



NEWSLETTER 5

MARCH 2007

## East Harbour Regional Park management plan

This is the fifth in a series of newsletters about the East Harbour Regional Park management plan. It also provides updates on news from the park and events which have run throughout the summer as part of the Regional Outdoors Programme.

### Management plan approved by council

The East Harbour Regional Park management plan was formally adopted by the Greater Wellington Regional Council in February 2007. The management plan will guide the future direction of the park over the next 5 years.

Councillors have given a clear indication that they wish to accommodate the interests of all potential park users through careful park management. Following the formal submission process and a Council hearing, a number of changes were made to the draft management plan.

A big thank you must be expressed to all submitters who took part in the formal consultation process.

Important provisions in the plan are highlighted at the right.



### Recreational deer and pig hunting

Managed deer hunting in a designated deer hunting zone has been provided for in Gollans Valley (excluding the Butterfly Creek Picnic Area). Due to the small size of the hunting zone, a maximum of 2 permitted deer hunters will be allowed in the area at one time. Managed deer hunting will take place in the park during the roar over a 4-week period, and will be implemented through a balloted permit system. For 2007, managed deer hunting will take place in the designated deer hunting area between 31 March and 27 April 2007.

The recreational hunting of pigs will be managed through a permitted system, and will take place in the Northern Forest zone only, over a 5-month period between 1 May and 30 September. A number of restrictions have been put in place including prohibiting the use of bows and firearms for pig hunting, restricting the number of dogs that each permitted pig hunter has to three, and requiring all pig hunting dogs to be registered, and have visual identification such as micro-chipping, tattooing or branding. Such restrictions have been put in place to help guard public safety.

While recreational deer and pig hunting is being allowed in a managed manner, Greater Wellington may still use professional hunters for biodiversity purposes if necessary.

### Mountain biking

The management plan allows for mountain biking in designated tracks within the northern forest zone (Main Ridge track between Wainuiomata Hill and Lowry Trig, and from Lowry Trig down Rata Ridge to Stanley Street) as well as cycling/mountain biking is also available in the Lakes block.

### Dog walking

Dog walking is permitted under the management plan within the Northern Forest and Gollans Valley, as long as dogs are kept under control. Dog walking is not allowed in the Lakes block because of the threat dogs pose to the local bird population there.

### Camping

Low-impact camping within the Gollans Valley has been provided for in the management plan. Camping is prohibited in the Butterfly Creek Picnic area which is considered to be more suited to day users. No restrictions have been placed on the length of stay for campers.

## Hang-gliding and paragliding

Hang-gliding and paragliding opportunities have been provided for in the park within the Northern Forest zone and Baring Head zone.

## Casual horse riding

Casual horse riding in the Lakes Block is being provided for within the park, on designated tracks as specified by the Ranger, and with the Ranger's prior agreement. Horse riding events continue to require concession as per the Concessions' Policy which runs separately to the management plan.

## Firearms

The use of firearms for permitted deer hunters in the designated deer hunting area is allowed. The use of firearms for pig hunting activities is prohibited.

## Cultural/heritage

Provisions relating to the management and protection of cultural heritage, partnerships with tangata whenua, procedures around the discovery of artefacts, and archaeological authority have been in the management plan to be consistent with legislative requirements and good practice.

## Community partnerships

The management plan has acknowledged the contribution of volunteers in protecting East Harbour Regional Park. These include Eastbourne Forest Rangers, East Harbour Environmental Association (EHEA), and Mainland Island Restoration Operation (MIRO).

## Lakes block reserve status

The reserve status of the Lakes block remains as Recreation reserve.

## Further information

Please contact Victoria McGregor if you have any queries on the management plan. Copies of the plan will be available shortly.

For information on hunting permits, please contact Greater Wellington's Upper Hutt depot. For information on mountain biking and other recreational activities in the park, please contact Ranger, Gareth Cooper.

If you do not want a copy of this newsletter sent in future please contact Eloise Page on 04 802 0327 or email [eloise.page@gw.govt.nz](mailto:eloise.page@gw.govt.nz)

## 2007 Regional Outdoors Programme

The 2007 Regional Outdoors Programme was again a success with 149 people taking the opportunity to explore the park. We have received a good amount of positive feedback – some comments have included:

*"Splendid day, and great value!"*

*"Excellent Program. Provides opportunity to tramp with a group instead of on your own. Opportunity to be in off track areas with helpful guides."*

Keep an eye out for next year's Regional Outdoors Programme for a chance to experience places you may not have been before.



Photo: Lower Gollans valley walk, at Butterfly Creek – Saturday 17, February 2007



Photo: Upper Gollans valley walk – Saturday 6, January 2007

## New face in parks team

Erik VanderSpek has been appointed Eastern Sector – Principal Ranger. Erik has worked with Department of Conservation for most of his professional life in different roles and in various places – the most recent being Mt Cook.

### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

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