. For instance, walkers should be informed that they are:

- not to use open fires but use fuel stoves within the Park;
- to walk in small groups;
- to use a toilet if available, and not leave human waste within any of the drinking water catchments or near creeks;
- to carry out all rubbish;
- to keep to the formed tracks; and
- not to cut or destroy vegetation, build cairns or blaze trees.

These simple messages should be reinforced through the visitor information and signage information tools used for Wellington Park.

Walkers should be informed that the Park's drinking water catchments are a valuable source of drinking water for the Hobart region, and the drinking water catchment areas shown on walking maps, information signs and other interpretive material. Information should raise awareness of Drinking Water Catchment Restrictions, which include:

- Exercising dogs on a lead and camping in permitted areas only;
- No disposal of toilet waste in drinking water catchments;
- Avoiding contact with the water in streams and storages within the drinking water catchments; and
- Riding of mountain bikes and horses on permitted trails only.

Commercial Activities

The *Management Plan* allows, at the discretion of the Trust, for commercial visitor services and activities within the Park (except the Restricted Zone) with the appliance of precautionary conditions to minimise environmental impact, protect water quality, ensure visitor safety and to avoid areas of known conservation value. Strategies for issuing licences, leases and permits are also set out in the *Management Plan*.

There is currently limited commercial use of walking tracks within Wellington Park with only one operator running longer guided walks on a regular basis. It is known that other tourism operators add walks within Wellington Park into their tour program as the need arises.

There is no indication of the required ratio of guides to clients for any commercial operation within the *Management Plan*. This is considered to be an appropriate position given the variety and capacity of walks to cater for groups within the Park. The PWS have made changes to the maximum group sizes for commercial tours on walks up to 2 hours and one day in duration on Class 2-3 walking tracks (using the Wellington Park classification). This shift was to allow for increased group sizes on walks up to two hours to 25 clients with one guide and a ratio of one guide to 12 clients on full day walks (provided an approved communications system was carried).

The WTWG considered that the real issue was not ratio and/or group size but the frequency of use. The WTWG endorsed the above PWS guide : client ratios and plan to include these in the Trust's track classification system.

Currently the AS 2156.1-2001 Classification System policy for determining usage and group size is:

“The managing authority may impose limits on group sizes and total numbers, Access and use to be in accordance with permit conditions.”

This approach allows the management system to be flexible and to vary according to the operator, client base and suitability of the tracks on a year by year basis. Consideration should also be given to existing licences/routes, the proposed route(s), track classification and standards including sustainability, visitor experience and commercial reality.

The PWS has created a one-stop-shop Community Visitor Services to co-ordinate management of commercial services within the State.

Monitoring Programs

Until recently, the Trust has not had the benefit of a good data base on walking tracks within the Park. The inventory (refer to Appendix F) now provides a way of listing track condition and work undertaken to address the identified problems. The inventory can be used to identify the key tracks at risk from erosion, drainage, weed invasion, lack of maintenance and over-use or inappropriate use.

Scientific research and monitoring is an essential part of achieving effective long term management of the walking tracks. Resources should be provided to allow:

- monitoring of selected sites on walking tracks within the Park for the levels, rates of change and distribution of impacts being caused¹²;

- building up a digital photographic data base of conditions on the tracks over time;

- securing high resolution aerial photographs for observing changes over a number of years to the high altitude parts of the Park;

- ongoing monitoring of user levels via electronic track counters and surveys;

- reporting on regular track maintenance checks of tracks;

- organising a regular forum each year to consult with walking clubs and community members about the condition of tracks and priorities for future track upgrading;

- surveys of visitor views, activities undertaken and opinions within the Park;

- assessing possible impacts on social and cultural values and appreciation of the walking tracks especially where there are user conflicts evident; and

- recording and processing of user comments about tracks (possible opportunity with proposed new visitor centre and allowing registration of comments).

The initial tracks selected for monitoring should include some tracks that are susceptible to erosion due to soils, geology, topography and drainage. Monitoring should also follow the undertaking of works aimed at slowing down the rate of track surface erosion.

¹² Monitoring would involve some measurement and assessment of a range of factors such as depth of erosion, track width, loss of vegetation cover, presence of ponding/frequent water flow, spread of weeds etc.

SECTION 5

ACTION PLAN

This section sets out an Action Plan for implementation of the recommendations made in the current study.

Each recommendation is listed along with an initiating action for its implementation and proposed priority.

It is recognised that the total package of recommendations is likely to be beyond the funds available to the Trust and member agencies in the immediate to short term. In some cases additional planning will be required before a recommendation can be acted upon.

