
TO: Bede Morrissey

FROM: John Brenkley, Planning and Partnerships Manager

DATE: 23 August 2022

SUBJECT: **DCC PARKS AND RECREATION – RESPONSE TO SUBMITTER EVIDENCE**

Comments on GF11 (Wakari Road)

1. In the Parks and Recreation Response to Variation 2 DCC proposed greenfield sites, the recommendation for GF11 and GF11a was to retain Bain Neighbourhood Park and provide an additional public amenity space – a community neighbourhood park with a minimum size of 5,000 m². The new park needs to be centrally located within the subdivision with a roughly square shape and street frontage along 2 or 3 sides.
2. The reasons for this recommendation are as follows:
 - The Roslyn area has a lower ratio of open space per 1,000 residents compared to the wider city (9 hectares vs 33 hectares) and therefore additional open space will be beneficial to the Roslyn area. Bain Neighbourhood Park is approximately 1,100m² in size and currently services 370 properties within walkable distance. This new subdivision is proposing a further 240 lots. Bain Neighbourhood Park is too small to accommodate the new subdivision and the existing residential housing. Due to the higher density of housing there is a need for well-designed well-managed public spaces to contribute to the liveability of the community.
 - The Parks and Recreation Services minimum space standards for a community neighbourhood park is 5,000m². The minimum size of 5,000m² in a roughly square shape allows the space to support a wider range of neighbourhood park functions such as catch, frisbee, social cricket and football etc. The street frontages provide visibility into the reserve and make it easy to locate and become a feature within the subdivision. The neighbourhood park will also be a place where local residents can meet and socialise.
 - The new reserve should be located centrally within the subdivision. In a survey carried out by Sport NZ (Insights), 62% of Otago residents (which include Dunedin) said that their top barrier for being active was time constraints and other commitments. DCC needs to provide suitably sized open spaces within walkable distance from people's homes to enable and encourage them to be more active more often.

General comments regarding the vesting of reserves into Council ownership

3. You asked the following question:

“General question – would we expect to see the recreation areas/walking tracks/cycle ways etc be vested in DCC at the time of subdivision? Are we usually okay with this happening? Or are there issues that we should be aware of? Are there issues to them not vesting these areas in DCC?”

4. Parks and Recreation would prefer the recreation areas/walking tracks/cycle ways etc be vested in DCC at the time of subdivision. In addition to vesting the reserve in DCC, the ideal situation would be to have the reserve gazetted under the Reserves Act. DCC will then maintain and manage the reserve depending on the Act classification. Classifying land as reserve provides an additional layer of legislative protection under the Act. Classification binds the Council and limits how the land can be used. This increases the protection that the land has and provides the community with certainty as to the types of activities that can take place on the land.
5. If reserves are not vested in DCC, the responsibility for use, management, safety etc become the responsibility of the developer or land owner. There have been situations where the developer has retained the recreation areas at the time of subdivision and in later years requested that the DCC take it over. Depending on the liabilities associated with the land DCC will sometimes refuse.