

8. BRADFORD PARK PLAYGROUND UPGRADE AND LANDSCAPING

General Manager responsible:	General Manager City Environment, DDI 941 8656
Officer responsible:	Greenspace Manager, Michael Aitken
Author:	Ann Liggett, Parks & Waterways Area Advocate

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 including a petition presented to the 21 March 2006 Board meeting.
 - (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. Bradford Park playground upgrade and landscaping are projects on the Greenspace Unit's 2005/06 capital programme.
3. A public information leaflet was 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 remain as per the original concept
 - 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. Also received were three requests for a half basketball court during the consultation and at the Board meeting on 21 March 2006, a petition containing signatures from 127 households was tabled as part of a deputation from Mrs Gloria Hutchison. The main concern raised was the lack of equipment in the final plan which catered for the 8-15 year old age group.
8. Further investigation was undertaken and information provided to Board members as requested via a memorandum, outlining consequences and feasibility, including costs and timeframes, of both further consultation and installing a half basketball court in Bradford Park.
9. It was considered that due to time constraints with the financial year, no budget available, and Bradford Park not being an ideal location for a half basketball court, that Greenspace Unit would replace the Jungle 402 with the hexagonal fitness wheel which was in the original consultation plan. This piece of equipment has a number of activities which cater for a wide age group including the 8-15 year age group.
10. Mrs Gloria Hutchison, organiser of the petition, has been contacted and this amendment was discussed. She was happy with this solution as long as further planning and investigation would be undertaken in relation to the possibility of a half basketball court being located within the Somerfield/Spreydon area.
11. Throughout this process it has been identified that there is a lack of teenage recreation equipment in the Somerfield/Spreydon area and that further planning and investigation needs to be undertaken to address this situation. This would include looking at what is available for public use inside local school grounds.

12. 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.
13. 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.
14. 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.
15. 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 eye sore it creates to park users and neighbours. The Council has taken enforcement action although ongoing monitoring is required as rubbish is still continuing to accumulate. This is being followed up by the Council's Enforcement Team.
16. In general the comments received were in full support of the enhancement work proposed and the local community are looking forward to the completion of this project.

FINANCIAL AND LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS

17. All work will be funded by the Greenspace Unit's Capital Works Programme 2005/06.
18. Play equipment will be installed as per the Playground Safety Standards by a Council approved contractor.
19. All landscaping work will be undertaken by a Council approved contractor.

STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the 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.
- (c) Supports the Greenspace Unit undertaking further investigation into a suitable location for the installation of a half basketball court within the Somerfield/Spreydon area.

CHAIRPERSON'S RECOMMENDATION

That the staff recommendations be supported.