

Glenside Reserve Walk 26 April 2023
Combined Council and Community walk
Discussion document

Including a supplementary report on Glenside Reserve Walks in 2024
with Bradley Schroder, WCC Managers Parks & Open Spaces 25 January 2024 and the
Community Walk 28 January 2024

Glenside Reserve, 1974



Glenside Reserve, 2004



Overview

The Northern Reserves Management Plan (2008) recognises that Glenside Reserve, which is Open Space B, is a substantial area of green open space of rural character and seeks to protect this rural character.

The Glenside community recognise the reserve has historic significance and natural values. The Glenside Progressive Association Inc. seeks a management plan for the reserve in partnership with Wellington City Council to protect the rural character of the reserve and will be seeking funding in the Long Term Plan.

With the grazing lease coming up for review in 2024, the Association brought Wellington City Council, Porirua City Council and Greater Wellington Regional Council together on April 26, 2023 to consider a way forward.

The main discussions concerned the grazing lease, the state of the infrastructure (existing and retired), water flow management and restoration of the natural habitat including fish and birds.

Note: The Glenside Reserve is dissected by Westchester Drive. This report is about the larger Glenside Reserve, which also contains the historic Halfway House and former caretakers house, along with a three-bay shed and outbuildings.

The discussion document covers the following points:

- Introduction
- Purpose of Walk
- Guiding documents
- The walk
- Birds
- Fish passages and fish barriers
- Water flow management
- Wastewater pipes
- Tracks and trails
- Appendix 1. Timeline of land use.
- Appendix 2. Written comments following the walk.
- Appendix 3. Attendees.

1. Introduction

On 26 April 2023 the Glenside Progressive Association Inc. (GPA) in partnership with Wellington City Council (WCC) hosted a walk across the Glenside Reserve with representatives attending from the local community, WCC, Greater Wellington Regional Council (GWRC) Porirua City Council (PCC) and Newlands Paparangi Horse Riding Society. There were 20 people present.

The GPA is seeking a joint Glenside Reserve Management Plan with WCC, providing for quick wins, with funding allocated for short term and long-term outcomes.

2. Purpose of walk

The GPA purpose in hosting the Glenside Reserve walk, was to bring key stakeholders together to share their knowledge and expertise and understand the issues as a starting point for a Glenside Reserve Management Plan.

Why now?

- a) With the grazing lease coming up for renewal in 2024, the joint discussion would provide guidance for WCC on what to communicate to potential lessees.
- b) There are groups including councils, agencies and community accessing the reserve and this carries a risk that there will be an ad hoc planning approach, conflicting ideas and loss of funding opportunities. The walk enabled networking and discussion between key stakeholders.

Glenside Reserve Memorandum

The GPA operates under the Glenside Reserve Memorandum with WCC Park Rangers, which was first signed in 2010.

3. Guiding documents

Background

The WCC has previously consulted with the community on the way forward for the Glenside Reserve. This resulted in the development of the Northern Reserves Management Plan (2008), the Glenside Future Options Report (2004) and the Glenside Streamcare Report (2004). The following paragraphs summarise the documents.

The Northern Reserves Management Plan (2008)

The purpose of the Northern Reserves Management Plan (NRMP) is to provide WCC with a clear framework for day-to-day management and decision making for the Council-owned reserves and open spaces in the northern area (northern reserves) for the next 10 years, pp. 99-104 refer.

Northern Reserves Management Plan

<https://wellington.govt.nz/your-council/plans-policies-and-bylaws/policies/northern-reserves-management-plan>

Its key objectives are to:

- Protect and enhance the existing character and values of Glenside Reserve
- Provide for more intensive use of defined areas of the reserve in the longer term
- Exclude some key areas from intensive use so that vegetation can be restored
- Provide for the long-term conservation and use of the Halfway House. (The Halfway House was restored and opened in 2017).

Glenside Future Options Report (2004).

The Glenside Future Options Report (2004) which was commissioned by WCC and prepared by a consultant, is a scoping report that explores options for the future of Glenside Reserve, taking into account its history, ecology and landscape, and the views of current users, community groups and wider community. Two options were offered, Option 1 Heritage Farm Park and Option 2 Educational Farm Park.

The Options Report includes:

- The Glenside Reserve Streamcare Vision (2004)
- A letter from the Newlands Paparangi Horse Riding Society.

Glenside Reserve Streamcare Vision (2004)

The Glenside Streamcare Group was operating from 2001-2011. Restoration work in Glenside is now carried out by the Glenside Restoration Group.

The Streamcare Group report provides suggestions and principles for the future “look” of the Glenside Reserve. It was intended that the suggestions would be used by WCC when preparing a reserve development plan. Many of the suggestions are relevant today and were brought up during the Reserve Walk, such as fish barriers, revegetating selected sites and encouraging bird life. There are also comments on grazing and the ford.

Newlands Paparangi Horse Riding Society

The Club advised that they had been grazing the Glenside grounds since about 1991. In their letter, the Club outlined the benefits of their Society to youth and Council, and the benefit to birdlife of having no unattended dogs on the land. The Club raised concerns which included site hazards and flood management.

