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**Committee** Landcare  
**Authors** Fraser Oliver, Eastern Principal Ranger  
Matt Ballantine, Western Principal Ranger  
Graham Laws, Advisor Asset Management

## Recreation and heritage assets performance indicator

### 1. Purpose

To report to the Committee on progress of the asset management programme for the Greater Wellington's parks and forests during the 2003/04 financial year in order to meet the performance indicator requirements of the Annual Plan.

### 2. Annual Plan performance indicator

The 2003/04 Annual Plan contains the following Performance Indicator:

*Recreation and heritage assets and facilities in the regional parks, forests and water collection areas will be monitored, maintained, protected and enhanced in accordance with the Parks and Forests Asset Management Plan service levels.*

*Compliance with the Asset Management Plan service levels will be reported to the Landcare Committee following the end of the financial year, within a budget of \$1,174,000.*

The performance indicator was **achieved** at a cost of \$1,067,000.

### 3. Contribution to Take 10 objectives

This performance indicator contributes to the quality of life of the regional community by ensuring that they can at all times safely enjoy using the regional parks and forests while being provided with a wide variety of outdoor recreation opportunities. The intent of this Annual Plan performance indicator is to ensure that the condition of the assets within the parks and forest areas are maintained or enhanced over the long-term so they continue to meet the recreational needs and safety requirements of the community.

#### **4. Monitoring and review process**

To ensure that recreational needs and safety requirements are met, we regularly monitor the condition of our assets and have a process to set and review operational work programmes.

At the start of each year we develop a work programme to achieve the AMP and Annual Plan projects. An important component of the work programme is the ongoing monitoring of assets (monthly inspections of routine maintenance tasks - mowing grass, cleaning toilets, clearing drains and repairing structures) by rangers to ensure compliance with service standards.

Regular maintenance is undertaken by the Assistant Rangers construction teams (responsible for structures, buildings, and facilities) and landscape teams (responsible for tracks, roads, grounds and environment work).

Park Rangers manage specified projects in the annual work programme - working with the maintenance teams or engaging contractors to do the work. Rangers also monitor routine contract maintenance such as toilet cleaning and grass mowing, environmental protection, enhancement and land management work programmes within the parks to ensure compliance with service standards.

Work programme implementation is the overall responsibility of the Principal Ranger. The Principal Ranger oversees the total operation and schedules maintenance programmes. The Principal Rangers also co-ordinate projects that benefit the sector rather than a particular park.

#### **5. Annual inspection and audit**

During an annual inspection we review the condition of the assets and identify renewals or replacements. Specialist engineering or heritage consultants independently assess the condition of key assets every three to five years.

In May and June 2004, we carried out the annual inspection and audit including those assets in East Harbour and Belmont Regional Park to be transferred to GWRC from Hutt City Council as part of the land transfer arrangement. The inspection showed that the Parks and Forests assets were in very good condition across the network. The regular maintenance and replacement programmes continue to produce consistently high standards with improvements in many areas.

Bridge upgrades and replacements have resulted in strong, safe and durable structures with longer life expectancies and reduced ongoing maintenance costs. Programmed painting (preventative maintenance) has ensured the good appearance of buildings. Our priority re-metalling and upgrading of tracks in the past year has resulted in improved standards on all high use tracks. With the launch of the new Council brand, a number of map boards have been upgraded to a better standard.

A summary of services provided in 2003/04 is detailed in **Attachment 1**.

## **6. Further development of the asset management plan**

During 2003/04 we joined the Yardstick project, which is a system for comparing parks management data. Members include 55% of all territorial local authorities plus regional councils and Department of Conservation. We submitted data to the project in June 2004. The financial, asset and management information gathered by the project is analysed and shared amongst members for the purposes of benchmarking.

## **7. Key aspects of the work programme achieved**

The benchmarking will allow us to see the strengths and weaknesses of our AMP programme and contribute to its improvement.

This year we met the AMP requirements for maintenance of grounds and infrastructure assets in the parks and forests. Rangers supervised all contract maintenance. All direction signs are in the new Council branding colours. A number of map boards have been replaced to the new standard.

In addition we implemented the asset replacement programme for the infrastructure assets (Seventeen new structures were built, of which two were part of the Environmental Education Programme). All structures were inspected twice during the year. A number of staff attended training courses on the SNZ HB8630 "NZ Handbook - Tracks and Outdoor Visitor Structures".

## **8. Communication**

This report is part of the verification process for meeting Annual Plan performance indicators. Most of the matters relate to ongoing maintenance.

## **9. Recommendations**

*That the Committee:*

- 1. receive the report.*
- 2. note the contents of the report.*

Report prepared by:

**Fraser Oliver**  
Eastern Principal Ranger

**Matt Ballantine**  
Western Principal Ranger

**Graham Laws**  
Advisor Asset Management

**Attachment 1:** Summary of services provided in the 2003/04 Annual Plan

Report approved by:

**Murray Waititi**  
Manager, Parks and Forests

**Rob Forlong**  
Divisional Manager, Landcare