Further, whilst an action may have priority, other priorities taken by the Trust to implement the *Management Plan* within the Park may necessitate that actions be delayed.

No	Recommendation	Initiating Action	Priority
1	As part of the current review of the <i>Wellington Park Management Plan 1997</i> , the Trust consider changes to the existing zones that will support walking opportunities within the Park e.g. change from Restricted Zone to Water Catchment Management Zones where walking is managed	Trust proceeds with statutory process to make alterations to the <i>Management Plan</i> .	High
2	<p>Future planning for walking access and development of visitor facilities within Wellington Park be based on the following categories:</p> <p><u>major entry</u> - car and bus parking, ideally public transport services, range of visitor facilities, short walks, interpretation and information, sign-board, trackhead signs (Pinnacle, The Springs, Fern Tree)</p> <p><u>minor entry - high use</u> - limited car parking, trackhead signs, possibly a short walk, existing visitor facilities (Big Bend, The Chalet, Shoobridge Bend, Strickland Bend, Old Farm Road, Neika, Lenah Valley Road, Myrtle Forest, Tolosa Park, Betts Road)</p> <p><u>minor entry - low use</u> - basic car parking area and trackhead sign (Bracken Lane, Mt Stuart/Knocklofty, Pottery Road, Montrose Road, Chapel Street, Goat Hills, Mountain River Road, Jefferys Track)</p>	Trust and member agencies to adopt the categories and commence works to upgrade access and facilities as resources permit	High
3	Parking studies be undertaken for Fern Tree area including access points onto the Pipeline Track to address capacity, safety, access and other issues.	Hobart City Council	High
4	<p>The following priorities be used for guiding resource allocation to existing walking tracks (in order of priority):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ensuring the primary safety and avoiding unreasonable risk for users on the walking tracks; • avoiding/reducing potential impacts on the significant natural and cultural values of the Park e.g. drinking water quality, threatened species habitat, cultural sites; • preventing environmental impacts that will impose ongoing problems or major costs for future rehabilitation works e.g. landslip, weed invasion; • enhancing the access, enjoyment and experience of walkers on tracks with a high level of use; and • enhancing the access, enjoyment and experience of walkers on tracks with a lower level of use. 	Trust to review priorities with the existing tracks data base and revise operational plan for works	High

No	Recommendation	Initiating Action	Priority
5	<p>Review the potential for implementing the following new walking track links :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • constructing a new link off the Big Bend Trail to the large car park south of Big Bend (500m on Pinnacle Road) and a new connection from the car park to the start of Lost World (thus creating a more central, convenient and safer parking situation); • developing a new link from the Chalet to the Panorama Track; • constructing a new route for the Panorama Track to connect with the Pinnacle (thus avoiding the safety concerns of walkers on Pinnacle Road); • investigating the potential for a future track that would link Glenorchy City to the Old Hobartians Track (and thus onto the Pinnacle) given that previously owned private land has now been added to Wellington Park; • finding an alternative route for the Pipeline Track to Wellington Falls to by-pass the landslip areas and water quality concerns with St Crispins Well (currently being investigated by the Trust); • finding a better route to Mt Montagu to avoid wet areas; • building a new loop access from New Town Falls; • upgrading the informal track between Strickland Ave and Strickland Falls; • providing a link from Circle Track back to Shoobridge Bend (thus avoiding walkers using Pinnacle Road); • relocating the track to Trestle Mountain given the inappropriate track location, poor condition and multiple routes/ marking; and • creating a short return loop at Myrtle Forest. 	Commence or continue feasibility of developing the walking track links and incorporate allocations within the operation budget.	High - Moderate
6	Continue to implement the Wellington Park Sign Strategy and individual Sign Locations Plans	Allocation of budget to allow for implementation	Ongoing
7	Not develop walker registration facilities within the Park although review opportunities for gaining visitor information with development of a visitor centre at The Springs.	No action as yet, but review with Springs site planning	Low
8	Prepare an Interpretation Strategy for Wellington Park, which includes opportunities for introducing interpretation with walking experiences.	Identify funding sources to prepare Strategy	Moderate
9	Continue to monitor the extent of possible conflicts with multiple use of walking tracks and take appropriate action to reduce impacts.	Maintain register of identified or recorded conflicts	Moderate - Low

