

14. ARANUI COMMUNITY RENEWAL PROJECT - WAINONI PARK CONSULTATION

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Corporate Plan Output: Consultation and Advice 9.4.6	

The purpose of this report is to update Board members on preliminary consultation undertaken on Wainoni Park as part of the Aranui Community Renewal Project.

WAINONI PARK SURVEY

In February 2001 a letterbox drop survey of 500 houses in the immediate vicinity of Wainoni Park was undertaken as part of the Aranui Community Renewal Project. The survey questioned residents on what they like about Wainoni Park, how we can make Wainoni Park safer, problems and solutions in the park, suggested facilities, and other improvements that could be made in the park.

A total of 47 completed comment forms were received and a summary of the comments is attached. It is important to note that the results are not representative of the community, they are the comments of a small number of individuals and are not statistically valid. The major features of the comments are summarised below.

What people like about Wainoni Park:

- The open uncluttered space and large green area.
- That the park is central and easily accessible.

Nine people commented that they do not like anything about the park.

How to make Wainoni Park safer:

- Some type of supervision in the park was requested with suggestions including Maori wardens, caretaker, security officer, police.
- Better lighting.

Problems and solutions in the park:

- The main problem identified in the park was graffiti and vandalism.
- Improved maintenance and rubbish collection would help improve the park.
- The high number of unsupervised children in the park was seen as a problem as some of these children were considered to be causing trouble. The bar was perceived to be contributing to the problem as patrons in the bar left their children unattended in the park.
- Parenting courses and enforcing parent responsibility was seen as a solution.

Suggested facilities:

- Skate park.
- Picnic areas and sheltered quiet spots.
- BBQ and hangi area.
- Increased and improved play equipment for all ages.
- Upgrade and open toilets (budgeted for 2003/04).
- Community market.
- Community art.
- More large trees.
- A wide range of other sport and recreation facilities was also suggested.

This information is to be fed into the Aranui Community Renewal process through the Aranui Community Renewal Committee and the Consultation Coordinator. The challenge now is to engage the community to work through these ideas with Council staff and a Landscape Architect to prepare a plan that can be used for wider community consultation and participation. A process involving community in the development of the plan will be vital to the success of any developments in Wainoni Park. It is acknowledged that significant funding will be required for this approach, which will be sought from within existing budgets. Additional funding will need to be sourced for major capital works, as minor work only will be able to be undertaken within current budgets.

SKATE PARK

A skate park received popular support from respondents reinforcing the recommendations of the Draft Skateboarding, Inline Skating and Freestyle BMX Strategy and the Burwood/Pegasus Youth Recreation Needs Study.

There are a number of issues in Wainoni Park that raise questions about safety should a skate park be located there. Graffiti, vandalism, intimidation, lack of visibility and security are of concern and may become concentrated on a skate facility if it was located in the park. Other potential sites are therefore being explored.

Blaze, a new youth facility in Shortland Street, is hoping to construct a skate facility on their site. The Parks and Waterways Unit is working together with Blaze to avoid duplication of resources. Blaze offers a number of possibilities for skate facilities that are not available in Wainoni Park:

- Supervision.
- Co-located with other youth facilities.
- Able to be closed and locked up.
- Other facilities exist for running events and programmes in conjunction with the skate park.
- Skateboards can be made available for hire.
- There is a small under cover area suitable for use in wet weather.
- Portable equipment can be used to alter the skate park as required.

The Parks and Waterways Unit is exploring the possibility of locating a skate facility at Blaze. However, a number of issues would need to be addressed in order to locate a Council-owned skate facility at Blaze.

Any proposals for a skate park in the area will need to go through the Aranui Community Renewal Project consultation process to ensure that it is located in the best site and that the needs of the local community are met.

- Recommendations:**
1. That the information be received.
 2. That community consultation and participation through the Aranui Community Renewal process continue.

Chairperson's Recommendation: That the abovementioned recommendations be adopted.