Timeline

A timeline of the reserve land use dating from 1839 is included at the end of this document. See Appendix 1.

4. The walk

Background

The walk took place on Wednesday, 26th April at 12:30 pm. It was followed by afternoon tea at Halfway House. There was an opportunity to record ideas for a management plan on paper.

Attendees.

A list of attendees with contact details is included at the end of the document, Appendix 3.

Walk route

The walk route is marked with a yellow line on Figure 1

- The first part of the walk route was from the Halfway House to the putting green lookout.
- The second part of the walk was from the putting green lookout, across the stream ford, then across the paddock to the boundary fence where there are several weirs in the stream.

Eel feeding

There was an option to feed the eels at the Halfway House, marked with a yellow dot on the map. (See next page).

Figure 1. Walk route.



5. Birds

Bird surveys

Claire Bibby, Glenside has recorded bird observations for the Landcare Bird Research Survey (annual bird count) in the Glenside Reserve since 2016. Bird data has been captured on the NZ Bird Atlas and bird surveys are now being undertaken more often. Of the 23 birds observed in Glenside Reserve, half are native or endemic to New Zealand. The Harrier Hawk/Kāhu hunts on the open pastures. There is a desire to retain the ground nesting birds and Harrier Hawk hunting grounds.

Six birds observed are ground or bank nesting birds. These are as follows:

- California Quail
- Mallard
- Paradise Shelduck/Pūtangitangi
- Pūkeko
- Sacred Kingfisher/Kōtare
- Spur-winged Plover.

No dogs

Due to ground nesting birds, some of the Council officials present did not support dogs. The Glenside Streamcare Group report did not support dogs on the reserve (2004, p. 4). There are alternative dog exercising areas in the locality at Seton Nossiter, Stebbings Dam and Willowbank. There were ground birds, blue herons, at Stebbings Dam reserve but they left when it became a dog exercise area.

The Northern Reserves Management Plan proposes new dog exercise areas in Woodridge, Stebbings Valley, Lincolnshire Farm and Newlands (2008, p. 60; 99; 111).

Table 1. Bird species observed Glenside Reserve

Native/Endemic	Introduced
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Australasian Harrier/ Kāhu• Bellbird• Grey Warbler/Riroriro• New Zealand Fantail/Pīwakawaka• New Zealand Kaka• New Zealand Pigeon/Kererū• Paradise Shelduck/Pūtangitangi• Pūkeko• Sacred Kingfisher/Kōtare• Silvereye/Tauhou• Southern Black Backed Gull• Spur-winged Plover• Tui	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Australian Magpie• California Quail• Eurasian Blackbird• European Goldfinch• European Greenfinch• European Starling• House Sparrow• Mallard• Song Thrush• Yellowhammer

6. Fish passages and fish barriers

The discussion was led by Joshua Forrest, Biodiversity Ranger - Fish Passage, Greater Wellington.

The water in the reserve flows down to Porirua Harbour. Īnanga (a whitebait species) spawn at the river mouth and estuary and swim upstream to grow into adult fish. Barriers in waterways stop migrating Īnanga from reaching better habitat upstream. There are no fish in the Glenside Reserve because the ford is a fish barrier. Īnanga are found swimming around at the bottom of the ford, they cannot get up the ford and migrate upstream.

There are fish upstream in Seton Nossitor Park, however these are likely an isolated pocket of fish, not integrated with the lower river system.

The following rare and endangered fish are in the Glenside-Stebbing's Valley river catchment:

- Giant kōkopu
- Long fin eel
- Red fin bully
- Kōura/fresh water crayfish
- Kākahi/freshwater mussel.

The freshwater mussel is the only known population in the Porirua catchment and is found in the Stebbings Stream above Stebbings Dam. One way baby mussel migrate upstream is attaching itself to fish, and it could re-establish in the Glenside Reserve branch of the stream, if the fish barriers are removed.

The fish barriers in the Glenside Reserve are:

- The ford
- Three known weirs upstream from the ford, originally constructed in c1979 to manage water flow levels.
- The motorway underpass.

Read more about Īnganga here:

<https://www.doc.govt.nz/nature/native-animals/freshwater-fish/whitebait-migratory-galaxiids/inanga/>

Update post meeting from Joshua Forrest

The weir structure upstream from Glenside Reserve is a decent size, but the way it's performing now there are only two moderate barriers to fish passage it presents (originally it would have been one very significant barrier). The lower end of the structure has an approximately 15cm drop (based on the water levels when we were there), and the upstream part of the structure has a ramp with high water velocity. The bulk of the original structure now has bed material accumulating on it providing excellent fish passage and potential refuge. The two barriers associated with this structure are both easy fixes – we could have them done early in the next financial year.

7. Water flow management

The discussion was led by Mike Jensen, Area Engineer, GWRC. Mike has been working in the streams in the Porirua/Hutt catchments for many years.

