

Central Park Restoration Plan November 2007

Summary of submissions received

January 2008

The Central Park Restoration Feedback Questionnaire asked four questions:

1. Do you agree with the proposed location of the toilet block near the children's playground?
2. Which work do you see as a priority?
3. What do you see as a low priority?
4. Do you have any other general comments you would like to make about the project?

71 submission's were received:

- 70 represented individuals
- 1 represented Friends of Central Park (Submission No. 43) ¹

Question 1

Location of the toilet block near the children's playground

Support	Did not support
<p>49 submissions supported the proposed location of the toilet block. Comments included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>as long as not obtrusive</i>• <i>if safety measures are implemented (such as good visibility)</i>• <i>access from the road should be considered for drivers as well</i>• <i>should be composting toilets with rainwater catchments for washing</i>• <i>when remove old toilet block revive the old rock garden</i>	<p>10 submissions did not support the location of the new toilet. Comments included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>don't destroy, building made with beautiful red bricks and the design is of historical value</i>• <i>use CPTED principles and locate it where the disused pavilion is using a walk through design similar to Pigeon Park so lots of passive surveillance</i>• <i>existing toilet block must be reserved and upgraded because it is the only public toilet on Willis St between Bond St and Ohio Rd</i>• <i>playground location would attract undesirable behavior</i>• <i>what about two toilets like Botanic Gardens - keep existing site and another closer to entrance</i>

¹Italics used in tables to denote direct quote from individual submission

Question 2, 3 and 4

Central Park Upgrade	Work seen as priority	Work seen as low priority
<p>New Toilets Pavilion removed</p>	<p>9 submissions saw the new toilets as a priority 2 submissions saw Pavilion removal as a priority</p>	<p>2 submissions did not see the new toilets as a priority 4 submissions did not see Pavilion removal as a priority, comments included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>building removals, waste of resources, revitalize creatively</i>
<p>Improved Park Entrances</p>	<p>23 submissions saw improving Park Entrances as a priority. These included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> improved access to playground, including new ramped park entrance from Brooklyn Road as a priority (10 submissions) general improvement to entrances to encourage users/make park more inviting (8 submissions) 	<p>3 submissions supported Pavilion being upgraded/converted into facility for public use such as bandstand style facility or lavatory/shower block/changing 5 submissions did not see improving park entrances as a priority, comments included</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>north west corner access to playground, unnecessary with all other access points</i> <i>spending lots of money on gates</i>
<p>Care Taker's Cottage upgraded</p>	<p>2 submissions saw upgrading Care Taker cottage as a priority, comments included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>support restoration of old path following the historic retaining wall, all other historic structures in the park should be given a plaque telling its story</i> <i>support upgrading and signposting of the former caretaker's cottage site to make it more accessible from the park and also clearly identified as an entrance to the park when crossing from Tanera Park</i> 	<p>5 submissions did not see upgrade of Care Taker's Cottage as a priority Two submissions did not see restoring historical path as a priority</p>
<p>Children's Bike Track</p>	<p>6 submissions saw the children's bike track as a priority, comments included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>could be used by police to train future road cyclists</i> 	<p>3 submissions did not see the children's bike track as a priority, comments included</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Central Park not bike friendly due to geography</i>

