

## 11. SKATEBOARD FACILITIES UPDATE

<b>Officer responsible</b> Craig Oliver, Parks Manager	<b>Author</b> Suzanne Weld, Parks Planner (Design)
Corporate Plan Output: Parks Plans and Policy Statements	

The purpose of this report is to update the Committee on skateboard facility development at Washington Reserve and at other reserves in the city.

### WASHINGTON RESERVE RESOURCE CONSENT

The resource consent application is now ready to be lodged as the parking survey was completed earlier this year. In March, the Parks Unit notified neighbours in the area that the Council was preparing to lodge the resource consent application and invited them to discuss the plans with staff if they had any comments. The resource consent application covers the entire skating facility with lighting and parking included in the proposal.

A recent development has been the lodging of an enforcement notice to the City Plan by a neighbouring landowner. Council solicitor, Aidan Prebble advises as follows:

“The enforcement order to change the zoning back to B3 will not be opposed by the Council. However, the Council has raised a procedural matter with the Court. Without getting in to the specifics, our position is that the enforcement order is only available if the decision to zone the reserve O2 is found to be invalid. This requires a declaration by the Court.”

The declaration application has yet to be prepared and filed. It is likely to be at least one month before this matter is determined by the Court.

The Parks Unit has taken this delay as an opportunity to review the street skating area (Stage 2) of the development to ensure that this part of the facility is fully in line with street skaters’ needs. This level of detail may not necessarily affect the resource consent application as there are unlikely to be changes in height and size of obstacles but the Parks Unit felt that it was more prudent to give interested parties the truest picture of what the facility will offer.

Recently the Police have approached the Parks Unit offering to install a security camera in the reserve. The feasibility of a security camera had previously been discussed by the Washington Working Group as a way of minimising antisocial activity in the area, but was not pursued mainly due to cost and because there had not been significant problems at the reserve. However, the Police now believe that a camera would assist in making the reserve and outlying area safer, by deterring those who might come to the park for reasons other than skating.

### OTHER FACILITY DEVELOPMENTS IN 1999/2000

While delays in completing the Washington Reserve facility have been frustrating, other skating opportunities have been developed across the city. These are:

- Hoon Hay bowl – upgrade completed
- Jellie Park – large ramp/transition style facility, Stage 1 of which has been constructed and which is proving to be very popular. Stage 2 which includes street-type obstacles will be built in the new financial year.
- St Albans Park – a smaller half-pipe type of facility is half way through construction.
- Thomson Park upgrade – due to begin in the next two weeks
- Brooklands Domain – the plywood half-pipe that was used as a trial in Sheldon and St Albans Parks is now being trialed in Brooklands Domain to gauge demand.
- Linwood Park facility – consultation has shown overwhelming support for the new facility and the contract is ready to be tendered.

#### **SKATEBOARDING, INLINE SKATING AND FREESTYLE BMX CYCLING STRATEGY**

The Committee would have had a recent update from Leisure Unit staff on the completion of the above strategy. This has been a successful project due to the close collaboration between Leisure and Parks Units' staff. The strategy now identifies areas where new facilities are needed and these will be programmed for the next few years. Parks staff are meeting next week to allocate 2000/01 funds to skating and other youth projects. Part of this will be used to identify and create a new site for BMX/freestyle cyclists who are currently trying to use new skating facilities.

#### **CONCLUSION**

The Parks Unit has completed a number of skating facilities in 1999/2000. The success of these has been due to staff from the Parks and Leisure Units working closely together and following a clear consultation process. This has enabled further skating opportunities to be distributed across the city. While skaters are impatient to see further stages of the Washington Reserve facility constructed, Parks staff must wait until zoning issues are resolved before the resource consent application is lodged. In the meantime, staff are assessing the feasibility of placing a security camera in the reserve and reviewing the proposed street skating area with experts in this type of skating.

- Recommendation:**
1. That staff continue to work with the Police to place a security camera in Washington Reserve.
  2. That the information be received.

#### **Chairman's**

**Recommendation:** That the above recommendation be adopted.