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Committee Landcare
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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 2005/06 financial year in order to meet the performance indicator requirements of the Annual Plan.

2. Significance of the decision

The matters for decision in this report do not trigger the significance policy of the Council or otherwise trigger section 76(3)(b) of the Local Government Act 2002.

3. Annual Plan performance indicator

The 2005/06 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 Parks and Forests Infrastructural Asset Management Plan service levels, within a budget of \$1,265,000.

Compliance with the standards in the Infrastructural Asset Management Plan will be reported to the Landcare Committee following the end of the financial year.

The performance indicator was **achieved** at a cost of \$1,125,042.

4. 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.

5. Key aspects of the work programme achieved

This year we met the AMP requirements for maintenance of grounds and infrastructure assets in the parks and forests.

In addition we implemented the asset renewal programme for the infrastructure assets. All structures were inspected twice during the year.

6. 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. An important component of the work programme is the ongoing monitoring of assets by rangers to ensure compliance with service standards.

Regular maintenance is undertaken by the Assistant Ranger 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 Rangers. The Principal Rangers schedule maintenance programmes and oversee the total operation.

7. Annual inspection and audit

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

The annual 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. In 2004/05, we noted that the condition of fences in grazing lease areas had deteriorated. A number of fences have been repaired and upgraded this year and more replacements are programmed for 2006/07.

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 year has resulted in improved standards on all high use tracks. Since the launch of the new Council brand, we have continued to upgrade a number of map boards and directional signs. This process was finished last year.

A summary of services provided in 2005/06 is detailed in **Attachment 1**.

8. Benchmarking

We continue to look for opportunities to benchmark our operation against other providers in the industry. While there are a number of initiatives collecting data for benchmarking purposes, they are still in their set-up stage and it is difficult to get information that compares 'apples with apples'. As momentum grows with these initiatives, benchmarking should become standard practice in the industry within the next few years.

9. Database development

Together with other GWRC departments, we are investigating options to acquire an Asset Management Information System (AMIS) that will meet all our legal and operational requirements. Consultants have been engaged to identify common needs and issues, review current AM systems and prepare a functional specification for a council wide AMIS.

10. Communication

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

11. Recommendations

That the Committee:

- 1. Receive the report.*
- 2. Note the content of the report.*

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Attachment 1: Summary of Services provided in the 2005/06 Annual Plan