

10. AVONHEAD BASKETBALL FACILITY

Officer responsible Parks and Waterways Manager	Author Rod Whearty, Parks and Waterways Area Advocate, DDI 372 2510 Jacqui Leask, Community Recreation Advisor, DDI 372-2537
Corporate Plan Output: Recreational Facilities 9.4.61	

The purpose of this report is to obtain a financial contribution from the Riccarton Wigram Community Board towards the cost of a full sized basketball court to be constructed in the Avonhead area. The proposed court is an outcome of the Avonhead Sport, Recreation and Arts Study jointly undertaken by the Riccarton Wigram and Fendalton Waimairi Community Boards last year.

BACKGROUND

At the November 2000 meeting of the Riccarton Wigram Community Board staff presented details presented the implementation strategy for the Avonhead Sport, Recreation and Arts Study. The implementation Strategy was developed by a Steering Group comprising of staff and Board members from both Community Board areas. The actual findings of the research had been previously reported to both Boards.

One of the outcomes identified by the study was the need for a full sized basketball facility in the Avonhead area. This sport is very popular, particularly with Asian youth. The Asian community is well represented in the Avonhead area.

The insert below is taken directly from the Implementation Strategy relating to the provision of a full sized Basketball Facility.

Outdoor Basketball Full Court Provision

Actions	Unit	Budget	Timeframe	Comments
That Council consults with Asian community and pre-teen and teenage groups to identify the best locations for the installation of full court outdoor basketball (and netball) facilities with appropriate seating, drinking water and toilet ancillary facilities.	Parks	No specific budget allocated. Funds for pre-teen and youth recreation facilities to be sought as part of the 2001/02 budget review process.	Medium	Christchurch City Council Parks to investigate the installation of full court outdoor basketball in consultation with the local community.

One of the key reasons the study was jointly undertaken if the first place was an acknowledgement that communities of interest don't necessarily conform to Council Ward boundaries and there were often opportunities where Community Boards could work more closely together to obtain a more efficient and effective use of their resources.

CONSULTATION WITH YOUTH

The Community Recreation Advisors at Fendalton and Sockburn are currently undertaking consultation with potential users and Asian Youth in the Avonhead area regarding some of the design criteria for the proposed facility.

To do this they have engaged the services of Community Recreation students who are currently studying for a Diploma in Recreational Management which is a combined course run by Lincoln University and Christchurch Polytechnic.

SITE SELECTION

Staff are currently assessing the suitability of various sites in the Avonhead area and will report back to the November 2001 meeting of the Riccarton Wigram and Fendalton Waimairi Community Boards giving the preferred location for the new facility prior to carrying out consultation with local residents. Locating these facilities in areas where a wide cross section of the community regularly frequent is essential to ensure the smooth and effective operation and integration of these facilities on our parks and this will be one of the key factors in selecting the preferred site.

JOINT FUNDING PROPOSAL

The Fendalton Waimairi Community Board allocated \$20,000 from their 2001/02 Project funds as part of their contribution towards the facility. It is envisaged that the Riccarton Wigram Community Board will also contribute some funding towards the facility on the basis that the facility would be located close to a joint Ward boundary and therefore provide recreational opportunities to residents from both Community Board areas.

COST ESTIMATE

The Parks and Waterways Unit preliminary estimates for the project are as follows.

Full Sized Asphalt Basketball Court and Backboards	\$20,000
Landscaping	\$6,000
Seats/Picnic Tables	\$1,000
Design/Tender/Supervision Fees	\$3,000
Total Cost Estimate	<u>\$30,000</u>
Current Budget Shortfall	\$10,000

Based on the above figures the Riccarton Wigram Community Boards contribution towards the project would be \$ 10,000.

CONCLUSION

The Parks and Waterways Unit is very conscious that casual recreation opportunities for children and young people in our parks has been fairly limited in the past, once they have outgrown the more traditional playground equipment. Providing recreational opportunities on our parks for people of all ages is essential to ensure our open space areas cater for the entire cross section of the community.

The Parks and Waterways Unit has been proactively trying to redress this imbalance in recent years with the provision of facilities such as basketball courts and skateboard areas which are particularly targeted at young people 13 years and older.

Such facilities are vitally important and provide significant benefits to the community as a whole through having children and young people channelling their energies into constructive recreational activities on our parks.

Research undertaken two years ago of children aged 10 to 14 years showed a need for recreational facilities targeted at this group and is in line with the Council's Children and Youth Strategy Policy, and the Council's commitment to inclusiveness of all members of our community.

Sharing the cost of projects between adjacent Community Boards is an efficient use of the Boards financial resources as it reduces the total commitment for each Community Board while providing recreational opportunities for residents in both Board areas.

Recommendation: That the Riccarton Wigram Community Board allocate \$10,000 from their Environment Committee Fund as their contribution towards a Full Sized Basketball Court in the Avonhead Area, noting that staff will report to the November 2001 meeting giving the preferred location for the new facility prior to carrying out consultation with residents.

Chairman's

Recommendation: That the Officer's recommendation be adopted.