No	Recommendation	Initiating Action	Priority
10	Consult with rock climbers about the need to rationalize tracks in rock climbing locations.	Arrange meeting with representatives of climbers	Moderate
11	Where necessary, seek the services of a professional risk assessor to identify the potential liability issues associated with multiple use of walking tracks and fires trails within the Park, and in particular the options available to the Trust to reduce, transfer, manage or make safe within the guidance of sound management practice and management systems.	Review need for additional advice beyond that received for the past tracks	Moderate
12	Instigate a regular maintenance check of walking tracks based on levels of use and potential risk and keep a data base of records of such inspections	Prepare schedule for maintenance check	High
13	Maintain and update the existing walking tracks data base	Provide resources to maintain and update data base	High
14	<p>Adopt the following objectives for marketing walking tracks within the Park:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • only promote and market the walking tracks that can be managed on a sustainable basis; • promote a choice of walking experiences that suit the diverse range of visitors - very short walks, short walks, half day walks and day walks; • ensure that the expectations of walking in the Park are realistic by providing information and advice about weather conditions, degree of difficulty, duration of the walk, suitable experience and equipment etc; • provide a range of interpretation opportunities linked to walking within the Park; • educate and inform walkers about minimal impact walking and how they can care for the Park; and • co-ordinate the delivery of information to walkers. 	Use as guidelines to future marketing and promotion work	Moderate

No	Recommendation	Initiating Action	Priority
15	<p>Consider a range of opportunities for promoting and marketing walks within the Park:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • organising a portfolio of quality photographic images of the Park; • including Wellington Park walks in key Tasmanian tourism industry web sites for travel trade and customer access; • continuing to support the inclusion of a short walk, half day walk and day walk in as part of the 60 Great Short Walks marketing collateral for the State; • including walking experiences within Wellington Park in any promotional brochure prepared for Wellington Park; • producing a free tear-off map with short walks for distribution within the proposed new visitor centre, Tasmania travel centre and other local visitor information outlets; • producing and selling a special walks map for the Park that provides a professional presentation of the walks, destinational/interpretative text and information on the walks, access, facilities, experiences etc; • implementing the Signs Strategy and in particular the installation of trackhead signs, walking track signs and directional route markers; • including Wellington Park on the international fact sheets for the international travel trade market t; • encouraging appropriate commercially based guided walking tours to operate within the Park; • liaising with Tourism Tasmania about involvement of walks within freelance journalist programs within the State; and • supporting events and festivals that link appropriate activities with Wellington Park and awareness of walks e.g. Mountain Festival, Three Peaks Race, Summer Festival. 	Use as a guide to identifying resource needs for promotion and marketing	Moderate
16	<p>The priority walks for promoting and marketing as very short walks (<1 hr) within the Park be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sphinx Rock from The Springs • Start of Zig Zag to lookout • New short walk (loop) at Myrtle Forest • Circle Track • Silver Falls • Fern Glade circuit • Fern Tree - Silver Falls return 	Give priority to works on these tracks	High

No	Recommendation	Initiating Action	Priority
17	The priority walks for promoting and marketing as short walks (1-2 hr) within the Park be: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fern Glade - The Springs return • Milles Track to lookout and return 	Give priority to works on these tracks	High
18	The priority walks for promoting and marketing as half day walks (2-4 hrs) within the Park be: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Springs - Lenah Valley Track - Hunters- Organ Pipes - The Springs • The Springs - Pinnacle - Zig Zag return • The Chalet - Panorama - Pinnacle - Zig Zag - Organ Pipes • Fern Tree - Neika return • Myrtle Forest - Collins Cap and Collins Bonnet return • Lenah Valley Track (Springs - Lenah Valley) 	Give priority to works on these tracks	Moderate
19	The priority walks for promoting and marketing as day walks (4 hrs +) within the Park be: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Springs - Pinnacle Track - Zig Zag - South Wellington - Ice House- The Springs • Milles Track to Wellington Falls • Lenah Valley - OHA - Panorama - Pinnacle - The Springs - Lenah Valley 	Give priority to works on these tracks	Moderate
20	The Trust adopt the AS 2156.1-2001 Track Classification System and classification of tracks as listed in Appendix D.	Already undertaken	High
21	Increase the funding to the Trust and land managing agencies to achieve the implementation of the Walking Tracks Strategy.	Trust to review needs and options for achieving implementation of Strategy based on current resources.	High
22	The Glenorchy City Council allocate sufficient resources towards the development of Tolosa Park and walking tracks that will improve public access and link the City to the Park.	Instigate forward planning future works budgets.	High, ongoing
23	Adopt the Community Track maintenance and Clearance Policy	Already undertaken	High
24	Commence an Adopt-a-Track Program for Wellington Park under the auspices of Wildcare and maintain arrangements with walking clubs and individuals for assistance with maintaining tracks.	Continue discussions with Wildcare	Moderate
25	Adopt the key messages of minimal impact bushwalking in all awareness and information tools for the Park.	Ongoing need	Ongoing

