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Corporate Plan Output: Community Partnerships p.9.4.9 Consultation and Advice p.9.4 texts 6, 9, 46	

This report seeks Board endorsement for the Bexley Wetlands and the Wairoa Reserve to be adopted by the Bexley Wetland Trust under the Category One class.

The Trust has been recently incorporated as a charitable trust. The objectives of the Trust are to protect and enhance the area and its indigenous flora and fauna, to provide support and assistance and organise community involvement for the enhancements and protection of this area.

They would also like to adopt the Wairoa Reserve because the Trust views this park as a gateway to Bexley Wetland Reserve.

The Bexley Residents' Association agreed in its meeting of 7 June 1999 that the Association, being busy with other projects, supports the offer of the Bexley Wetland Trust to adopt these parks.

Category One of the scheme states:

“This category is the highest level of adoption of parks and cemeteries, the interest group forming an Incorporated Society or Trust to adopt the park or parks or cemetery. These groups may charge a membership fee, raise funds, hold their own bank accounts, and have aims and objectives as part of their rules, which are to the Council’s satisfaction.

Meetings are held on a regular basis with minutes kept and a Parks professional from the Council advises or is represented on the management committee. Normally this category caters for large metropolitan type parks, and cemeteries. Some parks in this category are of importance historically, for example, Edmonds Factory Garden, or are important conservation areas, for example Travis Wetland. Some of these Societies or Trusts have secured significant sponsorship to further develop the park or cemetery that the organisation is interested in, this sponsorship being much appreciated by the Christchurch City Council. However, the day to day maintenance, provision of finances and administration remains with the Parks Unit. Initial meetings are usually held to set up guidelines and work programmes and once established these groups work to their own level, liaising with the Area Parks Officers. A number of these interested people become honorary wardens who assist the Council by, amongst other things, reporting acts of vandalism to Council officers or the Police to follow up and rectify.”

The aim of the Adopt-a-Park Scheme is to encourage local residents' 'ownership' of their parks by assisting the Christchurch City Council to plan, develop, manage and maintain a particular park or parks or cemetery. It enables residents' to have greater communication in the planning, development and management of the particular park they are interested in.

The Parks Unit supports this application and looks forward to cementing a long-term relationship with the Trust.

Recommendation: That the Board recommend to the Parks and Recreation Committee that the Bexley Wetland Trust adopt the Bexley Wetlands and Wairoa Reserve under Category One.

Chairperson's Recommendation: That the aforementioned recommendation be adopted.