

## 12. PARKLANDS YOUTH RECREATION NEEDS

<b>Officer responsible</b> Community Advocate, Burwood/Pegasus	<b>Author</b> Sam Ryan - Community Development Adviser, DDI 386-0926
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The purpose of this report is to seek the Board's endorsement of the recommendations from the Parklands Community Consultation regarding youth recreation needs, and to request the Board to prioritise these recommendations.

### BACKGROUND

In October 2000, a report from the Parks Planner informed Board members of the outcome of public consultation on the proposed skateboard park in Queenspark Reserve and made recommendations for further progress. The Board decided:

1. That the proposed skateboard facility at Queenspark Reserve not proceed.
2. That independently facilitated community workshops and a community forum be organised by the Shirley Service Centre Advocacy Team in liaison with the Parks Planner to address youth recreation needs in the Parklands area and address options available.
3. That \$1,000 be allocated from the Board's Discretionary funding for the workshops and community forum.

In response to this, a Reference Group was convened of local residents from Parklands, whose purpose was to monitor and advise the Community Consultation. The Reference Group of Parklands residents agreed that the recommendations be utilised from existing research, which identified the need to develop youth recreation facilities in Parklands. This research also included the recommendations of the Burwood/Pegasus Youth Recreation Needs survey (April 2000) regarding youth recreation needs, which are as follows:

1. Provide a range of hangout (social interaction areas), casual and recreation opportunities in and around the malls.
2. Encourage the establishment of cafes and plan and provide events related to music with concerts being stages on the foreshore or local parks.
3. Provide a range of skateboard facilities throughout the Burwood/Pegasus Community.
4. Provide additional fresh water drinking fountains and improved litter collection/cleaning in major parks within Burwood/Pegasus Community Board area.
5. Explore through the work of Community Advisory staff assistance to organisations to develop adventure/thrill-seeker type activities in the community.
6. Identify, promote and negotiate for open access by youth to existing club and sporting facilities within the community for example tennis/netball courts, cricket nets.
7. Creating a process for ongoing consultation with local young people around provision of recreation needs.

The Reference Group's objective was to find out which of the above recommendations from the Burwood/Pegasus Recreation Needs Study were priorities for local people. With this in mind, the Reference Group asked that Council staff consult with different sectors of the community in the following ways:

- Youth - hold workshops within existing youth holiday and after school programmes, and invite Parklands youth to a forum called "Wassup in Parklands" to prioritise and explore ways of implementing the recommendations.
- Sports clubs and community groups - Distribute a questionnaire seeking ideas about how community groups could better meet the recreation needs of youth.
- Businesses - one-to-one interviews.
- Other residents - a series of house group meetings to be facilitated to explore the best ways of meeting identified youth recreation needs.
- Supermarket Consultation - several sessions in the local supermarket to canvas local residents' views regarding the recommendations.

## REPORT ON COMMUNITY CONSULTATION

This Community Consultation process has now been completed, culminating in a report being presented to the Reference Group on 2 May 2002. The report generally received a very favourable response. The report on the Parklands Community Consultation and comments from the Reference Group regarding the report have been circulated separately to Board members.

**Recommendation:** That the Board endorse and prioritise the recommendations from the Parklands Community Consultation Report.

### Chairperson's

- Recommendations:**
1. That the report be received.
  2. That a youth café project be trialled at a venue in Parklands over a three month period provided there is volunteer support and a feasible proposal is developed.
    - (a) A group of young people be invited to help with promotion décor, entertainment and to organise the café.
    - (b) A management group of Parklands volunteers be formed to help supervise, manage and organise the café.
    - (c) Consultation be undertaken with other groups in Parklands, Youth Alive, Nga Ngaru Trust and other youth café venues in the city and neighbouring residents.
    - (d) The Community Development Adviser undertake the formation of the management groups.
    - (e) Consideration be given to employing a catering manager to organise and dispense food and beverages and to manage sales.
    - (f) A budget be prepared by the management committee to estimate establishment costs, rental, publicity and subsidy on food and beverages.
    - (g) The Board consider a seeding grant to cover the establishment costs and trial period.
  3. That staff investigate a portable skate ramp and supervisor being available at specific periods while the café is operating.
  4. That resource consent issues be explored at the proposed venues.
  5. That the Leisure Unit be asked to report on sporting needs and opportunities for youth (11 onwards) in Parklands.
  6. That skateboard facilities in the Board area be considered at the time of the Leisure Unit report.