

Report 04.22
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Committee Landcare
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Parks and Forests 2003/04 work programme progress

1. Purpose

To report to the Committee on the progress of our 2003/04 work programme for the first half of the financial year.

A presentation to the Committee will accompany this report.

2. Background

There was a lot of interest shown in the presentation during the Landcare Committee meeting on 26 August 2003, on works that occurred in the regional parks during 2002/03. As a result, councillors requested that officers report back on the achievements “on the ground” on a more regular basis.

3. Progress on our 2003/04 work programme

During the year to date, Parks and Forests has been implementing the work programmes it has developed through the asset management plan, environmental asset management plan, marketing plan, environmental enhancement programme and management plan review process.

Projects of note that have occurred in the first half of this year are:

Environmental

- The Hutt Catchment 1080 possum control operation was completed
- An animal control operation was conducted in the Wainuiomata/Orongorongo Water Collection Area
- The spring bird-monitoring programme was conducted
- Pest plant control operations have taken place in many of the parks and forests
- Rodent and mustelid monitoring was conducted in the Wainuiomata/Orongorongo Water Collection Area.

Park infrastructure

- A full stocktake of the assets within East Harbour Regional Park has been conducted and a work programme to upgrade the assets developed
- QEP toilet replacements are nearly complete
- A new car park at the base of the Rimutaka Incline has been developed
- The Pakuratahi Truss Bridge and its associated track were opened to the public
- The northern boundary fence in the Wainuiomata/Orongorongo Water Collection Area was completed
- The new Kaitoke Ranger's office is now complete
- Work continues in the QEP dunes to encourage people to keep off the sensitive foredunes
- The new wetland at QEP was completed
- Flood damage repairs were undertaken.

Marketing and events

- The Regional Outdoors Programme was developed and began in January 2004
- The Rimutaka Incline 125th Anniversary celebration was held
- The Return of Rivendell tour was conducted to coincide with the world premiere of "The Return of the King".

Other

- The Friends of QEP has been formed
- The East Harbour Regional Park Ranging Service was launched.

4. Communication

Some higher profile or public interest projects have been communicated to the public through news releases, radio advertising campaigns and Elements. Information of interest to the Regional Community has also been communicated to them through the above media, as well as through public meetings and ongoing liaison.

5. Recommendations

That the Committee:

1. *receive the report.*
2. *note the contents of the report.*

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