

11. NORTH HAGLEY PARK/NORTHERN BOUNDARY PATHWAY DEVELOPMENT

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The purpose of this report is to gain approval to lay a sealed shared pathway running along the northern boundary of North Hagley Park.

This report is being presented to the City Services Committee for budgeted expenditure approval. It is also being presented to the Hagley/Ferrymead Community Board for consultation process approval.

Hagley Park serves as one of the two primary cycling focal points within the city's cycle network (the other being the city centre). The cycle network plan identifies the need for improved facilities in and around Hagley Park. The proposed pathway development described in this report is projected for implemented in the first half of 2001.

The primary objective of this pathway development is to improve safety, access and flow of cyclists and all other path users. It will provide an all weather park pathway from the Fendalton Road/Harper Avenue corner, and running parallel to Harper Avenue, to the Carlton Mill/Harper Avenue corner.

It is proposed to create the pathway alignment through the rows of trees to give the users a park-like experience. It is intended to retain a small gravel and dirt path that runs parallel to the roadside, as it is heavily used by runners.

The pathway will provide cyclists currently using Harper Avenue with the option to use an off-road path. The path will also create the final link in a sealed pathway running around the perimeter of North Hagley Park. This will provide a major enhancement for recreational users of North Hagley Park, particularly those who benefit from a network of sealed pathways. This includes wheel chair users, people with prams, in-line skaters, scooter users, walkers and toddlers learning to ride their first bikes.

The construction will result in a smooth asphalt shared use pathway, 2.5m wide. Appropriate signage and intersection treatments will be developed for the length of the path – approximately 1,200 metres. The new pathway will initially be laid with no lighting added.

The path is budgeted for from within the City Streets Unit – Cycle Projects, Capital Works.

City Streets is working in conjunction with staff from the Parks Unit who consider the pathway a positive asset for Hagley Park.

CONSULTATION

It is intended that a pamphlet showing the path alignment will be handed out to surrounding path users in close proximity to the proposed path. The plan will be posted at the YMCA and sent to Christchurch Girls' High School along with the usual recipients such as the Community Board members, Parks and Recreation Committee, and City Services Committee members, Council service centres and libraries.

Consultation results and a detailed plan of the suggested pathway will be reported back to the Hagley/Ferrymead Community Board.

CONCLUSION

The proposed shared pathway will significantly improve the network of sealed pathways around Hagley Park and recognises the demands placed on the park to cater for increasing numbers and types of users.

Recommendation: That the Parks and Recreation Committee approval the proposal to install a pathway along the northern boundary of North Hagley Park.

Chairman's Recommendation: That the above recommendation be adopted.