

Consultation Report

Creating quality parks & reserves in Newlands, Paparangi, Grenada Village & Woodridge. April 2010

Background

In 2008 the Northern Reserves Management Plan recommended the Council consider future options for some reserves in the Newlands/Paparangi area, and also investigate installing a community playground.

Before the work could take place, Council carried out an assessment of the parks and reserves network in the area to see if there were gaps or duplication.



The assessment took place in July-September 2009 and looked at the location, size, and layout, the range of activities, accessibility, visual appeal and amount of winter sun and summer shade. Graham McIndoe (McIndoe Urban) was commissioned to conduct the assessment with Thomas Hickey (WCC Playground Officer).

- **PARKS** - The assessment found that there are some great parks – well located, easy to get to, provide lots of different recreation activities, get good sun and are highly visible from the street. A few changes could improve the range of activities available and the accessibility of some parks. But for other parks there are significant limitations that make it difficult to do this because they are isolated and hidden from view, have poor connections to the neighbourhood, have sloping land that limits use for informal games, are close to other parks and are small.
- **RESERVES** - The reserves have significant visual and ecological benefits and also offer recreational opportunities, including walking tracks.

In November and December 2009, Council consulted with the community on the proposals. The feedback received will help develop a plan for setting future priorities and developing a network of quality open spaces. The discussion document in late 2009 recommended:

Park or Reserve	Recommendation	Funding Available
All Parks and Reserves	provide signs at all entrances	
All Parks	trim vegetation to improve views into parks	
All Playgrounds	consider providing paths to playgrounds	
All Parks	provide kick-about space in more local parks	
Newlands Park	add path through park, community park, develop master plan	
Brandon's Rock/Edgecombe Street Play Area	replace play equipment in 2010	Yes
Lyndfield Lane Play Area	replace play equipment in 2011/12 improve paths through park and lookout area	Yes
Kentwood Drive local park and reserve	install new playground in 2010	Yes
Cheyne Walk	replace play equipment – after 2014	Yes
Waihinahina Reserve (in memory of Dennis Duggan)	investigate establishing a dog-exercise park	
Seton Nossiter Park to Horokiwi via Belmont Gully	proposed track link	
Harbour escarpment walkway (Waihinahina Reserve to Ngauranga Gorge)	proposed track link	

There were some parks that we thought had limited potential for improvement and we asked for ideas on how they could be improved. These parks were Ceres Crescent Park, Chapman Street Park, Jay Street Park and Glanmire Road Reserve.

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Most of the recommendations currently have no funding. The Community were advised that any upgrades or new ideas will also need to be consistent with Council policies and plans, including the Playgrounds Policy and Open Space Access Plan (Tracks). These provide provision models or levels of service, and prioritise upgrades and new facilities throughout the City.

In total 28 responses were received. 3 were from organisations. Approximately 70 people attended 2 open sessions with staff. Officers also attended a Newlands/Paparangi Progressive Association meeting.

There is a table at the end of this report that contains comments and suggestions on each park and reserve.

A network plan has been developed based on the feedback received from the community. There is also a map of the area that details key work and improvements that are needed to create quality parks and reserves in this area.

Suburb background

The suburbs of Newlands, Paparangi, Grenada Village and Woodridge contain a number of parks for recreation, including six playgrounds and four sportsfields. There are also many reserves with ecological and landscape values. New reserves have been added over the past 10 years through subdivisions, especially around Woodridge and along the harbour escarpment.

The last Census was conducted in 2006. It recorded over 11,200 people living in over 4,400 dwellings in these 4 suburbs. The percentage of Maori is higher than for Wellington City, as well as Indian, Sri Lankan, Filipino. The proportion of people aged between 15 and 24 is smaller.

Population growth in the area is projected to be lower than other parts of the city. By 2026, the population in the Newlands/Paparangi area is projected to be 13,480.

Parks and reserve use

The feedback form contained some questions on what parks and reserves the respondents use. The most visited parks were Helston Park Play Area, Kenmore Street Play Area and Salford Street. These all have modern playgrounds. Over 60% visited parks in the area at least once a week.

Visits to reserves and tracks were less frequent. Only around 30% visit reserves at least once a week. The most visited reserves were Seton Nossiter Park and Waihinahina Reserve (in memory of Dennis Duggan). The most popular activities were walking and enjoying the views.

Gaps in recreation activities

People were asked are these suburbs well catered for. Some said there needed to be more recreation activities or facilities:

Seats and picnic tables - *"sheltered picnic areas"* *"seats to look at the views"*

"Extended walks"

"all weather paths required- not underwater!"

"activities for older Children, Teenagers and Adults"

"mountain biking tracks or skills area." There are "very limited mountain biking options"

"somewhere for kids to learn to ride bikes & hone their skills"

"playgrounds for children aged over 6years old."

