

Go Outside and play

Submission on behalf of the Normandale Residents Assoc.

We concur that 'play' and 'Parks' should not be constrained by pre-defined criteria and that Council provision of 'play areas' should cater for a wide variety of options. However we believe that more emphasis needs to be placed on places and opportunities for self-directed unstructured 'play'. As such we fully support the promotion of reserves ostensibly held for another purpose eg scenic reserves, as 'play spaces' without the addition of any equipment or facilities.

Key principles

We concur with the key principles as explained in the document.

We would comment specifically on the following:

Accessibility & distribution.

- Mindful of the varied topography of the city, we would query the use of a linear distance as criterion for accessibility. We would suggest travel time would be preferable although not so easy to determine. We would suggest a limit of 10 -12 min at normal adult walking pace (5km/hr).
- We fully support the move to integrate school playing areas into the publically accessible network, particularly where school grounds adjoin HCC reserves such as at Normandale and Maungaraki schools.
- We strongly suggest that council consider as part of the accessibility provisions, the development of further walking / cycling tracks interconnecting reserves and parks.

Neighbourhood play area – Jubilee Park upper entrance

The NRA will shortly hold a community meeting to determine the fate of the NRA owned skateboard ramp at this site. Our observation is that although it was used extensively in the past, interest in skateboarding has declined and the ramp's primary use is now as a social gathering spot for the 11 – 17 age group. We would welcome the opportunity to work with HCC officers on how this need can best be met in the long term.