



NEWSLETTER 1

October 2004

Queen Elizabeth Park Management Plan

Queen Elizabeth Park

The park is classified as a recreation reserve under the Reserves Act 1977 and is owned by the Crown. Greater Wellington has been appointed by the Minister of Conservation to control and manage the park. The Queen Elizabeth Park Management Plan sets out how the park is managed and the process for considering further activities or developments.

Queen Elizabeth Park is located in the Kapiti Coast District, about 45 minutes north of Wellington. The park is set between the coast and State Highway 1, with the Tararua and Akatarawa ranges providing a backdrop to the east, while magnificent views of Kapiti Island can be seen to the west from the park. The main entrances to the park are from Paekakariki, Raumati South and MacKays crossing.

Queen Elizabeth Park is a popular park with Kapiti residents, as well as the region's other communities. In summer, the beaches are great for swimming and walking along, as well as providing picnicking spots for families to have BBQs.

There are also mountain biking and walking tracks through the old relic dunes systems and the tram rides at the tramways museum. Horses may also be ridden in the park along some of the tracks.

The community has been planting around the wetlands near MacKays crossing and pingao on the dunes, to bring back some of the native plant species in these important habitat types.

What makes Queen Elizabeth Park special?

- The coast, beach and dune systems
- Wide open spaces
- Walking and cycling tracks
- Opportunities for horse riding
- Picnic tables and areas
- Ancient rolling dunes
- Remnant and regenerating native plants
- Native birds and fishes
- Maori history and pa sites
- Site of Camp Russell, where American troops were stationed during the second world war
- Tramways Museum
- Wetlands
- Peace and tranquility

Management plan review

Management plans are agreements between Greater Wellington and the community about how a regional park will be managed. A management plan is required under the Local Government Act 1974 and the Reserves Act 1977. The current management plan for Queen Elizabeth Park was written in 1993 and is now being reviewed.

Greater Wellington approved the Regional Parks Network Management Plan in 2003 that sets out the overarching management framework for the future direction of all regional parks. The Queen Elizabeth Park management plan will provide the detailed management guidelines for the Park consistent with the direction set in the Network Plan and consistent with the provisions of the Reserves Act.

Key Dates

Oct - Dec 2004	Initial consultation	May - June 2005	Consultation on the draft plan
Dec - April 2005	Officers prepare draft plan	July - August 2005	Hearing submissions

The review process

We are in the initial planning stages for the management plan review and we want to make sure that you know what's happening in your area. It is important to us that the plan lives up to your expectations and that we address your concerns.

We have asked for people's comments by 31 December 2004. If you have any suggestions or concerns about the Park or the planning process, we would like to hear your views.

We are also consulting with the Kapiti Coast District Council, the Department of Conservation and Iwi about the management plan.

Once we have heard people's views and ideas, a draft management plan will be developed. The draft plan will be made available for public comment in May and June 2005 and there will be an opportunity to present your submission to the Council later next year. Once Council has considered all submissions the plan will be finalised in the last part of 2005.

Key issues for the Park

Greater Wellington has received much feedback about the Park from the community over recent years, including submissions received in the network management plan. Some of the issues raised over recent years include:

- concerns about the impacts of possible roading projects on the Park
- suggestions for new tracks
- the role of motorised recreation
- concerns about conflict between mountain bikers and walkers in particular areas
- suggestions about greater protection of environmental values, pest control and sustainable management of the land and waterways
- concerns about the future status and protection of the Park's values
- suggestions for various heritage protection projects
- Concerns about erosion

Future management directions

Things you might like to consider:

- What do you like about the Park? What don't you like about it?
- How would you like the Park to look in 30 years?
- What place is there for other activities in the Park, including commercial activities?
- How would you like to see the different values of the Park promoted?
- Any suggestions, issues or comments you would like us to know

Further Information

The following material will provide more information about the Park and its values:

- The Queen Elizabeth Park Management Plan
- The Queen Elizabeth Park Plan – Resource Information
- Regional Parks Network Plan (available in November).

You can find the information above at the Regional Council and Public libraries.

You can also visit our website www.gw.govt.nz or ring us on 04 381 7753.

If you do not want a copy of this newsletter sent in future please contact Catherine Hunt on 04 802 0327 or email catherine.hunt@gw.govt.nz.

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