

Autumn Activity

A magic summer has ended and the parks' network has again sprung into life with lots of community events for people of all interests. Many of these events focus on people across the Auckland region engaging with the park network and also promoting healthy activity.

Events on parks



In April the Waitakere Ranges hosted the annual Oxfam Water for Survival Walk and the Save Cornwallis Old Wharf (SCOW) Take a Kid Fishing Day. The SCOW fishing competition is an annual event held at Cornwallis Wharf – although the last two competitions have been cancelled due to bad weather!

This year the sun came out, the fish were biting and the kids were smiling.

Money raised goes towards the SCOW Trust.



Down south in Hunua Ranges Regional Park 400 mountain bikers gathered for the annual Hunua Hardman/Woman ride around the ranges. This race uses a mixture of private land, public roads and the mountain bike tracks in the Mangatawhiri Valley. With support from Watercare Services Ltd and Waytemore Forests resulted in a day of mud, sun, bumps and bruises.

Closer to the city, Ambury Regional Park hosted this year's final race of the Special K duathlon series. The series is aimed at getting women active and over 2000 competitors turned up to run and bike their way to the finish line.



This is the first year the ARC has been involved with the series and by the feedback received and the smiles around the park we hope it is the first of many for more information about the Special K series visit www.gogirl.co.nz

As the winter season closes in, the ARC is working with staff and event organisers to ensure that 2006/07 will be another year full of great stuff to see and do around the network.

For a list of all upcoming events on parks check out www.arc.govt.nz.

Parks prominent in ARC plan

Many new developments on the ground are proposed for regional parks over the next financial year. The year's planned activities are outlined in the ARC's Draft Long Term Council Community Plan 2006-16. The plan details planned activities for the first three years and sets 10 year goals.



Key things proposed for 2006-7:

- Upgrade of core parks infrastructure – fences, carparks, roads, toilets and arrival areas
- Upgrade of the first of three baches at Scandrett Regional Park to create overnight accommodation opportunities for the public
- A review of overnight accommodation across the parks network with the aim of increasing available accommodation opportunities and access to buildings on parks
- Preliminary design work at Waitawa (near Kawakawa Bay) in preparation for this park being open to the public in future years
- 1st stage upgrade of back country campsites in the Hunua and Waitakere Ranges
- Upgrade of toilets and water system at Whatipu campground
- 1st stage development of a long trail (four day scenic walk) through the Waitakere Ranges – including upgrades of existing trails and campsites
- 1st stage installation of security gates at the Arataki Visitor Centre to enhance safety after hours
- Upgrade of public toilets at Arataki Visitor Centre
- Continued enhancement of displays and interpretation in the Auckland Botanic Gardens Visitor Centre
- Upgrade of the Rose Garden entrance pergola at Auckland Botanic Gardens
- Replacement of the pergola and seats at the Womens Suffrage Garden, Auckland Botanic Gardens
- Continued introduction and enhancement of safety and security initiatives
- Continued development and improvement of partnership and volunteer opportunities on regional parks.

These are just a few of the highlights of the on-the-ground activities proposed in the plan. For more information on what is planned for the next 10 years in regional parks visit www.arc.govt.nz.

The Draft plan will be amended following hearings in May and is scheduled to be adopted by the Council in June.