Approximately 30% of the Porirua Upper stream catchment flows through Glenside suburb, receiving water from Newlands, Paparangi, Grenada, Churton Park and Stebbings Valley. The most severe flood through Glenside was in 1976. There are two dams on the Stebbings side constructed in 2004 to contain the flow.

The motorway was constructed after World War II and the Johnsonville-Tawa section opened in 1950. The fill was the largest in the Southern Hemisphere. It acts as a dam for water flowing in from Seton Nossiter park. Currently the culvert in the base of the motorway is deteriorating and is being replaced.

The weirs and ford

The weir and ford were designed to manage the water flow. The gravel is meant to be cleared periodically. GWRC stopped managing the weirs years ago, as the water course agreement doesn't include the reserve. The WCC doesn't maintain the weirs.

It's not a simple thing to remove the ford. One has to consider the impact, which would likely be scouring out of the streambed. There could be downstream effects if not carried out correctly.

Watercourse agreement

The GWRC has regulatory control over all watercourses. As a general rule, the care and maintenance of all watercourses is the responsibility of the landowner or the Territorial Licensing Authority (TLA). However under the watercourses agreement with local TLAs, flood protection staff carry out clearing work in a number of watercourses to keep the watercourse clear for flood flows. The watercourses agreement does not provide for erosion repairs or work to protect individual private properties or assets.

Further information about watercourse agreements:

<https://archive.gw.govt.nz/assets/Our-Services/Flood-Protection/Other-River-and-Stream/Wellington-Minor-Watercourses-O-214-02.pdf>

Porirua stream water course agreement

The following information is provided by the GPA.

The Water Course agreement was signed in 1978 and in 2022 the Greater Wellington budget to keep the stream clear from Twigland Garden Centre down to Porirua Harbour was \$48,000. In one year, half this was spent cleaning up after one flood event.

In 2022 the GPA lobbied Councillors at GWRC, WCC and PCC for a multi-million dollar River Scheme, such as that which Hutt Valley operates under, which is funded from the combined Councils of GWRC, Upper Hutt and Lower Hutt.

Wendy Walker, Chief Executive PCC sent the following email to Claire Bibby, GPA, dated 25 March 2022.

“The Water Course Agreement between Porirua City Council and the old Wellington Regional Waterboard was signed in 1978. Wellington City Council were involved in a similar water course agreement at the same time. The Watercourse Agreement is on our agenda to re-consider. The agreement is no longer fit for purpose. Financial arrangements, roles and responsibilities are not clear, and we need to consider how all of the organisations involved move to managing our streams more effectively. We will raise the issue with senior management at Greater Wellington to progress this.

We are addressing stream health through a combined riparian planning and management approach with Wellington City Council and Greater Wellington.

Flooding is an issue in the Porirua catchment and stems from increased urban development, stormwater intensity and changes in our weather patterns. There does need to be a cross organisational approach to how we manage flooding, in a manner that meets national standards for water management and addresses implications of national urban development requirements. That approach has to be developed with Greater Wellington, Wellington Water and Wellington City Council.”

Glenside community view

Since 2001, the Glenside community have been making regular submissions that Greater Wellington and Wellington City stop issuing consents for permissive earthworks and piping streams and do more to protect the upper Porirua stream catchment and the waterways and infrastructure between Johnsonville and Tawa. There have been no changes in decision making for consents from the local authorities despite these submissions.

8. Wastewater pipes

This discussion was led by Simon Angus, Network Operations and Engineering Lead (North) for Greater Wellington.

Note: Much of the infrastructure on the Reserve is redundant from the era of the Glenside Sewerage Treatment Plant 1961-1989. Other pipes are redundant water pipes from the former Railway Dam water supply (1928 era) later the Glenside Water supply gravity fed from a waterfall in Seton Nossiter park.

Simon advised that the WCC wastewater pipes within Glenside Reserve are classified as critical gravity trunk mains which convey large volumes of wastewater from the Northern Suburbs to Porirua using gravity pipes.

- From the southeast wastewater is coming from Woodridge, Newlands & Paparangi via a 525mm pipe.
- From the southwest wastewater is coming from Johnsonville & Churton Park via a 300mm pipe.
- These pipes join in the horse paddock where the old treatment plant was as a 600mm diameter pipe and then conveys wastewater towards Porirua down Middleton Road.

Figure 2. Sewage pipe network (in red).



Where the wastewater main crosses the stream it currently sits just below the bed of the stream with the top of the pipe visible from the surface. The manhole on the embankment of the stream is part of the operational network mentioned above.

Figure 3. Exposed man pipe.



Those present on the walk expressed concern for the security and stability of the sewer pipe and manhole in the stream, which is impacted by erosion.

Update post meeting from Simon Angus

Wellington Water is assessing the manhole in the stream, any further erosion of the stream at the manhole location will put the manhole and wastewater main at risk.

Wellington Water is seeking advice on what urgent work is required and permitted to protect the asset from further stream erosion. This work may require a consenting or be completed under a permitted activity.

Wellington Water will work with stakeholders once we have determined a plan for protecting the asset.

