

Report 11.90  
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Committee Social and Cultural Wellbeing Committee  
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## Work Programme 2011/12 Parks Planning

### 1. Purpose

The paper updates the Committee on the intended work programme for parks planning over the next two years.

### 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. Parks planning

The parks strategic planning function sits within the corporate planning department alongside transport planning, annual and long-term planning and corporate sustainability planning functions.

The parks planning function includes responsibility for:

- providing advice on major development proposals, potential land purchase and disposals that affect the parks network;
- providing a strategic planning framework for our parks (through the Parks Network Plan);
- monitoring and reporting the effectiveness of the plan;
- providing policy advice on Reserve Act and parks related matters;
- ongoing liaison with the staff responsible for operational delivery of the plan including biodiversity, marketing and property aspects.

In addition to these strategic functions, operational planning takes place within the wider Parks Department. This includes the development of activity plans and asset management plans.

## **4. Work Programme**

Attachment 1 is a GANT chart of the likely work programme for the 2011-2012 calendar years. The work programme reflects the available resourcing for this function. The key projects are outlined below.

### **4.1 Baring Head management planning**

Purchased in 2010, Baring Head is now part of the East Harbour Regional Park and included in the network of Greater Wellington parks. As an interim measure the policies and rules which apply to the East Harbour Parangarahu Lakes are being applied to the Baring Head area. Already underway is a process of research to be followed by public consultation and submissions to develop management policies and rules for this area. The process followed is set out in the Reserves Act and will include hearings by the committee or a sub-committee around November this year.

### **4.2 Baring Head gazettal process**

A condition of the purchase was the land being gazetted as Scenic Reserve. The next step is to make a Council resolution to classify as a Scenic Reserve. No consultation is required where the reserving is a condition of the purchase. This is scheduled for May 2011. This timeframe reflects the need to ensure that any outstanding property issues are resolved.

### **4.3 Parks Network Plan**

The Plan which provides a framework for the management of all the parks was agreed by Council last year (with the exception of some provisions relating to Battle Hill Farm Forest Park discussed below). The next step is to publish the document which is scheduled to occur once the further consultation on the Battle Hill wind farm access road has concluded. The programme to monitor and report on plan effectiveness will also be developed and implemented.

Park Resource Statements (which provide full background about each area's history, geography, ecology etc) will also be updated.

### **4.4 Battle Hill further consultation**

Provisions in the Parks Network Plan relating to a possible windfarm access road and ancillary services remain in draft and a further 22 submissions were received on this issue.

These submissions will be heard in early April by a subcommittee of 3 independent people appointed by the Council. Their recommendations will be considered by the Council in May 2011.

### **4.5 Whitireia Park**

It is anticipated that the Board will review its current management plan and bylaws which relate back to the 1970s. Provision has been made for this work in the later half of 2011 and early 2012. It is contingent on the new Whitireia Park Board, once established agreeing to prioritise this work.

#### **4.6 Wairarapa Moana Wetlands Park**

This project involves the preparation of a strategic programme for the Wairarapa Wetlands which will spell out the long-term responsibilities and priorities for Council. This is due to be considered by the Environmental Wellbeing Committee in May 2011.

#### **4.7 Working with ARAC**

Akatarawa Recreational Access Committee (ARAC) is the main interest group for motorised recreation in the parks as well representing other users of the Akatarawa Forest. The Parks Network Plan states that Greater Wellington will work with ARAC to develop a protocol over matters such as track maintenance, closing and opening of tracks and monitoring use and damage in the forest as it relates to recreation.

Work has begun with this group and will continue through the year. A report to the Committee is proposed for September 2011.

#### **4.8 Heritage Precinct development**

The Parks Network Plan includes in future developments a Heritage Precinct at the MacKays Crossing entrance of Queen Elizabeth Park. We are about to commission a feasibility study of the precinct, the management options that might be available and any costs and constraints that should be taken into account. This will be the subject of a workshop with the Committee in July 2011.

Officers are also seeking further information on the Resource Management Act considerations and the appropriate management regime under the Reserves Act.

#### **4.9 Other work priorities**

In addition to the key projects listed above, it will be necessary to respond to proposed developments affecting the Parks Network. This includes the Transmission Gully development, the Kapiti Expressway, subdivisions adjacent to the park and district plan changes.

### **5. Recommendations**

*That the Committee:*

- 1. Receives the report.*
- 2. Agrees to the overall work priorities and timelines proposed for the 2011 – 2012 period.*

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**Attachment 1: GANT chart of work programme for 2011/12**