

## 9. CURRIES RESERVE - PROPOSED UPGRADE

<b>General Manager responsible:</b>	General Manager City Environment, DDI 941-8608
<b>Officer responsible:</b>	Transport & Greenspace Manager
<b>Author:</b>	Ann Campbell, Consultation Leader Greenspace, DDI 941-5111

### PURPOSE OF REPORT

1. The purpose of this report is for the Spreydon/Heathcote Community Board to approve the final landscape plan LP321901 (**refer Attachment 1**) for Curries Reserve Proposed Upgrade, following public consultation.

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

2. Curries Reserve is located on Curries Road, Hillsborough. Properties in Curries Road consist of both residential houses and a busy industrial area.
3. It is well used by local residents as well as families of shift workers of the nearby industrial area.
4. The reserve has recently had a wooden play structure removed for health and safety reasons and a number of dead trees have also been removed.
5. Flooding is an issue within the reserve with wet ground meaning some tree species struggle to survive and paths become inaccessible.

### FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

6. The funding for this project is coming from three areas from the Transport and Greenspace Capital budget and is provided for in:
  - (a) 2009/10 Playgrounds Renewals;
  - (b) 2010/11 Park Paths Renewals and Open Water Systems Renewals.

### Do the Recommendations of this Report Align with 2009-19 LTCCP budgets?

7. Yes, based on current estimates, there is sufficient budget allocated to implement this project, which is programmed in the 2009/10 and 2010/11 years.

### LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS

8. All work will be carried out by a Council approved contractor.
9. The Spreydon/Heathcote Community Board has delegated authority to approve the attached concept plan. No other legal considerations have been identified.

### Have you considered the legal implications of the issue under consideration?

10. Yes – as per above.

### ALIGNMENT WITH LTCCP AND ACTIVITY MANAGEMENT PLANS

#### LTCCP 2009-2019

11. **Parks, Open Spaces and Waterways – Page 117**
  - (a) *Safety – by ensuring our parks, open spaces and waterways are healthy and safe places;*
  - (b) *Community – by providing welcoming areas for communities to gather and interact;*

- (c) *Governance – by involving people in decision-making about parks, open spaces and waterways;*
- (d) *Health – By providing areas for people to engage in healthy activities;*
- (e) *Recreation – by offering a range of recreational opportunities in parks, open spaces and waterways;*
- (f) *City Development – by providing an inviting, pleasant and well cared-for environment*

**12. Parks and Open Spaces Activity Management Plan**

Council's objective with urban parks is to provide and manage Community Parks, Garden & Heritage Parks, Sports Parks and Riverbanks & Conservation Areas throughout the city that provide amenity values, areas for recreation and organised sport, garden environments and green corridors, that contribute to the city's natural form, character, heritage and Garden City image.

**ALIGNMENT WITH STRATEGIES**

**13. Safer Christchurch Strategy**

This strategy aligns injury prevention, road safety and crime prevention under the overarching aim of Christchurch becoming the safest city in New Zealand. One of the goals of this strategy is to enhance safety from crime through preventative and supportive actions, such as:

- (a) Ensure the phased adoption of Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design Principles (CPTED) into city-wide planning and policy;
- (b) To promote CPTED principles for application by owners and occupiers of existing buildings and spaces;
- (c) Provide active support to locally led initiatives that make significant contributions to reducing the incidence and effect of crime.

**14. Parks and Waterways Access Policy**

Improved access to parks and open space will increase equity as promoted by the City Council Policy on Equity and Access for People with Disabilities. Additionally, improved access has the potential to increase park use by enhancing comfort and convenience for all users and providing significant safety benefits.

**Do the recommendations align with the Council's strategies?**

15. Yes – as per above.

**CONSULTATION FULFILMENT**

- 16. In October 2009, a letter was posted to the local community with a proposed concept plan for the playground upgrade and additional landscaping, including a drainage swale. The letter and a poster of the plan were also hand distributed to local businesses. The project team sought feedback from the community to see whether the proposal was supported and asked for any comments.
- 17. The responses received were all positive and very much in support of the changes suggested.

18. We had a pleasing response rate to the consultation with 15 submissions received following the distribution of approximately 65 consultation documents. It was also pleasing to receive feedback from businesses/workers in the area.
19. Each submission received an interim reply letter, which acknowledged that the submission had been received and that it would be considered, once the consultation period had closed. Submitters were also advised that they would receive further correspondence prior to a decision being made. This would outline the outcome of the consultation, the projects teams preferred concept plan, the decision making process and how they can be involved in this, and the expected timeline for the project.
20. The following objectives were used when developing the concept plan:
  - (a) To inform the community about budgeted work in the current Capital Programme;
  - (b) To consider the needs of the local community within the constraints of the available funds;
  - (c) To acquire a local perspective on the value of the park to the neighbourhood;
  - (d) To provide an opportunity for local input and development of a sense of ownership of the park;
  - (e) To increase public awareness of the park;
  - (f) Assists the provision of a safe and clean park;
  - (g) To produce a favourable outcome for the park through the consultation process;
  - (h) To provide interesting play equipment that promotes physical activity, and is adventurous eg, encourages social and communication skills and helps develop fundamental movement skills;
  - (i) Provide a safe and accessible playground;
  - (j) Consider the visual effects of the playground on the adjoining properties;
  - (k) Integrate the playground into the site with appropriate landscape treatment;
  - (l) Assess the current status of trees within the reserve and remove/prune as necessary;
  - (m) Consider landscape work in relation to safety and flooding.
21. The main issues raised during the consultation were:
  - (a) **Concern regarding the swale and associated planting**

The swale will alleviate flooding which comes from the existing drain on the northern boundary in heavy rain, across the reserve towards the western boundary. All new planting will be no higher than the existing fenceline apart from a couple of slender specimen trees (Ribbonwoods, Lancewoods) placed adjacent to the side boundaries of adjoining properties.
  - (b) **Request for lighting within the reserve**

It is not Council practice to light parks at night as this gives the perception of safety and attracts people into the reserve at night.

(c) **Request for additional seating**

The Project Team feel that adequate seating is provided near the playground, there is no funding for any additional seating than what is indicated on the plan. Should there be proven demand for additional seating in the future, this can be programmed and delivered through the Parks Seat programme in future LTCCP years.

(d) **Rubbish bin located closer to seating and play area**

The rubbish bin will be relocated to the new play area when developed.

22. Another small change to the final plan is the proposed picnic table, originally proposed to be located on the grass area north east of the basketball court, will now be located on the hard surface area in the same corner to keep the maximum open space.
23. In summary the following changes have been made to the plan:
- (a) All planting along fence lines to be low and no higher than the fences;
  - (b) New slender specimen trees (Ribbonwoods, Lancewoods) to be planted on the park boundary adjacent to the side boundaries of adjoining properties so there is no adverse impact on existing houses;
  - (c) Relocate picnic table on northeast grass area onto the existing hard surface to maximise the open space;
  - (d) Rubbish bin to be relocated to new play area.
24. Overall the feedback received was very supportive and it was fantastic to get feedback from both local residents and businesses wanting to be involved with the improvements.

**STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

It is recommended that the Spreydon/Heathcote Community Board approve the Curries Reserve - Proposed Upgrade as shown on **Attachment 1**.

**CHAIRPERSONS' RECOMMENDATION**

For discussion.