9. Streamside restoration and revegetation

Background

The Glenside community has a strong history of streamside revegetation, commencing with the Glenside Streamcare Group (2001-2011) and continuing with the Barry Blackett and the Glenside Restoration Group. The GPA are keen to involve community in streamside restoration work in Glenside Reserve.

Anita Benbrook, Biodiversity Specialist WCC, oversaw the revegetation of the wetlands in the Glenside Reserve in 2017 and 2018.

Current situation

WCC is not progressing streamside restoration in Glenside Reserve due to issues with current grazing lease.

Other points:

- The area upstream from the ford is gravel and clay and difficult to plant in
- The fenced areas in the reserve are being washed out by erosion
- The community values the sunny open pastures, rural aspect and flat land.

There are small pockets of restoration work underway alongside the streams between Twigland Garden Centre and Glenside Reserve, which are carried out by the GPA and Halfway House Heritage Gardeners.

Pest Plants

Any land retired for revegetation will need a management plan to manage weed infestation. The reserve has high infestations of pest plants.

Anita Benbrook is currently overseeing a revegetation plan for the retired grazing land where the Glenside loops tracks are. The block had been left to revegetate with no intervention following grazing and is heavily infested with pest plants. It will take years to clean up. The pest plants are:

- Blackberry
- Cherry tree
- Convolvulus
- Ivy
- Japanese honeysuckle
- Old Mans Beard
- Ragwort (manageable)
- Sycamore tree

The Halfway House gardeners regularly remove convolvulus, blackberry and periwinkle around the heritage garden. There is tradescantia downstream.

The smaller Glenside Reserve on the north side of Westchester Drive is infested with Pampas, Japanese honeysuckle and blackberry.

Monterey consent issues and stream outfall pipe

In about 2003 resource consents were approved to build Monterey Apartments. Apartments have been constructed on the stream bank i.e. with no set-back. In places, the apartment decks overhang the bank.

During construction, Monterey moved the stream which flows from Johnsonville under the Monterey apartments from where it outflowed opposite Twiglands (onto a concrete pad) to 30 metres upstream outflow opposite Halfway House onto a soft bank. Rock was dumped into the stream to remediate the impact of the outflow in a heavy rainfall event.

These consent issues have resulted in erosion at Halfway House and downstream at Twiglands. It is difficult to plant the Monterey embankment downstream from the outlet for erosion control, as the stream is narrow and swift and the volume of water washes new plants out in heavy rainfall events.

Figure 4. Monterey apartment foundations in the stream bank, 2004.



Figure 5. Stream outflow beneath Monterey and detail of Monterey foundation blocks.



10. Tracks and trails

Background

The Northern Reserves Management Plan recognised there was no existing track system in the Glenside community (2008 p. 62). Since then, Barry Blackett (GPA) has led the restoration and revegetation of the banks of Glenside Road and Stebbings Road making a popular recreational walk to Stebbings Dam. Two new tracks were recently developed by WCC in Glenside Reserve.

Figure 6. Approximate route of Glenside Reserve loop tracks.



Glenside Reserve new tracks

The WCC constructed two Glenside loop tracks in the reserve in 2021 and 2022. Entry is from the Halfway House lane. At the request of the community, these trails are designed for less able people and toddlers, and also for nearby businesses as a work break walk. They are an easy grade walk of about 10 minutes (short loop) and an additional 15 minutes (long loop). Dogs are on a lead, and no bike riding is permitted. These tracks are fenced off from the large reserve.

Potential tracks and trails

There are plenty of existing old vehicle tracks on the larger reserve that could be used for walking trails. Some are becoming overgrown. These could be kept clear and maintained under the new lease agreement. One track goes to a high point on the reserve.

Figure 7. Glenside Reserve showing existing tracks across hill faces in 2004



Figure 8. Glenside Reserve showing tracks in 1981 before the construction of Westchester Drive through the reserve in c1993



Linkages

The Northern Reserves Management Plan seeks to retain the rural character of the Glenside Reserve and form linkages.

Glenside Reserve constitutes a substantial area of green open space which, taken in combination with associated areas of a similar character, has a very significant visual impact from surrounding areas. A 'rural character' has been sustained in spite of the intensity of development in surrounding areas. The concept plan provided aims to protect this rural character. In its advocacy for the enhancement of landscape and recreation values the Council will seek to strengthen linkages from Glenside Reserve across the motorway to Seton Nossitor, along the Porirua Stream to Willowbank, and south to Wingfield Place.

Northern Reserves Management Plan (2008, p.96)

Glenside Reserve – Seton Nossitor Park

There is an opportunity for an underpass or overbridge linking Glenside Reserve to Seton Nossitor park. The GPA has previously discussed this with Councillors and Grenada Village Community Association. This is a potential long-term objective.

Glenside reserve - Wingfield Place

The WCC draft District Plan proposes a 22 metre height on the adjacent south boundary block, 196 Middleton Road, under Mixed Use Zone rules. There is potential for a developer reserve contribution to pass land across the back of the property to WCC or GWRC. Alternatively, the Council/s could buy it.

