

## 6. QEII PARK LONG-TERM CONCEPT PLAN

<b>Officer responsible</b> Community and Recreation Manager	<b>Author</b> Paul Cottam - Leisure Planning Projects Officer, DDI 941-6385
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The purpose of this report is to update the Board on progress towards the development of a long-term concept plan for QEII Park.

The Board will recall from the Board seminar on the QEII Park concept plan on 4 February 2004 that last year the Council passed the following resolutions:

1. That priority be given to the preparation of a long-term concept plan and policies for the future development of QEII Park.
2. That the long-term concept plan be subject to the special consultative process.
3. That staff include reference to the siting of sport related accommodation at QEII Park in the long-term concept plan.

An inter-unit staff working party has been working to oversee the plan development, including staff who liaise regularly with the Board. The following goals have been formed:

- To identify current and future leisure demands for QEII Park for sport and recreation users, the local community and the general public.
- To consider these leisure demands within a contextual framework of relevant policies and current planning issues for QEII Park.
- To take account of current recreation trends and demographic patterns in developing the concept plan.
- To identify generally how much of QEII Park, and specifically what areas, should be retained as open space.
- To improve vehicle and pedestrian access and flow throughout the Park.
- To include reference in the plan to the possible citing of sports related accommodation.

To date the necessary background and contextual information has been gathered; for example, current usage of QEII Park, demographic patterns, recreation trends, Council policies and strategies, and previous research.

There needs to be some initial consultation to identify local and city-wide needs and other potential uses and users of QEII Park. Local residents especially need an opportunity to comment on issues that they see as important; for example, retention of open space, frequency of large events and activities.

Accordingly, a key stage will be the use of focus groups to assist with identifying development issues for QEII Park. It is planned to hold them during June. Global Leisure (a leisure research consultancy) will be facilitating the focus groups, with active assistance from the working party.

The Burwood/Pegasus Community Board will be one of the focus groups. At its 10 May 2004 meeting, the Community and Leisure Committee decided that one representative from each of the other five community boards be invited to the Burwood/Pegasus focus group. All the focus groups are listed below:

- Current sports organisation users.
- Key school users.
- Potential user groups.
- Tenants/businesses at QEII Park.
- Neighbouring businesses.
- Local residents' groups.
- Local community groups.
- Local neighbouring residents.
- Facility and open space users.
- Key Council staff.
- Burwood/Pegasus Community Board plus other Community Board representatives.
- Community and Leisure Committee.

It is proposed to assess the information gathered from the focus groups using criteria based on the contextual information already gathered; for example, considering existing Council recreation planning outcomes, and possible benefits associated with participation, community, social, environmental, and economic factors. Once a draft concept plan has been formed, the general public will be given the opportunity to comment via the special consultative process.

It is envisaged that the plan will have a ten-year outlook. Given the consultation and special consultative process requirements, it will take most of 2004 to produce the plan. The aim is to have it completed by the end of October 2004. Any financial implications can be considered by the Council as part of the 2005/06 Long Term Council Community Plan process.

**Staff**

**Recommendation:** That the information be received.

**Chairperson's**

**Recommendations:**

1. That the information be received.
2. That Board members be encouraged to attend the scheduled focus group on the QEII long-term concept plan at 5.30 pm on Wednesday 23 June 2004.