

## 10. NORTHWOOD/ENGLEFIELD RESERVES UPGRADE

<b>General Manager responsible:</b>	General Manager, City Environment Group DDI 941-8608
<b>Officer responsible:</b>	Manager, Transport and Greenspace
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### PURPOSE OF REPORT

1. The purpose of this report is to seek the approval of the Board for the Northwood Park and Englefield Reserve recreation upgrade project.

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

2. Englefield Reserve and Northwood Park are located in Belfast. These reserves are joined by a recently constructed footbridge over the Kaputone Creek. Funds are available for an upgrade to the recreational facilities in these reserves.
3. Prior to the development of concept for this reserve, a range of options were presented to the community. The feedback from this allowed the project team to select three items to incorporate into the proposed plan for the Northwood/Englefield Reserves Upgrade project. These included an all-weather walkway, outdoor gym equipment and a flying fox. This provided a variety of recreational opportunities that caters to a wide age range and uses a large area of the parks, including the new footbridge.
4. The public consultation in December 2009 indicated a good level of support for the proposed concept. The final concept plan, which has been amended slightly in response to feedback from the community, is included as an **attachment** and recommended for approval by the Community Board.
5. Construction is scheduled to be completed by October 2010.

### FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

6. The Recreation Facility upgrade for Northwood/Englefield reserves are programmed in the LTCCP for implementation in the 2010/11 financial year. Pricing information is provided in the public excluded section of this agenda.
7. Based on current estimates, staff believe there is sufficient funding in the budget to implement the proposed plan.

### Do the Recommendations of this Report Align with 2009-19 LTCCP budgets?

8. Yes. Funding is provided from within the Transport and Greenspace Capital Programme in the 2009-19 LTCCP (refer page 238).

### LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS

9. No Resource Consents are required.

### ALIGNMENT WITH LTCCP AND ACTIVITY MANAGEMENT PLANS

10. **LTCCP 2009-2019  
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*Safety* – by ensuring our parks, open spaces and waterways are healthy and safe places;

*Community* – by providing welcoming areas for communities to gather and interact;

*Governance* – by involving people in decision-making about parks, open spaces and waterways;

*Health* – By providing areas for people to engage in healthy activities;

*Recreation* – by offering a range of recreational opportunities in parks, open spaces and waterways;

*City Development* – by providing an inviting, pleasant and well cared-for environment

#### 11. **Parks and Open Spaces Activity Management Plan**

The Council's objective with urban parks is to provide and manage Community Parks, Garden and Heritage Parks, Sports Parks and Riverbanks and Conservation Areas throughout the city that provide amenity values, areas for recreation and organised sport, garden environments and green corridors, that contribute to the city's natural form, character, heritage and Garden City image.

#### **ALIGNMENT WITH STRATEGIES**

#### 12. **Safer Christchurch Strategy**

This strategy aligns injury prevention, road safety and crime prevention under the overarching aim of Christchurch becoming the safest city in New Zealand. One of the goals of this strategy is to enhance safety from crime through preventative and supportive actions, such as:

- (a) Ensure the phased adoption of Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design Principles (CPTED) into city-wide planning and policy;
- (b) To promote CPTED principles for application by owners and occupiers of existing buildings and spaces;
- (c) Provide active support to locally led initiatives that make significant contributions to reducing the incidence and effect of crime.

#### 13. **Parks and Waterways Access Policy**

Improved access to parks and open space will increase equity as promoted by the Council Policy on Equity and Access for People with Disabilities. Additionally, improved access has the potential to increase park use by enhancing comfort and convenience for all users and providing significant safety benefits.

#### **CONSULTATION FULFILMENT**

##### **Consultation Process**

##### (a) **Community Options Survey**

14. An Options Survey was developed distributed to the community and the Community Board in September 2009. The survey was delivered to all households in an area bounded by Johns Road, Main North Road and rural property to the south west (approximately 1,400 properties).
15. The survey included seven suggested options: Flying Fox, Climbing Boulder, Hard Court, Bike Track, Skate Area, All-weather Walking Track, Fitness Circuit/Outdoor Gym. These suggested options catered to a very large age range, to reflect the demographics of the area. Residents were asked to indicate their three preferred options.
16. Workshops were also held with 17 members of the Belfast Community Network Youth Group (aged 8-14) and 12 members of the Belfast School Leadership Group (ages 12-13). This provided an opportunity for the Project Team to hear the views of young adults directly. The seven options were made into sets of cards and all members of each group selected their preferences.