"modern or upgraded playgrounds within walking distance of house"

"all playgrounds need at least one baby swing and things to crawl through"

There is a "lack of good children's playgrounds in Woodridge and Newlands"

"I consider that providing a playarea in the heart of Paparangi would be a great addition to the suburb especially given that there are a lot of young families now in this area."

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Playgrounds

There is a perception that there is a lack of playgrounds in this area. The hilly topography makes the area less walkable so you either have to drive or walk a long way away to reach a good quality playground like Helston Park Play Area.



“If my kids want to go to a playground, we end up having to walk to Helston Road or Kenmore Street, which is a good 15 – 20 mins walk with a pushchair. It would be brilliant to see something developed closer”

“While (Helston Road) is a good playground it is not central to this community. It is on the outer boundary and serves the Johnsonville area more easily (there is the physical boundary of a large hill in between).”

“Kenmore park is small and caters for toddlers more, next to plunket. We need bigger parks and more things to do there.”

“These days I take visiting grandchildren to Helston Road Park, although it is some distance away, because of the larger amount of equipment and its attractiveness.”

There are currently gaps in playground provision in Paparangi and Woodridge. A new playground will be installed in Woodridge later this year. Council officers will look at suitable sites in Paparangi that could accommodate a playground.

Residents also noted a gap in provision around Newlands as they felt Kenmore Street only provides equipment for pre-schoolers. Newlands Park is the preferred location for a Community Playground. Not surprisingly there is a lot of support for this:

“would love to see a new community playground at Newlands Park. We currently make many trips to the playgrounds at Helston Road and Johnsonville Pool”

“a community playground at Newlands Park would be extremely well utilised being so close to two schools + two kindergartens and the Mall”

“the addition of a new community park near Newlands Park would add to the enhancements being made around the shopping centre. We would definitely use it!!!”

“it is exciting that the Council is considering installing new playgrounds they are much needed”

The only Community Park is Helston Park Play Area on the western side. Community Parks usually have bigger playgrounds with a range of equipment for a range of ages.

The proposed renewal programme for playgrounds was supported but some felt this should be a priority in the short term – not in 15-20 years time.

“Better playgrounds and new playgrounds are essential in this community TODAY not 10 years or longer down the track”

Tracks

Respondents said it was important to maintain existing links in the area and create:

1. links to new subdivisions e.g. from Woodridge to Seton Nossiter Park, Newlands Road via Spenmoor Reserve
2. longer walking or mountain biking opportunities e.g. between Ngauranga and Horokiwi/Belmont
3. multi-use tracks to cater for more users e.g. mountain bikes, horses, buggies



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“provide enhanced walkway connections between parts of the suburb and between green spaces” “Seton Nossiter park - The links and walkways to this park are brilliant and I look forward to the continued development of links to Grenada North and Horokiwi rd.”
“enthusiastically support the proposed harbour escarpment track and the Seton Nossiter and Horokiwi Track as a dual bushwalking and mountain biking track.”
“Would LOVE to see the possible track routes you have identified in map 3, but with plenty of access/exit points.”
“A large loop if possible (subject to topography of course) would be excellent i.e. connecting the harbour escarpment track back up to the southern end of Newlands”

There was a lot of support for completing the Escarpment track and developing the link from Seton Nossiter to Lincolnshire Farms. Some recommended Council should negotiate with private owners now to get these tracks established sooner. Council officers are in on-going discussions with developers in Woodridge and Bellevue on improving access.

There is no money for new tracks in the Long-Term Council Community Plan for the next few years. If communities want to build tracks on existing reserve land, Council will consider providing support.

Some people suggested seating could be added along tracks so people can enjoy the views of city, harbour and forest.
“We have some fabulous views of Wellington from both Gilbert Bush and Brandon’s Rock walkway. Some strategically placed seats could make the most of these views there are some sheltered spots”
“Some seating on these tracks to sit and soak up the harbour views would be greatly beneficial.”

There were suggestions around improving information on the parks and reserves in these suburbs. A number of respondents did not know about other places except for their local park. Some said more signage at parks was needed so locals knew about them. For example ID signs, signs indicating links through park to other streets, signage on roads as approach park/reserve entrances.

“Signage is greatly needed not only of the parks but of all the access ways that make getting to the parks easier to get to.”

