

9. FERRYMEAD PONY CLUB LEASE AND LICENCE AND DUNCAN PARK MANAGEMENT PLAN

RR 10640

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Corporate Plan Output: Parks Plans and Policy Statements	

The purpose of this report is for the Community Board to make a recommendation to the Parks and Reserves Committee on the release of the Draft Management Plan for Duncan Park and the proposed renewal of the Lease agreement with Ferrymead Pony Club on Duncan Park for public comment.

The late Mary Duncan bequeathed Duncan Park to the Christchurch City Council in 1949, for the purposes of a public reserve.

Duncan Park consists of 23.4 hectares extending east from the Avoca stream over a steepish spur and down into Horotane Valley. The north boundary is on Port Hills Road and the south Boundary adjoins rural/horticultural properties higher up Avoca Valley. Access is from Port Hills Road.

The Duncan Family originally farmed the site. In the 1860's the site was also used as a shooting range and military camp for various colonial volunteer training events.

Since 1962, the park has been leased by the Ferrymead Pony club, which organises activities for its members, focusing on two main events held in March and May, when pony club members from throughout the district meet on the park and participate in the days programme of dressage, show jumping and cross country. One of the highlights at the Mary Duncan meeting is the cross-country course, which is unique in Christchurch, due to its steep terrain.

Although entrusted to Christchurch City by the late Mary Duncan with the aim of providing for and supporting educational and botanical values, no use was initially found for the land and for a period of fifteen years it was neglected, becoming infested with noxious weeds, there was an estimated 13 acres of gorse. Erosion had also caused considerable damage. Early Club members had the massive task of re-establishing the land. Maintaining and developing the land, fencing, water reticulation and other club amenities including the club house, caretakers cottage, equipment shed, cover pens, dressage arena's and cross country O.D.H.T course, has been the not inconsiderable task of subsequent members and committees.

NEW LEASE AND LICENCE

The club has a membership of approximately 100 riding members, with some of these utilising the park for grazing. The club has applied for a new lease as their current lease terminated in April 1999. At present the club is on a month to month lease.

It is proposed to lease the main club areas of stables and clubrooms for a term of 10 years and to licence the more extensive grazing and riding areas for a term of 5 years. The distinction of lease and licensed areas reflects the fact that core facilities need security of tenure while extensive areas of the reserve are used for grazing, riding, as well as walking and planting. The Parks Unit therefore will retain the right to retire areas for planting and tracks from time to time. The new lease must be publicly notified for 1 month for comment and this will be done concurrently with the management plan (see Appendix c in management plan).

THE DRAFT MANAGEMENT PLAN

The Draft Management Plan has resulted from investigations into possible ways of upgrading Duncan Park in order to provide better recreational amenities for the Heathcote area in which it is situated and to enhance its value to the community at large.

There are a number of issues that need to be resolved – including erosion, public access, plantation management, stream management through the Water Services Unit, fencing, and lease to the pony club's use of the park.

The purpose of this landscape draft management plan is to resolve these issues and to provide a clear programme for the ongoing management of the Park over the next fifteen to twenty years.

Concurrent with this planning process, an overlapping planning process has been evolving. A Waterway restoration and Enhancement Study for the Avoca stream catchment has been developed in a community and City Council Water Services partnership. The Parks Unit and Ferrymead Pony Club have played a full part in that planning and consultation process, and design outcomes of the Avoca stream study, set out by Lucas Associates, have been integrated into this development plan.

A copy of the draft management plan for the Duncan Park is attached to this agenda.

- Recommendation:**
1. That the Draft Management Plan for Duncan Park be distributed for consultation.
 2. That the proposed lease/licence agreement with the Ferrymead Pony Club be advertised in conjunction with the Draft Management Plan for Duncan Park.