Wellington is a City of hills, harbor and bush. The City has an impressive network of reserves within close proximity to both the Central Business District (CBD) and surrounding suburbs, has been carrying out intensive biodiversity restoration and protection work for more than a decade, and has a massive and ever increasing number of citizen volunteers who plant, control pests, build tracks and trails, and advocate for the City’s nature. As such, the City is proud to be recognized as a Bio-philic City.

If we consider biophilic urbanism as a journey, not an end point, then it is important as a City that we continue to explore new initiatives to grow our natural capital and citizen engagement. Our recent work in this space includes policy, advocacy and research.

We ran #Peakbragging (a play on the Scottish ‘Peak Bagging’) to encourage people into our Open Spaces, which was really popular, and our GIS team have been busy building storymaps to provide better online story telling about Wellington’s parks.

Living Walls are now becoming a more regular feature of our Urban Design projects and we continue to have successes with nationally threatened bird species, initially released into Zealandia, our fenced ecosanctuary, spilling out and breeding in reserves throughout the City. We brought one of these into people’s homes this nesting season with the “Kaka cam.” And a new research group to better understand Kaka behaviour in the City has been established, facilitated by our Urban Ecology team. We have also again hosted one of the largest national citizen science projects - the Great Kereru Count in partnership with WWF-NZ.

Wellington Harbour Inlet
Photo Credit: Tim Beatley
References:


Diver with the Seastar
Photo Credit: Mark Coote