

17. ST ALBANS PARK SKATEBOARD FACILITY

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Corporate Plan Output: Elected Member Advice	

The purpose of this report is to update Board members on the completion of the skateboard facility at St Albans Park.

UPDATE

The skateboard facility at St Albans Park is now completed apart from minor releveling and topdressing of turf areas, which will be completed within the next week or two.

The tender price for the facility which included some extensive sealed areas and additional pathways was \$40,208.70 including a \$2,000 contingency. The project will be completed within budget.

SECURITY AND NOISE

Board members will recall the previous commitment from the Board to lock the facility and discourage after hours activity around the ramp.

Designing a system to discourage after hours skating on the new facility has presented a number of difficulties. The most cost effective option has been to install a set of chains, which are locked in a criss-cross pattern over the ramp. This will effectively stop skaters using the actual ramp facility. However, there is no feasible way of preventing people skating the surrounding sealed areas.

It is possible that the services of external agencies such as the Police and Papanui Community Watch and our Park Rangers may be required if after hours activities continue to be a problem.

One of the key issues associated with after hours activities was noise. The skating surface of the new facility is much quieter than that of the temporary wooden ramp. The Environmental Services Unit previously carried out noise monitoring on behalf of the Parks Unit on the temporary ramp. The results of the monitoring and the officer's report are included as an attachment to this report. On all occasions monitoring was undertaken the noise levels at the boundaries of Edward Avenue properties were well within the limits set down in the City Plan. Given the distance the ramp is from these properties it is very unlikely that noise levels will ever breach allowable limits.

OFFICIAL OPENING

The actual construction period was slightly longer than anticipated due to some unfavourable weather patterns, which delayed concreting. Although the facility is now being used by local skaters it is recommended that the "official opening" be delayed until spring when weather conditions are likely to be more conducive.

Carmen Benekamp, Youth Worker at the St Albans Resource Centre has been working with a group of young people to develop an opening function for this facility. Since the 'Say It' concert in April there has been a ground-swell of enthusiasm by local young people to plan such an opening. The opening planned so far is an extravaganza of skating competitions, Jams, break dancing, DJ's, basketball and many more 'have a go' activities. It is likely the opening will be staged this Spring when the weather is warmer. \$2,500 has been allocated from Community Event funding towards the staging of this event. A memorandum will be circulated to Board Members advising the date and details of the event closer to that time.

Recommendation: That the information be received.

Chairperson's

Recommendation: That the officer's recommendation be adopted and that the locking of the ramp be monitored for two or three months, with a report to be made to the September meeting, giving consideration to installation of a security camera if necessary.