



NEWSLETTER 4

SEPTEMBER 2005

Queen Elizabeth Park Management Plan

Management Plan Review

The review of the draft management plan for Queen Elizabeth Park (QEP) is almost complete.

Through the review there have been two phases of consultation. The purpose of the first phase was to gather people's ideas about the future management and direction of QEP.

The submissions we received, and the ideas we gathered at the initial public meeting, during this first phase were put forward to Council for consideration. Taking note of their feedback, we prepared the QEP Draft Management Plan.

The Draft has taken into account all statutory responsibilities and GW policy documents, including the Regional Parks Network Management Plan.

We put the Draft to Council in May for approval to go out for a second round of consultation. This round was aimed at issues in the Draft, asking the community for agreement on policies and objectives.

The second phase of consultation closed on 31 July. Since this time I have (after a much needed stretch of annual leave and some Aussie sun!) been preparing the analysis which will go to Council along with the submissions for consideration.

The final consultative stage of the review is the public hearing, being held on 9, 11 and 14 November in the KCDC chambers. The hearing is open only to those people who made a submission during the second round of consultation.

If you wish to be heard and haven't indicated you want to there is still time! Please contact Eloise Page on (04) 802 0327 before Friday 14 October to arrange a time to present to the Parks and Forests Hearing Committee.

Key issues

The Draft Management Plan remains similar to the existing plan in terms of vision and direction.

However, it has been updated to reflect the objectives and policies of the Regional Network Management Plan and also in response to submissions.

Many of the issues that were raised during the first round of consultation remained at the fore during the second. There was resolution on some aspects such as support for the proposed rezoning of the park into differing management areas. However, some key issues remain:

- Whareroa Farm
- Motorised recreation
- Support for more extensive use of the north eastern block

For further information please refer to the KCDC library where bound copies of the submissions have been made available. (Please note that there are limited numbers of copies. To help us keep printing costs down please view the submissions in the library if possible). There is also a summary of the submissions being made available online on www.gw.govt.nz.

Key Dates for the Management Plan

June – July 2005 – 2nd Phase of consultation

November 2005 – Council Hearing

August – September 2005 – Analysis of submissions

December 2005 – Plan finalised



Planting trees is good for business

The corporates came to MacKays Crossing during the winter for team building exercises which also contributed to a better environment.

Around 50 people from Westpac's business and technology team planted 1000 trees in near the park entrance during June. It was a great day all round, giving staff a break away from their usual desk jobs and the chance to get to know each other better outside the work setting.

Planting trees in the regional parks creates a legacy for staff to enjoy when they come back to the park and of course it contributes to a healthier environment – which benefits us all! And of course corporate planting days help build relationships between businesses and local government.

If you would like to know more about corporate planting days please contact Ross Jackson on (04) 802 0331 or send us an email on parks@gw.govt.nz



Senior Westpac staff getting their hands dirty

Weed works

This season's weed work started in August. On your walks through the park you may well have noticed Laurence Silas and Dave Hislop tackling weeds on the dunes. We have been very lucky with the weather which has ensured that Laurence and Dave have made great progress on the control of the Boneseed (*Chrysanthemoides monilifera*) Italian Buckthorn (*Rhamnus alaternus*), Boxthorn (*Lycium ferocissimum*, ivy (*Hedera helix*) and more.

Although there are still a huge range of weeds to be tackled, it is a far cry from the way things were before GW started weed work three years ago. For example, at this time of the year the park used to be covered with a sea of yellow Boneseed

flowers, whereas that's now almost gone and each year seedlings continue to be removed.

In addition to Laurence and Dave, our contractor Darryl Kee from Weedworks will continue to control a range of other invasive weeds which include: Old Mans Beard (*Clematis vitalba*) German Ivy, (*Senecio mikanioides*) Wandering Willy (*Tradescantia fluminensis*) and Agapanthus (*Agapanthus praecox*)



Blackberry in QEP (*Rubus Fruticosus*)

As many people will know, blackberry is an immense problem throughout the park. This season we start a programme to control blackberry along the Whareroa Stream edge. Large areas of blackberry were scraped away by a digger here earlier this year.

As this blackberry re-sprouts it will be sprayed off throughout the summer and will then be followed up with native plantings next winter. Throughout the coming years the blackberry programme will focus on the bush remnants, replanting the sprayed blackberry with natives. This will enhance these remnants by increasing their size over time.

For any further information regarding weed control within QEP please contact Jaap Knechtmans, Environmental Ranger, at the Upper Hutt Depot on 04-5264133.

Further information

The following material provides more information about the park and its values:

- The Queen Elizabeth Park Management Plan
- The Queen Elizabeth Park Plan – Resource Information
- Regional Parks Network Management Plan.

You can find the information above at the Regional Council and Public libraries. Or 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 Eloise Page on 04 802 0327 or email eloise.page@gw.govt.nz.

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