Central Park Upgrade	Work seen as priority	Work seen as low priority
<p>Path upgrades</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>support encouraging cycling but width of path and steepness of tracks makes it unsafe 'commuting' to work</i> <p>28 submissions saw various components of the path upgrades as a priority. Specifically these included:</p> <p>Improved links to Renouf Tennis Centre facilities (4 submissions)</p> <p>Commuter path surface upgraded (4 submissions), comments included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>easier gradient</i> • <i>upgrading track from top of park to level which commuters with day shoes could handle</i> • <i>for main commuter routes it is important that they can be used after dark, use of chip seal or asphalt surface and lack of steps are good, use reflective marking</i> <p>New paths creating a circular walk within the park (6 submissions)</p> <p>General comments on path improvement included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>make walks accessible, handrails on the bridge up the Ohiro Rd/Brooklyn Rd top entrance.</i> • <i>Safer tracks to walk on in wet conditions as tracks are steep</i> • <i>step surfaces should be finished to a high standard and be sealed not sprinkled with gravel</i> • <i>plentiful waymakers coded like Otari</i> • <i>the map boards should highlight Central Park is part of Town Belt</i> • <i>leave ridgeline area unmown as a food source for finches, tui, swallow etc during breeding season</i> • <i>cut out some of dodgy 'niches' you see in the</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Critically assess safety to playground users by putting in cycle track</i> <p>18 submissions did not see various components of the path upgrades as a priority. These included</p> <p>Direct path linking playground with main entrance, comments included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>creation of the straightline path from main Brooklyn Rd entrance to playground will destroy number of 'taonga value' Pohutukawa trees, valuable cultural and physical resource</i> • <i>both informal and formal paths to playground, no further work is required, replacing track from existing toilet block to the playground, only needs minor work</i> • <i>resurfacing, this would destroy the s-curve track, an old time feature of the park</i> <p>Improved links to Renouf Tennis Centre facilities (2 submissions)</p> <p>Commuter path surface upgraded, comments included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>main commuter path surfaces do not need upgrading, present paths are sealed and comfortable to walk on, do not support gravelled paths as they are uncomfortable and become slippery</i> <p>New Path following vegetation line</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>oppose location of 'new' path following vegetation line in this gully which is filled with car fumes from busy Brooklyn road</i> <p>Commuter path upgraded (from Ohiro Rd)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>upgrade of commuter track from Ohiro Rd, lovely bush walk on mostly dirt and would be disappointed to lose this</i>

Central Park Upgrade	Work seen as priority	Work seen as low priority
	<p>wilderness areas - always a guessing game as to what you will find there</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>too many signs proposed, people need to have a chance to explore; propose reducing mix of maps and information points etc to 24:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <i>entrance maps and information points at all entrances should be smaller than proposed</i> ○ <i>directional signs reduced to 12</i> ○ <i>interpretational panels reduced to 3, one for historic bridge, wetland area, park history (for map of proposed changes to signage see submission 52)</i> • <i>use bark or wood chips on some of minor tracks; these could be created on site by use of portable chipper when park undergoing maintenance</i> • <i>extra seat on the rise to the right of fig 12, there is a wonderful view over the city</i> • <i>new paths be at gradient and surface so children can bike from Brooklyn Rd to city through park and to bike track</i> 	<p><i>character</i></p> <p>New Paths creating a circular walk within the park</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>new paths creating circular walk, don't think they will be used</i> <p>New path with views over tennis courts creating circular walks within the park</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>links to Tennis centre, would mean people could watch for free</i> <p>Other comments included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>maintenance of paths and walkways, keeping grass trimmed</i> • <i>putting up lots of signs detracts from nature experience</i> • <i>prettifying the walks and main body of park</i> • <i>new path and steps at very eastern end beside Brooklyn road</i> • <i>please don't make entrance by Washington Ave entrance 'less steep', it is only a short distance and some things can be over done and 'dumbed down' so no one can enjoy</i>
<p>Bridge and Stream upgrades</p>	<p>5 submissions saw restoring the Historic bridge railings and deck as a priority, comments included</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>do not ever paint the concrete super structure as this is the home of a limited number of our most ancient (360 million years, first plants to colonise the land, living fossil) plants - mosses and Lichens. Also upper wooden structure to be timber, natural dark colour, no painting</i> • <i>support the restoration of historic bridge railing and deck, recommend backed seat on bridge,</i> <p>Stream opened up for wetland (6 submissions), comments</p>	<p>15 submissions did not see Bridge/stream upgrade as a priority. These included:</p> <p>Stream opened up for wetland (4 submissions) comments included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>no point in developing an artificial wetland</i> • <i>creating pond/wetland feature at bottom of stream does not naturally lend itself to this and would be over manicuring</i> <p>Bridge relocated further upstream (6 submissions)</p>

