

5th April, 1964.

The Chairman and Members,
Pukekura Park Committee.

Dear Sirs,

As requested I submit a review of various developments in the Park during the past five years, and some proposals for consideration in progressive stages over the next five years.

From the outset it must be appreciated that with the development of the Park and its amenities the costs for routine work alone to maintain the desired standard are substantially increased.

Even if there were no developments the maintenance costs would be substantially higher on account of much higher wages and material costs. The main developments could be listed as follows : -

1. Extension of areas in the Park that have been cleaned and planted with suitable trees. This includes areas where dangerous and dying trees have been removed, and the area cultivated and planted.
2. Installation of illuminated fountain.
3. Replacement of boat house.
4. Development of the fernery and begonia houses. Also the propagating of plants for the City street plots and reserves, and the providing of flowers and foliage for public functions.
5. Work on Brooklands Bowl area.
6. Erection of new Sports Pavilion.
7. Levelling and draining the sportsground area, enlarging the terrace seating accommodation, etc.
8. Children's paddling pool.
9. Installation of flood lighting system at sportsground.

Through the lack of labour and the available money to pay for the wages that would be incurred, there are a number of jobs, such as the removal of trees that have been authorised and the cleaning out of a lot of shrubbery growth, that have not been attended to.

It is important when an area is cleared and planted that the necessary cultivation and attention be given the young trees to ensure that they can become well established.

As already stated, all these developments mean a substantial increase in maintenance labour, which results in increased costs.

The Committee have always supported a progressive and planned policy, and in keeping with this I submit the following matters for consideration, and if thought fit, some determination as to where they fit in order of priority :

Continued :

1. The thinning out of growth encroaching on more desirable trees, more particularly in the central area of the Park and Maranui. Also the strengthening of the boundary shelter belts.
2. Improvements to the unsightly Fillis Street bank to the west of the main entrance gates.
3. Attention to the Gilbert Street waterfall area.
4. Lavatory for children adjacent to the children's play area. Also attention to the area around the paddling pool, etc.
5. Further planting on the site of the old Croquet and Tennis courts to provide for the removal of the roadside hedges. Also attention to Vogeltown entrance from Shortland Street.
6. Cut back trees along Brooklands Road encroaching on the footpath, and the planting of trees on the inner area to take the place of some of the Lawsoniana trees that are dying.
7. New storm water drains at the Kiosk are needed to replace those leading from the down pipes which have broken.
8. The thinning and respacing of trees in the Rhododendron Dell.
9. The thinning out of the native trees in the Brooklands Road plantation.
10. Further sealing and kerb and channelling of Brooklands Drive.
11. Plant shelter trees behind the Brooklands Cottage to prepare for the time when the present shelter pine trees will have to be removed.

There are a number of urgent maintenance jobs that should have early attention, namely :

1. The replacement of a portion of the water supply line to Brooklands.
2. The pipe to the waterfall from the large lake has been filled with roots and should be replaced with a larger pipe to take the increased volume of storm water.
3. The Brooklands lake and the main lake need treating to eradicate a pond weed which in a short time will become a major problem.
4. The timing on the fountain for both the water and lighting effects needs readjustment to correctly define the changes. Alternative arrangements will probably be needed to replace the timer which is giving constant trouble. A new set of flood light lamps are now on order from England.

PLANT AND EQUIPMENT :

The present motor mower used throughout the Park for all rough mowing is old and costly and unsuitable. To get and maintain satisfactory turf conditions on the sportsground I strongly recommend the purchase of turf aerating equipment. I would also recommend the allocation of a definite amount each year to provide for the replacement of machinery.

Continued :

STORAGE OF PLANT AND EQUIPMENT :

At the present time equipment is stored in various scattered and unsuitable places including dressing rooms. I would recommend that a sufficiently large shed to store all equipment be built, preferably near the sportsground, and this would save time and labour.

These comments cover a wide range, but in my opinion are desirable if the standard of the Park is to be maintained and steadily improved.

It is very gratifying to see the increasing numbers of visitors and local residents that visit the Park throughout the year, and no doubt it is a great asset to New Plymouth.

Yours faithfully,

(J.W. GOODWIN)
Superintendent.
PARKS AND RESERVES.

MEF.