There was once a vehicle track from the Glenside Reserve across the back of the adjacent property to the culvert beneath the motorway. This was accessible as recently as 2001 but has become overgrown and could potentially be restored.

Continued next page

11. Glenside Reserve Management Plan

The GPA seeks the development of a management plan in partnership with WCC which could potentially include the following:

- List and location of building/infrastructure assets
- Location of sewage and water pipes (active and retired)..
- Location of electricity/gas/lines etc.
- Approach to grazing including areas to retire/retain in grazing.
- Fencing priorities.
- Mapping existing tracks and track maintenance programme.
- Stream and pond restoration and flood management (restoration and flood management plans should be symbiotic).
- Fish benchmarking and fish trap removal.
- NZ e-bird engagement New Zealand Bird Atlas.
- A planting plan for natives and exotics
- Incorporation of past heritage into a future plan.

The next steps for the GPA will be to seek funding for the Glenside Reserve in the long-term plan.

Appendix 1. Timeline of land use.

- 1839 Maori walking trail Paparangi/Horokiwi to Makara. The New Zealand Company offers 100-acre blocks for sale.
- 1841 Accommodation offered in private home which became known as the Halfway House.
- 1846-1849 Halfway House marked on map by military men building the road to Porirua.
- 1880 New (existing) Halfway House built by horseman Alexander Brown. Named Gowan Bank.
- 1885 Railway construction and viaduct across the 100-acre block (later to become motorway).
- 1891 Old Halfway House burns down.
- 1901 Gowan Bank sold by Browns and leased.
- WWI Property purchased by Watt family, well-known in Wellington for farming and construction.
- c1917 Crown purchased half the land.
- 1927 Public works camp established for 300 railway workers constructing railway tunnel and line.
- 1928 Locality name change from Halfway House/The Halfway to Glenside.
- 1929 James Patrick Morris, Tunneller, Miner, killed falling down Railway lift shaft. Buried Karori.
- 1936 Railways move onto Homer tunnel. Nine-hole Glenside Golf Course opened. Glenside Tennis Club formed. Halfway House used for Golf Club meetings.
- WWII Land used for Army Camp. Public excluded.
- 1950 Motorway opened.
- 1951 Victoria College (Victoria University) extends onto Town Belt land. Wellington City Council purchase the Halfway House and associated land with Crown funds paid in compensation for the encroachment. Council intends using land as a reserve.
- 1961-1989 Glenside sewerage treatment plant established on Glenside Reserve.
- 1989 Dispute between Parks and Reserves and other City Council Departments over the future use of Glenside Reserve. In 1990 Audit Office findings are that its purchase was intended as a reserve and proper process for public consultation must be followed. Approved for lease to Newlands/Paparangi Riding Club in 1989.
- 2002 Blessing of the streams with Ngati Toa and St John Anglican Church.
- 2004 Wellington City Council commission *Glenside Reserve Future Options* report and draft Conservation Plan for Halfway House.
- 2007 Halfway House listed on the Wellington District Plan as an historic site.
- 2010 First streamside restoration planting at Halfway House. Memorandum of Understanding between Wellington City Council and Glenside Progressive Association Inc. signed.
- 2014 Halfway House section is changed from recreation reserve to historic reserve per section 18 of the Reserves Act 1977. Halfway House Heritage Gardeners Group established. Wellington City Council commission *Halfway House Landscape Plan*.
- 2017 Official opening of the Halfway House.
- 2021 Halfway House public rooms opened for hire.

Appendix 2. Written comments following the walk.

What do you like about the space?

- Access.
- Halfway House and backdrop potential.
- Views! (supported with a “Yes!”).
- Open Green space. Open space.
- Sunny.
- The stream.
- Undulating natural hills.
- Flat land.
- Native vegetation.
- Proximity to community (supported with a tick).

What is your vision for the space?

How would it look, what would you hear, how would fish and birds return?

- Create fish passages.
- No dogs.
- Green public open space.
- Remove grazing, plant establishing species.
- Connections – walking track links to wider area.
- Walkways and wetlands on the flat area of the horse paddock.
- Wetland or lowland forest.
- Planting and wetlands.
- Native forest as a backdrop to the Halfway House. Wetlands and Permanent Forest Sink Initiative (PFSI) lock up carbon.

What needs to be done? What order is it done? What are the priorities?

Strategic planning

- Figure out what type of recreation the reserve is for – Grazing? Walking? Community hub? Playground?

Operational assets

- Protection of existing operational assets (Wellington Water)
- Remove the sewer line completely.

Grazing

- Remove most of the horse grazing or convert to sheep.
- Remove the horse grazing licence or tighten it up to exclude horses from the stream.
- Remove all debris from paddocks.

Fish

- Fix all fish barriers, especially the ford.
- Fish passages.

Restoration/revegetation

- Retire more land to increase buffer around stream.
- Restore paddock to wetlands to filter contaminants and add access around edge to service the creek.
- Retire paddock based on current erosion [streambank] playing out it would make sense.

Appendix 3. Attendees.

