

<b>Officer responsible</b> Parks Manager	<b>Author</b> Suzanne Weld, Parks Planner (Design)
Corporate Plan Output: Parks Plans and Policy Statements	

The purpose of this report is to update the Committee on the development of the Washington Reserve skating arena.

The Parks Unit is pleased to report that construction of the skating facility at Washington Reserve is well underway. The work was tendered and a contract let to Construction Techniques Ltd who are making steady progress in completing the project. Under the supervision of Jeff Bellamore (City Design) and skate advocate, Andy Wylie, the work to date is of a high standard and is generating a lot of interest around town. Periodically, security has been brought in to deter potential damage to the concrete as it cures.

At the same time a team of skaters, Councillors and Council staff, is meeting regularly and is in the process of putting together a skating strategy for the whole of Christchurch. This will include identifying additional sites throughout the city for new facilities to meet both skateboarders’ and rollerbladers’ needs. Part of the strategy will clearly show areas where skating is encouraged and where it may be banned. Options for a “skateway” or access route from Cathedral Square to Washington Reserve is being investigated by City Streets staff together with skaters.

The Parks Unit is keen to promote the Washington Reserve facility as soon as it is ready to use. Stage One of the development is likely to be completed by the end of May. The Council will be able show its commitment to youth and in particular skating as a positive youth activity by continuing to support promoting the facility by holding regular events at Washington.

Parks Unit and Leisure Unit staff believe that an official opening with music will highlight the Council’s interest in youth activities. Committee members are invited to attend and be part of the opening if they wish. The event is planned for midday Saturday 6 June. However, if the weather is unpleasant the opening will be the next day.

Stage 2 of the development includes construction of the street skating area, provision of a toilet and car parking. Details for these facets of the project will be drawn up in the new financial year and put out to the public, in particular skaters, for comment.

**Chairman’s**

**Recommendation:** That the information be received.