

History of the Town Belt



1884 Pirie planting on Mt Victoria
Alexander Turnbull Library GB2237 1/1 detail



1907 Brooklyn Road looking towards Mt Victoria
Alexander Turnbull Library G25451 1/1



1931 Alexandra Road, looking south to Mt Albert
Alexander Turnbull Library G90002 1/2



Present day Mt Victoria Lookout



Present day Community restoration planting



Present day Planting at Mt Victoria lookout

The Town Belt is marked on a plan of Wellington as 'land ... reserved for the enjoyment of the public and not to be built upon'.

One third of Town Belt land is appropriated for a range of public purposes, including hospitals, roads and schools.

By the late 1860s, most of the native timber on the Town Belt had been removed.

The Wellington City Council starts conifer planting on the Town Belt.

The Wellington Scenery Preservation Society is formed. It is committed to enhancing the Town Belt as an open-space parkland.

The grazing of dairy cows on the Town Belt for the town milk supply is ended.

The Wellington City Exhibition Grounds Act authorises the Council to lease over 5.6 hectares of the Town Belt in Newtown to the Wellington Show Association.

Friends of the Town Belt (Inc) forms.

Telecom land on Te Ahumairangi Hill (formerly Tinakori Hill) is restored to the Town Belt.

The Waitangi Tribunal finds 'that the Crown, in taking most of the Town Belt land from Māori without their consent or any consultation, and without making any payment, acted in breach of article 2 of the Treaty of Waitangi and failed to respect the rangatirota of Māori in and over their land.'

1839	1840	1841	1852-73	1873	1880	1881	Mid-1890s	1908	Late 1920s	Early 30's	1959	1994	1995	1998	2000	2002	2003	2009
<p>The land that would become the Town Belt is largely covered in forest and under the rangatirota (authority) of resident Māori.</p> <p>The New Zealand Company instructs its surveyor that 'the town inland should be separated by a broad belt of land ... to be public property on condition that no buildings be ever erected on it'.</p> <p>The New Zealand Company 'purchases' the harbour and surrounding hills from the Māori of Pito-one and Nga-ū-ranga. This was subsequently found by the Waitangi Tribunal to be an invalid purchase.</p>	<p>The Crown assumes ownership of the Town Belt and proclaims it a public reserve.</p> <p>The Crown requires everyone to vacate the Town Belt, including those Māori communities with rangatirota over the Town Belt land.</p> <p>The Town Belt is not to be cleared, fenced, cultivated or built on.</p>	<p>The Crown transfers remaining Town Belt land in trust to the City of Wellington.</p> <p>Terms for managing the Town Belt 'as a public recreation ground' are set out in the Town Belt Deed.</p>	<p>Newtown Park, the first public park on the Town Belt opens.</p>	<p>Wellington (City) Town Belt Reserves Act 1908 allows the Council to lease up to 100 acres of Town Belt for recreational purposes with up to 80 acres of land set aside for playing fields.</p> <p>Kelburn Park completed.</p>	<p>Relief work schemes are implemented on the Town Belt during the Great Depression for public works including Alexandra Road, Hataitai Park and pine plantings.</p>	<p>Wellington City Council approves the current Town Belt Management Plan.</p>	<p>Wellington City Council approves the Town Belt Reinstatement Policy.</p>	<p>The Chest Hospital is restored to the Town Belt.</p>	<p>The Port Nicholson Block (Taranaki Whānui ki Te Upoko o Te Ika) Claims Settlement Act 2009 settles historic Treaty of Waitangi breaches.</p> <p>The Town Belt is not subject to the settlement because it is not Crown land.</p>									