

Summary of Services provided in the 2003/04 Annual Plan

Annual Programme Achievements 2003/04

1. Bridges

Our carpenters inspected all park structures every six months. All new or replaced structures met resource consent and Building Act regulations.

- Seventeen new structures were built, of which two were built as part of the Environmental Education programme;
- A number of bridges in Battle Hill and Belmont were damaged by flood and storm damage during the year. These required rebuilding and associated track re-establishment;

2. Buildings

Buildings were maintained and serviced to the standard required. Ongoing maintenance was carried out on all rangers' houses;

- Landscaping and finishing work included a wheelchair access ramp were completed at the Kaitoke Regional Park Rangers office;
- Building painting was carried out to design standards as required;

3. Utilities and Sanitary

Toilets and water supply systems were regularly serviced throughout the year. Contractors cleaned toilets at Queen Elizabeth Park, Belmont Regional Park and Kaitoke Regional Park to required standards. Staff serviced toilets at the other parks and recreation areas. Park Rangers, and occasionally contractors, collected and removed rubbish.

Water treatment was undertaken at all parks to water drinking standards and issues regarding frequency of testing to conform to drinking water standards in NZ have been resolved. Septic tanks were emptied and water pipes were replaced as required.

4. Grounds

Regular grass mowing was undertaken at all parks to required standards and the landscape team undertook tree planting, landscaping and spraying during the year. Some of the tasks undertaken were:

- Amenity gardens were maintained;
- New trees were planted and redundant ones removed;
- Streams were kept clear of debris;
- Landscaping/seeding/fertilising was carried out;
- Tree surgery was carried out – as required;
- Weed spraying was completed;
- Road edges were tidied and vegetation cut back;

- Gardens were mulched;
- Riparian planting was undertaken;
- Arbor Day plantings were undertaken at QEP and Battle Hill;
- Major flood protection repair works were required on three sections of the Pakuratahi River. Grounds in Belmont and Battle Hill required extensive remodelling to repair flood damage. Rangers liaised with consents staff and achieved 100% compliance for the issued consents;

5. Facilities

All signage, park furniture, gates, bollards and barriers were maintained during the year to standards required. Some of the tasks undertaken were:

- New picnic tables and seats were built and installed;
- New track markers, bollard and horse gates were installed;
- Picnic tables were water-blasted and repaired as required;
- Direction signs were painted to meet re-branding requirements;
- Seven new information shelters were constructed, one at Williams Park and one at the Wainuiomata Recreation Area, two at Belmont Regional Park and three at Queen Elizabeth Park;

6. Tracks

Maintenance staff carried out patching and repairs, regular vegetation cutbacks, mowing and weed eating throughout the track network as required. Some of the tasks undertaken were:

- Tracks were metalled;
- Surfaces were repaired on all tracks;
- Directional signs were updated and renewed as required;
- Gorse was sprayed and vegetation cut back;
- Culverts were cleared on all tracks;
- Sections of the Hutt River Trail were re-metalled;
- 1200 meters of new track was formed and metalled at Wainuiomata Recreation Area, Queen Elizabeth Park and Battle Hill;
- All tracks throughout East Harbour Regional Park were extensively cut back to bring them in line with our standards;

7. Land Management

Culvert and drainage maintenance was carried out. Boggy areas were targeted to improve access during wet periods and reduce pasture damage by stock.

Fences were maintained throughout the parks to required standards.

Ongoing pest plant removal was carried out at Te Marua bush remnants, the campground and Farm Creek area of Kaitoke Regional Park.

Grazing was discontinued at the Lakes Block in East Harbour Regional Park. Dairy grazing was discontinued at Queen Elizabeth Park and a new dry stock grazing licence was issued.

8. Roothing

All roads and access ways were maintained to a safe and serviceable standard throughout the year. Roadside water tables were cleared and culverts re-opened as required. Potholes were repaired, bollards installed or repaired, and unsealed roads graded as required.

All road and traffic signage met Transit NZ standards and remain in good condition. All relevant work on the Rimutaka Rail Trail was granted consent by the Historic Places Trust.

A number of roads were resealed as part of the ongoing asset management programme. A 400m section of roading was second coat sealed at the Tunnel Gully Recreation Reserve. A 500m section of roading was second coat sealed at the Te Marua end of Kaitoke Regional Park. A section of road was washed out at Kaitoke Regional Park during the February floods. This was repaired and resealed to Engineering standards. Metalling and rehabilitation of roads in the Akatarawa and Pakuratahi Forests was completed in line with the staged maintenance requirements. Clearing of slips at Kaitoke, Rimutaka Rail Trail, Akatarawa, Belmont and Queen Elizabeth Park occurred as a result of the February 2004 floods.