New suggestions

A summary of suggestions for each park and reserve is included in Appendix 1.
 Some suggestions included:



Picnic areas	<i>“open grassy area ... could have a few sheltered picnic tables for families to enjoy a local day out”</i> <i>“a table with seats near the shade would be great or seats for adults”</i>
Dog exercise areas	Fencing – <i>“Badly needs fencing & gates- far too easy for dogs to leave the park & get onto the road via a neighbouring property or off the access track onto Newlands Road!!!”</i> <i>“Separate fenced area for puppies, small or timid dogs (& their owners!) to play/socialise”</i> Obstacle course
Playgrounds	<i>“would be great with a walking path to the playground”</i>
Re-vegetation	Possible sites mentioned include Ceres Crescent, Water Reservoir, 79 Kentwood Ave, Lyndfield Lane (incorporating community orchard) and Waihinahina e.g. <i>“small pockets of tree planting on the large grassy area to enhance the visual quality.”</i>
Sports & exercise equipment	Netball and basketball hoops. Fitness course
All-weather access tracks	Some parks have poor drainage or have steep slippery slopes e.g. to reach play equipment, to commute through parks. The popular all-weather loop track at Karori Park was mentioned. Some thought it would be good to establish an all weather track and a fitness circuit at Newlands Park.
Area for bikes	Some spaces for bike riding for children. The Walkways/Tracks officer has said that any skills area should preferably have a bike-able track nearby – like Mt Victoria or Karori Park. There are few suitable tracks for mountain biking in the area – so the cost of this track would probably have to be considered to.

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New parks *“A flat green area/park which can be used for recreation and relaxation needs to be identified and established in the new subdivision along the Mark Avenue Extension. At the moment all reserve land to be vested is unusable scrub-land on a slope - the council needs to establish the recreational needs of this new area now, before more building/development commences.”*

Importance of and future uses for 4 parks - Jay Street, Ceres Crescent, Chapman Street, Glanmire Road

We indicated there were 3 parks and 1 reserve for which we want to consider future options. These all had poor qualities or limitations which are difficult to overcome e.g. steep slope, isolated, small. We asked about the importance of these places and possible uses.

A number of respondents did not know about other places except for their local park. That meant they were not able to give an opinion on the importance of these 4 parks/reserves. Therefore the question on possible future uses was not well answered.

Over half didn't know if these 4 sites were important (see Table below). Under a third thought Ceres Crescent and Jay Street were important.

Park/Reserve	Park is important	Park is not important	Don't know
Ceres Crescent (n=17)	29%	18%	53%
Chapman Street (n=16)	19%	25%	56%
Jay Street (n=17)	29%	18%	53%
Glanmire Road (n=17)	24%	12%	65%

Below are some comments from the Community on why these parks and reserves are important. There are also some ideas on what activities that could be developed there.

<i>Park/Reserve</i>	<i>Important because it</i>	<i>Suggestions for improvement</i>	<i>Recreation activities that could be developed</i>
<u>Ceres Crescent Park</u> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> has good views provides a link to other streets 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> install a sign plant more plants 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> add seats/picnic tables
<u>Chapman Street Park</u> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> has good views provides a link to other streets 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> install a sign plant some plants 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> add some play equipment garden add seats/picnic tables add a path to seats/ lookout add walkway through bush near tanks <p><i>(NOTE: this comment referred to the reservoir reserve in Chapman St)</i></p>
<u>Jay Street Park</u> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> large, flat & sheltered provides a link to Newlands College provides wildlife habitat in an area with lots of young families no other parks close by 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> open up by removing some trees cut grass more often fix poor drainage 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> upgrade playground community garden/ orchard dog exercise area add seats/picnic tables

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<p><u>Glanmire Road Reserve</u></p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • open space 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • install a footpath beside the road • plant more plants • install a sign 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • add seats/picnic tables
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Summary

Playgrounds, especially those with newer play equipment, are the most visited places by those commenting on the proposals for parks and reserves in the Newlands, Paparangi, Grenada Village and Woodridge. Many seem to value the places and spaces that are provided.

There is a perception there are gaps in recreation facilities/activities in this area – particularly playgrounds, long walks and tracks open to mountain bikers.

It is clear that some people were not aware of all the activities/facilities that are currently provided by Parks and Gardens. Better information and signage would make residents aware of these opportunities.

Parks and Gardens should continue to work with and support community groups on re-vegetation projects.

Megan Duncan
 Parks and Recreation Planner
 Parks and Gardens April 2010

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APPENDIX 1

Comments & Suggestions on Parks, Reserves & Walkways in Newlands, Paparangi, Grenada Village & Woodridge.

Comments and suggestions on Ceres Crescent Chapman Street Park, Glanmire Street Reserve and Jay Street Park are included in the **Consultation Report** (April 2010).

