



Report 07.780
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Committee Parks, Forests and Utilities
Author Amanda Cox, Manager, Marketing and Design

Regional Parks Report 2006-07

1. Purpose

To obtain the Committee's approval to publish and distribute the *Regional Parks Report 2006-07*

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. Background

It has been the norm for many years that senior Parks staff members present a summary of the previous year's work to the relevant Committee for approval in order to close off various key performance indicators. Councillors have always found this an informative and interesting means of learning more about the parks and their management.

This year, for the first time, we have taken the information presented to the Landcare Committee in August, together with relevant facts and photos, and produced the *Regional Parks Report 2006-07*. The purpose of this document is twofold:

- (1) To highlight achievements in the regional parks and forests over the last financial year.
- (2) To increase awareness amongst stakeholders and decision makers of what these parks offer and where the rate money is spent.

4. Comment

Our research has shown us that, of the total 51 percent of the regional population that visited a park in the last year, only 18 percent of these people visit the parks monthly or more often. Most regional visitors and almost all

non-visitors would be unaware of the work that goes on (and that they pay for) in the regional parks and the value derived from that work.

However, it is clear that the regional parks offer opportunities to help a wide range of groups or individuals achieve their own objectives and so contribute towards improved outcomes for the entire regional community.

In the longer term, when it comes to submitting thoughts and comments on park management plans or other issues, most input is likely to come from groups or individuals who are more informed or more involved with the parks concerned.

Using short summaries, bullet points and plenty of photographs, the *Regional Parks Report* has been designed to attract people who may not seek out information on the management or value of our regional parks.

5. Communication

The *Regional Parks Report* will be mailed to regional decision makers and “influencers”, including all territorial authority elected officials, chief executives and key staff, district health boards, the Department of Conservation, the Regional EDA Ltd, Chamber of Commerce, local iwi, SPARC, Sport Wellington Region, relevant non-Government organisations, Parks Friends and recreation groups.

It will also be loaded on to the Greater Wellington Regional Council website and available to access by interested parties.

6. Recommendations

That the Committee:

1. ***Receives the report and notes the contents.***
2. ***Approves the publication of the 2006-07 Annual Parks Report..***

Report prepared by:

Report approved by:

Amanda Cox
Manager, Marketing and
Design

Murray Kennedy
Divisional Manager, Water
Supply, Parks and Forests

Attachment 1 - Regional Parks Report 2006-07