

5. BRADFORD PARK PLAYGROUND UPGRADE AND LANDSCAPING

General Manager responsible:	General Manager, City Environment
Officer responsible:	Michael Aitken, Greenspace Manager
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PURPOSE OF REPORT

1. The purpose of this report is for the Community Board to
 - (a) approve the final landscape plan (copy **attached**) for Bradford Park playground upgrade and landscaping, following community consultation.
 - (b) approve the removal of three ash trees from the Strickland Street entranceway and plant a small feature tree at the frontage.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

2. The Bradford Park playground upgrade and landscaping are projects on the Greenspace Unit 2005/06 capital programme.
3. A public information leaflet has been distributed to key stakeholders and the local community for feedback on a concept plan which detailed ideas for new play equipment and new landscaping proposals.
4. Approximately 450 leaflets were distributed with 99 submissions received; 96 support the project with three in opposition.
5. Resulting from the comments received, the following changes and additions have been made to the playground concept:
 - The installation of an additional smaller slide to cater for the toddler age group
 - The hexagonal fitness wheel will change to a Jungle 402 (similar type setup to the original fitness wheel but slightly smaller to accommodate the additional toddler slide), with a curved slide instead of a spiral slide
 - Installation of more seating and picnic tables.
6. The layout of the equipment now identifies one area for toddlers and one area for older children, while all equipment is still within close proximity of each other for supervision.
7. We also received several requests for a half basketball court and this option was investigated further. Due to space constraints and budget a half court could not be included in this particular project.
8. It was identified that the entranceway to Bradford Park from Strickland Street has poor sight lines into the park. After discussions with the Greenspace Arborist a proposal was to remove the three ash trees, two on the south side of the path and one on the north side. This will create clearer views into the park and to part of the play area. These trees are in poor form with significant branch failure and storm damage. Removal of these three ash trees would reduce maintenance issues, address ongoing health and safety issues, and improve the sight lines into Bradford Park from Strickland Street.
9. There are two existing lime trees at the entranceway which are in excellent health and provide appealing landscape amenity. Another feature tree could be planted on the other side of the entranceway, without impeding the sight lines into the park.
10. The entranceway at Milton Street will include:
 - New fencing and low planting along the Milton Street frontage
 - Low planting and flowering climbers along both fencelines
 - Avenue of horse chestnuts into the park.

11. We received 11 submissions concerning the “junkyard” area along the strip of deeds land on the eastern boundary of the park. Concerns were raised from safety issues through to the eyesore it creates to park users and neighbours. The Council has taken enforcement action and the area has now been cleared of rubbish.
12. In general, the comments received were in full support of the enhancement work proposed and the local community is looking forward to the completion of this project.

FINANCIAL AND LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS

13. All work will be funded by the Greenspace Unit’s Capital Works Programme 2005/06.
14. Play equipment will be installed as per Playground Safety Standards by a Council approved contractor.
15. All landscaping work will be undertaken by a Council approved contractor.

STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the Community Board:

- (a) approves the final plan for Bradford Park Playground Upgrade and Landscaping.
- (b) approves the removal of three ash trees at the entrance to Bradford Park from Strickland Street and plant a small feature tree at the frontage.

CHAIRPERSON’S RECOMMENDATION

That the staff recommendations be supported.