Central Park Upgrade	Work seen as priority	Work seen as low priority
<p>Planting</p>	<p>included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● <i>looking after the stream, replanting its edges with natives to encourage aquatic inhabitants,</i> ● <i>protection of the freshwater stream</i> ● <i>the map boards should name the stream Moturua according to 'H.G Mason's compilation (1893)' by Louis . E. Ward. A map shows Moturua crossing Willis St northwest of Moera Pa and entering the harbour near Rhodes' Wharf. Copy of the map can be obtained from Chris Horne 28 Kaihuia St Northland Wellington 04 475 7025 e-mail jchorne@paradise.net.nz</i> ● <i>keep upper reaches of stream protected for koura, access in lower reaches for children/dogs. Encourage native grasses (porina moth) buddleia (red admiral), mixed small-medium natures including flax to encourage birdlife and possibly skinks, flax snails</i> ● <i>glow worm protection during stream development</i> ● <i>extensive riparian planting using Nikua, Cabbage tree, Flax (P tenax) and various species of both tree fern and carex</i> <p>Three new bridges over streams (1 submission)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● <i>as one stream is quite a hazard</i> <p>20 submissions saw the removal of dangerous trees as a priority, comments included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● <i>felling dangerous trees</i> ● <i>removal of all gum trees for fire risk</i> ● <i>removing all pines and eucalyptus replacing with natives</i> ● <i>removal of conifers above tennis centre</i> ● <i>replacement of exotic vegetation with appropriate eco-sources, indigenous species, starting with hazardous trees then systematically removing all huge pines and eucal over 10-20 years</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● <i>that bridge is currently a junction where it is extremely useful</i> ● <i>do not support as no one (at WCC) could tell which bridge or why</i> ● <i>moving small bridge over the stream next to large bridge seems like a waste of money</i> <p>Three new bridges over streams (4 submissions)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● <i>not sure need for three bridges</i> ● <i>3 bridges not needed just one/two as park is a place to relax, hope its not going to be too touristy</i> <p>7 submissions did not see the removal of conifers/tree's as a priority, comments included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● <i>trees offer park the tranquility, mature trees provide buffer between noise of city and residents. Would like to see balance between tall trees with new growth</i> ● <i>do not remove conifers unless genuinely are a safety hazard</i> ● <i>improve Central Park but leave the trees alone, ridiculous that they might fall on someone</i> <p>Macrocarpa removal (7 submissions) comments included:</p>

Central Park Upgrade	Work seen as priority	Work seen as low priority
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>today dominated by huge foreign trees shutting out the light. All non native trees taller than natives should be removed</i> • <i>removal of pines for safety should be funded from Health and Safety budget rather than Parks. Renouf Centre that also benefits should be asked to contribute</i> • <i>remove sycamore trees and saplings and replace with natives, pratia angulata</i> • <i>when removing trees and felling by Tennis courts ensure contractors do not disturb bush and track, Pines and Macrocarpa and other mature exotics on Ohiro Rd side need to be retained to cover while natives are planted and growing, only open up overgrown tracks if necessary - keeping them that way would be beneficial for ecosystem</i> • <i>will WCC be replacing conifers behind Renouf Centre with smaller/natives?</i> <p>Understorey planting removed by playground (1 submission)</p> <p>Other planting comments included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Exotic trees planted as contrast</i> • <i>New planting of colour trees in Autumn</i> • <i>soil enrichment programme, nitrogen fixing tree plantings, using liquid seaweed compost teas and rock dust</i> • <i>restoration of rhododendrons along top side flanking Brooklyn Rd as these do not grow as big which is bonus for those living near by for view</i> • <i>future planting to cater for displaced birdlife from Karori sanctuary over next few years</i> • <i>more planting around main entrance of camelias, rhododendrons, magnolias, annuals, nikau palm, night lighting for trees</i> • <i>see bird friendly trees planted such as hinau, puriri, more kowhai, xeronoma, callistemon, ichium, hostas</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>save the old Macrocarpa at Washington Ave entrance, the tree is down the bank and off to one side and does not block any sightlines into the park, these trees are beautiful aesthetically and have cultural heritage value</i> • <i>it is a fabulous old tree that deserves to be respected, suggest thinning and pruning so it still provides shelter and lets in light</i> <p>Understorey planting removed by playground (5 submissions)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>will remove natural barrier which prevents young children from falling down bank</i> • <i>removal of native understory under mature pohutukawa trees surrounding playground, will not provide improvements for safety and currently gives protection from wind and feel of peacefulness/wildness</i>

