

11. AVONHEAD RECREATION, ARTS AND SPORTS RESEARCH - UPDATE

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Corporate Plan Output: Recreation Programmes and Promotion	

The purpose of this report is to advise the Board of the Avonhead Recreation, Arts and Sports Study currently underway in this area and outlines the aims and process of the research and how the findings and recommendations of this study will be implemented.

INTRODUCTION

The community of Avonhead spans both the Waimairi Ward and the Riccarton Ward. In 1996 a Needs Analysis was planned for this community (although covering slightly different geographical boundaries to this study). This study did not eventuate.

The Leisure, Parks and Water Services staff who are jointly working on this project recognise that there is limited knowledge of the recreation, arts, sports, parks and waterways requirements of this community. This lack of knowledge has made planning for Avonhead difficult and not necessarily as effective as it could be. Coupled with this there have been an increasing number of enquiries from within this community regarding issues such as parks and waterways development, recreation facilities, and requests for recreation and arts programmes.

The Council has several policies which supported the initiation of this study, namely the Recreation and Sport Policy and to a lesser degree, the Childrens, the Youth and the Older Persons Policies.

With consideration to the above, Council officers from the above mentioned units commissioned a research project in the Avonhead community. This research is presently being undertaken, and will be completed by the end of July. Strategic Leisure (NZ) Ltd, a leisure planning consultancy company, is carrying out the research.

For the purposes of this study, the geographical boundaries of Avonhead have been defined as Yaldhurst Road, Russley Road, Memorial Avenue, Waimairi Road, Peer Street.

This report is also being submitted to the Riccarton/Wigram Community Board for its information.

AIM OF STUDY

To develop a profile of the current sport, recreation, arts, parks and waterways participation and needs of Avonhead residents.

SCOPE OF STUDY

- a) The study will provide an accurate demographic profile of Avonhead and identify future demographic trends of the community.
- b) A profile will be created of existing recreation (both active and passive), arts and sport groups in the community.

- c) An investigation will be carried out into current and planned sport and recreation facilities (including park-based facilities).
- d) A profile of residents' existing involvement in sport, recreation and arts, including usage of local parks and waterways, will be outlined.
- e) To assist with future planning for Avonhead, barriers to participation within the study disciplines will be outlined.
- f) With parks and waterways playing an integral role in any community, a prioritised schedule of enhancements to local parks, reserves and waterways will be an outcome of this study.
- g) Gaps in existing provision of services and programmes will be identified.

OBJECTIVES OF STUDY

- a) To develop a demographic profile of the residents of Avonhead and identify future demographic trends.
- b) To identify sport, recreation and arts organisations active in the Avonhead area. *(This includes groups/organisations that are not within the geographical boundaries of this study, but have a significant impact on those residing in the study area).*
- c) To identify current and potential facilities for recreation and sport use.
- d) To identify barriers to access for sport, recreation and arts amongst Avonhead residents.
- e) To develop a profile of Avonhead residents involvement in sport, recreation and arts (what, when, who, where, how often, why)
- f) To identify important gaps in sport, recreation and arts services and programmes accessible to Avonhead residents.
- g) To identify Avonhead residents' priorities for enhancements to local parks, reserves and waterways.
- h) To identify opportunities to make park-based waterways visible and accessible for recreational purposes.
- i) To recognise the potential of amateur naturalist activities and stream care as a valuable recreational activity.

TIME FRAME

This research will be completed by July 2000. The timeline for the research is:

June 2000	First draft presentation to steering group meeting
July 2000	Present draft report to steering group
July 2000	Final report completed and submitted to steering group
Late July 2000	Presentation of findings to elected members and officers

WHERE TO FROM HERE?

The first stage of this project has been managed by an officer Steering Group from the Leisure, Parks and Water Services Units.

The second stage of the project will be to develop a strategic plan on how best to implement the findings and recommendations of this research. The detail of the strategic plan will be dependant on the findings of this research.

It is proposed that a Board member from the both Fendalton/Waimairi and the Riccarton/Wigram Community Boards join this Steering Group for the second phase of the project. The time commitment required will be in the region of up to four planning meetings.

Once this work has been completed it will be reported to the respective Boards.

- Recommendation:**
1. That the information be received.
 2. That the Fendalton/Waimairi Community Board appoint a representative to join the Steering Group.

Chairman's

Recommendation: That the foregoing recommendations be adopted.