

## Regional parks

This section discusses how the ARC will look after the regional parks network, ensure that park users' needs are met, plan for the purchase of new parkland, and undertake capital works on regional parks. It includes the following LTCCP activities:

1. Looking after our regional parks
2. Auckland Botanic Gardens
3. New regional parks
4. Farming in regional parks
5. Mt Smart Stadium
6. Visitor services

### Key issues

Key considerations for the provision of open space include the appropriate rate of development and opening of new parks, and maintaining levels of service on existing parks. Funding is required to provide, facilitate and manage a range of recreational opportunities for the regional community, and to ensure that park facilities and services are developed and maintained to meet visitor demand.

Buying regional parkland is a particularly important responsibility of the ARC. We must plan now for the needs of current and future generations' by acquiring land to provide recreational open space, and to protect our landscapes, native bush, wetlands and wildlife. It is especially important to acquire coastal land in order to maintain public access to the coastline.

Regional parkland, including the extensively forested Waitakere and Hunua Ranges, contains significant conservation and heritage values. Conservation programmes



undertaken on regional parks include endangered species conservation, habitat restoration, historic heritage and archaeological site protection, and restoration, and weed and pest control programmes. A large proportion of this work is undertaken by our dedicated ranger service. (See Natural Heritage Conservation and Biosecurity section on pages 84-86 for details of conservation projects on regional parks.)

### What we want to achieve

We will look after our park settings and facilities (including walking tracks, roads, buildings, signs, picnic areas, campgrounds, car parks, arrival areas and green assets) so that visitors can safely enjoy outdoor recreation opportunities and the environment as a whole, and increase their physical activity. We will continue to provide events and visitor services on regional parks.

Our park facilities will be managed so that their natural and cultural heritage features are preserved. Regional parks facilities will be, where possible, examples of environmental best practice that are relevant to all sectors of the community.

We will actively seek to purchase and acquire more parkland, as programmed in the LTCCP 2006-16, including utilising any budget for acquisition of new parks not spent from the 2007/08 Annual Plan.

Implementing the regional parks safety and security strategy and the new parks bylaws will continue to be priorities. We will also ensure high-visibility ranger patrols on parks remain a priority. Access to parks for those with limited mobility will continue to be improved across the network.

A new project to manage the impacts of motorised recreation in coastal areas, including Muriwai Beach, will be implemented through collaboration with users and other agencies.

We will continue planning for future access at Waitawa and will increase opportunities for overnight accommodation on regional parks.

A review of the Regional Parks Management Plan will begin. The current management plan was originally prepared with

the regional community in 2002, and has been a key influence on our management of regional parks over the last five years.

We will work with Waitakere City Council and the community to establish a new resource management designation over the Waitakere Ranges Regional Parkland. The designation will clarify the types of works the ARC needs to undertake in order to maintain its service to the regional community in the parkland. It will also lead to efficiency improvements in respect to resource management processing of ARC's activities in the parkland.

### Regional parks activities contributes to the following community outcomes:

- Recreational and leisure opportunities that offer a range of experiences for all.
- Open spaces and green places, now and for the future.
- The significant place of tangata whenua is acknowledged and their role as kaitiaki is recognised.
- Aucklanders caring for and enjoying the natural environment.
- Auckland's special places are respected and conserved.
- The diversity of native species and habitats is protected and restored.
- Safer neighbourhoods and public places.
- Quality built environment.

#### Influence on the four well-beings:



Environmental



Social



Cultural



Economic

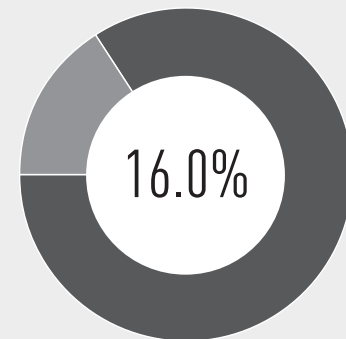
At the Auckland Botanic Gardens, we will continue to conserve rare and endangered plants, maintain plant collections and showcase garden design ideas suitable for the Auckland environment.

Mt Smart Stadium will continue to be promoted, developed and managed as an attractive venue for international sport, entertainment and community events.

