

Officer responsible Parks Manager	Author Rod Whearty, Area Parks Officer
Corporate Plan Output: Shirley/Papanui Project Funds	

The purpose of this report is to confirm the site for a skateboard ramp on St Albans Park.

Community Board members will recall at their meeting on 31 March 1999 that they resolved to extend the trial period for the ramp while they carried out further consultation with the local community.

PUBLIC MEETING

A public meeting was held at the St Albans Community Resource Centre on 25 May 1999, which was attended by a good cross-section of the local community.

The meeting was very successful with a clear preference from those in attendance that they wished to see the facility remain on the park.

QUESTIONNAIRE

The second phase of consultation has now been completed with a questionnaire having been sent out to approximately 500 local residents around the park. Residents were asked to complete and return the questionnaire in a “reply paid” envelope giving their response to the following questions:

1. Were you aware of the skateboard ramp at St Albans Park?
2. Do you or any members of your family use the ramp?
3. Do you think there is a need for these types of facilities in the area?
4. Are you in favour of a permanent facility on this site?
5. Comments

RESULTS

By the closing date on Friday, 18 June a total of 134 returns had been received, giving the following results:

1. *Were you aware of the skateboard ramp at St Albans Park?*
 Yes 123
 No 11
2. *Do you or any members of your family use the ramp?*
 Yes 19
 No 113

3. *Do you think there is a need for these types of facilities in the area?*

Yes 112

No 15

4. *Are you in favour of a permanent facility on this site?*

Yes 115

No 18

SUMMARY

It is clear from the above results that local residents have a very high awareness of the ramp. It is interesting to note that while there is not a particularly high number of local residents using the ramp at this stage there are a high number of locals who see a need for these facilities in the area. A number indicated that they had younger children who would probably want to use the ramp in the future.

A number of people commented that there were significant benefits to the community through having children and youth channeling their energies into constructive recreational activities on the park. There were also comments relating to the politeness and cooperation that existed between skaters currently using the ramp, to ensure they all had a fair turn when a number of skaters were using the ramp at one time.

Other comments related to the hours of use with a number indicating that there was still a need to ensure that late night use and activities were adequately controlled. On the other hand a couple suggested installation of lighting to provide for evening skating.

In residential areas such as this we believe that most residents have the view that skating during daylight hours is generally acceptable. The times of use will therefore have a seasonal variation with longer hours during the summer and daylight saving with shorter hours in the winter. The Parks Unit supports this view and believes it is a reasonable compromise between the needs of adjacent residents and skaters.

The last question relates to a permanent facility on the site. The results clearly show that the local community would like to see a permanent facility on the park.

- Recommendation:**
1. That the Shirley/Papanui Community Board confirm St Albans Park as the preferred location for a skateboard facility.
 2. That the Parks Unit initiate design and construction details for the new facility and that skaters be involved in the process.
 3. That all respondents be thanked for their input and advised of the Board's decision.

Chairperson's

Recommendation: That the officer's recommendation be adopted and that ways of addressing after dark activities at the ramp be investigated.