NEWLANDS

<i>PARK RESERVE</i>	<i>SUGGESTIONS FROM PUBLIC</i>
Brandon's Rock/ Edgecombe Street Play Area	Provide seating/shade/shelter
Brandon's Rock Walkway	Monitor encroachments Install seats so people can enjoy views (2)
Cheyne Walk Play Area	Playground needs upgrade – it is in poor condition and is secluded.
Community House Reserve	Possible location for community playground as it is close to mall Possible location for community garden or flower garden (2) Provide seating – provide a lunch spot for local workers Toilets needed
Dungarvan Road Reserve	Could be part of Escarpment track/loop track
Gilberd Bush Reserve	Seats – where sheltered – so can enjoy views Improve track – slippery and uneven track
Henly Estate	
Kenmore Street Play Area	
Lyndfield Lane Play Area	Playground needs upgrade – it is old & underutilised (2) and needs to meet the needs of growing population Possible location for community playground Would make a good site for community garden or orchard Replace pine trees
Newlands Park	Needs better parking (6) New playground would be good (6) Close to mall & schools (2) Priority as there is a gap (2). Needs funding Need to consider location on park Toilet needed (2) Need to improve drainage All weather track (2) Fitness course (2) Add to skatepark + a graffiti wall (2) BMX/Bike area (2) Practise nets/walls, hoops (2) Install seating so can watch sport and skateboarding etc (3)
Pinkerton Park	Park has safety issues (3) & is underutilised Improve maintenance of tracks – these provide a link to Newlands College Possible location for playground – services a big community Needs some play equipment e.g. flying fox, slide, bikes Picnic tables needed

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Salford Street Play Area	Path needed to playground Add more equipment – slide, hoops, scooters Easier parking needed (steep road)
Spennor Street Reserve	Needs fencing/gates Provide water and bins for dogs Drainage poor & gets slippery (2) Long grass- needs regular maintenance (2) Improve path as link to public transport (2) Flatten – build a sports field
Tamworth Crescent Reserve	Have track entrance to proposed escarpment track here
Waihinahina Reserve (in memory of Dennis Duggan)	Extend Dog Exercise Area Decrease Dog Exercise Area Fence areas. Have gate at entrance (2) Separate areas for big & small dogs Provide seats so people can enjoy views & all weather tracks Maintain lookout (3) Wheelchair access Bike area (2) Bins needed, Information shelter Obstacles Area has poor drainage and grass growth (3) Swimming/wading area for dogs Re-vegetation in some places (2) Wetland (2)
PROPOSED LINK Escarpment	Approve of proposed Escarpment Track (6) New track needs to be a multi-use track (3) Need recreation opportunities closer to home Create good links to community Council should negotiate access with private landowners now (2) provide seating so people can enjoy views Protect bush Monitor encroachments

WOODRIDGE

PARK RESERVE	SUGGESTIONS FROM PUBLIC
Kentwood Drive Park	Park needs a name Consider drainage and shelter
79 Kentwood Drive Reserve	Possible playground site Recommend re-vegetation
White Pine Avenue Reserve	Formalise track to Seton Nossiter Park (NOTE not on land owned by Council)
Water Reservoir	Recommend re-vegetation

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PAPARANGI

<i>PARK RESERVE</i>	<i>SUGGESTIONS FROM PUBLIC</i>
Helston Park Play Area	Install fencing on sports field side of park Improve links to new subdivision Toilets needed – as it is a long way to walk to quality playground
Helston Park	Improve links to Ted Gilbert Place and Pelorous Street
Lynda Avenue	Possible playground site Would need fencing from road
Ring Lane Park	Drainage is poor and needs improving Needs fencing Could sell this park and fund other local projects
Seton Nossiter Park	People approve of more track links e.g. to Horokiwi and Woodridge (5) Need to make tracks multi-use (3) Possible location for playground near Bushland Grove Dog enforcement needed Recommend re-vegetation (2)
William Hardgrave Reserve	Possible playground site

GRENADA VILLAGE

<i>PARK RESERVE</i>	<i>SUGGESTIONS FROM PUBLIC</i>
Grenada Village Play Area	More regular maintenance of grounds needed
Mark Avenue Park	Improve drainage Needs rubbish bin Block off vehicles (motorbikes)
<i>PROPOSED LINK via Belmont Gully</i>	People approve of proposed link track (5) New track needs to be a multi-use track (2) Area needs re-vegetation – could be for carbon credits

JOHNSONVILLE EAST

<i>PARK RESERVE</i>	<i>SUGGESTIONS FROM PUBLIC</i>
Ceres Crescent Park	Provide signage about links to other streets More re-vegetation plantings Install seating so people can enjoy the views
Sheridan Terrace Reserve	

NGAURANGA

<i>PARK RESERVE</i>	<i>SUGGESTIONS FROM PUBLIC</i>
Miles Crescent	Create loop or link from Ngauranga Gorge to Escarpment e.g. Miles Crescent/Wakely
Wakely Track	The track gets well used but needs maintenance Create loop or link from Ngauranga Gorge to Escarpment e.g. Miles Crescent/Wakely (3) Add pedestrian route over rail bridge