

Sullivan Lake Reserve

**PROJECT AND PLANNING UPDATE
19 APRIL 2013**



Welcome to the first of a series of update newsletters we will send to members of the Sullivan Lake Care Group and other interested residents over the coming months.

We envisage that this will be an 'as needs' internal publication, produced every month or two as new information comes to hand or key project milestones are reached.

Lake edge retaining wall

We had intended to replace a section of lake edge retaining wall last month, but the project was put on hold due to concerns about the impacts which emptying the lake may have had during the extended drought. During the works, fish would have been restricted to shallow water and in the prevailing hot conditions, with no ability to refill the lake when the work was completed, it was felt that the potential effect on fishlife could have been extreme. The hot conditions could also have resulted in the mud on the bottom of the lake giving off unpleasant odours which may have impacted on nearby residents.

Weather permitting, we are now proposing to start this project towards the end of next week. The job will take about four weeks and will see some 150 metres of damaged edging (extending east from the King Street weir on the northern side of the lake) removed and replaced with a more substantial timber retaining wall. The lake edge along much of that section will also be deepened. During that time, most of the lake bed will be exposed. This work will be completed as quickly as possible so that the lake can be refilled (by rainwater falling in the surrounding catchment) without delay.



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We have established an email address where newsletter feedback, or comments on any ongoing issues or concerns can be sent for a response, or just to pass on information.

To gain access to the area, the contractor will need reasonably dry conditions, so if there is an extended period of rain during the period leading up to the start of the project, it may need to be delayed. Any damage to the grass bank will be made good and grass resown.

Alexander Avenue stormwater improvements

Draintech contractors have started work on a project to improve the stormwater system in the Alexander Avenue/Douglas Street area. This work will take place in three stages - stages one and two will be completed by June and stage three will be completed in the 2013/14 financial year.

The first stage involves improving the stormwater inlet capacity east and west of the Douglas Street intersection and the addition of new pipes.

The second stage is the installation of a 1350mm stormwater main that runs along part of Douglas St and discharges into Sullivan Lake alongside an existing 900mm outlet (a length of almost 265m in total). Stage two is due to start in early-May.

A Bay of Plenty Regional Council resource consent was required for the stage two work at the lake end, as it involved work within a water body and a subsequent discharge of stormwater. Also included is a 900mm stormwater main that will link in to the stage one work. This pipe will provide a dedicated stormwater main for the Alexander Ave and Valley Road sub-catchments.

The third and final stage of these improvements works is the installation of a 1050mm main which will also link to the Alexander Ave area and relieve flows at the Olympic Drive intersection. This main will supplement the existing 900mm main to improve stormwater removal from this part of town.

Sediment control system

A sediment bund has been in existence at the southern end of Sullivan Lake for some years. Of the six main stormwater inlets to the lake, four are upstream of the bund (including the two main Valley Road outlets). The bund therefore captures the majority of sediment entering the lake in an area where it can be effectively managed and extracted, preventing it from entering other areas which would be much more difficult to maintain. More work is planned to understand sediment levels in the bund area and establish the best way to manage this issue in the future. As part of the stormwater improvement projects discussed above, we will also be looking at sediment control activities for the inlets outside the bund area.



Reserve Management Plan update

Staff are starting to bring together the information required to update the 1992 Reserve Management Plan and will be consulting with the Sullivan Lake Care Group and wider community on the approach to be taken. A report on that process will also go to Council next month for approval.

It's intended to expand the plan to cover relevant infrastructure details and also gain Regional Council input on water quality issues. Other key issues we would like the plan to address include:

- Policies should be reinforced by separate documents that detail operational work-plans, setting out when and how the policies will be achieved;
- Long-term water quality goals should be established, including the provision of a fresh water supply, silt removal and weed control; and
- A vision for lake edge improvements (hard edging and habitat planting areas) should be established, supported by an operational plan.

Forestry harvesting

WDC will be making a submission to the Regional Council seeking stringent run-off control measures as part of the resource consent applying to forest harvesting activities on the hills above Valley Road.

Draft Annual Plan submissions

It was good to see a number of submissions on Sullivan Lake improvements to the WDC draft Annual Plan for 2013/14. Staff will also be making a submission to both our and the Regional Council's annual Plans seeking additional funding for improvement initiatives. This could include the installation of a dedicated pump to safeguard the supply of fresh water during extended dry periods.