

Battle Hill Farm Forest Park Management Plan review

Public Meeting 4 April 2006

What is special about Battle Hill?

- Magnificent work being done with riparian planting, wetland protection, protection and enhancement of ephemeral streams. I'd like to see this aspect of environmental management made much more widely known in the Inlet catchment – actively promoted to people who may be interested in revegetation, but not very knowledgeable or confident. Very family orientated, because of the range of activities and variety of physical skills needed. Excellent balance of environmental/commercial/recreational activities
- Its history – as in “Battle Hill”
- Battle Hill provides an important access mechanism to an environmental area for people that may not otherwise access the internationally famed NZ environment
- Airstrip handy for local farmers; fun to watch
- Country experience opportunities
- Panoramas west and south, walkways – good footing, more shelter would be good, well used by pony club
- Accessibility from Porirua, also within park to different parts
- Excellent variety for mountain biking, from learners to experts as well as safe.
- Excellent trail running opportunities (safe and not too isolated)
- Good amenities, toilets/car parking, camping
- Stream is important ecologically and being dealt with effectively
- Well used by horse riders all year round – Long may this continue. Great parking with float and vehicle, good amenities. Wellington Horse Trail Riding Club and Wellington Area Pony Club use the eventing area and forestry trails.

What opportunities are there?

- Take into account the values of Pauatahanui Inlet and add into conservation objectives – e.g. forestry run off, soil conservation, riparian planting.
- Historical interpretation depicting stories (eg Battle Hill Maori battle) along the walking tracks
- Hands-on interactive animal area for children
- The review planning presents the opportunity to re-balance commercial farming with the recreational objectives of a regional park. A chance to reassess priorities.
- Build on the farming educational opportunities
- Fishing (trout) artificial pond – ice skating
- Deeper swimming hole with swings for older kids
- More signposted tracks (walking)
- Kiwi sanctuary in bush reserve
- More recognition of trees that survive climate change/water shortage
- Use events (all types – agricultural e.g. Country Festival; alpacas; sheep) to attract more people

- Re-establish native bush in controlled areas
- Improve habitat – native buffer plantings
- “Forestry” arboretum oaks
- Agri-forestry specimen trees
- Tree labelling in bush reserve to increase education of young people
- Managed 4WD access to Puketiro Forest
- Increase agricultural education – schools, animal husbandry, farming, career option? Partner with agriculture ITO

How can Greater Wellington best meet everybody's needs?

- Top dressing – use of Battle Hill airstrip need to manage conflicts with recreation users if more farmers/other want to use Battle Hill strip because other strips are closing down (3 ticks)
- More seats/rest areas to make accessible to more/older walkers – in plantation area foot (not bikes) bridge over the stream
- Access for mountain biking/running events and general training/pleasure to be continued
- Recreation as a priority as opposed to farming etc.
- Access is critical. Battle Hill provides one of the few environmental areas that are accessible to the less able members of the community. Consideration should also be given to broadening vehicle access for such purposes.

What aspects are least satisfactory & what can be done to overcome them?

- Carparking for large events. Needs a circuit? Only one way in and out.
- Interpretation/information trail for the natural environment
- Make sure utilities in public areas don't spoil open space natural areas
- The actual Battle Hill has heritage and cultural values. Can we remove unsightly power poles from it please.
- More signs re removing rubbish but bins for large events
- Not enough activities for the whole family.