



Report 06.676
Date 17 November 2006
File E/06/16/03

Committee Landcare
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Parks and Forests

Divisional Manager's Report

1. Purpose

To inform the Committee about the activities and progress of the Parks, and Marketing and Design, Departments since the Committee's last meeting.

2. Significance of the decision

The matters for decision in this report do not trigger the significance policy of the Council or otherwise trigger section 76(3)(b) of the Local Government Act 2002.

3. Managers' reports

The department managers' reports are attached.

4. Comment

4.1 Parks

During the period I attended the public meeting for the Belmont Regional Park Plan. The contribution from the members of the public who were in attendance was appreciated, though their number was considerably smaller than an earlier meeting held before the current planning process was put on hold. Given the nature, variety and extent of the park, a diverse range of contributions is hoped for.

Completion of the toilet block at the southern end of Queen Elizabeth Park (QE Park) is noted in the Department Manager's report. This is one of the more significant Parks capital projects for the current year.

At this stage of the current financial year, it appears that a ranger service for the Whitireia Park could not start before the last quarter of the year. There is a reasonable chance it will not start at all this current financial year.

Accordingly, the Parks' financial outturn for the year has been adjusted to account for this.

Kapiti Coast District Council has been contacted about underwriting the major restoration work required for the barn at QE Park. At the time of writing this report a response had not been received. It is expected a verbal update can be given at the committee meeting.

The horse riding concession for QE Park will have been advertised by the date of the meeting. Provision is being made in the documents for the Council either to provide a new structure or a rejuvenated barn for the concessionaire to use.

4.2 Marketing and Design

Planning for the summer events is being stepped up as we get ready for the public release of the programme.

A separate report analyses the results of this year's survey into the awareness and use of the regional parks. However, visitation of 50% of the regional population annually is static. The total number of visits at 910,000 is above the long-term objective of 750,000. If one of the main factors for not visiting is lack of time, it raises the issue of whether a target much above 50% visiting is realistic.

Further research is needed but if the public are making good use of territorial authority parks and open spaces, as well as the regional parks, then a combined visitor or statistic may be more appropriate.

As the number of community groups involved in the parks has increased, it has also increased the amount of interaction. Ross Jackson has been given the responsibility of liaising with them.

Mention is made in the Marketing and Design report of buggy walks. This is an excellent example of various groups cooperating to achieve an outcome. It also recognises that territorial authority parks and regional parks can be used for similar activities in some instances.

4.3 Wind energy developments

I joined the Divisional Manager, Environment Management at a meeting with Porirua City Council representatives to discuss the possibility of a more strategic approach to the planning for wind farms in the Wellington area. Since the meeting, the Parliamentary Commissioner for the Environment has published *Wind, Power, People and Place*. Recommendation 6 is *We recommend that regional councils take a leadership role in developing a proactive, strategic approach to wind power development.*

5. Communication

A media release will be made when the summer events programme is published.

A media release is being prepared at the time of writing about the new QE Park toilet block.

6. Recommendations

That the Committee:

1. ***Receives the report.***
2. ***Notes the content of the report.***

Report prepared by:

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Attachment 1:

1. Manager, Parks Report for Period Ending 17 November 2006.
2. Manager, Marketing and Design Report for Period Ending 17 November 2006