26	Adopt the PWS policy of a guide to client ratio of 1:25 for walks up to 2 hours and 1: 12 clients on day walks where an approved communications system was carried.	Already undertaken	Moderate
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No	Recommendation	Initiating Action	Priority
27	<p>The Trust undertake a monitoring program of walking tracks and use to allow:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • monitoring of selected sites on walking tracks within the Park for the levels, rates of change and distribution of impacts being caused; • building up a digital photographic data base of conditions on the tracks over time; • securing high resolution aerial photographs for observing changes over a number of years to the high altitude parts of the Park; • ongoing monitoring of user levels via electronic track counters and surveys; • reporting on regular track maintenance checks of tracks; • organising a regular forum each year to consult with walking clubs and community members about the condition of tracks and priorities for future track upgrading; • surveys of walkers and their views; and • recording and processing of user comments about tracks. 	Select monitoring sites with involvement of WTWG	Moderate
28	The Wellington Park Walking Track Working Group continue to meet and oversee the implementation of the Strategy including addressing issues not yet determined within the Strategy.	Ongoing role	High

R E F E R E N C E S

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APPENDIX **A**
REVIEW OF PROGRESS ON 1997
MANAGEMENT PLAN RECOMMENDATIONS

Refer Separate File

APPENDIX **B**
WELLINGTON PARK TRACK LIST
(PREPARED BY THE WALKING TRACK WORKING GROUP)

Refer Separate File.

APPENDIX C
WALKING TRACK MAPS

Key contained below. Refer separate file for maps.

Map Key

Map Symbol	Access Type	Locations	Access and Visitor Facilities
(star)	Major Entry	Pinnacle, The Springs, Fern Tree	car and bus parking, ideally public transport services, range of visitor facilities, short walks, interpretation and information, sign-board, trackhead signs
?	Minor Entry – High Use	Big Bend, The Chalet, Shoobridge Bend, Strickland Bend, Old Farm Road, Neika, Lenah Valley Road, Myrtle Forest, Tolosa Park, Betts Road,	limited car parking, trackhead signs, possibly a short walk, existing visitor facilities
?	Minor Entry – Low Use	Bracken Lane, Jacksons Bend, Mt Stuart/Knocklofty, Pottery Road, Montrose Road, Chapel Street, Goat Hills, Mountain River Road, Jefferys Track	basic car parking area and trackhead sign

Site No	Potential New Walking Track Links
1	Constructing a new link off the Big Bend Trail to the large car park at Big Bend (500m on Pinnacle Road) and a new connection from the car park to the start of Lost World (thus creating a more central, convenient and safer parking situation)
2	Developing a new link from the Chalet to the Panorama Track
3	Constructing a new route for the Pinnacle Track to connect to the Pinnacle (thus avoiding the safety concerns of walkers on Pinnacle Road)
4	Investigating the potential for a future track that would link Glenorchy City to the Old Hobartians Track (and thus onto the Pinnacle) given that previously owned private land has now been acquired by the Hobart City Council.
5	Finding an alternative route for the Pipeline Track to Wellington Falls to bypass the landslip areas and water quality concerns with St Crispins Well (currently being investigated by the Trust)
6	Finding a better route to Mt Montagu to avoid wet lying areas
7	Building a new access loop from New Town Falls I
8	Upgrading a link between Strickland Avenue and Strickland Falls and onto Middle Island fire trail (requires negotiation with Cascade Brewery)
9	Providing a link from Circle Track back to Shoobridge Bend (thus avoiding walkers using Pinnacle Road)
10	Relocating the track to Trestle Mountain given the inappropriate track location, poor condition and multiple routes/marking
11	Creating a short return loop at Myrtle Forest

APPENDIX **D**
CLASSIFICATION SYSTEM
(AS 2156.1-2001) FOR CLASS 1-6
WALKING TRACKS

Refer Separate File.

APPENDIX **E**
WALKING TRACKS LISTED BY DURATION OF
WALK

Refer Separate File.

APPENDIX **F**
WALKING TRACKS LISTED BY ISSUES

Refer Separate File.

APPENDIX **G**
COMMUNITY TRACK MAINTENANCE AND
CLEARANCE POLICY

(PREPARED BY THE WALKING TRACK WORKING GROUP AND ADOPTED BY THE
TRUST)

Refer Separate File.