

6. RAWHITI DOMAIN AND THOMSON PARK DRAFT MANAGEMENT PLAN AND LANDSCAPING

General Manager responsible:	General Manager City Environment, DDI 941-8656
Officer responsible:	Greenspace Manager
Author:	Richard Holland

PURPOSE OF REPORT

1. The purpose of this report is to seek final approval from the Council to release the Rawhiti Domain and Thompson Park Draft Management Plan for public consultation.
2. At the Council meeting of 16 March 2006, the Rawhiti Domain and Thompson Park Draft Management Plan was held over to allow staff to report back with further information on the availability of funds for the future implementation of the proposals contained in the draft management plan.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

3. Final approval from the Council is sought to release for public consultation the Rawhiti Domain and Thompson Park Draft Management Plan, following its reporting to the Environmental Diversity Portfolio Group on 1 February 2006 and the Burwood Pegasus Community Board on 15 February 2006. At the Council meeting of 16 March 2006 concern was expressed as to the budget provision for the proposed works which, apart from some minor enhancement works, mainly related to the replacement of the ageing tree infrastructure.
4. The Draft LTCCP 2006-2016 has now confirmed as essential capital projects (page 72) funding of \$17.2 million for the next 10 years to replace many of the city's older trees that have reached the end of their managed life. A new budget page for the management plan (page 31) has been produced for approval of the Council, prior to release for consultation. This page is attached as Appendix 1.

FINANCIAL AND LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS

5. Funding for the Rawhiti Domain and Thompson Park Draft Management Plan has been provided in the 2006-2016 Draft LTCCP, especially the replacement of the aging tree infrastructure (page 72) which makes up the bulk of the costs for the next ten years.
6. Page 31 of the Rawhiti Domain and Thompson Park Draft Management Plan has been replaced with a new page indicating those works that are covered by the Draft LTCCP. Those items still not covered are in the 2010/2011 year and total \$83,000 over five years and will be reviewed as part of the 2009-2019 LTCCP.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that approval be given for the Rawhiti Domain and Thomson Park Draft Management Plan and information about the proposed picnic and volleyball area be released for public consultation.

BACKGROUND ON RAWHITI DOMAIN AND THOMSON PARK DRAFT MANAGEMENT PLAN

7. Councils are required to keep reserve management plans under continuous review. Generally, a minimum of 10 years is accepted as an appropriate review period. As the 1988 Rawhiti Park Management Plan was becoming out of date and obsolete, and a number of new initiatives were being proposed in the reserve, the Community Board requested that it be updated.
8. Funding is available in the current financial year to begin landscaping of Rawhiti Domain. It is proposed to use this funding to enhance the picnic opportunities between the community garden and tennis courts with planting, furniture, and a grass or sand volleyball court. Both for efficiency and to illustrate how the picnic and volleyball area fits in with the bigger picture for the reserve, it is intended to consult on the proposed landscaping for this year simultaneously with consultation on the longer term management plan, rather than conduct two separate consultation procedures.
9. The planned consultation process will involve the following:
 - (a) Public notification of the draft management plan in accordance with the Reserves Act 1977.
 - (b) Information regarding the draft management plan and the proposed picnic and volleyball area displayed on a notice board on site.
 - (c) The draft management plan and information about the proposed picnic and volleyball area are displayed on the Council's 'Have Your Say' website inviting comment.
 - (d) A letterbox drop to approximately 1,000 households neighbouring the reserve with a leaflet (attached) advising of the availability of and highlighting key points of the draft management plan. Included in the flyer will be information about the proposed picnic and volleyball area will and public comment invited.
 - (e) A leaflet and a complete copy of the management plan being sent to all key stakeholders (including groups with a lease or licence on the reserve, three residents associations, honorary wardens, and individuals who have previously expressed interest in the process) inviting comment.
10. Results of consultation on the proposed picnic and volleyball area will be reported back to the Board in July 2006 and due to the delay, work planned to begin this financial year will need to be carried forward to next financial year.
11. Consultation on the management plan must follow the procedures set out in the Reserves Act 1977, which requires that the plan be publicly notified and that interested parties be given at least two months to make submissions. The Act also allows for a hearing if required. All written submissions and hearings will be considered in development of the final plan which will be reported to the Council for approval.
12. As Rawhiti Domain and Thomson Park together are categorised as a metropolitan park, delegation for final approval of the management plan rests with Council.

