

Report 08.511
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Committee Parks, Forests and Utilities Committee
Authors Erik VanderSpek, Eastern Principal Ranger
Chris Wootton, Western Principal Ranger

Recreation and heritage assets performance indicator

1. Purpose

To report to the Committee on the progress of the asset management programme for Greater Wellington Regional Council's (GWRC) parks and forests during the 2007/08 financial year in order to meet the performance indicator requirements of the Annual Plan.

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. Annual Plan performance indicator

The 2007/08 Annual Plan contains the following performance indicator:

Recreation and heritage assets and facilities in regional parks and forests will be managed in accordance with the Parks Infrastructural Asset Management Plan service levels, and within a budget of \$1,352,000.

A report on compliance with the Infrastructural Asset Management Plan service levels will be approved by Council.

The performance indicator was **achieved** at a cost of \$1,364,272.

4. Setting of Standards

Recreation and heritage assets are set in a number of ways.

4.1 Building and industry standards

Some standards are imposed via legislation.

Predominant examples of this are the *Building Act 1991* and its requirements in building, inspecting and maintaining structures, and construction related assets. Others include the *Resource Management Act 1992* and its provisions for consents for discharges and working in and around waterways.

4.2 Best practice

Other standards are not legislated but result from industry learning and New Zealand Standards.

Examples of these include the Tracks Classification System and the Tracks Standards, which require different standards, dependent on the nature of the predominant users. In some cases this industry learning has resulted in a standard that minimises future maintenance costs.

4.3 Management plans

We have also agreed with ratepayers via management plan consultation on the assets that we provide, their location and their standard. This is written into the management plans that are revised on a regular basis.

5. Monitoring and review process

To ensure that recreational needs and safety requirements are met, we regularly monitor the condition of our assets, and have a process to set and review operational work programmes. An important component of the work programme is the ongoing monitoring of assets by rangers to ensure compliance with service standards.

Regular maintenance is undertaken by the assistant ranger construction teams (responsible for structures, buildings and facilities) and landscape teams (responsible for tracks, roads, grounds and environment work).

Park rangers manage specified projects in the annual work programme - working with the maintenance teams or engaging contractors to do the work.

Rangers also monitor routine contract maintenance, such as toilet cleaning and grass mowing, environmental protection, enhancement and land management work programmes within the parks to ensure compliance with service standards.

Work programme implementation is the overall responsibility of the Principal Rangers. The Principal Rangers schedule maintenance programmes and oversee the total operation.

6. Annual inspection and audit

During the annual inspection we review the condition of the assets and identify renewals or replacements required.

Specialist engineering or heritage consultants independently assess the condition of key assets every two to six years.

The annual inspection showed that the parks and forests' assets were in good condition across the network.

The regular maintenance and replacement programmes continue to bring our assets to a standard in line with New Zealand Standards' documents.

Bridge upgrades and replacements have resulted in strong, safe and durable structures, with longer life expectancies and reduced ongoing maintenance costs. Programmed painting (preventive maintenance) has ensured the good appearance of buildings. Our priority of remetalling and upgrading of tracks in the year has resulted in a bringing to standard many high use tracks. As opportunity allows, we continue to bring existing signs in line with the GWRC brand.

A summary of services provided in 2007/08 is detailed in **attachment 1**.

7. Further development of the asset management plan

Once again we have submitted data to Yardstick (a system for benchmarking parks management with 55 percent of New Zealand authorities). This helps us to see the strengths and weaknesses of our asset management plan programme and contribute to its improvements.

The results of this year's survey were not available at the time this report was written.

Together with other GWRC departments, we are about to take part in migration of our current asset management system to a SAP based system that will meet all our legal and operational requirements.

8. Key aspects of the work programme achieved

This year we met the asset management plan requirements for maintenance of grounds and infrastructure assets in the parks and forests.

In addition, we implemented the asset renewal programme for the infrastructure assets. All structures were inspected during the year, with a full engineering inspection of the bridges in Belmont Regional Park.

9. Communication

This report is part of the verification process for meeting Annual Plan performance indicators. Most of the matters relate to ongoing maintenance.

10. Recommendations

That the Committee:

- 1. Receives the report.*

2. *Notes the content of the report.*

Report prepared by: Report prepared by: Report approved by: Report approved by:

Erik VanderSpek
Eastern Principal
Ranger

Chris Wootton
Western Principal
Ranger

Murray Waititi
Manager, Parks

Murray Kennedy
Divisional Manager, Water
Supply, Parks and Forests

Attachment:

- 1 Summary of services provided in the 2007/08 Annual Plan