

## **Report 99.445**

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Report to the Landcare Committee  
from Ross Jackson, Project Liaison Officer, Regional Parks

### **1998/99 Regional Parks Capex Projects**

#### **1. Purpose**

To inform the Landcare Committee of the successful outcome of the Regional Parks Capital Works programme for the 1998/99 financial year.

#### **2. Projects Completed**

There were four capital works projects undertaken during the year; two at Queen Elizabeth Park and two at the Rimutaka Incline Recreation Area. A short photographic presentation will be given at the Committee meeting.

##### **(1) Whareroa Beach Toilets**

The old Whareroa Beach toilet was under threat from coastal erosion, which led to the need to replace it with a modern structure in a location further from the coastline. A new two unit prefabricated concrete modular toilet was designed for the site and future replacements throughout the Park. It is similar in shape to the newer wooden units located in our other parks.

The project, successfully completed, certainly provided challenges beyond its modest size. The site, used by World War II marines for mortar practice in 1943-44, was known to have been occupied around the turn of the century by Maori. There was extensive consultation with Iwi on the location of the toilet and the method of sewage disposal. All excavations were then checked with a metal detector for buried ordnance and monitored by an archaeologist for signs of heritage sites.

##### **(2) Queen Elizabeth Park Water Supply Upgrade**

The project, commenced in the previous financial year, was successfully completed on time and within budget. The work involved:

- Replacing or upgrading extensive portions of the water supply system to the dairy unit and the facilities in the Park (except at the Paekakariki end).
- Terminating the supply from the adjoining Whareroa Farm and upgrading the internal bore, chlorination and storage system.

It also provided a significant challenge as there was a combination of both treated and untreated water coming into the park from different sources and much of the infrastructure was in a poor condition. Previously, many pipes were tapped into existing lines throughout the Park and a lot of this work was not documented. Again, there was a need for monitoring by an archaeologist and the use of a metal detector on the entire project.

### (3) **Rimutaka Incline Recreation Area Walkway Maintenance**

This project was completed on time within budget to specified standards, but also contained a number of unscheduled surprises. The water run-off during the October storms resulted in some significant slips. The work programme had to be modified and rather than construct the planned additional car park at the entrance, slips were reinstated and new larger culverts installed. Work was also undertaken on upgrading the carriageway and in Summit tunnel.

### (4) **Rimutaka Incline Recreation Area Bridge Restoration**

This project has heightened awareness of some significant heritage sites and examples of early craftsmanship during the construction of the railway.

Restoration of No. 2, three metre, bridge has been completed to specified standards. Also complete are:

- detailed drawing and documentation for the future restoration of the Pakuratahi Truss Bridge and the Ladle Bend Bridge;
- a heritage conservation plan for all the structures between the entrance and the Summit Tunnel. It is proposed to use this document as the basis of an application for a heritage grant through the Lotteries Grants Board.

## 3. **Communication**

Regional Parks staff will prepare a press release in conjunction with Corporate Communications on:

- Queen Elizabeth Park projects for the Kapi-Mana News;
- Rimutaka Incline Recreation Area projects for the Upper Hutt Leader and the Hutt News.

**4. Recommendation**

*That the Committee receive and note the contents of the Report.*

Report prepared by:

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