Community

Claire Bibby (Heritage Gardeners and Glenside Progressive Assn. Inc)

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Barry Ellis, Glenside

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Paparangi Newlands Riding Club

Meredith Hegh, Rosemary Machin, Niki Yosha

Wellington City Council

Denise Clements (and Frank Williams, Ranger)

Āpiha Matua Papa Rēhia | Senior Park Ranger

Papa Tākaro Hākinakina | Parks, Sport & Recreation

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Parrish Evans

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Attendees continued

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Attendees continued

Porirua City Council

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Apologies

Ngati Toa representative

Invited by Joshua Forrest, GWRC.

Kevin Hosie, Community.

Used to live in the Reserve during sewage operation days.
Knows what the infrastructure is.
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Baillie Graham, Porirua City Council

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Wellington City Council Planning

Supplementary report

Glenside Reserve Walks in 2024

Walk with Bradley Schroder, WCC Managers Parks & Open Spaces 25 January 2024

Open Invitation Community Walk 28 January 2024



1. Introduction

This report is a supplement to the discussion document *Glenside Reserve Walk 26 April 2023 Combined Council and Community Walk*. Both reports were written by Claire Bibby on behalf of the Glenside Progressive Assn. Inc. The Appendix 1 timeline in the first report has been updated as more information has come to hand.

This supplementary report provides the following information:

- An update on what happened following the April 2023 walk with officials.
- Information about the walk with Bradley Schroder, the new Wellington City Council manager for Parks and Open Spaces, on Thursday, 25 January 2024.
- Information about the community walk held on Sunday, 28 January 2024.

This supplementary report should be read in conjunction with the *Glenside Reserve Walk 26 April 2023 Combined Council and Community Walk* discussion document, as the earlier document includes important background material about former and current land use and issues with current management of the reserve.

Note

The April 2023 walk had been held during the week in work hours to bring employees of local authorities together with the Glenside community. It had always been the intention of the Glenside Progressive Assn. Inc. to host another walk for the wider community to join, during a weekend in the summer, when the reserve was dry.

In the interim, Bradley Schroder had been appointed as the new manager for Parks and Open Spaces. As he was unable to attend the community weekend walk on January 28th, he made himself available for a walk during the week on January 25th.

2. What happened after the April 2023 walk?

As a result of the April 2023 walk, the following activity took place:

- Stabilising the stream bank
- Fish passage remediation
- Water quality testing and monitoring

The following pages outline these activities in more detail.

Stabilising the stream bank

Wellington Water shored up an eroding streambank beside a sewage pipe with boulders.



Sewage pipe and bank erosion stabilising 2023. Photo: Claire Bibby

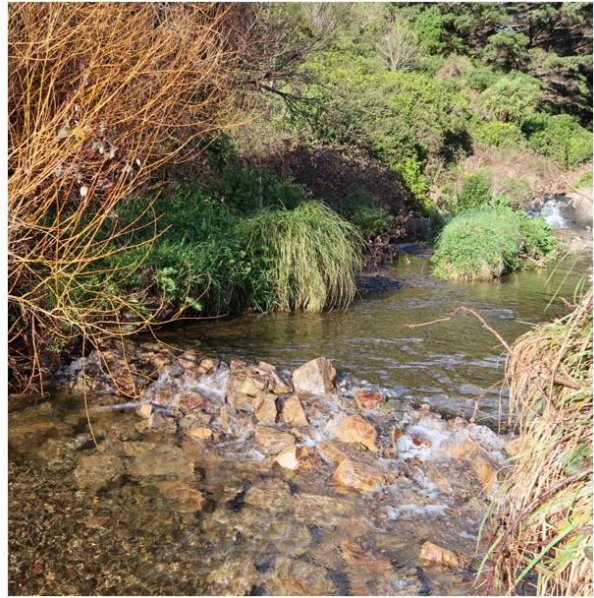
Fish Passages

There are five weirs in the stream between the motorway underpass and Halfway House garden. To create fish passages, Greater Wellington and Ngati Toa, with Wellington City Council Park ranger Frank Williams, and Glenside residents Shelby Lockwood, Walter Walsh, Finn Sherlock and Claire Bibby, placed rocks in front of two weirs. A fish ladder rope was also tied to the waterfall weir as a trial.



Weir 1 Fish passage rope in Glenside Reserve. 29/06/2023.

Photo: Claire Bibby



Weir 2 Fish passage construction in Glenside Reserve. 29/06/2023.

Photo: Claire Bibby



Weir 3 Fish passage construction in Glenside Reserve. 22/06/2023.

Photo: Claire Bibby

The Weir 3 fish passage was blown out in the first fresh. The fish passages are now the responsibility of Wellington City Council, who currently have no management systems in place to monitor and maintain them.

Water Quality Testing and Monitoring

DNA testing and e-coli testing in the Glenside Reserve pond and stream was undertaken by Baillie Graham, Community Engagement Advisor (Harbour and Waste Minimisation) for Porirua City Council and Sheryl Miller and Abbey Huriwai for Mountains to the Sea, with Glenside community Shelby Lockwood and Claire Bibby.

