

7. GRAMPIAN RESERVE – PLAYGROUND AND LANDSCAPE UPGRADE PROPOSAL

General Manager responsible:	General Manager, City Environment
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PURPOSE OF REPORT

1. The purpose of this report is to:
 - (a) Seek the approval of the Board to proceed to detailed design and construction of the Grampian Reserve playground and landscape upgrade proposal; and
 - (b) Seek funding from the Board's 2006/07 Discretionary Fund for a drinking fountain.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

2. Grampian Reserve is a local park in Northcote that is bounded by Grampian Street, Cavendish Road and Jocelyn Street. There is a playground in the reserve that is old and worn out and unlikely to comply with current safety standards. The existing playground is located in a boggy and shady area that is not centrally located in the reserve. This upgrade presents a good opportunity to address some of these issues by relocating and upgrading the playground with modern play equipment.
3. In October 2006 a publicity pamphlet was distributed to the local community and stakeholders (refer attachment 1). The community were given a number of choices about possible play equipment. There was a high degree of community engagement in this project. The consultation received a 30% response rate, which was largely very supportive of the proposal. The consultation outcome and project team responses are summarised in attachment 2.
4. The key issues raised in consultation relate to:
 - Requests for a rubbish bin, more seating/picnic tables, a slide and a drinking fountain
 - Concern that the junior swings were located away from other junior equipment
 - Concern about proximity of playground to Cavendish Road
 - Some requests for a barbeque but general concern with vandalism in the park
 - Issues with poor drainage in the park and seeking levelling and more pathways
 - A variety of maintenance and planning issues.
5. The initial concept has been amended in response to community feedback and the preferred options are included as attachments 3 and 4. These options best satisfy the objectives of the project and have good community support. Construction of the playground is scheduled to be implemented around March 2007. The planting will be implemented in the 2006/07 planting season, between April and June 2007. The additional picnic table will be installed at the end of 2007, as a separate project.
6. The preferred option best satisfies the objectives of the project, is consistent with the choices made by the community, and is consistent with the funding allocated in the Long Term Council Community Plan (LTCCP).

FINANCIAL AND LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS

7. The funding for the proposed upgrade to Grampian Reserve has been set aside in the LTCCP under "Parks, Open Spaces and Waterways – Local Projects - Playgrounds and Recreational Facilities" (refer page 84 LTCCP).
8. The funds are programmed in the Capital Programme Unit's budget, for construction over the 2006/2007 financial year, specifically:
 - \$40,000 Grampian Reserve (Playground)
 - \$35,000 Grampian Reserve (Amenity Landscape/ Planting Project)

STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Board resolve to:

- (a) Approve the plans in attachments 3 and 4 of the agenda (Ip200801 and Ip200802, amended November 2006) in order to proceed to detailed design and construction/implementation of the concept for Grampian Reserve.
- (b) Allocate \$5,500 from its 2006/07 Discretionary Fund to the Capital Programme Unit for the 2006/2007 Grampian Reserve Playground and Landscape Upgrade project for the installation of a drinking fountain in Grampian Reserve.

CHAIRPERSON'S RECOMMENDATION

For discussion.

BACKGROUND ON THE GRAMPIAN RESERVE PLAYGROUND AND LANDSCAPE UPGRADE PROPOSAL

9. Grampian Reserve is a local park bounded by Grampian Street, Cavendish Road and Jocelyn Street. There is a playground in the reserve that is old and worn out and unlikely to comply with current safety standards. The playground is located in a boggy and shady area that is not centrally located in the reserve. The reserve also contains informal junior football posts and is well provided for in terms of mature trees.
10. The objectives for the project were:
 - To add more interesting play equipment that meets the community's needs within the funding available
 - Improve accessibility to the playground
 - Improve safety of play area
 - Improve amenity of the reserve.
11. The Project Team developed a concept to meet these objectives, which included the following:
 - The playground relocated to a more central location, near Cavendish Road
 - Existing goal posts relocated to the centre of the reserve
 - Proposed playground is separated by an asphalt path and seating area with picnic table
 - On one side of the path is:
 - either Spinner Bowl or Mini Bike (community to select preference); and
 - either a Double Rocker or Fantail (community to select preference)
 - On the other side of the path is:
 - either a Small Spacenet (5.8m high) or a Large Orion Spacenet (2.4m high); and
 - a four Bay Swing set (community to select preference); and
 - a Spica
 - A park bench adjacent to the playground.