### Responsibilities

We own and/or manage regional parks on behalf of the Auckland region's people, mostly under the Local Government Act 2002 and the Reserves Act 1977. We manage a network of 25 regional parks, covering approximately 40,000 hectares, ranging from sandy beaches, farmland and bush wilderness areas, to the Auckland Botanic Gardens and Mt Smart Stadium. We provide for the use, enjoyment, maintenance, protection, preservation and enhancement of the regional parks network for the benefit of everyone in the Auckland region. Regional parks meet a range of individual recreation and entertainment needs and are also home to many conservation initiatives.

### What this will cost



This is 16.0% of the ARC's total rates  
The total rate requirement for the Activity Group for 2008/09 is \$23.835m



## Prospective income statement for year ending 30 June - dollars in thousands

Plan 2008	Regional parks	Plan 2009	LTCCP Forecast 2009	Variance 2009
20,416	Rates	23,835	23,423	412
1,500	ARH distribution - other	-	-	-
598	Service fees	320	340	(20)
6,169	Facilities	9,437	6,397	3,040
343	Grants and subsidies	252	48	204
672	Investment	796	405	391
103	Sundry operating	71	29	42
147	Merchandising	151	154	(3)
926	Farming	995	1,055	(60)
<b>30,874</b>	<b>Revenue</b>	<b>35,857</b>	<b>31,851</b>	<b>4,006</b>
9,519	Human resources	10,707	10,204	503
488	Professional services	768	260	508
385	Technical services	413	140	273
790	Contracted services	4,071	1,376	2,695
224	Farming cost of sales	310	246	64
433	Materials	489	680	(191)
445	Printing and office supplies	418	440	(22)
360	Fuel and power	313	415	(102)
3,530	Repairs and maintenance	4,017	4,639	(622)
315	Communications	306	405	(99)
406	Information services	394	163	231
1,128	Occupancy	954	1,296	(342)
2,025	Grant & subsidies	25	-	25
5,809	Interest and bank charges	6,845	4,809	2,036
894	Other	979	703	276
571	Internal expenditure recovery	625	(460)	1,085
90	Merchandising cost of sales	95	111	(16)
370	Vehicle	409	380	29
2,755	Depreciation	3,019	3,846	(827)
<b>30,537</b>	<b>Expenditure</b>	<b>35,157</b>	<b>29,652</b>	<b>5,505</b>
<b>337</b>	<b>Net surplus/(Deficit)</b>	<b>700</b>	<b>2,199</b>	<b>(1,499)</b>

## Prospective capital expenditure for year ending 30 June - dollars in thousands

Plan 2008	Regional parks (excluding Mt Smart Stadium)	Plan 2009	LTCCP Forecast 2009	Variance 2009
11,500	Land	8,500	-	8,500
1,161	Land improvements	2,314	1,303	1,011
767	Bridges, structures and dams	229	435	(206)
1,019	Buildings	1,107	1,267	(160)
	Plant and equipment	206	-	-
996	Roads	868	1,229	(361)
<b>15,443</b>	<b>Total capital expenditure</b>	<b>13,223</b>	<b>4,234</b>	<b>8,783</b>
	This comprises of:			
2,405	Renewals	2,314	2,178	136
1,538	Developments	2,409	2,056	353
11,500	New parks	8,500	-	8,500
<b>15,443</b>	<b>Total capital expenditure</b>	<b>13,223</b>	<b>4,234</b>	<b>8,989</b>
	Funded by:			
617	Reserves	482	-	482
3,326	Rates	4,240	4,234	6
1,500	ARH distributions	-	-	-
10,000	Borrowings	8,500	-	8,500
<b>15,443</b>	<b>Total net capital expenditure</b>	<b>13,223</b>	<b>4,234</b>	<b>8,989</b>
	<b>Mt Smart Stadium</b>			
120	Land improvements	789	101	688
	Plant and equipment	60		
25	Furniture and equipment	80	-	80
<b>145</b>	<b>Total capital expenditure funding</b>	<b>929</b>	<b>101</b>	<b>768</b>
	Funded by			
145	Borrowings	929	101	828
<b>145</b>	<b>Total capital expenditure funding</b>	<b>929</b>	<b>101</b>	<b>828</b>

## Key financial assumptions

- New parks purchased during 2008-16 will be land-banked, with basic public access only and minimal operational cost, for the duration of the LTCCP.
- Operational expenditure (particularly repairs and maintenance) for existing parks and for new regional parks will be increased, to ensure that desired visitor service and associated asset standards are maintained.
- Rating income in the above Long-Term Financial Strategy includes the rating requirement to fund specific capital expenditure as outlined in the table, together with a share of support services capital expenditure, as outlined in Chapter four.