DNA sample

The purpose of the DNA sampling was to establish if koi carp were in the Glenside Reserve pond, as former Glenside resident, Lisa Hosie, recalled her father releasing carp into the pond when he was managing the sewage ponds in the reserve in the 1970's. There is no DNA recorded for carp and the results are typical of what was expected for the site.



DNA sampling in Glenside Reserve pond. 12/12/2023.

Photo: Sheryl Miller

The DNA results are on the Wilderlab website <https://www.wilderlab.co.nz/explore> Search by sample number 527453.

E-coli samples

E-coli samples were taken above the ford, where horses graze and defecate in the streambed. E. coli above 540 colony forming units (cfu)/100ml would see popular swimming sites closed.

The results are between 240 and 255 (cfu) per 100ml, which is not bad given the grazing horses.

Results are significantly worse for e-coli in the neighbouring Kenepuru-iti stream (1700 and 1800 cfu/100ml) and Stebbings stream (1010 – 1015 cfu/100ml). These results indicate sewage leaking into both streams. Further testing will be undertaken to confirm the results.

3. January 2024 Walks

Participants on the walks

Participants on the Bradley Schroder walk, 25 January came by invitation of Glenside Progressive Assn. Inc. Participants were:

- Bradley Schroder, WCC Manager Parks and Open Spaces
- Claire Bibby, Glenside Progressive Association Inc/Halfway House Heritage Gardeners
- Barry Blackett, Glenside Progressive Association Inc.
- Paul Bicknell, Halfway House Heritage Gardeners
- Lorna Webb, Halfway House Heritage Gardeners
- John Parfitt, Predator Free trapping at Glenside Reserve and Halfway House



Bradley Schroder on the Glenside Loop tracks, and the pond in Glenside Reserve. 25/01/2024.

Photo: Claire Bibby

Participants on the community walk, 28 January were the result of an open invitation from the Glenside Progressive Assn. Inc. They were notified three ways. These were:

- The Glenside Progressive Assn. Inc e-newsletter
- A letterbox newsletter to every household in Glenside and left at Thyme Cafe
- An article in the Independent Herald newspaper on the week of the walk. The Independent Herald does not circulate in suburbs south of Glenside.

WCC Councillor John Apanowicz and WCC Park Ranger Adam Groenewegen were present. Adam Groenewegen counted 34 walkers. They were mixed age (baby to over 80) mixed gender, mixed ethnicity. Most identified as coming from Northern Suburbs and Karori and Khandallah.

4. The Route

Bradley Schroder Walk, 25 January 2024

Bradley Schroder made himself available from 1:00 pm to 6:00 pm.

- The first hour was at the Halfway House, learning what the Heritage Gardeners and the Glenside Progressive Assn. Inc. had achieved in partnership with Council and other supporters.
- The second hour was in the larger Glenside Reserve, walking up to the first hill, down to the pond, across the ford, over the old sewage ponds to the corner paddock and back to the house.
- After afternoon tea at the Halfway House and further discussion, the two new Glenside Reserve loop tracks were walked.
- The last hour was back in the larger Glenside Reserve, to walk to the highest point. Unfortunately, this was not possible due to blackberry encroachment on the vehicle tracks.
- The walk ended with feeding the eels in the stream.



Eel at Halfway House. 25/01/2024.

Photo: Claire Bibby

Community Walk 28 January 2024

The community walk was from 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm followed by afternoon tea served at the Halfway House. A digital pictorial history of the site was on display during afternoon tea.

- After introductions, the walkers were given a brief history of the original 100 acre Section 23, which includes Glenside Reserve and the Halfway House.
- The route was walking up to the first hill, down to the pond, across the ford, over the old sewage ponds to the corner paddock and back to the house.
- During afternoon tea, walkers were encouraged to write their ideas for the Reserve on sticky notes and flip chart paper in response to three questions.
- The day ended with feeding eels in the stream.

5. Discussion outcomes

No Dogs

At the outset of both walks, Claire Bibby, representing the Glenside Progressive Assn. said the Association have made submissions to Wellington City Council seeking a Dogs Prohibited status for Glenside Reserve (Animal Welfare and Animal By-law submissions). This is because there are nine ground nesting birds in the reserve.

Birds sighted Glenside Reserve 2016-2024 (Source: NZ Bird Atlas)

Native/Endemic	Ground Nest
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Australasian Harrier/ Kāhu • New Zealand Kaka • Paradise Shelduck/Pūtangitangi • Pūkeko • Sacred Kingfisher/Kōtare • Spur-winged Plover • Bellbird • Grey Warbler/Riroriro • New Zealand Fantail/Pīwakawaka • New Zealand Pigeon/Kererū • Silvereye/Tauhou • Several types of Gull • Tui 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sticks on ground, bushes, wetlands Hollow logs Holes in ground Raupo, flax, grasses Hole in bank, cliff, trees Scrape in ground in pasture, park
Introduced	Ground Nest
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • California Quail • Mallard • Welcome Swallow • Australian Magpie • Canadian Goose • Eastern Rosella • Eurasian Blackbird • European Goldfinch • European Greenfinch • European Starling • House Sparrow • Song Thrush • Yellowhammer 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Shallow basin under gorses, tussock On ground under grass Mud nest under overhang, e.g. bank

International research (UK, USA) is that dog faeces contains E.coli, Giardia, Parvo, Tapeworms, Roundworms, Salmonella, Coccidia and Campylobacteriosis and lingers in the soil for years. When it washes into waterways, it is a significant contaminant. Dog fat in faeces is ingested by fish and gets into the human food chain.

