

14. PAGODA RESERVE - PLAYGROUND RENEWAL

Officer responsible Greenspace Manager	Author Robyn Croucher - Parks and Waterways Area Advocate, DDI 941-5314
--	---

The purpose of this report is to confirm Board support for the Pagoda Reserve Playground Renewal plan following community consultation.

BACKGROUND

Pagoda Reserve is a small neighbourhood park that is widely used by the local community. It currently has a playground aimed at children under the age of ten, and a large open space area used by older children for free play and ball games. The Greenspace Unit has \$22,600 available this financial year for the provision of a playground upgrade at Pagoda Reserve. An additional top up amount of \$5,000 has been sourced for undersurfacing and to complete the development this financial year.

A preliminary development plan was circulated to key stakeholders in November 2003 to obtain feedback on its design. The proposal addressed the issue of non-complying play equipment and city-wide demands for new play structures that are popular and more in line with current trends. The final plan, which is attached to this report, aims to reflect the views of the community and has been refined in response to community feedback.

RELEVANT CURRENT POLICY

Safer Parks Policy.
Parks and Waterways Access Policy.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPOSAL

Key features of the plan include:

- Establishing a range of opportunities for play by retaining several of the existing play structures and introducing several new play items which are more in line with current play trends and popularity amongst children.
- Providing a hard surface area for pre-teens and teens, and a hop scotch and four square area made from coloured tiles painted by local children.
- Keeping and painting the existing slide, swings, seesaw and roundabout.
- Retaining the open grassed area for ball games and repainting the existing cricket wall.
- Creating a sealed area, with free standing basketball hoop, on the opposite side of the cricket wall.
- Providing shade and shelter by planting tall trees near to the play area.
- Providing seating and two picnic tables to meet the needs of children and adults visiting the park.

CONSULTATION

The Parks and Waterways Area Advocate and Capital Works Project Leader attended the Golf Links Residents' Association meeting in June 2003 to discuss options for the playground. The Residents' Association put forward a summary of requests/suggestions they had canvassed from the local community in regard to the planned renewal. This information helped Council staff to design a preliminary concept plan ready for public comment.

A public information leaflet seeking responses on the preliminary plan was distributed to residents and key stakeholder groups in November 2003. In addition, the Parks and Waterways Area Advocate held an on-site meeting with approximately 35 interested residents to establish how they would like the reserve developed. In total, 48 response forms have been received from the 550 consultation packages sent. Residents were asked to indicate their acceptance/non-acceptance of the plan and were given the option to comment. The results are listed below; the figures in parentheses refer to raw numbers.

Response forms

90%	Accept the proposed plan	(43)
2%	Do not accept the proposed plan	(1)
8%	Choose not to indicate their preference	(4)

A number of suggestions and comments were made that have been considered and where appropriate integrated into the design.

Key suggestions include:

- Relocating the four square area further away from the adjacent neighbour at 7 Vardon Crescent.
- Reducing the number of trees surrounding the playground, and moving several proposed trees away from the Vardon Crescent footpath.
- Access footpaths need to carefully consider the current desire lines to the playground.
- Increasing the hard surface area behind the cricket wall and installing a free standing basketball hoop.

A copy of the final plan will be circulated to residents and stakeholder groups prior to the construction date.

WORK PROGRAMME

The Greenspace Unit anticipates that the playground development will commence sometime in late March/early April 2004. Construction time for the new facility is expected to be approximately four weeks. The proposed landscaping will be undertaken during the 2004 planting season.

A community working bee has been planned for March to repaint the existing play equipment. Neighbourhood children are encouraged to come along and help paint the tiles for the proposed hop scotch/four square area.

CONCLUSION

The redevelopment plan for Pagoda Reserve seeks to re-establish the area as an attractive and safe neighbourhood park that caters for family groups. The revised plan has been amended from the original proposed plan to take into account the suggestions from the local community. The new play equipment and landscaped area will provide fresh interest in the reserve and should prove to be a community asset.

Staff

- Recommendations:**
1. That the information be received.
 2. That the Board support the implementation of the final proposed development concept for Pagoda Reserve playground.

Chairperson's

Recommendation: That the abovementioned recommendations be adopted.