



Report 04.136
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Committee Landcare
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Regional park plans: revised timetable

1. Purpose

To seek the Committee's approval of a revised timetable to complete the five regional parks' plans.

2. Background

In October 2003, the Committee approved the timetable for reviewing the regional parks' management plans (report 03.450). The first regional park plans to be reviewed were Belmont and East Harbour Regional Parks, followed by the Queen Elizabeth, Kaitoke and Battle Hill Regional Parks.

Hutt City Council (HCC) owns land in Belmont and East Harbour Regional Parks and is currently transferring the 'control and management' of the lands to Greater Wellington. HCC and Greater Wellington remain committed to this transfer and officers have been working to realise it. However, due to legal difficulties in effecting the transfer, this process is taking longer than anticipated. Report 04.141 on this Order Paper discusses the land swap process.

3. Effect on plan review process

Until the land transfer process is concluded, Greater Wellington does not have the necessary authority to review and prepare new management plans over HCC lands in accordance with either the Local Government Act 1974¹, nor the Reserves Act 1977.

Completing all the management plans by November 2006 will not be achieved by reviewing the management plans in the order agreed in October 2003. However, some rescheduling of the current review processes may enable officers to achieve the November 2006 deadline.

The Belmont Regional Park Management Plan review has begun. Councillors at the December planning workshop agreed that in the interim, until the lands were formally handed over, plan drafting should continue. The East Harbour Regional Park Management Plan is scheduled to begin this month.

¹ The Regional Parks' Management Plans are prepared in accordance with section 619 of the Local Government Act 1974, which remains in force under the Local Government Act 2002.

The Queen Elizabeth Park Management Plan review is scheduled to begin in October 2004. Community expectations surrounding the Queen Elizabeth Park Management Plan are such that any delay would be unacceptable and highly contentious.

To this end we are suggesting that the Kaitoke Regional Park Management Plan be brought forward 12 months and the East Harbour one delayed by 12 months.

4. Revised preparation timetable

The recommended revised priority for completing each management plan is:

1. Belmont Regional Park – continue drafting but don't publicly notify until the Landswap is complete (around August 2004).
2. Kaitoke Regional Park – begin March/April 2004 (bring forward by 12 months).
3. Queen Elizabeth Park – begin October 2004 (no change).
4. East Harbour Regional Park – begin April 2005 (delay of 12 months).
5. Battle Hill Farm Forest Park – begin November 2005 (no change).

5. Communication

If the revised timetable is approved, community groups connected with the East Harbour Regional Park will be advised of the plan review delay and the reasons making this delay necessary. Greater Wellington staff have kept Eastbourne Forest Rangers and MIRO members advised of the land swap's progress.

We will also begin the process of public consultation for the Kaitoke Regional Park Management Plan.

6. Recommendations

That the Committee:

1. **Receive** the report.
2. **Note** the contents of the report.
3. **Approve** the revised process and timelines for preparing the regional park management plans.

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