OPTIONS

13. As an alternative to approving the draft management plan for public release, the Council could require changes to the current document before it is released for public comment. Unless significant gaps or incorrect information are identified in the document, this would be an unnecessary delay in the consultation process. Should the Council have suggestions or comments on the draft management plan, it would be more appropriate to submit those comments through the consultation process, so that they can be considered when preparing the final document. All submitters will also have the opportunity to speak at a hearing should they so desire.
14. The second alternative is to discontinue the management plan review entirely. However, this would contravene the Reserves Act 1977 and is therefore unacceptable.

PREFERRED OPTION

15. The preferred option is that the Council approves the Rawhiti Domain and Thomson Park Draft Management Plan for public release together with the landscape proposal for a picnic and volleyball area.

ASSESSMENT OF OPTIONS

The Preferred Option

16. Approve the Rawhiti Domain and Thomson Park Draft Management Plan for public release together with the landscape proposal for a picnic and volleyball area.

	Benefits (current and future)	Costs (current and future)
Social	Provides the opportunity for communication with the community, community involvement in management of the reserve.	Printing and advertising costs. Staff time
Cultural	Raises awareness of and proposes a management direction for historical and cultural values of the reserve.	None.
Environmental	Raises awareness of and proposes a management direction for environmental values of the reserve.	Potential loss of open space from additional proposed buildings in the reserve.
Economic	Provides direction for future expenditure in the reserve.	No commitment at this stage but raises expectations of future capital and operating costs.

Extent to which community outcomes are achieved:
Primary alignment with community outcome: 'A well governed city'
Also contributes to 'A city for recreation fun and creativity' and 'a city of people who value and protect the natural environment'

Impact on Council's capacity and responsibilities:
Resources spent on Rawhiti Domain are not available for other projects.

Effects on Maori:
Input has been invited from Te Ngai Tuahuriri Runanga.

Consistency with existing Council policies:
Management plan required under the Reserves act 1977.

Views and preferences of persons affected or likely to have an interest:
Community input has been sought in developing the draft management plan.

Other relevant matters:

Maintain The Status Quo (If Not Preferred Option)

17. Discontinue the management plan review.

	Benefits (current and future)	Costs (current and future)
Social	None	No community input into future management of the reserve
Cultural	None	No direction provided for future management of cultural values of the reserve.
Environmental	None	No direction provided for future management of environmental values of the reserve.
Economic	Savings in consultation and printing costs.	Potential for future inefficient ad hoc expenditure.
<p>Extent to which community outcomes are achieved: Primary alignment with community outcome: Does not contribute to achieving any community outcomes.</p> <p>Impact on Council's capacity and responsibilities: No guidance for future expenditure in the reserve.</p> <p>Effects on Maori: No opportunity for Maori input into management of the reserve.</p> <p>Consistency with existing Council policies: Inconsistent with Reserves Act 1977.</p> <p>Views and preferences of persons affected or likely to have an interest: No opportunity for community input.</p> <p>Other relevant matters:</p>		

Option 3

18. Make changes to the current document before it is released for public comment.

This is the process that is currently taking place.

	Benefits (current and future)	Costs (current and future)
Social	Opportunity to improve information in the plan	Time delays
Cultural	Opportunity to improve information in the plan	Time delays
Environmental	Opportunity to improve information in the plan	Time delays
Economic	Opportunity to improve information in the plan	Time delays. Additional costs in altering the document.
<p>Extent to which community outcomes are achieved: Primary alignment with community outcome: 'A well governed city'</p> <p>Impact on Council's capacity and responsibilities: None</p> <p>Effects on Maori: None</p> <p>Consistency with existing Council policies: NA</p> <p>Views and preferences of persons affected or likely to have an interest: Ensures accuracy and completeness of information</p> <p>Other relevant matters:</p>		