

## 17. PLAYGROUNDS AT BROAD PARK, SOUTH BRIGHTON PARK AND TE KARORO KARORO RESERVE

<b>Officer responsible</b> Parks and Waterways Manager	<b>Author</b> Gary Harrow - Parks and Waterways Area Advocate, DDI 372-2708
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The purpose of this report is to advise the Board on the outcome of recent consultation.

The playgrounds at Broad Park and South Brighton Park have been the subject of comment for some years with a number of suggestions being put forward over that time for improvements. Some of these are for health and safety matters, others for replacement or improvement of certain elements in the playgrounds.

Te Karoro Karoro Reserve is a new installation.

Invitations for input by local residents were sent out early in the year and the results are as follows:

### **BROAD PARK**

(\$40,000 budgeted)

There are two distinctly different playgrounds in this park. The one closest to Beach Road is of a modern modular design. The other is older and a large wooden structure or 'fort'. This is the one subject to this report.

Residents (400) were surveyed with the following proposals that were previously suggested by groups or individuals or identified as being potential health and safety issues:

- Remove the upper platforms and reuse them adjacent to the lower platforms.
- Modify the existing infill panels to accommodate additional activities and linking items between the existing and reused platforms.
- Provide additional activities: slides, monkey bars, swing rings, climbing access points, swing/burmese bridge.
- Upgrade the safety undersurfacing to suit the above activities.
- Stain all the timber of the structure.

Residents were advised that the flying fox would be retained.

Twenty-three returns were received, well below the number usually returned. Twenty-two were in favour, one against. The submission against was from a parent of three children who thought the park, structure and flying fox were all too high risk.

In the responses, the following comments were made (the figures in parenthesis indicate how many respondents commented on that particular point):

- Trees cast too much shade. (12)
- Make it more challenging. (2)
- Include barbecue, seats, tables. (6)
- Level and regrass the area. (4)
- Add items made out of timber poles etc.
- Add concrete path around perimeter with skate facilities.
- Add roman rings and bars.
- 'No dog' signs.
- Extend the park eastwards into the sandhills.
- Shade equipment from the sun.
- Add shrubberies.
- Install barrier between the playground and the road.
- Add drinking fountain.

The issue of the trees has been the subject of comment over many years. The current situation is the result of compromise but these recent responses mean that the Parks and Waterways Unit should again address this issue with local residents and others who have requested to be informed about such issues.

Board members' views on this subject would be welcome.

The latest estimates for the work indicate that all the original requests can be accommodated and that items such as seats, tables, roman rings, bars, timber poles, etc, will most likely be included.

Levelling, regrassing and shrubberies will be a separate capital works project and a drinking fountain can be accommodated with the new toilet in the vicinity next year.

### **SOUTH BRIGHTON PARK AND TE KARORO KARORO RESERVE**

As these leaflets (675) were sent to the same area at the same time, many of the responses were the same:

- Playgrounds to be more adventurous, obstacle course, confidence-type.
- Seats.
- Picnic tables.
- Barbecues.
- Shelter from the wind.
- Shrubberies with colour.
- Drinking fountains.
- Walking beams, rings etc (to match the 'adventurous' theme).

#### **South Brighton Park**

(\$60,000)

This drew 105 responses, all but one in favour of upgrading. One response said the area was adequate as is and requested the money be put towards a skate area. Five others wanted a skate area as well as the suggested improvements. Twenty-five separate letters were received from pupils, year 6, at South New Brighton School in favour also of skate facilities and other items. Thus the total responses were 130. The skate facility will be treated as a separate topic and appropriate responses will be sent regarding this.

The Parks and Waterways Unit already had on file a number of suggestions from the local residents' association and local residents. These were:

- More seats and picnic tables.
- A junior (2-6 year old) playground.
- Barbecue.
- Shelter fences.
- Replace steps on band rotunda.
- Additional equipment for fort.
- More swings and slides.

The above list is in order of preference from the responses and all can be accommodated within the budget.

A number of innovative ideas were received and the City Solutions Unit has been engaged to further develop these.

The most frequently requested ideas will mean that we will look closely at using the band rotunda as a feature rather than a misused structure.

One important aspect of the responses was that many were from elderly users, many grandparents, and were very helpful.

#### **Te Karoro Karoro Reserve**

(\$20,000)

One hundred and nine returns were received, including four informal. Thus basically exactly the same number received as for South Brighton Park. Three responses could see no need for a playground, preferring to leave the park as it is, although two of these still ticked the "alternative equipment" box.

As reported earlier, a theme of challenge, adventure, seats, tables, etc, came out tops for choice. Three main choices were presented to residents, covering the main styles of playgrounds:

1. Modular type equipment in bright primary colours with platforms, tunnels, etc. (11 returns)
2. Alternative equipment with a greater range of diversity. (87)
3. Traditional equipment, individual items such as slide, see-saw, etc. (7)

Most respondents took the opportunity to describe their understanding of 'alternative'.

An interesting trend for a 'seaside' theme came through with many respondents giving much thought to this. A playground built as a ship or shipwreck was mooted by many, including elements of balance, swings and tunnels.

Five respondents wanted a skate facility here, and one wanted the park extended to the south.

As there is only a limited budget for this park, our Unit would be challenged to design a ship-shaped playground within that constraint. Nevertheless, a brief will go to the City Solutions Unit with that in mind.

Every effort will be made to accommodate most of the other requests within this theme either now or at a later date. Some requests were maintenance items, which have been attended to.

A drinking fountain is to be incorporated into the new toilet just to the north of this site, but consideration will also be given to including one here.

With 27 broad subject headings covering all the suggestions for this park, unfortunately not every submission can be included. All respondents will be replied to indicating what features will be considered.

Overall the consultation exercise, with a 16% return, was successful in obtaining public input and a number of innovative ideas.

**Chairperson's**

**Recommendation:** That the information be received.