The proposed upgrade also included the removal of the existing park bench and rubbish bin.

12. In October 2006 a publicity pamphlet was distributed to approximately 500 residences and key stakeholders. This pamphlet included a summary of the concept, an initial concept plan (refer attachment 1), and a feedback form. The project team sought feedback from the community to see whether the proposal was generally supported and to help determine which play items to install.
13. The consultation received a 30% response rate (150 responses). Community feedback was generally very positive. The consultation outcome and project team responses are summarised in attachment 2. Three anonymous submitters opposed the proposal due to the following reasons:
 - It is unnecessary
 - A disruption of the natural values of the park
 - Would increase noise
 - A danger in terms of the traffic
 - Would increase some criminal behaviour.

The remainder of the submitters supported the proposal.

14. In terms of the choice of play equipment there was a clear preference for the Small Spacenet, Mini Bike and Fantail.
15. The main requests made by submitters were for:
 - A rubbish bin
 - More seating and picnic tables
 - A slide
 - A drinking fountain.
16. Other key issues identified by submitters relate to:
 - Concern that the junior swings were located away from other junior equipment
 - Concern about proximity of playground to Cavendish Road

- Some requests for a barbeque but general concern with vandalism in the park
 - Issues with poor drainage in the park and seeking levelling and more pathways
 - A variety of maintenance and planning issues.
17. The project team considered the feedback from consultation and revised the concept plan in the following way:
- Retained the existing rubbish bin and the existing seat in their current locations
 - Split the swings into an intermediate and infant set and relocated the infant set to the junior play area
 - Provided an extra bench seat near the junior play area
 - Removed proposed boulders (due to cost of providing extra equipment)
 - Indicated a position for an extra picnic table (to be installed at the end of 2007)
 - Indicated a possible location for a drinking fountain (if Board funding is allocated).
18. Due to budget constraints, neither the requested slide nor the drinking fountain could be provided as part of this project. While many children enjoy the experience provided by a slide, the project team are confident that the new equipment that is being provided, in particular the Spacenet, will provide an equally enjoyable play experience. The inclusion of new play items in this reserve will help provide a variety of equipment in playgrounds around the neighbourhood.
19. The request for a drinking fountain was considered but, given that this project is a playground and landscape amenity project, it was decided that it was inappropriate to allocate a significant part of the budget to a drinking fountain. However, the project team is of the view that a drinking fountain would benefit the users of Grampian Reserve and, as such, funding is sought from the Community Board for this.
20. While there is sufficient funding in this project for one additional seat, there was a view expressed that there is a need for a picnic table that is located separately from the playground. This can be funded in the 2007/08 financial year and will be installed at the end of 2007, as a separate project.
21. The recommended concept plans are included as attachments 3 and 4. Construction of the playground is scheduled to be implemented around March 2007. The planting will be implemented in the 2006/07 planting season, between April and June 2007. The additional picnic table will be installed at the end of 2007.

OPTIONS

22. As part of the consultation, the community was provided with a number of options for play equipment (see attachment 1). The project team selected the play items with the greatest number of votes as it was considered that this best reflected community views. These were the Small Spacenet, Mini Bike and Fantail.

PREFERRED OPTION

23. The recommended options best satisfy the objectives of the project and are consistent with feedback received through community consultation, which supports the development of this reserve. The upgraded playground and surrounds will help to foster community cohesion.
24. This option is consistent with the:
- LTCCP 2006-2016
 - Parks and Open Spaces Activity Management Plan
 - Safer Parks Policy
 - Parks and Waterways Access Policy.
25. This option has primary alignment with the following Community Outcomes:
- *"We value leisure time and recognise that the arts, sports, and other recreational activities contribute to our economy, identity, health and well being.";* and
 - *"Christchurch has a vibrant centre, attractive neighbourhoods and well-designed transport networks. Our lifestyles and heritage are enhanced by our urban environment."*