

8. HORSESHOE LAKE WALKWAY - ENTRY ENHANCEMENT FROM BROOMFIELD TERRACE

General Manager responsible:	General Manager City Environment, DDI 941-8656
Officer responsible:	Transport and Greenspace Manager
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PURPOSE OF REPORT

1. The purpose of this report is to seek Board approval for the planned developments of the Horseshoe Lake entranceway at Broomfield Terrace. Implementation of this plan will also require removal of four poplar trees.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

2. The Broomfield Terrace Car Park Development Plan was approved by Board in April 2006 and the Horseshoe Lake Master Plan was adopted in 2002. Indicated on the Master Plan was the creation of a new walkway entrance to connect with the Broomfield Terrace car park once completed. The Master Plan indicates inclusion of a pedestrian link to Burwood Park, new reserve entry, park interpretation, and seating.
3. Please see **attached** design work which has incorporated all the above features plus combined a platform structure, complete with roof-art that maintains consistency with the other entranceways on the reserve.
4. The plan to enhance the entranceway identifies four poplar trees for removal. Whilst the trees are clear of the car park, construction area, lowering of the road, to gain satisfactory engineering water run-off gradients, will cut into their root system making them prone to dieback and potentially unstable in high winds. Rather than allowing this to happen staff would prefer to remove these four trees and establish alternative native planting that is in keeping with the Native Wetland habitat theme of the Horseshoe Lake Master Plan 2002.

FINANCIAL AND LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS

5. There is \$250,000 available in the 2006/07 Transport and Greenspace budget for implementation of the Broomfield Terrace car park. This funding will cover costs incurred for removal of the four poplar trees plus connecting both ends of the boardwalk.
6. The projected costs for boardwalk platforms and artwork is approximately \$50,000. When this plan is approved the project will be added to the next round for LTCCP and the funding to complete the project would come available in approximately six years. Alternatively, there is funding in 2010 for a toilet block at the North New Brighton entrance to Horseshoe Lake. Due to space constraints it is possible that this site may not be appropriate for building a toilet block. More negotiation on this matter will occur closer to the time. If implementation of the toilet block did not proceed the funding would be made available for other Horseshoe Lake projects such as this Broomfield Terrace entranceway enhancement.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Board approve option (b) to accept the proposed plan to develop the Horseshoe Lake entranceway enhancement off Broomfield Terrace and the proposal to remove four poplar trees.

BACKGROUND

7. The Horseshoe Lake Master Plan was adopted in 2002 and indicated a new car park to come. The demand for better parking facilities in the vicinity is very evident at weekends. The Transport and Greenspace Unit developed a landscape plan for a proposed car park layout which was approved by the Board in April 2006. Implementation of this plan will rationalise and maximise the parking spaces available along Broomfield Terrace.
8. The Horseshoe Lake Master Plan indicates the end of the Horseshoe Lake walkway will be realigned to meet the car park. In order to do this a 40 metre section of boardwalk will be implemented across wetlands to adjoin the new car park. The walkway entrance will then be enhanced as a main entrance. Landscaping and planting will be implemented (as per the Master Plan 2002) to improve the wetland theme. This action fulfils the next step of the Horseshoe Lake Master Plan.

OPTIONS

9. There are two possible options:
 - (a) Do nothing or status quo. This option is not practical as failure to enhance the entranceway at Broomfield Terrace for Horseshoe Lake would be ignoring the Master Plan approved in 2002. It is also likely the four poplar trees identified will in time become a health and safety issue with a portion of their root infrastructure removed.
 - (b) Accept the proposed plan to develop the Horseshoe Lake Walkway entrance. To remove four poplar trees before construction work begins and replant with vegetation more consistent with a natural wetland landscape.

PREFERRED OPTION

10. To adopt option (b) and accept the proposed enhancement plan plus remove four poplar trees.