

7 BROMLEY SKATEPARK RESEARCH – FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Officer responsible Leisure Unit Manager	Author Community Recreation Advisor
Corporate Plan Output: Recreation Programmes and Promotion	

At the beginning of the year a research project was contracted to Stephanie Kelly to look at the future of the Bromley Skatepark facility in Cypress Garden Reserve on the corner of Keighleys, Bromley and Raymond Roads. The full findings of this research are attached as an appendix to the Board's agenda and Stephanie will report her key findings to the Board at today's meeting.

BACKGROUND

The Cypress Gardens/Bromley skate facility research was carried out in February and March 2000 in light of (i) findings from Christchurch City Council's 1999 Skateboarding, Inline Skating and Freestyle BMX Cycling Strategy (ii) The Hagley/Ferrymead Community Board plans to complete a skate facility at Linwood Park by mid 2000 and (iii) the Bromley skate half pipe being in need of repair.

The key aims of the research were (1) to identify the users of the Bromley skate halfpipe, (2) to identify if there was a need to continue the skate facility in Bromley, and (3) if so, the type and extent of need.

FEEDBACK FROM FACILITY USERS

Recommendations by users included the following

Users of Bromley skate facility can be categorised into two distinct groups

- * **User group 1** (16 - 30 year old non-locals)
- * **User group 2** (8-16 year old local children/youth);

User group one This is not a large group but it does come from a very wide area, specifically because it is one of the few facilities in the city catering to an intermediate-advanced group of skaters. If any upgrades are to be done the following are recommended by this group:

1. Replace the bark with a harder surface
2. Resurface halfpipe (for smoother usage, not due to graffiti)
3. Regular sweeping of the facility

User group two wish to spend time at the facility but do so mostly to hang out with friends, watch the more experienced skaters, and attempt to roll their boards/bikes on the halfpipe from the bottom up because it is too steep to drop from the top. This group requests some additions, as well as upgrades:

1. Addition of some street skating options, e.g., paths, smaller bumps, grinding rails
2. Addition of a lower halfpipe
3. Trimming the surrounding trees in order to improve visibility to neighbours and the street for an enhanced sense of safety (“please do not cut the trees down, just trim them”)
4. Filling in under the ramp for an enhanced sense of safety, plus it was felt that this will possibly discourage other youth “hanging around” at the facility but not skating.
5. Addition of a toilet facility (that feels open and safe) nearby. It is hoped this will discourage people from urinating in the open spaces under the ramp and means the younger users don't have to go to the other side of the reserve
6. Addition of a drinking fountain nearby
7. Addition of seating
8. Elimination of graffiti

RECOMMENDATIONS BY COMMUNITY RECREATION ADVISOR

Having examined the research it is recommended that the following actions be investigated and implemented:

Short term (2000/20001):

1. Trimming the surrounding trees in order to improve visibility to neighbours
2. Filling in under the ramp
3. Regular sweeping of the facility
4. Request that the site be monitored for graffiti.

Longer term (2001/2002):

1. Addition of seating
2. Addition of a drinking fountain nearby
3. Resurfacing of the half pipe

2004/05- A toilet is provided in the Parks 5 year capital works programme.

CONCLUSION

The Linwood Park skateboard facility will cater for the needs of street skaters and beginner skaters. The Bromley site appears to be used primarily by intermediate and advanced level skaters in the area and also city-wide and should be retained and improved to meet this need.

- Recommendations:**
1. That the above recommendations for upgrading and enhancing the Cypress Gardens/Bromley skateboard facility be adopted.
 2. That the Community Recreation Adviser and Parks Unit staff prepare a plan for the Board for the implementation of the above recommendations, outlining timeframes, budget requirements, etc.

Chairman's

Recommendation: That the officer's recommendations be adopted.