

Report 01.379

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Report to the Landcare Committee
from Ross Jackson, Landcare Planner - Volunteers Co-ordinator

Access to Queen Elizabeth Park : Rainbow Court

1. Purpose

To seek the Landcare Committee's endorsement to officers response to a request by Kapiti Coast District Council (KCDC) asking the Regional Council to accept the responsibility for maintaining an accessway into Queen Elizabeth Park from Rainbow Court and inclusion of the accessway in the Park.

2. Kapiti Coast District Council Request

Kapiti Coast District Council (KCDC) officers have approached Parks and Forests, asking if the Regional Council would be prepared to accept maintenance responsibility for an accessway from Rainbow Court and inclusion of it into Queen Elizabeth Park (refer **Attachment 1**). KCDC officers requested a quick response as they were reporting the matter to the District Council in May, as part of a District Plan Zoning change.

Parks and Forests responded on the basis that the proposal needed to be formally considered by the Regional Council, but that it is likely to accept the accessway subject to:

- (1) No cost on WRC for purchasing the land and developing the assessway;
- (2) The land should be vested in the Crown. The Crown would then appoint WRC to control and manage the accessway, which is consistent with the ownership and management of the remainder of the Park;
- (3) KCDC developing a gravel track as per WRC standards manual;
- (4) WRC taking over maintenance of the accessway as part of the overall management of the Park.

3. **How this Situation Came About**

For many years there was informal access into Queen Elizabeth Park from Rainbow Court at Raumati South. It was always assumed by the District Council and general public that the access was across a Kapiti Coast District Council drainage reserve. However, in 1998 it was identified that the accessway (and the water supply for the Park) was over adjacent private land. (The water supply has since been relocated onto Park land.)

In 1994, Kapiti Coast District Council sold the reserve (after publicly notifying the intention to revoke the reserve status under the Reserves Act) when it was no longer required for drainage purposes. KCDC has recently advertised their intention to rezone the former reserve from Open Space to residential. Local residents objected strongly to the rezoning stating that they want the access into the Park to be retained. Kapiti Coast District Council has now resolved to purchase a 2 or 3 metre accessway from the new owner. As the accessway provides a secondary entrance to Queen Elizabeth Park, officers of both Councils' believe that, if KCDC is successful in negotiating a strip of land for access, it would be sensible for the land to be incorporated into the Park.

4. **Financial Implications**

The financial implications of the proposal will be negligible. We will need to add this area to the mowing contract, do minor additional track maintenance and add one new entrance sign. The costs of this will be absorbed within the existing Park budget.

5. **Communication**

There will be opportunities for press releases once the access situation has been finalised.

6. **Recommendations**

That the Landcare Committee:

- (1) *receive the report and note its contents.*
- (2) *endorse the response made by officers to KCDC that WRC is likely to agree to inclusion of the accessway in Queen Elizabeth Park and accept responsibility for maintenance of the accessway.*
- (3) *ask officers to report back to the Landcare Committee for confirmation once KCDC has negotiated access.*

Report prepared by:

Approved for Submission:

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Attachment 1 : Queen Elizabeth Park North Area Map