

## Gloucester/Worcester Park engagement and consultation summary

At the outset of this project a decision was made for Council staff to work closely with the surrounding community to develop a landscape plan and come up with a name for the neighbourhood park.

After regular engagement with surrounding residents, Christchurch East School and other key stakeholders, staff are now recommending that:

- The Board approve the draft landscape plan
- The Board approve and recommend to Council for adoption the proposed name Te Ara a Rongo - Gloucester/Worcester Park

### Engagement

The project team initially met with Te Whare Roimata, the school, people living near the park and the site's former owner.

About 60 residents and several Community Board members attended a sausage sizzle on Wednesday 7 March 2018. This was an opportunity for local residents to meet onsite, share their ideas for the park and to meet others living in the area.

Staff drafted a landscape plan which was developed and refined over the next six months with the help of local residents who became an informal advisory group.

Efforts were made to involve the school at every stage. Staff met the student council on several occasions throughout the project to hear their ideas for the development of the site. The draft landscape plan was revised to include their suggestions, such as a chess board, prior to consultation.

Staff consulted on a proposed landscape plan, the proposed name Te Ara a Rongo – Gloucester/Worcester Park and suggestions for a future artwork between 15 November and 10 December 2018.

### Feedback on the draft landscape plan

Of the 20 submissions received during the consultation, 17 (85%) supported the proposed landscape plan, two (10%) did not support the plan and one respondent (5%) did not indicate a view.

Positive comments included: "We think that this park is a great idea. The kids will love it! Also a nice place for people to sit in."

A submitter suggested *Hoheria augustifolia* (Narrow-leaved Lacebark) rather than *Hoheria lyalli* (Mountain Lacebark) for the avenue of trees leading from Worcester Street. The project team had opted for the *Hoheria Lyalli* (Mountain Lacebark) because it was a smaller variety. However, after reviewing both species again staff accepted this suggestion.

As a result of feedback, one of the two proposed *Acer platanum* 'Bloodgood' trees has also been changed to a *Fagus sylvatica* (Copper Beech) to bring a larger specimen tree into the park. A Rimu tree, which a nearby resident wishes to donate, has also been included in the plan for approval.

About 20 of the park's existing trees will remain. Eighteen of these are exotics, including five fruit trees.

Three submissions wanted lighting to be included in the plan, while one respondent did not. The project team advised that a safety review had confirmed that lighting should not be included. At night, there were safer alternative routes available and lighting could give people a false sense of security.

Four submitters queried the provision of chess pieces that would be stored in seats, saying these pieces were likely to disappear. The project team supports a submitter's suggestion to label round draught pieces as specific chess pieces so they can be used for both games.

A submitter was unsure about the relevance of bug hotels in this urban setting. The project team advised that a key aspect of the play elements in the park is to give young visitors a taste of nature.

Two requests for a rubbish bin in the park were not accepted as these are not included in neighbourhood parks as people normally live close by and can take their rubbish home with them.

A communal garden requested by another submitter is outside the scope of the project. However, space has been retained next to the barbeque area where they can be added in future. This will require a lease due to the recreation reserve status of the land and will need to follow the Christchurch City Gardens Guidelines.

Two submissions mentioned that there have been alcohol-related issues in the park and have requested appropriate signage.

The recently reviewed Christchurch City Council Alcohol Restrictions in Public Places Bylaw 2018 notes that the park falls within a permanent alcohol ban area (central city) and that the ban applies at all times, 24 hours, seven days a week.

The Bylaw also notes that where it is practicable or reasonable to do so, the Council will erect signage within Alcohol Ban Areas to provide information to the public about the restrictions. The size, location and content of the signage will be at the Council's discretion. Project funding has been set aside to erect signage.

Changes to the draft landscape plan as a result of consultation are:

- The avenue trees on 261 Worcester Street changed from *Hoheria lyalli* to *Hoheria angustifolia*. As this is a taller species than the *H.lyalli* (6m rather than 4m) they have been moved closer to the path to create greater distance from the property boundaries.
- Two *Acer platanum* 'Bloodgood' trees were originally proposed for the site. The *Acer platanum* 'Bloodgood' tree closest to 310 Gloucester St has been retained and the other has been changed to a Copper Beech to bring a larger specimen tree into the park and to provide shade.
- A Rimu tree has been added to the garden bed next to the nature play area. This location has been selected because a Rimu does best among other planting to keep the roots cool. This part of the site is slightly wetter and is well away from the property boundaries. It also has good visibility in this location.
- Chess pieces changed to draughts pieces which are labelled with the names of the chess pieces. This allows people to play both draughts and chess. It makes the pieces less attractive to steal and they require less space for storage. The pieces will be kept in a storage seat that will have a combination lock on it. The combination will be shared with the local community.
- Three storage seats were originally proposed. By changing the chess pieces to draught pieces less storage is required in the park. Two of the storage seats have been removed and replaced with standard park benches. This has reduced the overall cost and allowed for an extra seat to be added next to the chess board; this extra bench seat will contain the draughts pieces and creates a U shaped seating area. Users of the bench seat can face either direction making this a more flexible space.
- Appropriate signage indicating that alcohol is banned in the park.

## Name of the park

Prior to consultation a resident asked the Council to find a Maori translation for a pathway link. As a result Ngāi Tahu gifted the name Te Ara a Rongo. The definition of Te Ara a Rongo is:

Ara is defined as a path between two locations (in this case the two streets).

Rongo is the Māori Atua/deity who has a number of names depending on the following:

Rongomātāne - deity of cultivated foods. In this case (and this reserve) would include the fruit trees.

Rongomaraeroa - deity of peace. In this case (and on this reserve) would include a safe space to reflect, and for our children to play and to flourish.

Some local residents had suggested the name Gloucester/Worcester Park because it was simple and described the location. This was offered as a descriptive name that sits with Te Ara a Rongo.

During the consultation submitters were asked if they agreed with Gloucester/Worcester Park as the descriptive name or did they have any other suggestions.

Twelve submissions agreed with Gloucester/Worcester Park as the descriptive name. Of the seven who did not agree, six said the park should have only one name: Te Ara a Rongo.

One submitter suggested Two Links Park or Counties Park.

## Future artwork

In the consultation plan a site near the Gloucester Street entrance was identified for a potential artwork for the park. A sculpture was the most popular choice for this space but options will be considered in a separate project.