## LTCCP Activity 1: Looking after our regional parks

### What we plan to deliver

Landscapes and facilities on regional parks will be maintained and developed to meet visitor needs. We will provide for the maintenance of walking tracks, roads, buildings, signs, picnic areas, campgrounds, car parks and arrival areas in regional parks through the implementation of the Parks Advanced Asset Management Plan 2005. Safety and security standards will be maintained and improved through the provision of appropriately designed facilities.

We will also ensure that the regional parks property portfolio, which includes baches, lodges and commercial leases and licenses, is managed and promoted in a way that provides a wide range of opportunities to the regional community.

We will commence a review of the Regional Parks Management Plan, in consultation with the regional community.

The ARC will undertake a collaborative programme with users and other agencies to manage the impacts of motorised recreation in coastal areas, including Muriwai Beach.

### What this will cost

Activity prospective cost of services statement for year ending 30 June - dollars in thousands

Plan 2008	Looking after our regional parks	Plan 2009	LTCCP Forecast 2009	Variance 2009
2,043	Revenue	2,500	1,773	727
7,125	Expenditure	10,354	8,459	1,895
5,082	Net cost of services	7,854	6,686	1,168
(46)	Reserves	96	190	(94)
<b>5,036</b>	<b>Rating requirement</b>	<b>7,950</b>	<b>6,876</b>	<b>1,074</b>

### ARC service levels

Measures	Target	2002/03	2003/04	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07
1. At least 85 per cent of visitors are satisfied with regional parks facilities, as measured annually.	85 per cent	84	86	90	90	92
2. At least 85 per cent of park visitor service standards are met, as measured annually.	85 per cent in LTCCP 2006-16 <i>*Note this target was lifted in Annual Plan 2007/08</i>	88	92	85	85	88



## LTCCP Activity 2: Auckland Botanic Gardens

### What we plan to deliver

Landscapes and facilities at the Auckland Botanic Gardens will be maintained and developed to meet visitor needs.

We will provide for the maintenance of paths, roads, buildings, shelters, signs, amenity areas and car parks through the implementation of the Parks Advanced Asset Management Plan 2005.

We will work with local councils and other stakeholders to find a replacement event for the Ellerslie Flower Show, to be held at the Auckland Botanic Gardens.

The upkeep of the extensive range of plant collections, northern events site and Huakaiwaka, the award-winning visitor centre, will remain priorities, as will the implementation of safety and security initiatives.

### What this will cost

Activity prospective cost of services statement for year ending 30 June - dollars in thousands

Plan 2008	Auckland Botanic Gardens	Plan 2009	LTCCP Forecast 2009	Variance 2009
403	Revenue	322	127	195
3,637	Expenditure	3,868	3,383	485
3,234	Net cost of services	3,546	3,256	290
166	Reserves	229	274	(45)
<b>3,400</b>	<b>Rating requirement</b>	<b>3,775</b>	<b>3,530</b>	<b>245</b>

### ARC service levels

Measures	Target	2002/03	2003/04	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07
1. At least 85 per cent of visitors are satisfied with the Auckland Botanic Gardens, as measured annually.	85 per cent					98
2. At least 75 per cent of park visitor service standards are met, as measured annually.	75 per cent					81

## LTCCP Activity 3: New regional parks

### What we plan to deliver

New parkland is needed to cope with the diverse recreational demands of the region's growing population, and for the demands of future generations. It is also a key mechanism for protecting significant land forms, the coast, natural ecosystems, historic heritage values, and for providing recreational access to natural places.

We will continue to investigate and respond to new opportunities for acquiring land for regional parks, in order to enhance the recreational and conservation values of the Auckland region. Over time, the ARC will acquire additional regional parkland for the benefit of the region's current and future generations.

### What this will cost

Activity prospective cost of services statement for year ending 30 June - dollars in thousands

Plan 2008	New regional parks	Plan 2009	LTCCP Forecast 2009	Variance 2009
1,875	Revenue	20	7	13
6,297	Expenditure	5,121	3,955	1,166
4,422	Net cost of services	5,101	3,948	1,153
610	Reserves	886	70	816
<b>5,032</b>	<b>Rating requirement</b>	<b>5,987</b>	<b>4,018</b>	<b>1,969</b>

### ARC service levels

Measures	Target	2002/03	2003/04	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07
1. Increase the size of the regional park network by at least 500 hectares over the next 10-years (2006-16) by purchasing three new parks, as well as land adjacent to existing parks, to meet community growth and demand.	Total of 500 hectares			188	613	841
2. Community satisfaction with the provision of regional parks, as measured annually.	90 per cent	92	99	97	92	85



## LTCCP Activity 4: Farming in regional parks

### What we plan to deliver

Regional parks will be farmed in a manner that will generate an economic return, within an environmentally sustainable management approach. The ARC will maintain farmed areas to conserve the countryside landscape and provide accessible recreational and educational opportunities for park visitors.

