

6. HORSESHOE LAKE RESERVE MASTER PLAN

Officer responsible Parks and Waterways Manager	Author Chris Fourie - Parks and Waterways Area Advocate, DDI 941-5314
---	---

The purpose of this report is to present the revised Horseshoe Lake Reserve Master Plan to the Board for support prior to consideration for approval by the Parks, Gardens and Waterways Committee.

CONTEXT OF REPORT

Being an important wetland environment and the second largest wetland still in existence in Christchurch, next to Travis Wetland (114 hectares), Horseshoe Lake Reserve, 31 hectares, deserves careful design and management.

During 2000 and 2001, the Horseshoe Lake Reserve Draft Landscape Master Plan was developed. The master plan was developed in response to extensive consultation with local residents and the two main representative residents' groups, Horseshoe Lake Residents' Association and Windsor/Westhaven Residents' Group, and circulated for comment.

In April 2001 the Draft Landscape Master Plan for the development of Horseshoe Lake was reported to the Community Board, along with the results of feedback from the public. A copy of this report has been circulated separately to Board members.

A number of changes were proposed in view of the feedback from participants, and although the plan had not been redrawn at this stage, they were listed in the April report.

Additional concerns were expressed by the Christchurch Golf Club, and a petition was put to the Board by 13 residents from Tasman Place and Monarch Lane, opposing the proposed siting of the dog park. The Board requested that these additional concerns be addressed by Parks and Waterways staff.

This having been undertaken, the Landscape Master Plan is now ready for approval.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Landscape Master Plan for Horseshoe Lake Reserve, developed in consultation with key interest groups and the neighbouring community will guide development over the next 20 to 30 years.

RELEVANT CURRENT POLICY

Environmental Design - Park Design and Management Plans.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPOSAL

The proposal is a comprehensive Landscape Master Plan to guide development and management over the next 20 to 30 years. A copy of the revised master plan has been circulated separately to Board members.

Changes made to the Landscape Master Plan at the time of reporting are refinements to the draft, rather than significant changes. The draft Horseshoe Lake Reserve Landscape Master Plan was reviewed to address those issues and concerns, which were raised during the earlier consultation, and during the last 18 months.

Some of the changes to the draft referred to in the earlier April 2001 report, refer to upgrading of tracks, and the deletion of the track along the fence line adjacent to properties, and deferring the junior mountain bike area until other issues such as lighting, vehicle calming, etc., are resolved.

Further refinements have been made to the design of the dog park. The distance back from the residents' properties has been increased, to allow for a minimum of 70 metres from the fence line of the dog park to the closest property boundary. A planted buffer will screen the fence. To retain an acceptable size, the dog park will be extended slightly to the south.

Following presentation to the Board and the Parks, Gardens and Waterways Committee, the refined Master Plan will be brought to the attention of the Golf Club, to the wider community and the relevant Residents' Associations.

Draft budget figures at this stage are as follows:

		2006/07	2007/08
Revegetation	\$20,000/yr		
Tracks	\$5,000/yr		
Car Parks		\$60,000	\$30,000
Toilet			\$50,000

Funding for items such as fencing for the dog park, will come out of the general Parks and Waterways budget allocation for new fencing/fencing replacements. Additional development work will be programmed into the five-year budget, or will require to be funded by the Board.

ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION

Golf Club

A deputation was made to the April 2001 meeting of the Board by the president of the Christchurch Golf Club. In general the Club supported the proposed improvement of the area. The possibility of golf balls straying into the car park/toilet area was of concern for the safety of people and vehicles. Concern was also expressed regarding the proposal to reinforce the poplar plantings, because of their invasive roots and the depositing of leaves in autumn. The Club noted that the BMX track was a major nuisance to them, verbal abuse of golfers and course vandalism had resulted. The Board requested for further consultation to be undertaken with the Golf Club.

Parks and Waterways staff met with the president of the Shirley Golf Club at the beginning of June 2001. The president subsequently confirmed satisfaction that the Club's concerns had been given consideration. A copy of the letter from the Club has been circulated separately to Board members.

It was agreed that tree planting along the Golf Club boundary and on the eastern side of Horseshoe Lake Road would reduce the danger of golf balls being hit into the new car park and play areas. The Club undertook to consider what type of trees would be suitable and where they could be planted on the course, in preparation for a landscape plan to be drawn. However, as yet no progress has been made on this, and no tree planting has actually taken place. It was agreed that the Club be kept informed of any further changes to the plan and consulted on any aspects which are likely to affect them.

