



Report 04.425
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Committee Landcare
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Kaitoke Regional Park Management Plan Review

1. Purpose

To request the committee to consider submissions on the Kaitoke Regional Park Management Plan review and seek approval to begin writing the draft plan.

2. Background

The Kaitoke Regional Park Management Plan review began in April this year. The first step in the process was to advertise our intent to review the management plan and invite submissions. Submissions were open for a two-month period and submissions closed on 30 June 2004.

As one of the five regional parks, the *Regional Parks Network Plan* provides the necessary policy framework for the reviewing the plan and drafting the new plan's policies.

3. Submissions and key issues

A total of 10 submissions were received with comments and suggestions on the park and its management. A summary is attached for your information (Attachment 1), as are copies of the submissions (Attachment 2).

Briefly, people were very complimentary about the quality of the ranging service and the park's high maintenance and facilities standards. Generally people valued the park's natural values, including biodiversity and ecology, as well as recreational aspects such as walking, tramping and the area's 'peace and quiet'. Improving access and facilities, as well as additional pest management, were the main items that were identified for improvement. In the long-term, natural values, such as native plants and birds, were seen as being important to the park's future.

There were two requests for additional access, including camping, into the Hutt catchment, which is outside the ambit of this management plan. Letters will be sent to these submitters outlining the appropriate management planning framework. Copies of these submissions have been referred to GW Water.

Officers believe that the issues identified by submitters can be adequately addressed by developing a draft plan that is consistent with the Regional Parks Network Plan. Access issues will be addressed with operational staff and, where possible, will be incorporated into concept plans that will form part of the draft plan.

4. Next steps

The next phase of the plan review process is to begin writing the draft plan. A workshop will then be held with Councillors to discuss the draft. The draft plan should be ready for consultation early next year.

5. Communication

A newsletter will be sent to people that have signalled their interest in the management plan review outlining the issues that have been raised to date and the process form here. A further consultation round will commence after the draft plan has been approved for release.

6. Recommendations

That the Committee:

- 1. receive the report.*
- 2. note the contents of the report.*
- 3. consider the attached submissions on the Kaitoke Regional Park*
- 4. approve Officers to commence writing the draft Kaitoke Regional Park Management Plan*

Report prepared by:

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