

7. ST ALBANS PARK SKATE FACILITY

Officer responsible Community Advocate	Author Rod Whearty, Area Parks Officer Erin Eyles, Community Recreation Adviser
Corporate Plan Output: Project Funds	

The purpose of this report is to update the Board on the design and construction of the permanent skateboard ramp in St Albans Park.

BACKGROUND

Board members will recall that St Albans Park was confirmed as being the site for a skateboard facility following the trial of a wooden ramp relocated from Sheldon Park.

SKATER FEEDBACK

Staff recently met with some local skaters at the St Albans Resource Centre to discuss the design of the ramp. The design represents what the users requested as their preferred skate facility, however it is important to note that it is more extensive than the existing ramp (see attached plan).

DESIGN AND COST ESTIMATE

The current design generally caters for ramp skating but also incorporates an area suitable for beginners to intermediate skaters.

The proposed ramp is 21.5 metres long by 6.5 metres wide. The ramp will need to be positioned diagonally on the existing site to compensate for the increased length. Diagonal placement is also conducive for optimal sunshine on the ramp, which is an important winter consideration. The design also provides for a path to connect the ramp to the footpath on Madras Street if sufficient funding is available.

DETAILED DRAWINGS, SPECIFICATIONS AND TENDER

The next stage of the process is to forward the concept plan to City Design so that detailed drawings, specifications and tender documents can be prepared. At this stage it is anticipated that the tender would go out some time in December with construction commencing early in the New Year, although Christmas and contractor availability will have a major influence on the timing.

PUBLICITY AND SECURITY

The Parks Unit proposes to circulate details of the proposed skateboard ramp and tentative construction time-lines to local residents for their information.

There is also the issue about night time use of the ramp. Currently the proposed facility does not have any provision to prevent the night time use as with the existing ramp. This was a major concern to one or two residents and the Board previously indicated that night time activity would be controlled. However it should be noted that there would be no effective way to control skating on the paths around the park or the new one connecting to the ramp even if the new ramp was locked.

FUNDING

The Board originally allocated \$36,000 for skateboard facilities, to provide one facility in the Shirley ward and one in Papanui. City Design has provided some preliminary budget estimates for the current design, as listed below.

Excavation, metalcourse, all reinforced concrete work including coping	\$26,000.00
Asphalt surround (if required as per Sheldon) -	9,000.00
Fees including contract documents and supervision -	2,500.00
All prices exclude GST	
Total Costs	<u>\$38,500.00</u>

(Does not include cost of path to Madras Street)

Once the site and design have been confirmed the Board could allocate funding from next year's Project Funds to complete the work.

PAPANUI WARD

In recent years there have been a number of requests for a skateboard ramp in the Brooklands area. These requests have also come through in the recent research conducted by Mary Sparrow. Given that these facilities are often controversial it would be a positive change to construct a ramp in an area where residents are actually requesting skateboard facilities.

Children and youth in this area do not have other alternative sites due to Brooklands somewhat isolated location and distance from other urban facilities.

EXISTING RAMP

The Board needs to consider the next location for the wooden ramp. Despite the fact that it was never designed as a portable ramp it could probably cope with one more shift. Although it is relatively costly to relocate the ramp it does have the advantage of "market testing" a specific site without a large capital commitment and it can simply be removed if the site proves to be unsuitable.

Previously the board had indicated that the ramp would go to MacFarlane Park following the St Albans Park trial, and at its meeting on 3 February 1999 resolved: *"That pending the outcome of the trial of the skateboard ramp at St Albans Park, the Board later considered the possibility of relocating the temporary skateboard ramp to*

MacFarlane Park on a trial basis.” However in light of recent research the Board may wish to consider putting it into Brooklands Domain before constructing a permanent ramp on that site. The Board will need to reconfirm the preferred site for the temporary ramp.

CONCLUSION

Whilst the proposed ramp at St Albans Park is slightly larger than the existing ramp, it is important to remember that it has been designed by the people who will be the end users of the facility. If we are to achieve the maximum value from these facilities it is important that they provide challenge and interest to the skaters.

There has to be a balance between the needs of the skaters and the concerns of local residents. The Board will need to determine what is “fair and reasonable” and where to draw the line in terms of this balance. Based on the current usage there is no doubt that whatever is constructed there will be well utilised.

Consideration also needs to be given to the location for the Papanui Ward facility. At this stage Brooklands Domain would appear to be a suitable site, given the latest research and requests over recent months. Further consultation could be initiated to confirm the siting and design.

- Recommendation:**
1. That the concept plan as shown be approved and detailed drawings, specifications and tender documents be prepared.
 2. That copies of the plan be circulated to local residents for their information.
 3. That the current available funding of \$36,000, be used to complete the St Albans ramp and any remaining balance goes toward the Papanui Ward Skate facility.
 4. That the temporary wooden ramp be relocated at Brooklands Domain on a trial, as the preferred site in the Papanui Ward.
 5. That consultation be initiated with a site plan showing a suitable location for a skateboard ramp on Brooklands Domain to be circulated to local residents for their comments and feedback.

Chairperson’s

- Recommendation:**
1. That the officers recommendation be adopted.
 2. That a Committee of the Board, comprising the Chairperson, Deputy Chairperson and Councillor Booth, have power to act, to approve funding up to \$36,000 for the ramp.