Further development of the planting scheme has been delayed to enable an overall design to be progressed in association with the design of the interpretation/toilet block programmed for this financial year. A proposal for an interpretation shelter/toilet block is currently being developed for a site near the Lake Terrace Road entrance and car park, and will be discussed with the Golf Club during the coming month. Associated planting is now programmed for winter 2003, and the design will be developed taking into account the points raised by the Golf Club.

Dog Park

A petition was received from residents in the Tasman Place area, Burwood, opposing the relocation of the dog park in the Horseshoe Lake Reserve proposal. The prayer of the petition follows: *"Adjacent residents opposed to relocating dog park to behind Tasman Place"*.

There were 13 signatures to this petition. The concerns raised were generally around noise from barking, hygiene, leaching of faeces into the waterway and fencing of the dog park. The Board requested for further consultation to be undertaken to consider issues raised about the dog park. As funding to progress the concept was not immediately available, further consultation on the dog park was delayed until it could be combined with 2002/03 capital works consultation, on the Lake Terrace Road car park and proposed combined toilet block/interpretation shelter.

The Horseshoe Lake Residents' Association and the Windsor/Westhaven Residents' Group agreed to Parks and Waterways staff combining consultation, with a planting day on 20 October 2002. The programme was circulated in the respective residents' associations' newsletters. An invitation was sent by staff to all the petitioners. The result of this consultation is outlined below.

A submission made to the Annual Plan requested improvements to fencing of the existing dog park. The existing site is considered by some Christchurch residents and staff to be unsuitable, and a more suitable site has been identified in the Master Plan. It is preferable that any money spent on fencing, should be spent on fencing the new site, which further necessitates a decision to be made regarding the siting of the dog park.

At present, parks that cater well for dogs are not close to town, such as Victoria Park, The Groynes, and Styx Mill Reserve. The recent drive by some Councillors for dogs to be kept leashed at all times, adds to the need to improve dog park facilities reasonably close to town such as at Horseshoe Lake Reserve.

Planting

The planting scheme has been designed in accordance with Horseshoe Lake Reserve being a wetland environment. Some residents of Lake Terrace Road have expressed their concern that their uninterrupted view of the water may be obscured by planting of native grasses and reeds. These concerns will be taken into account along with bank stabilisation issues when working through the detailed design.

Traffic Management and Parking

Dog Park

Input is being sought from the City Streets Unit in the development of the design detail for traffic management and parking in Horseshoe Lake Road associated with the proposed dog park.

Broomfield Terrace/Burwood Park

The City Streets Unit has indicated support for the Horseshoe Lake Reserve Landscape Master Plan. The concept of parking along Broomfield Terrace adjacent to Burwood Park is indicated in the Burwood Park Management Plan. The Parks and Waterways Unit is pro-active in encouraging City Streets Unit knowledge and awareness of the Horseshoe Lake Master Plan and its implications regarding traffic management and parking. Special attention will be paid by the City Streets and Parks and Waterways Units in developing the detail.

The City Streets Local Area Traffic Management Scheme has identified that work is required at the intersection of Horseshoe Lake and Broomfield Terrace, but as yet no funding has been programmed. A report is being prepared by the City Streets Unit for February 2003, to address lighting, a cycle route and pedestrian access.

Slowing down traffic along Horseshoe Lake Road is a real priority and ideas are being explored with the City Streets Unit. One possibility as an interim measure is to include landscape treatment of the edges of the road, such as bollards, planting of trees and shrubs. Opportunities for shared funding of this will be considered by the City Streets and Parks and Waterways Units.

Another factor to be taken into account in developing the detail for traffic management and parking along Broomfield Terrace is the possibility of future development (subdivision) of the former Kingslea site on the western edge of Broomfield Terrace. This may present additional opportunities for shared benefits with input from the developer and the City Streets and Parks and Waterways Units.

Considerable concern has been expressed regarding traffic management and the provision of adequate parking around Burwood Park in general. A separate memorandum to the Board has addressed some aspects of this issue, and reports are being prepared for the Board for February 2003.

RESULTS OF CONSULTATION

Previous consultation was reported to the Board in April 2001. This report focuses on additional consultation undertaken since that time with the Golf Club, and a recent site meeting held to address the proposed dog park and toilet/interpretation locations.