##### (b) **Community Consultation on Concept Plan**

17. The project team developed a concept plan and advised the Community Board, at a seminar on 18 November 2009, that the project team would be seeking public feedback on this. This

advised of the proposed concept, consultation stakeholders, project timeline and provided an opportunity for Board members to comment on the consultation programme.

18. The consultation on the concept plan was open from 1-15 December 2009. A public information leaflet was delivered to all the properties that received the Options Survey and a number of other interest groups and key stakeholders, including the Belfast Community Network Youth Group and Belfast School Leadership Group. This leaflet included a summary of the concept, an initial concept plan and a feedback form. The project team sought feedback from the community to see whether the proposal was supported and asked for any comments. Also included was an offer to meet onsite, if requested. The proposal was posted on the Christchurch City Council Have Your Say website.
19. Each submission received an interim reply letter, which acknowledged that the submission had been received and that it would be considered, once the consultation period had closed. Submitters were also advised that they would receive further correspondence prior to a decision being made. This would outline the outcome of consultation, the project team's preferred concept plan, the decision making process and how they could be involved in this and the expected timeline for the project.

### **CONSULTATION OUTCOME**

#### **(a) Community Options Survey**

20. The Options Survey received 400 responses (29 percent response rate), which is an exceptional response from the community to this request for an expression of preferences.
21. There was a clear preference for the Fitness Circuit/Outdoor Gym, All-weather Walking Track, Hard Court and Flying Fox. The two youth groups identified slightly different preferences, but both groups selected the Hard Court, Flying Fox and Bike Track as favourite play items.
22. In response to these survey results, and the available budget, a concept that included a Fitness Circuit/Outdoor Gym, All-weather Walking Track and Flying Fox was developed.

#### **(b) Community Consultation on Concept Plan**

23. The consultation on the concept plan received 104 responses (7 percent response rate), which is a fairly low response to this proposed concept. It was anticipated that the response rate would be lower for the consultation on the concept than for the options survey because residents had already had an opportunity to express their preferences, which were then reflected in the concept plan.
24. Given the degree of consultation in the plan development stage, it was anticipated that the proposed concept would be well received by the community. The feedback received was largely very positive, as indicated by the following:

<b>Number of respondents</b>	<b>Feedback option selected</b>
85 respondents (82%)	<i>"YES – I fully support the proposal"</i>
9 respondents (9%)	<i>"MIXED VIEWS – I have some concerns that I would like to be considered"</i>
2 respondents (2%)	<i>"NO – I completely oppose the proposal"</i>
8 respondents (7%)	No preference indicated

25. The quantitative responses above clearly indicate support for the proposal, with 82 percent indicating that they fully support the proposal and 2percent completely opposed to it.
26. The submissions that indicated that they did not support the proposal cited the following reasons:

- (a) Opposition to the flying fox - because long term maintenance cost, risk of accidents, poor value on a cost benefit basis, inconsistent with the demographics, preference additional gym equipment or non-native plantings;
  - (b) Location of the proposed path - suggestion that it be as close as possible to periphery of playing field;
27. Numerous positive comments were also received about this proposal. The qualitative community feedback and project team responses will be circulated to submitters and elected members, prior to the meeting.
28. The key issues raised in the public consultation, and project team responses, were as follows:
- (a) Concern about the safety of the flying fox – all playgrounds are constructed to current playground safety standards;
  - (b) Requests for additional or alternative plantings - The landscape plan that was approved previously included native trees and shrubs, in accordance with the ecological corridor theme. Low plantings are proposed in the vicinity of the flying fox and these will be consistent with this planting design;
  - (c) Concern about the maintenance of parks and street berms in Northwood – The playgrounds mentioned and some street gardens are privately owned and maintained by the developer of the Northwood subdivision.
29. The project team considered this consultation feedback and revised the concept plan in the following way:
- (a) The proposed new path on Northwood Park will be extended to link to the existing east-west path.
30. The final concept plan, which includes the above amendments, is included as **attachment**.

#### **STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

It is recommended that the Shirley/Papanui Community Board approve the plan in the **attachment** in the agenda in order to implement the Northwood Park and Englefield Reserve recreation upgrade project.

#### **CHAIRPERSON'S RECOMMENDATION**

That the staff recommendation be adopted.