

7. WAINONI PARK

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The purpose of this report is to update the Board on progress with planning for Wainoni Park renewal and to present a concept plan for short term capital works including those proposed for this financial year.

CONTEXT OF REPORT

The Aranui Community Renewal Project is a partnership between the Council, Housing New Zealand, and the Aranui Community with the aim of enhancing Aranui as a good place to live. Wainoni Park has consistently been identified in research related to the project as being a major focus of the Aranui community and a priority area for action.

The Community Board allocated discretionary funding of \$20,000 in 2000/01 for skate facilities/youth adventure and \$15,000 in 2001/02 for relocating and upgrading the playground in Wainoni Park. This is being topped up with funding allocated from the Parks and Waterways Unit's 2001/02 budget for youth recreation facilities and \$20,000 has been provided from the Urban Renewal Team's budget for landscaping in conjunction with the park renewal.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

A landscape concept plan for Wainoni Park will be presented at the Board meeting. Capital works to be implemented this year include relocating and upgrading the children's playground and provision of youth recreation facilities. The Wainoni Park Design Group has participated in five workshops to help prepare the concept plan, which incorporates input from the wider community.

RELEVANT CURRENT POLICY

- Children's Policy.
- Youth Policy and Strategy.
- Recreation and Sport Strategy.
- Children's Play Equipment on Parks.
- Environmental Design - Park Design and Management Plans.
- Community Development and Social Well-Being Policy.

DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSAL

Short term proposals for Wainoni Park involve relocating and upgrading the existing play equipment from behind the Hampshire Street shops to the south west corner of Wainoni Park on the Hampshire Street frontage. Youth recreation facilities are incorporated into the park design to the west of and adjacent to the children's play equipment including a flying fox, climbing, skating and biking features. The youth and children's recreation area adjacent to the Hampshire Street frontage will be landscaped with mounding, rocks, planting, and seating to create an adventure play area that caters for a wide range of ages. A plan showing the approximate location of play equipment along with the concept plan will be presented at the Board meeting.

Funding is available in the next financial year to replace the existing toilet block. It is proposed that new public toilets be built adjoining the Wainoni/Aranui Family Centre.

In the longer term, picnic and barbecue facilities, an events area, a quiet garden area, new hard courts, improved car parking, and landscaping, as well as ways of enhancing the Family Centre, are proposed. Ongoing discussion is occurring with Housing New Zealand and local residents to determine long term plans for treatment of the boundaries of the park to develop a more visible and safer park.

ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION

The community is anxious to see the plans for the park implemented and to see recreation opportunities provided for young people in the area. Discussion is taking place with the rugby league club to ensure that its needs are still being met and that adequate sports fields are provided for its activities. This will involve relocation of a field and realignment of the footpath. Although long term plans for the park are still to be confirmed, the short term plans have been designed to fit with possible long term scenarios.

RESULTS OF CONSULTATION

The Wainoni Park Design Group was formed by the Aranui Community Renewal Committee in September 2001 to address issues in the park. The Design Group consists of local residents working together with Council staff. The Design Group has participated in five workshops to help prepare the concept plan for the park, which incorporates input from the wider community collected from:

- The Community Day 2000.
- Wainoni Park Survey 2001.
- Community Hui 2001.
- Community Needs Analysis research 2001.
- Aranui Youth Forum 2001.

A draft concept plan outlining the short term proposals was presented at the December 2001 community day in Wainoni Park. The plan has the approval of the Design Group and the Aranui Community Renewal Committee. Positive feedback was received from the community.

A public information leaflet outlining work to be undertaken this year is to be circulated to the wider community.

CONCLUSIONS

The concept plan for Wainoni Park aims to reflect the needs and aspirations of the community and has been prepared with a considerable amount of community input. This year's budget for improvements in Wainoni Park will be spent on relocating and upgrading the children's playground and providing additional youth recreation facilities.

Recommendation: That the information be received.

Chairperson's Recommendation: For discussion.