Petition opposing the Dog Park

On 8 October 2002, a letter was sent to each of the 13 people who signed the petition opposing the dog park. The letter invited petitioners to meet with staff on site (at the location proposed for the dog park, north of the intersection of Horseshoe Lake and Broomfield Terrace) to discuss the location and concerns raised in the petition. The relevant section of the development plan (at 1:2000) was attached as a reminder. A copy of the letter was sent to the Horseshoe Lake Residents' Association and Windsor/Westhaven Residents' Group.

The time of 9.00 am on Sunday 20 October 2002 was chosen to give residents the opportunity to participate in other Horseshoe Lake Reserve activities, such as consultation on the proposed siting of the new toilet block/information shelter, and a community planting in Horseshoe Lake Reserve happening on the same day. This combined information and planting day had been discussed and arranged with the Horseshoe Lake Residents' Association and Windsor/Westhaven Residents' Group. The residents' groups publicised the programme for the event in their respective newsletters, to act as a reminder and also to give other locals the opportunity to participate in the discussions.

Results Prior to the Site Meeting

One phone call was received from a petitioner prior to the site meeting, with an apology. She expressed concern over the type of fencing to be used and as a dog owner she wanted reassurance that fencing of the proposed dog park would be more effective than the fencing of the existing dog park. Having reassured her that specialist fencing for the dog park would be installed, she was satisfied that her issue had been addressed.

Staff met with Mark Vincent (Animal Control Team Leader), to address the issues raised in the petition. Mark's responses were available for the site meeting, as well as his wholehearted support for the choice of proposed location as entirely suitable.

Consultation at the Site Meetings Sunday 20 October 2002

Dog Park - Proposed Location

Ten residents attended the meeting on the site of the proposed dog park with staff. Only one person from Monarch Lane, who signed the petition opposing the dog park location, attended the site meeting. The remainder were from Lake Terrace Road (six), Kingsford Street (two) and Carlson Street (one).

A brief background was given about the history of the current location park, with reference being made to the Australian Management Guide for Public Open Space and Dogs 1995. It was acknowledged that the current dog park at Horseshoe Lake was one of the first to be constructed in Christchurch, but much has been learned since that time and according to current standards it is now considered to be quite inadequate as a dog park.

Reasons for choosing the proposed location include its appropriateness with regard to topography, shelter, screening, water and its separateness from other family activities such as picnicking. The issues of concern to the petitioners of noise from barking, hygiene, leaching of faeces into the waterway and fencing of the dog park were addressed and opportunity was given for further questions.

Questions asked related to the size of the proposed dog park area, whether any trees were to come down, and questions about provision for parking. It may be necessary for some tree removal to address visibility for road safety. Detailed design of parking and safe entry into the dog park off the road is still to be worked through with input from engineers from the City Streets Unit.

Toilet Block/Interpretation Shelter - Proposed Location

Capital funding is programmed for an information shelter/toilet block this financial year. A preliminary design and proposal for a suitable location was discussed. Around ten residents attended, and in general the proposed location and concept was confirmed.

Additional General Issues Raised with Staff at the Meeting 20 October 2002

These were around speeding, lack of lighting on the road, opposition to planting of the water's edge on the roadside, and loss of geese in the area.

CONCLUSIONS

The proposed location for the dog park is unlikely to produce negative effects on neighbouring properties, especially now that the distance from the closest property boundary has been amended and the dog park is to be extended slightly to the south.

Ongoing liaison will be maintained with the Christchurch Golf Club to develop appropriate planting along the edge of the course and to consult on other aspects of the Plan, such as the interpretation shelter/toilet block, currently being designed.

Traffic management issues and parking associated with the proposed dog park and Burwood Park on Broomfield Terrace are being developed in collaboration with the City Streets Unit.

Detailed design of the different components of the Plan is to be developed in relation to funding availability. Implementation of planting is to be staged over a number of years, with capital funding already programmed over the next five years. The immediate priority identified is planting of the entrance.

The Horseshoe Lake Landscape Master Plan has been developed with significant input from the community. It recognises the value of Horseshoe Lake Reserve as an important wetland environment as well as providing for a range of recreational and educational activities. It provides a robust guide to follow for the current and future management and development of Horseshoe Lake Reserve over the next 20 to 30 years.

Staff

- Recommendations:**
1. That the information be received.
 2. That the Board support the overall landscape master plan prior to approval by the Parks, Gardens and Waterways Committee.

Chairperson's

Recommendation: That the abovementioned recommendations be adopted.