

9. NEW BRIGHTON WHALE POOL - OPTIONS FOR SHADE COVER

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The purpose of this report is to provide the Board with options for shade cover over the whale pool at the New Brighton Park playground.

CONTEXT OF REPORT

A deputation at the 26 January 2004 Board meeting requested the provision of shade cover at the New Brighton Park whale pool. Concern was expressed on the incidence of skin cancer rates in New Zealand and the high risk associated for children who use outdoor pool facilities without adequate protection from the sun. In response, and as a measure of support, the Board asked that a report be provided by the Greenspace Unit on the available options for shade cover at the New Brighton whale pool.

RELEVANT CURRENT POLICY

Social Well Being Policy.
Community Policy.
Children's Policy.

OPTIONS

Broadly speaking, there are three different types of shade structures available on the market today, which are appropriate and could fit into the landscape design of the site. They are as follows:

1. Shade Sails.
2. Coburg Shelters.
3. Large Open Shelters.

Key features for each of the options are outlined below. Features to address the risk of vandalism are listed. Note that the whale pool area is outside the current coverage of the existing security cameras:

Option One: Shade Sails

Features:

- Flexible in design (size and number of sails).
- Easy to install and remove.
- Medium level maintenance.
- Material UV radiation resistant.
- Medium cost option.

Most shade sails have an average life expectancy of 15 years. Typically they are removed at the end of summer, cleaned and then stored throughout the winter. The sails are supported by stainless steel fittings, on a turn buckle system, and are capable of withstanding wind speeds up to 170 km/h. The actual cloth has a 10-year guarantee against UV breakdown. Photos of the Scarborough paddling pool shade sails are attached (refer to Photos 1 and 2).

Drawbacks to using shade sails include:

- Material is particularly susceptible to vandalism.

Ways to lower the risk of vandalism include:

- Mounting sails from poles that are more than 3 metres in height.
- Applying a clear silicon finish to the poles to prevent easy climb.
- Fitting anti-vandal upright cones to the top of the poles to prevent access to the shade cloth.

The cost for Option One is approximately \$18,000. This includes design costs and a fee for the building and resource consent. Shade sails have been successfully installed at the following City Council play areas: Scarborough paddling pool, Abberly paddling pool and at The Groyne.

Option Two: Coburg Shelters

Features:

- Fixed in design.
- Permanent structure.
- Low-level maintenance.
- Reasonably vandal proof.
- Cheapest option.

Coburg structures are fairly new to New Zealand, and have been used widely in Australia for the last 15 years. Their average life expectancy is 20 years, and they come with a 10-year guarantee against structural faults. The shelter has an off-white colour stainless steel roof and stainless fittings with laminated timber posts. The stainless steel roof is considered an extremely effective option in reducing the level of maintenance needed for a coastal site.

The cost for Option Two is approximately \$17,000. This includes design costs and a fee for the building and resource consent. A photo of the shelter is attached (refer to Photo 3).

Drawbacks to using the Coburg Shelter include:

- Little opportunity to diversify with design.
- Structure must be anchored permanently below ground level.
- Flat tilted roof gives a weighty appearance.

Ways to lower the risk of vandalism include:

- Installation of stainless steel vandal proof fixings and brackets that have a specialised spanner.

Option Three: Large Open Shelters

Features:

- Fixed curved roof design.
- Can be installed semi-permanently.
- Low-level maintenance.
- Most expensive option.

The Large Open Shelters have similar features to the Coburg Shelters, but have a curved corrugated steel roof instead of the flat tilted one. The shelter can be designed in a semi-permanent form by securing the posts to above ground plinths. Extra strengthening is needed next to the shelter to anchor into.

The cost for Option Three is approximately \$26,500. This includes design costs and a fee for the building and resource consent. A diagram of the shelter is attached (refer to Diagram 1).

Drawbacks to using the Large Open Shelters include:

- Little opportunity to diversify with design.
- Considerably more expensive than Options One and Two.

Ways to lower the risk of vandalism include:

- Installation of stainless steel vandal proof fixings and brackets that have a specialised spanner.

ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION

A building and a resource consent is needed for all options. The likelihood of any issues arising from the consent process is considered to be minimal.

There is a level of uncertainty over developments proposed for the New Brighton foreshore area, including the whale pool. Hence it would be preferential to install a structure which can be easily removed if needed.

Any funding requests to the Greenspace Unit for the New Brighton whale pool will have to be weighed up against other citywide requests for covered playgrounds. A covered playgrounds line item is planned for inclusion in the five-year Capital Works plan during the October revised capital plan period.

CONCLUSION

Concern expressed about the lack of shade cover over the New Brighton Park whale pool has prompted the Board to seek a range of shade options for the pool. Three options have been outlined in this report. The Greenspace Unit recommends Option One as the preferred choice. This recommendation is based on cost, provision of adequate shelter from the sun, ability to withstand tough wind conditions and ease of installation. The sails also have a clean, clear aesthetic, that is flexible in design, and can be easily incorporated into the seaside setting.

Staff

- Recommendations:**
1. That the information be received.
 2. That the Board consider funding options for providing shade for the whale pool at the New Brighton Park playground.
 3. That, subject to available funding, the Board support Option One for shade sails for the whale pool at the New Brighton Park playground for further investigation and consultation.

Chairperson's

- Recommendations:**
1. That the information be received.
 2. That the Board endorse the recommendation of the Board meeting held on 16 February 2004 that the Greenspace Unit be asked to develop a policy on shade cover for playgrounds and specific investigations be undertaken of shading options at Thomson Park, Broad Park and the New Brighton whale pool.