We will continue to develop Atiu Creek Regional Park to improve production levels. New parkland at Waitawa will be integrated into the regional park farming operation and Duder Regional Park will continue to be managed as a model of sustainable farming to demonstrate environmental best practice.

We will continue to support the education programme, focused on farming activities, at Ambury Regional Park.

### What this will cost

Activity prospective cost of services statement for year ending 30 June - dollars in thousands

Plan 2008	Farming in parks	Plan 2009	LTCCP Forecast 2009	Variance 2009
1,851	Revenue	995	1,961	(966)
1,883	Expenditure	1,032	1,968	(936)
32	Net cost of services	37	7	30
(32)	Reserves	(37)	(6)	(31)
-	<b>Rating requirement</b>	-	<b>1</b>	<b>(1)</b>

### ARC service levels

Measures	Target	2002/03	2003/04	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07
1. At least 90 per cent visitor satisfaction with farm parks.	90 per cent	92	99	99		88
2. At least 85 per cent of farming service standards (pasture/infrastructure) are met.	85 per cent			90	85	88



## LTCCP Activity 5: Mt Smart Stadium

### What we plan to deliver

The ARC will continue to promote, develop, maintain and operate Mt Smart Stadium as an attractive venue for international sport, entertainment and community events. The stadium consists of two separate venues, one primarily for football and large outdoor entertainment events, and the other for athletics and other activities. Each offers comfortable and secure facilities to accommodate a wide range of events and activities.

We will implement an enhanced programme to diversify and enhance sports, entertainment and community event opportunities to maintain the economic sustainability of the stadium operation and its relevance to the regional community.

### What this will cost

Activity prospective cost of services statement for year ending 30 June - dollars in thousands

Plan 2008	Mt Smart Stadium	Plan 2009	LTCCP Forecast 2009	Variance 2009
4,152	Revenue	6,701	4,487	2,214
4,425	Expenditure	7,159	3,978	3,181
273	Net cost of services	457	(509)	966
(273)	Reserves	(457)	509	(966)
-	<b>Rating requirement</b>	-	-	-

### ARC service levels

Measures	Target	2002/03	2003/04	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07
1. Mt Smart Stadium exceeds a stadium patron satisfaction rating of 85 per cent, as measured annually.	85 per cent	90	87	85	95	87
2. Facilities at Mt Smart Stadium are promoted and made available to at least 185 non-commercial events annually, which are of benefit to the community, as measured by events records.	185 community events annually	255	321	254	317	251

## LTCCP Activity 6: Visitor services

### What we plan to deliver

The diversity of experiences on regional parks will be enhanced through providing services at visitor centres (Arataki in the Waitakere Ranges and Huakaiwaka at the Auckland Botanic Gardens), interpretation, community and education programmes and special community events.

The ARC will continue to provide event, picnic and camping sites and lodges throughout the regional parks network, as well as a high standard of information and reservation booking services. We will also maintain safety and security standards through ranger patrols.

In addition, this activity will assist the ARC to continue to develop partnerships with the wider community. This will be done through managing the extensive community volunteer programmes and continuing to develop partnerships with various communities, businesses and other organisations

### What this will cost

Activity prospective cost of services statement for year ending 30 June - dollars in thousands

Plan 2008	Visitor services	Plan 2009	LTCCP Forecast 2009	Variance 2009
134	Revenue	1,484	74	1,410
7,171	Expenditure	7,623	7,910	(287)
7,037	Net cost of services	6,139	7,836	(1,697)
(89)	Reserves	(16)	1,162	(1,178)
<b>6,948</b>	<b>Rating requirement</b>	<b>6,123</b>	<b>8,998</b>	<b>(2,875)</b>

### ARC service levels

Measures	Target	2002/03	2003/04	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07
1. At least 90 per cent of the regional community are aware of regional parks as measured annually.	90 per cent		93	94	94	84
2. There are more than 2000 active parks volunteers.	more than 2000 active and registered volunteers		2028	2192	2266	2529
3. An increasing level of support generated from partnerships as measured annually with a 10-year target of at least one active partnership for each regional park.	Under development					



## Capital works on regional parks

### What we plan to deliver

Infrastructure throughout the regional parks network will continue to be developed and replaced as identified in the Advanced Asset Management Plan and Auckland Regional Parks Management Plan. Capital works, which are designed to enhance safety, accessibility and visitor experiences on regional parks, include building and upgrading roads, tracks, fences, buildings, utilities, interpretation, and security and safety equipment.