Central Park Upgrade	Work seen as priority	Work seen as low priority
<p>Art installation</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>do not plant trees on grass area, even towards the back, no grass here should be planted on</i> • <i>carex testacea and poa cita are coastal/dune plants and could be replaced with carex geminata and carex dissita</i> • <i>replace with mix nz medium sized trees and colourful european trees, plant to encourage birdlife, insects such as kakariki, keruru, kaka, fantail, shining cuckoo, whitehead, silvereye, rosella, puriri, moth, gum emperer moth etc</i> • <i>why pohutakawa excluded from proposed native species, grow well and are well liked</i> • <i>The Rhododendron Society planted many years ago some Rhodos just above Bidwell Street interection, which are a delight to view in early spring, these could be augmented and the blackberry etc could be removed from this area to facilate viewing</i> <p>Weed removal, comments included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>weed control especially where vines are smothering existing trees, and wandering willy prevents regeneration of native plants</i> • <i>removing invasive weeds like convolulus, wandering willy, get rid of wandering jew and gorse in the lawn along the east of the main commuter path</i> <p>2 submissions supported proposed art installation in Central Park, comments included,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>support idea of art and permanent work in main entrance area but must not detract from fountain and gates which are art work themselves</i> • <i>support proposed sculpture/art installation route, all works should be labeled and scattered around the park - support large glass works and sculptures of Carl Gifford</i> 	<p>5 submissions did not see Art Installation as a priority in the upgrade, comments included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>avoid attracting thefts/vandalism</i> • <i>get nature right before indulging human folly and conceit</i> • <i>do not support proposed statue within open lawn area, lawn is designated open space, don't support temporary installation along the stream bed - visual pollution</i>
<p>Other comments/suggestions</p>	<p>11 submissions saw more lighting in Central Park as a priority,</p>	

Central Park Upgrade	Work seen as priority	Work seen as low priority
	<p>comments included,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>lighting should be a priority for safety reasons</i> • <i>more lighting as you climb up main path that goes to the playground</i> • <i>night lighting</i> • <i>lighting along the main path used by commuters, currently unsafe and difficult in the morning/winter</i> • <i>feature lighting of trees similar to Matariki celebrations in Pukekura Park in New Plymouth</i> • <i>street lighting on main ridge connecting entrance from Brooklyn rd down to main gate to encourage greater use and deter questionable social behaviour</i> <p>Other suggestions for Central Park Upgrade included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>recycling bins, consistent with council initiatives in community recycling and encourage sustainability</i> • <i>do not alter the turnstile at the side entrance to Brooklyn Rd - unique to gardens</i> • <i>parking at the bottom of Brooklyn road near playground to be changed from coupon parking to 90 minute free to make it more accessible for families</i> • <i>more entertainment and art shows for public</i> • <i>Introduce senior citizen and school children planting area</i> • <i>park should be considered as part of City to Sea or Southern Walkways</i> • <i>BBQ plates similar to Island Bay park on the site of current toilet</i> • <i>complement work with better directions from Brooklyn and pedestrian crossing at top of Brooklyn Hill, people frequently cut across traffic and walk where there is no foot path</i> • <i>keep fascinating lantern looking lights, the design of the old</i> 	

Central Park Upgrade	Work seen as priority	Work seen as low priority
	<p><i>pillars and concrete walls around lower Brooklyn entrance - very clever design. Wrought iron gates work of art, incorporate them into new design)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>John Fitchett was a coach builder/farrier/Blacksmith with premises on the corner of Ohiro Road and Aro Street. In the early 1900's John fenced park of the future Central Park off at the north end and would store horses there after replacing their shoes till the owner could collect them. As much as 22 horses were kept there on one occasion. John was the secretary of the Taranaki Street Methodist Church for many years and spoke fluent Maori</i> • <i>security measures around childrens playground to ensure no alcohol is consumed after hours</i> <p>Maintaining the wild nature of park (10 submissions), comments included</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>retain wild calmness, leave the regenerating eco-system as undisturbed as possible</i> • <i>work kept to minimum and facilities to make it as accessible and wilderness aspect not destroyed</i> • <i>tricky to balance keeping wilderness feel and keeping people safe</i> • <i>I asked some children what they liked best about Central Park and they said 'we like the wild bits'</i> • <i>restore the park's character, anything that can reduce the visual impact of the Renouf Centre (dominates the lower end of the park by its commerical/entertainment nature of facility) would be most welcome</i> 	
<p>20 submissions made positive comments about the Central Park Upgrade, a number of these included positive comments about the consultative process</p>		