Natural space with natural play

The Association preference is for Glenside Reserve to be a natural reserve, where the natural habitat of bird and fish wildlife flourish and it can be accessed for natural play i.e. no artificial play equipment.

Grazing

The Association does not envisage the land mowed (noisy, invasive to birdlife) however would support sheep grazing (e.g. Arapawa Island sheep, rare breed), as an alternative to horse grazing.



Checking out the erosion. 28/01/2024.

Photo: Murray Foster

6. Feedback

Observations raised during both walks

Unwelcoming access

General untidiness and unkempt look

Blackberry encroachment on tracks preventing full access and enjoyment

Unstrained and falling fencing – fencing not suitable for horses

Stuff left laying around e.g. rotting horse cover on hillside, loose wire, horse gear

Manure, including on ford and in stream bed

Concern there were too many horses for the site

Questions asked about public access to the reserve and the grazing lease

Questions how pasture would be managed if it wasn't grazed.

Written comments following the walk

Q1. What do you like about the space?

Council owned land and tracks
Natural space within easy reach of suburbs
I like that it is a wilderness in the middle of built-up areas
Would be great to be like Willowbank in Tawa, to ramble, picnic etc
Open area – develop for staging events?/Open areas/Open area so close to Johnsonville
Potential/So much potential/Has a lot of potential to become a nice biosphere
Flat space/Flat areas
Nice stream
Room for community events
First time in. Nice walk.

Q2. What is there you don't like? What needs to change?

Too much gorse/The gorse (2)
Blackberry! (3)
Weed clearing (blackberry) and native planting/Need to clear up some growth for walkers
Too few natives
Riverbanks look neglected, need more natives
Stream banks erosion/Clean up the pond area!
Clearer delineation between horse paddock and reserve land
Needs to be easily accessible
The horse poo
Remove pine trees.

Q3. How could it look in future i.e. What would you see, feel hear?

A public park with native vegetation and birds
Better track network for access/Clearly defined walking tracks.
More native planting (2)
Plants to attract birds
Pond and stream preservation and development
Restoration of pond and wetland
Stream bank restoration
Stream needs restoring and protection
Pathways/Walking tracks/Pathways cleared so we can walk through
Open area by old [sewage] ponds
Mow the "dell" [old sewage pond] once a year. Local farmer?
More open days and advertising
Friends group with volunteer track maintenance workers
Could have a zipline (Young Churton Park resident's idea)
Revamp toilet block where it is solid concrete
Bench seating/Picnic tables.

7. Priorities

The Glenside Progressive Assn. Inc. were invited by Bradley Schroder to submit bullet points on their priorities for the Glenside Reserve and Halfway House for consideration.

The Association desire is for the Reserve to be a natural rural area, with improved public access so that the community can start restoration work adjacent to waterways. The Association seeks existing tracks to be maintained and a planting plan for native and exotic trees for future generations and wildlife to enjoy. It would be a Council/Glenside Progressive Assn. partnership as the relationship for the last 20 years is proven to work.

Glenside Reserve priorities

- No Dogs policy for main Glenside Reserve.
- Improved public access once the No Dogs policy in place.
- No more horse grazing after March 2026. WCC property to be clearly identified on any future lease.
- Tracks listed on maintenance programme. Existing farm tracks on upper reaches to be cleared immediately.
- Restoration planting around pond – Spray programme for blackberry and clearing pond outlet commencing 2025. Community planting from 2026.

Glenside Halfway House priorities (Historic reserve, heritage listed house, heritage garden)

- Undergrounding services – The power poles are due for replacement end of 2024 and will be concrete. As this is Heritage House on District Plan and gazetted Historic Reserve the Association has asked WCC for the services to be undergrounded. Quoted cost is prohibitive and not comparable to others seen online. Could WCC get grant to do this? Other quotes?
- Driveway potholes – improved permeable service for water runoff – no asphalt.
- Replace driveway boundary fence with the same wooden fencing as on the other Twiglands boundary – community can then do planting and improved signage.
- Poplar trees – WCC don't want to fell the trees but also don't want to take the greenwaste away, so there is ongoing issue of falling branches piling up. What's the solution?

The following page includes photographs of the January walks.



Photo: Murray Foster



Photo: Murray Foster



Photo: Robert Gentejohann



Photo: Claire Bibby



Photo: Claire Bibby



Photo: Claire Bibby



Photo: Andrea Wilson



Photo: Claire Bibby



Photo: Robert Gentejohann

