Kōmiti Whakarite Pārae, Mahi Toi, Hapori, Kaupapa
Parks, Arts, Community and Events Committee
OPEN MINUTE ITEM ATTACHMENTS

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REVIEW OF REGIONAL PARKS MANAGEMENT PLAN

RESPONSE FROM WAITAKERE RANGES LOCAL BOARD

PACE MEETING - THURSDAY 11 JUNE 2020
Governance of RPMP sits with Governing Body but…

- Some Local Boards are in a unique position that gives them a strong interest
- Waitakere Ranges Regional Park well over half land area of the Local Board
- Regional park = 17,000 hectares
Origins of RPs’ network lies in Waitakere Ranges

- Nucleus of Regional Parks network Auckland Centennial Memorial Park
- Started in 1894 but finally formed in 1939 as centenary project of ACC
- ACMP transferred to ARA in 1963, ARC in 1989, and AC in 2010
Waitakere Ranges Heritage Area Act 2008

- Heritage Area almost entirely within Local Board area
- Heritage Area of national, regional and local significance
- 80% of Heritage Area is regional park
- Only local board with national and regional legal recognition
Our villages live within the Regional Plan

- Piha, Te Henga, Karekare, Huia, Waiatarua, Cornwallis
- Strong sense of stewardship, volunteers in parks
- Regional Parks act as local parks
Taitomo Block

- 200-acre site between Karekare and Piha
- Purchased 2014
- Variation to RPMP carried out in 2017
Process of review

- Critical that Local Boards are consulted during formative stages
- Pattern in recent years - we are asked when plans are beyond change
- Local Boards with Regional Parks know a great deal about the parks
- Local Boards with Regional Parks can convey community views
Item 6.1

Critical that Governing Body elected members lead process

- Vital there is a hearings panel of elected members
- That there are public hearings
- Don’t throw out the baby with the bathwater
- For Waitakere, the major plan review in 2010 preceded by a Waitakere variation
- Need to review 2010 & identify which projects haven’t been implemented
- E.G. toilet at North Piha, café at Arataki, shuttle buses to Aratoki
To talk about a few West issues…

- Kauri dieback and track upgrades, reopening's and permanent closures
- Needs to sit within a clear policy direction for the Waitakere Ranges
- Being led by track work, rather than the other way round
Visitor pressures

- Visitation to Waitakere Ranges has been steadily increasing (ATEED data)
- 161,000 on a single track - Kitekite
- Majority day trippers, majority from Auckland
- ATEED data shows all AC wards, West receives the greatest number of visits
- Plan needs to address visitor pressures and how these can be reduced
Ranger service

- This is cemented in policies of the RPMP as how things are done in Regional Parks
- Rangers highly valued in remote coastal and rural communities
- Critical service has been undermined by contracting policies of AC
- Need to protect and grow ranger service
Conclusion...

• WRLB wishes to be involved in a meaningful way from beginning to end of this process

• Recognise that governance lies with the Governing Body but for many residents in our area what happens in Regional Parks is critical to their wellbeing

• Set out the case of why the Waitakere Ranges Local Board has a special claim in being heard through this process.
Youth Centres and Services Investigation

Parks, Arts, Community and Events Committee
11 June 2020
Summary of Key Findings

- Currently no specific policy that guides provision and funding for youth centres.

- Decision-making for youth facilities has been responsive, with current distribution reflecting legacy decisions and local needs assessments.

- 145 youth facilities across Auckland, of these only 10 are within council’s service levels - the bulk of the rest are community leases to third parties

- A range of funding exists for externally run youth activities and services. The level of investment is generally proportionate to the youth population.

- No strong evidence of gaps in provision (within council’s remit). Where there are fewer facilities, there is often more funding to external youth providers.

- Youth are generally well provided for by council with a wide range of services and initiatives being delivered though council owned or leased facilities.

- Youth facilities are also supplemented by council’s network of community facilities which provide space and activities for young people.
Recommendations

- Three options were considered and the benefits and trade-offs of these are set out in the report.

- In view of the findings, coupled with the current financial constraints staff recommend:

- **OPTION 1: STATUS QUO** - decision-making continues to be flexible to respond to community needs, without specific provision guidelines or policy for youth facilities
COVID-19 Implications

- The advice and recommendations are based on the full range of council supported youth activities and services available pre-COVID-19.

- We acknowledge this situation may have changed or will change as a result of the pandemic.

- The wider impacts of COVID-19 on young people are still emerging, but they are likely to be significant for some, particularly in areas like employment and health and wellbeing.

- Staff will review and monitor the impacts of COVID-19 on Auckland’s young people, including the impacts of changes or reductions in the council and central government investment in services and programmes.

- These impacts will be reported back to committee as part of future I am Auckland implementation progress reports which monitor council’s existing support for youth.
Acquisition – Molesworth Place/Ventura Street
Land Exchange – Walkway to Moyle Park

Current walkway (Feb 2020)

Proposed exchange

Concept design for new walkway (Kāinga Ora to meet capital costs)
Land Exchange – Mayflower Park

Concept design for new park (Kāinga Ora to meet capital costs)

Proposed exchange

Mayflower Park and walkway (Feb 2020)