We will deliver environmental best practice in capital development projects.

### ARC service levels

At least 95 per cent of projects are delivered on time and within budget with no more than a five per cent budget variance. Capital expenditure for the 2008/09 year will be focused on the following works:

### Northern Regional Parks

Tāwharanui, Atiu Creek, Pakiri, Mahurangi, Scandrett, Wenderholm, Shakespear and Long Bay.

- Upgrade and develop farm assets (including fences, stock yards and stock shade and shelter) so we can farm regional parks in an effective way.
- Upgrade cottages and houses on Northern Regional Parks (including the Graham Bach at Scandrett Regional Park and Vine House at Mahurangi Regional Park) to make them suitable for public accommodation.
- Undertake repairs on heritage buildings and structures on Northern Regional Parks, including the Scandrett Homestead.
- Replace and upgrade assets to ensure levels of service for park visitors are maintained (including safety improvements to the Tāwharanui Regional Park woolshed).

### Southern Regional Parks

Omana, Duder, Whakanewha, Tapapakanga, Ambury, Mutukaroa (Hamlin's Hill), Awhitu, Whakatiwai, Tawhitokino, Waharau, Waitawa and the Hunua Ranges.

- In consultation with the local community, undertake design works on the Omana Regional Park component of the Beachlands to Maraetai Walkway.
- Upgrade and develop farm assets (including fences, stock yards and stock shade and shelter) so we can farm regional parks in an effective way.
- Undertake repairs on heritage buildings and structures (including the Awhitu Regional Park Homestead and stone walls at Ambury Regional Park).
- Upgrade houses on Southern Regional Parks to make them suitable for public accommodation (Awhitu Regional Park ex-ranger house).
- Continue to upgrade back country campsites in the Hunua Ranges Regional Park.
- Upgrade tracks in the Hunua Regional Parkland to ensure safety standards are maintained for park visitors.
- Replace and upgrade assets to ensure levels of service for park visitors are maintained.
- Complete the Ambury Regional Park concept plan, so we can effectively provide for the rapidly increasing numbers of visitors to the park.
- Improve accessibility of southern regional parks by installing directional signage on key feeder roads.
- Harvest 25 hectares of pine forest at Waitawa, including road works, weed control and replanting.

### Western Regional Parks

Waitakere Ranges (including Arataki, Huia, Cornwallis, Watipu, Cascade Kauri, Te Henga/Bethells, Piha and Karekare), Muriwai and Te Rau Puriri.

- Upgrade and develop farm assets (including fences and stock shade and shelter) so we can farm regional parks in an effective way.

- Upgrade walking tracks so they are safe and accessible for public use (including completing the Karamatura Track upgrade).
- Upgrade cottages and houses on Western Regional Parks (including Barrs Cottage and Keddle House) to make them suitable for public accommodation.
- Undertake repairs on heritage buildings and structures (including Rose Hellaby House).
- Replace and upgrade assets to ensure levels of service for park visitors are maintained (including repairs at Stedfast Park, replacing the Cornwallis southern platform and upgrading track structures throughout the Waitakere Ranges Regional Parkland).
- Continue to upgrade displays and interpretation at the Arataki Visitor Centre.

### Auckland Botanic Gardens:

- Continue to upgrade displays and interpretation at the Huakaiwaka Visitor Centre.
- Upgrade walking paths so they are safe and accessible for public use (including the native garden and camellia garden pathways).
- Improve water quality in the two lakes at the gardens to resolve public health issues.
- Complete the master plan to plan for future use and development of the gardens.
- Replace and upgrade assets, including plant collections, to ensure levels of service for park visitors are maintained.

### Mt Smart Stadium:

- Complete master and landscape plans to ensure the stadium is appropriately developed for future use.
- Improve the general amenity, functionality, service levels and accessibility of the stadium by upgrading and replacing assets, such as signage, furniture, security equipment, and communications infrastructure.

